

Commission on Health  
and the Environment (CHE)



International Geographical  
Union (IGU)

**International Geographical Union Commission on Health  
and the Environment C12 19**

**Annual Report 2012 to 2013**

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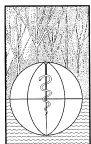


## 1. IGU CHE Mandate & Strategic Foci

Members of the IGU Commission on Health and the Environment carry out research on health and health care in the natural and built environment recognizing the importance of gender and diversity in a globalized world. Three strategic foci for the current mandate period 2012 to 2016 are:

- 1) the analysis of quality of life with an emphasis on health, health care, and the environment at various geographic scales;
- 2) the links among global change, global health and the environment; and
- 3) urban health and the role of migration and immigration.

These foci reflect outcomes of the previous work carried out by IGU CHE (2000-2012) and the strategic aim to strengthen with our contributions new initiatives like *Future Earth*, *One Health* or *Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment*. CHE members continue to represent IGU in these and many other international initiatives over the mandate period 2012-2016 contributing as health geographers to the international efforts to improve global health.



## 2. CHE Steering Committee status January 2013

Prof. Wuyi Wang, Co- Chairperson (China)

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Prof. Thomas Krafft, Co- Chairperson (Netherlands)

University of Maastricht / e-mail: thomas.krafft@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Prof. Gerard Salem, Steering Committee Member (France)

University Paris Oeust / e-mail: [gerard.salem@u-paris10.fr](mailto:gerard.salem@u-paris10.fr) / salem.gerard@gmail.com

Prof. Raul Guimaraes, Steering Committee Member (Brazil)

State University of São Paulo / e-mail: raulguimaraes@uol.com.br

Prof. Robin Kearns, Steering Committee Member (New Zealand)

University Auckland / e-mail: [smclaff@uiuc.edu](mailto:smclaff@uiuc.edu)

Prof. Izabella Lecka, Steering Committee Member (Poland)

Warsaw University / e-mail: kray001@fiu.edu

Prof. Svetlana Malkhazova, Steering Committee Member (Russia)

Moscow State University / e-mail: sveta\_geo@yahoo.com

Prof. Sarah McLafferty, Steering Committee Member (USA)

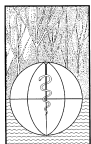
University of Illinois / e-mail: smclaff@uiuc.edu

Prof. Giovanni De Santis, Steering Committee Member (Italy)

University of Bergamo / e-mail: [giovanni.desantis@univr.it](mailto:giovanni.desantis@univr.it)

Prof. Liliana Dumitrache, Steering Committee Member (Romania)

University of Bucarest / e-mail: [dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com](mailto:dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com)



### 3. Honorary Members

Prof. Yola Verhasselt (Belgium)

Académie Royales des Sciences d'Outre-Mer / e-mail: kaowarsom@skynet.be

Prof. David Phillips (Hong Kong)

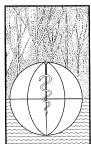
Lingnan University / e-mail: apias@fn.edu. hk

Prof. Mark W. Rosenberg (Canada) Queen's University / e-mail:

mark.rosenberg@queensu.ca

### 4. CHE Commission Members by Country – as of 2012

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>
Argentina	5
Australia	4
Austria	1
Bangladesh	5
Belgium	2
Benin	1
Brasil	4
Brunei	1
Burkina Faso	1
Canada	22
Chile	1
China	4
Cuba	3
Czech Republic	4
Egypt	1
Estonia	1
Fiji	1
Finland	2
France	19
Germany	12
Hong Kong	1
Hungary	3
India	24
Indonesia	1
Ireland	3
Israel	1
Italy	7



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Ivory Coast	1
Jamaica	2
Japan	4
Jordan	1
Kenya	1
Korea	2
Mauritius	2
Mexico	3
Netherlands	4
New Zealand	9
Nigeria	6
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Poland	3
Portugal	5
Romania	1
Russia	6
Saudi Arabia	1
Slovenia	1
South Africa	12
Spain	3
Sri Lanka	1
Sweden	4
Switzerland	6
Taiwan	2
Thailand	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	17
United States of America	21
Zaire	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>257</b>

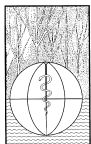
In summary, the CHE steering committee is composed of 10 members including the chairpersons. The steering committee is made up of 4 women and 6 men. In addition IGU CHE has 3 honorary members. Steering committee members come from Brazil, Canada, China, France, Italy, New Zealand, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Romania and the United States. The CHE is pleased to note that it has members from some 58 countries, from all populated continents of the world.



## 5. Meetings and Activities supported and/or co-sponsored by the CHE and activities with IGU representation by CHE in 2013

Since the last IGC in 2012 the IGU CHE has continued to actively support and/or co-sponsor key meetings and activities for the scientific community. A short overview on the main activities is provided in the following:

- **IGU Regional Conference** with the theme *Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth Future*, Kyoto, Japan 4-9 August 2013. The IGU CHE organized four thematic sessions and was represented by Wuyi Wang who coordinated these sessions.
- The International Conference on ***Intra Urban Dynamics and Health*** held in Paris, France from 11-13 September 2013 was co-sponsored by IGU CHE. This conference was the first in a sequence of four planned conferences in the context of the ICSU programme on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment. The conference was very successful with some 400 participants from 49 countries. IGU CHE members were prominently represented giving key lectures and chairing panels and workshops. During the conference IGU CHE steering committee members met with a group of health geographers from 14 African countries to discuss future collaboration and to support the set up of an African working group.
- The **2<sup>nd</sup> GRF One Health Summit** (Theme: *One Health-One Planet-One Future*) held on 17-20 November 2013 in Davos Switzerland was supported by IGU CHE. GRF is establishing the One Health Summit as an annual meeting that discusses global health issues with an holistic view encompassing human health, animal health, environmental health, food safety and agriculture.
- IGU CHE was one of the key sponsors of the **15<sup>th</sup> International Medical Geographical Symposium** (IMGS) at Michigan University, USA (7-12 July 2013). IMGS is fully established as one of the most important events for our community bringing together senior researchers, scholars and junior scientists from mainly North America, Asia, Oceania and Europe. Health geographers from Latin America and Africa are still underrepresented due to limited funding for scientists from these regions. During this conference the IGU CHE held a regular business meeting and a joint meeting together with the chairs of the national specialty groups that support IMGS.



## 6. IGU CHE supported initiatives in 2013:

- Following a proposal by the CHE member Gerard Salem, IGU CHE is supporting a new initiative to set up a new *International Centre for Urban Health in Developing Countries*. The objectives of the new centre will be to organize seminars, intensive trainings to promote academic and professional training, multidisciplinary approaches, and bridges between decisions makers, stakeholders and researchers. The proposed centre is to be set up in Mbour, Senegal.
- IGU CHE is also supporting to develop a *network of researcher* working on topics related to African studies. The leading Institution will be the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. This activity is lead by the steering group member Gerard Salem.
- Since 2008 IGU CHE members have been involved first in the initial ICSU Planning Group on *Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment* and since the official launch of the programme by the ICSU 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2011 in the scientific committee of the programme. IGU CHE strongly supports this ICSU initiative that has - after a delayed start - taken on real momentum in 2013. In 2014 the IPO will be established in Xiamen, China. Through the IGU CHE members IGU is currently the most active ICSU member supporting this programme. Further meetings and conferences are planned in Manchester 2014, Brasilia 2015 and Beijing/Xiamen 2016 (linked to the IGC).
- In conjunction with it's support for the ICSU programme IGU CHE is setting up an interdisciplinary European group on *Urbanization and Health* linked to the ICSU's Program on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment. A first meeting was organized in Brussels in November at the Maastricht University campus. This group will function as the European regional group for the ICSU programme and also as dedicated partner for an African group that is currently established as one result of the International conference on *Intra Urban Dynamics and Health* held in Paris in 2013.
- *Future Earth* as Global Change Research Initiative that has been launched by ICSU together with other partners to replace IGBG, DIVERSITAS and IHDP will fully emerge in 2014. The role of health as a cross cutting theme within *Future Earth* remains unclear and the existing dedicated project of Global Environmental Change and Human Health



(GECHH) might be discontinued without any substitute. IGU CHE will continue to play an active role in advocating the need for a strong health component within *Future Earth*.

- As part of the IGU CHE's capacity building initiative it was decided to form a young researcher group of IGU CHE. The group will be managed by a smaller core group of young scientists (post graduate level till 5 years after PhD) from across the globe. This group was initiated by former participants of IGU CHE's international capacity building workshops and is currently coordinated by Eva Pilot (Maastricht University). The goal of the group is to foster exchange of young researcher interested in health geography. More information and contacts can be found on the webpage <http://www.iguhep.org/young-che.html>.

#### **7. Capacity building activities of IGU-CHE in 2013:**

- *6<sup>st</sup> International Student Training Workshop on "Global Change and Health Research"* took place at the Research Centre for Global Environmental Change and Health, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing from 07-13 October 2013. The workshop was hosted by the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research. The purpose of the workshop was to provide advanced training to Ph.D. students through a series of lectures and participatory experiences that gave the trainees a better understanding of theoretical and methodological issues related to environmental change and health risks affecting vulnerable populations. A further purpose was advanced training of skills required to advance the student's research careers (e.g., peer-reviewed manuscript writing and research proposal writing). Participants got also the chance to learn about international programmes and initiatives in this field. The international student training workshops remain an important component of IGU CHE's strategy of capacity building and of enhancing the visibility of health geography.

#### **Meetings, upcoming events and related activities of IGU-CHE in 2014-2016**

- From 21-24 April 2014 the GEOSAUDE Health Geography Congress for Portuguese speaking Countries will take place in Coimbra, Portugal. IGU CHE is a key sponsor of this meeting and supports financially the participation of young health geographers from Africa in this meeting.





- The 2014 IGU regional conference will take place in Krakow, Poland. IGU CHE steering committee member Izabella Lecka will organize a special pre-conference symposium in Warsaw (August 15 - 16) The group is expected to continue to Krakow on 17th. The pre-conference is planned for a maximum of 50 participants with a single stream of papers.
- The XIth International Seminar of Medical Geography (Geomed) with the thematic focus on health management will take place from 18-20 December 2014 in Rome, Italy. IGU CHE is co-sponsor of this conference.
- The IGU regional conference in August 2015 will be in Moscow, Russia. Commission member Svetlana Malkhazova will organize thematic sessions in the main congress as well as convene a pre-conference meeting. It is intended to organize a special meeting/training on GIS and Health as part of the pre-conference.
- In 2015 the GEOSAÚDE the Health Geography Congress for Portuguese speaking Countries will be organized in cooperation with the ICSU programme on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment. The meeting will take place in Brasilia with FIOCRUZ as local organiser. IGU CHE is actively involved in preparing this meeting and is a co-sponsor.
- IMGS 2015, the 16<sup>th</sup> International Medical Geography Symposium, will be in Vancouver, Canada. Valorie Crooks is the head of the local organizing committee. IGU CHE is co-sponsor of this meeting.
- The 2016 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geographical Conference will be held in Beijing, China. All IGU CHE activities, including a pre-conference meeting, Beijing will be coordinated by Wang Wuyi.

#### **8. Upcoming capacity building activities 2014 supported by IGU CHE**

- *Implementation of a Master of Geography of Health in Africa* at the University Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar, Senegal) in collaboration with University Gaston Berger (Saint Louis du Senegal), Institut de recherche pour le developement (IRD) and the University Paris Ouest Nanterre-La defense.



- *7<sup>th</sup> International Student Training Workshop on “Health and Environmental Change in Beijing-Tianjin Mega City Area”* at the Research Centre for Global Environmental Change and Health, Beijing, China (October 2014): The workshop will be held following a scientific workshop hosted by the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research at the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS).

## **9. Publications/ Dissemination:**

### **Webpage:**

IGU CHE has a new internet appearance. The new website <http://www.iguhep.org/> it includes announcements, member information, reports and meeting minutes. The webpage manager is Eva Pilot (eva.pilot@maastricht university.nl).