



ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
PERSPECTIVES

**Publishing the latest
environmental health science:
Research, News, Commentary**

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PEPH Webinar, 12/14/15

Free Access, www.ehponline.org

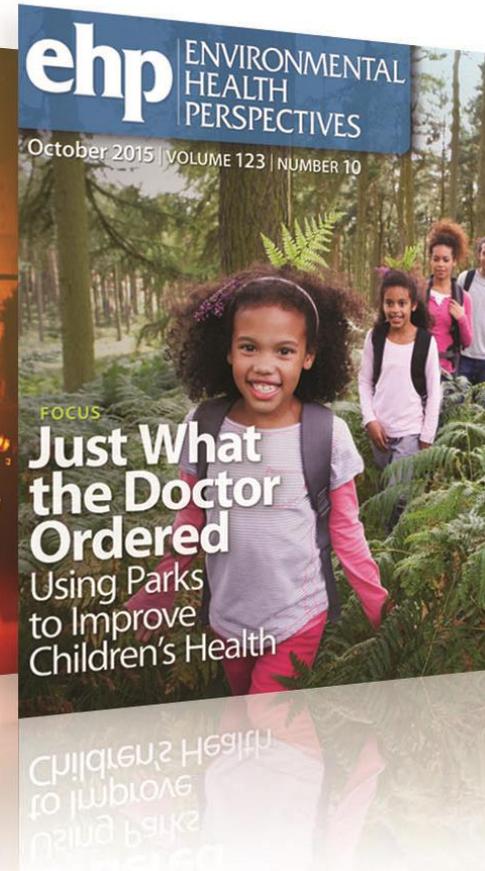
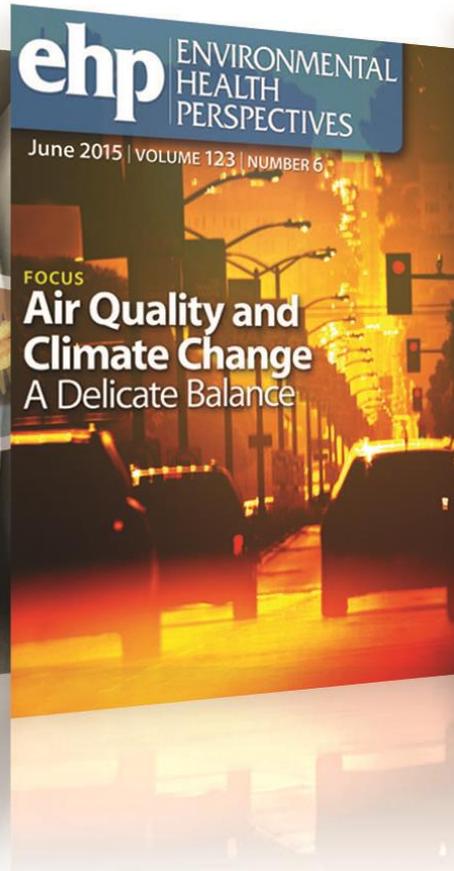
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Content

- News articles
- Collections
- **Peer-reviewed articles**
 - Original journal articles
 - Reviews
 - Commentaries
- Other
 - Letters to the Editors
 - Editorials and Brief Communications

News written for general audiences

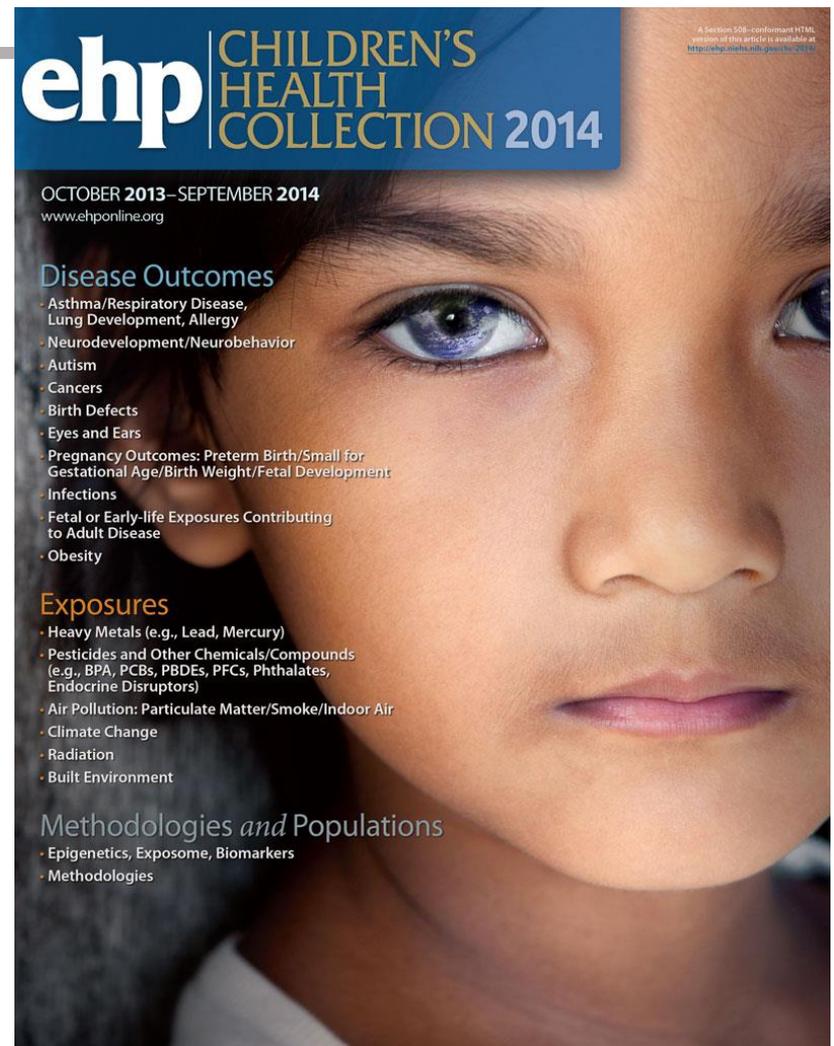


Susan Booker, News Editor

Also published in Chinese Edition, Hui Hu, International Editor

Children's Health Collection

- Abstracts of all relevant articles
- Grouped by:
 - Disease
 - Outcomes
 - Exposures
 - Methodologies & Populations
- 2015 - December



Martha Dimes, CH Editor

Broad Scope: News and Research: Purposeful Environmental Health science

- Considers and examines the complexity of environmental factors and exposures that interact to influence human health across the life-course
- Is grounded in real-world environmental conditions and measurable health outcomes
- Includes experimental (basic) and epidemiological research
- Contributes to decision making: regulatory, community-based, individual

Scope – Emerging Areas of Research

- Epigenetic mechanisms
- Adverse outcome pathways
- Microbiome
- Complex exposures **including social determinants**
- **Complex influences of natural and built environment on complex conditions: e.g., obesity, cognitive function**
- Climate change impacts

Scope – new methods & approaches

- *In vitro* and *in silico* models, predictive toxicology
- Metabolomics, Exposomics
- Life-course models
- Improved approaches for risk assessment
- Community-based Participatory Research
- Citizen science
- GIS and multiscale approaches

What we look for – acceptance criteria for research articles

- Within scope, meets ethical standards, English
- Compelling evidence of *novelty* and *significant advance* in the field
- Likelihood of having influence on decision-making
- Clarity of stated objective and presentation
- Scientific Quality: Appropriate methodology, convincing conclusions

Peer Review Process

- **Associate Editors:** Select reviewers for original papers, reviews and commentaries, and send recommendation to EIC
 - Knowledgeable about specific area of research
 - Have option to recommend rejection without review
 - Assist authors in revising paper by synthesizing and prioritizing reviewers' recommendations
 - Assist editor in making informed decision

Peer Review: Research Articles

- **Peer reviewers:** Add technical evaluation based on established Guidelines (ARRIVE, STROBE epidemiology)
 - Appropriate & complete methods; references cited
 - Rigorous analysis conducted (appropriate statistics)
 - E.g., Toxicology – relevant and sufficient number of doses
 - E.g., Epidemiology – control for confounding, effect modification, bias; sufficient power
 - Conclusions based on data

Advice to authors, Research Articles

- Know the journal -- Is your paper within scope?
- Follow instructions to authors carefully
- Abstract – Should be “stand alone”
- Methods – complete
- Results – essentials in paper; may add supplemental data

Advice to authors

- Discussion
 - Put final message “up front”
 - Should agree with objective/hypothesis posed in the introduction
 - Discuss strengths and limitations
 - Show how results are novel and important
 - Provide context for use/utility of results and/or next steps

Advice to authors – Submission

- Authors may recommend one or two Associate Editors
- And are welcome to recommend reviewers
 - Not mentors
 - Not collaborators
 - Not in same institution (unit)
 - Can list reviewers to avoid, too

Advice to authors – Peer review

- Be responsive: Address each comment in the response to the reviewers *and* in the body of the paper (except those disputed)
- Expect and practice respect when refuting reviewer or editor comments.
- Remember that accuracy and quality are your responsibility
- Peer review is useful, even if only to revise for another journal. Rejection is not always a bad thing.

Reviews: Synthesis and Knowledge Translation

- Get advice from EIC *in advance*; *Why is this review needed? Why in EHP?*
- Peer-reviewed
- Systematic, critical and balanced (not skewed towards a particular hypothesis). Use guidelines: MOOSE, PRISMA, Navigation Guide
- Reviews based on a meeting: Must be “output focused” (conclusions, recommendations, synthesis vs. talk-by-talk summary)

Commentaries (Perspectives)

- Advice from EIC - recommended
- Peer-reviewed
- Novel or controversial topic. *Who cares about this topic and why is it important?*
- Statements must be supported by references
- Avoid grand-standing and polemics