Stress, heat and other occupational exposures

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• All authors of this presentation have read the definition of Financial Conflict of Interest and certify:

  _X_ There are no financial conflicts of interests to declare

OR

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  __ Research Contracts or Employment
  __ Paid or Unpaid Consulting
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Aims of this discussion

• To facilitate dialogue about the ethical dimensions relevant to the presentations in this session with regard to, for instance, hypothesis formulation, methods, analysis, dissemination of results, data archival/sharing, and community engagement.

• To promote greater ethical transparency and accountability.

Before we move on, let’s quickly remind ourselves about Ethics Principles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From Bioethics</th>
<th>From Public Health &amp; Environmental Epidemiology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Respect for autonomy:</strong> respecting the right of participants to self-determine the extent of their participation</td>
<td>• Protect the Most Vulnerable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beneficence:</strong> doing good through our research</td>
<td>• The Precautionary Principle</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-maleficence:</strong> doing no harm</td>
<td>• Environmental Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social/Distributive Justice/ Fairness:</strong> who is deriving benefits and who is taking risks?</td>
<td>• Scientific Integrity</td>
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<td>• Protect the Public Interest Over Any Other Interests</td>
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<td>• Others …</td>
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Background

Occupational workers are a special group with potentially high-level exposures beyond what is seen in the general community. Studying exposed populations is useful for better understanding exposure-disease associations. It is especially important to protect the health of working populations.
Questions, 1 of 2

• Could it be misleading to conduct “poor studies”, diluting the risk estimates, when such studies might be used as an excuse for neglecting risk factors?

• How could international agreements, national regulations and occupational health practices be made more efficient to reduce occupational hazards for example from asbestos or in the textile industries?
Questions, 2 of 2

• Can ethical codes and ethical competence among occupational health practitioners be helpful for better ensuring work based more on evidence when there is a clear conflict between economic interests and occupational health interests?

• Is it ethical to ignore the internal dose contribution among nuclear workers, traditionally mostly using only external radiation dosimeters for dose assessment?
About ISEE Ethics and Philosophy Committee

http://www.iseepi.org/About/ethics_cmte.htm

• Established in 1991; we address ethical and philosophical underpinnings at the nexus of environment and health

• We sponsor symposia; maintain and develop ethics guidelines; offer recommendations and definitions; provide moral support to victimized colleagues

• Are you aware of the ISEE Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists - Revised April, 2012? Have you read them?
  (Kramer et al 2012 Revised Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists. Environ Health Perspect 120(8)

• New members are welcome! Send enquiries to any one of:
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