

Annual Conference Session Chair and Speaker Biographies

Stories of Policy Success: Real Examples of Inspiring Science-based Air Quality Actions

Session chairs: Neeta Thakur, University of California, San Francisco, USA and HEI Research Committee

Neeta Thakur is an associate professor and a pulmonary and critical care physician at University of California, San Francisco. Her research focuses on (1) defining obstructive lung disease phenotypes that exist in racially and ethnically diverse communities, (2) identifying individuals at high risk for poor outcomes using a risk profile composed of genetic, biomarker, clinical, and socio-environmental data, and (3) developing targeted interventions. She has expertise in clinical research methods, social epidemiology, and implementation sciences.

Benjamin Barratt, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, UK and HEI Research Committee

Ben Barratt is a Professor in Environmental Exposures & Public Health in the School of Public Health at Imperial College London. He is Co-Director of Imperial's cross faculty School of Convergence Science and joint Head of the World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre for Environmental Risks and Health.

Mark Frampton, University of Rochester Medical Center, USA

Dr. Frampton is a physician at the University of Rochester Medical Center, specializing in pulmonary and critical care medicine. His research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. EPA, HEI, and others, has used human exposure studies to better understand the health effects of air pollution. He is a former member of the HEI Health Review Committee, and former charter member of the U.S. EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).

Stefanie Ebelt, Emory University, USA

Dr. Ebelt is a Professor of Environmental Health and Epidemiology at Emory University. Her research lies at the intersection of ambient air quality, climate, and health. Her studies include population-based studies of air pollution, weather extremes, and acute morbidity using administrative health data. She holds a BSc in Microbiology and Immunology and an MSc in Occupational Hygiene from the University of British Columbia, and a ScD in Environmental Health from Harvard.

Jiachen Zhang, University of Southern California, USA

Dr. Jiachen Zhang is an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Southern California, with affiliations in Population and Public Health Sciences and the Spatial Sciences Institute. Her research investigates interactions among air quality, climate, and society, using computational models and measurement data to quantify the climate, air quality, and equity impacts of land-use, energy, and transportation policies, as well as extreme events such as wildfires. Previously, she served as a manager in the Air Quality Planning and Science Division at the California Air Resources Board, leading interdisciplinary teams to advance clean transportation policies.

Announcing the Winners of HEI Awards and Fellowships, and Lightning Talks by Winners of the Jane Warren and Walter A. Rosenblith Awards

Jane Warren Awardees

Abhishek Anand, Columbia University, USA

Yi-Ling Cheng, University of Illinois Chicago, USA

Samuel Cliff, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Jonah Hazelwood, North Carolina State University, USA

Anna Oehlerking, Northwestern University, USA

Kyan Kuo Shlipak, Northwestern University, USA

Rosenblith Awardee

Amelia Wesselink

Dr. Wesselink is a reproductive and environmental epidemiologist at the Boston University School of Public Health. Her research focuses on how air pollution, climate change, and neighborhood context can influence reproductive and gynecologic health. Her overarching research goal is to identify how environmental threats and the social context in which they occur contribute to reproductive injustices.

Global Progress Towards Air Quality Action and its Impacts

Session chair: Kiros Berhane, Columbia University, USA and HEI Global Initiatives Oversight Committee

Prof. Berhane is the Cynthia and Robert Citrone-Roslyn and Leslie Goldstein Professor and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Director of the Center for Achieving Resilience in Climate and Health (C-ARCH) at Mailman School of Public Health. He is widely published expert in the development of statistical methods and their application to environmental health. He was a member of HEI Review Committee and currently serves on the HEI Global Initiatives Oversight Committee

Maria Neira, Former Director, WHO and Senior Fellow, Clean Air Fund, Spain

Dr. María Neira, Director, Department of Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. María Neira is a Spanish physician and internationally recognized public health expert. She leads WHO's global efforts on health, environmental protection, and climate change, shaping policies and programs that impact populations worldwide. She has extensive experience with Médecins Sans Frontières, the United Nations, and the Spanish Ministry of Health, and has been recognized internationally for her contributions to public health and environmental health.

Forrest Robinette, Independent Consultant, USA

Forrest Robinette, MPP is a household energy and air quality expert with a focus on clean cooking and the reduction of short-lived climate pollutants. He has worked for organizations including the United Nations Foundation's Clean Cooking Alliance, Berkeley Air Monitoring Group, USAID, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition. Most recently, Forrest authored the CCAC's AQMx Sectoral Guidance for E-Cooking. He holds a Master of Public Policy from Duke University.

Jordi Pon, UNEP, Panama

He is currently Regional Coordinator of the Chemicals and Pollution Action Programme at the UN Environment Latin America and the Caribbean Office. Previously he had also provided strategic and technical advice to a range of organizations, including governmental authorities, international organizations and the private sector, mainly in the areas of integrated waste management, chemical pollution and environmental management, in the regions of Europe, Mediterranean, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ashish Tiwari, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Nepal

Ashish Tiwari is a Senior Executive of the Indian Forest Service (IFS) with over 30 years of experience blending environmental policy formulation with field-level implementation. Currently serving as Air Lead at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), he brings deep expertise in climate change adaptation and mitigation, air quality management, circular economy and biodiversity conservation. He has led major institutional reforms, pioneered India's airshed-based approach, and translated climate, AQM and environment policies into large-scale action in India.

Rebecca Garland, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Prof Rebecca Garland is a Professor in the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Her group's research focuses on improving the understanding of air quality and atmospheric composition in southern Africa. This has included emissions inventory development, evidence-based air quality management planning, and the linkages between air quality and climate change in a regional to urban scale. In addition, she is a founding member of the African group on Atmospheric Sciences (ANGA) under IGAC.

Smog to Synapse: Unraveling the Web of Neurodegenerative Risk and Resilience

Session chairs: Sara Adar, University of Michigan School of Public Health, USA and HEI Review Committee

Sara Adar is a Professor of Epidemiology and Global Public Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She has over 25 years of expertise in researching the chronic health effects of environmental exposures with a special emphasis on air pollution and noise. Currently, she leads a large and collaborative research program to assess environmental predictors of accelerated physical and cognitive aging in cohorts around the world. Sara is also a member of the HEI Review Committee.

David Dorman, North Carolina State University, USA and HEI Research Committee

David Dorman is a veterinary toxicologist and a professor of toxicology at North Carolina State University. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology and the American Board of Toxicology and is a European Registered Toxicologist. He is an elected fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a National Associate of the U.S. National Academies.

Burcin Ikiz, Neuro Climate Working Group and Stanford University, USA

Dr. Burcin Ikiz is a neuroscientist and Adjunct Lecturer in Psychiatry at Stanford University, specializing in the intersection of climate change and brain health. She is the founder and chair of the International Neuro Climate Working Group and leads EcoNeuro, advancing research, policy, and action on how environmental stressors affect neurological and mental health. Dr. Ikiz advises international organizations, including the World Health Organization, and was selected as a 2025 Grist Climate Leader.

Jennifer Weuve, Boston University School of Public Health, USA

Jennifer Weuve, M.P.H., Sc.D., is a professor of epidemiology at Boston University School of Public Health. She is co-Director of the international initiative, MMethods in LOngitudinal research on DEMentia. She is also PI or co-investigator of projects that examine whether and how exposures to toxicants—e.g., air pollutants, noise, heavy metals—influence neurodegenerative disease, especially dementia. This research has informed the use of environmental policy and other strategies to reduce dementia risk in whole populations.

Deborah A. Cory-Slechta, University of Rochester Medical Center, USA

Dr. Deborah Cory-Slechta is a Professor of Environmental Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical School and served formerly as Dean for Research, Chair of Environmental Medicine and Principal Investigator of the Department's NIEHS Core Center Grant. Her research is focused on the consequences of exposures to environmental chemicals on brain and their relationship to neurodegenerative diseases and neurodevelopmental disorders. She has served on advisory panels of the NIH, FDA, EPA, the NAS and ATSDR/CDC.

Particles in Motion: Tackling Brake, Tire, and Road Dust Emissions

Session chairs: Gregory Wellenius, Boston University School of Public Health, USA and HEI Research Committee

Gregory Wellenius serves as the Beverly A. Brown Professor for the Improvement of Urban Health, a Professor in the Department of Environmental Health and Director of the Center for Climate and Health at Boston University. He is an environmental epidemiologist committed to reducing the health threats of continued climate change through research, training, and engagement. He co-leads the NIH-funded CAFE Research Coordinating Center to support the global health and extreme weather research community and other efforts focused on building global capacity to accelerate climate and health research. Dr. Wellenius previously served as a visiting scientist with Google and currently serves as a member of the HEI Research Committee.

John Volckens, Colorado State University, USA and HEI Review Committee

Dr. John Volckens is a professor of Mechanical Engineering and the Director of the Center for Energy Development and Health at Colorado State University (CSU). He holds affiliate appointments in Environmental Health, Biomedical Engineering, the Colorado School of Public Health, and the CSU Energy Institute. His research interests involve air quality, low-cost sensors, exposure science, and air pollution-related disease.

Chris Griffiths, University of Oxford, UK

Chris Griffiths is Professor of Primary Care at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care at the University of Oxford, and Queen Mary University of London. He co-leads the Medical Research Council-funded NEXUS international partnership addressing health effects of non-exhaust pollution; he co-leads the Centre for Applied Respiratory Research, Innovation and Implementation (CARRii).

Greg Evans, University of Toronto, Canada

Greg is Professor of Engineering at the University of Toronto where he serves as the Director of the Southern Ontario Centre for Atmospheric Aerosol Research. His research examines the impacts of air pollution on the environment, climate and human health, with an emphasis on assessing real-world exposure to transportation related emissions.

James Scales, Queen Mary University London, UK

Dr Scales is a physiologist specializing in the health impacts of air pollution, particularly in the context of exercise for people with asthma and children. He leads the Respiratory and Environmental Health Group at QMUL. He currently leads the CHERISH and IONA studies and is the senior physiologist on the CHILL study, a large-scale investigation into the impacts of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone on children's lung growth, activity patterns and health.

Seungju Yoon, California Air Resources Board, USA

Dr. Seungju Yoon oversees mobile source research programs at the California Air Resources Board. Dr. Yoon has directed multiple non-exhaust emissions research programs, including brake-wear measurement

and chemical characterization, roadside non-exhaust emissions measurement, in-use vehicle non-exhaust emission measurement and exposure assessment, and train brake and wheel-wear characterization. Dr. Yoon holds a master's degree in environmental engineering- air pollution control and a Ph.D. in civil engineering- transportation systems from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Paolo Mazzatorta, World Business Council for Sustainable Development / Tire Industry Project, Switzerland

Paolo Mazzatorta is Senior Research Manager at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). He leads the Scientific Program and the Impact Research Working Group for the Tire Industry Project (TIP). This initiative is a voluntary, CEO-driven effort aimed at anticipating, understanding, and addressing the global environmental, social, and governance issues relevant to the tire industry and its value chain. Paolo holds a PhD in Environmental Science and a master's degree in chemical engineering. Prior to joining WBCSD, he focused on research in the food industry, specifically in chemical risk assessment and contamination.

Everything you Wanted to Know about Bias in Environmental Health Research (But Were Afraid to Quantify)

Session chairs: David A. Savitz, Brown University and HEI Research Committee

*Dr. David A. Savitz is Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology at the Brown University School of Public Health. His research focuses on reproductive and environmental epidemiology, including studies of perfluorinated chemicals, pesticides, drinking-water disinfection by-products, and non-ionizing radiation. He is the author of two books on epidemiologic practice: *Interpreting Epidemiologic Evidence: Connecting Research to Applications and Epidemiology and the Law*. He currently serves as Chair of the Research Committee of the Health Effects Institute.*

Evi Samoli, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece and HEI Research Committee

Evi Samoli's research interests focus on environmental epidemiology, specifically the health effects of long- and short-term exposure to air pollution and statistical methods for the analysis of related time-series and longitudinal data. Samoli has been a member of committees for the World Health Organization, the European Commission, and HEI. She is a member of international scientific societies that are active in environmental epidemiology issues and has published more than 185 peer-reviewed articles in international journals. She received an MSc in social statistics from the University of Southampton, United Kingdom, and her PhD in epidemiology from the Medical School of the University of Athens.

Matthew Fox, Boston University, USA

Matthew Fox, DSc, MPH, is a Professor in the Departments of Epidemiology and Global Health at Boston University. Dr. Fox works on ways to improve retention in HIV-care programs in South Africa from the time of testing HIV-positive through long-term treatment. As part of this work, he is involved in analyses to assess the impact of changes in South Africa's National Treatment Guidelines for HIV. Dr. Fox also does research on quantitative bias analysis and co-authored a book on these methods. He is the host of a public health journal club podcast called Free Associations (<https://bit.ly/3OfPApj>) and a podcast on Epidemiologic Methods called SERious Epi (<https://seriousepi.blubrry.net/>).

David Miller, US EPA (retired), USA

David J. Miller retired in 2022 after a 30-year career as a U.S. Public Health Service officer at the U.S. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, where he served as Branch Chief and led work in epidemiology and pesticide poisoning surveillance. His earlier work included dietary exposure modeling and risk assessment. Since retiring, he chairs the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology Quantitative Bias Analysis SIG and serves on the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute Environmental Epidemiology Committee, focusing on quantitative bias analysis.

From Space to Place: Advancing Environmental Health with Remote Earth Observations

Session chairs: Heather Holmes, University of Utah, USA and HEI Research Committee

Heather Holmes' research focuses on transdisciplinary investigations of processes that govern the transport of atmospheric pollutants. Specifically, her research group uses ground-based sensors, atmospheric models, and satellite remote sensing to investigate atmospheric physics, air pollution sources, and transport and dispersion, ultimately to provide data for human health and public policy assessments. She has numerous peer-review publications and received a National Science Foundation CAREER award and a Fulbright scholar award to Australia. She received a PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of Utah.

Christine Wiedinmyer, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, USA and HEI Energy Review Committee

Dr. Christine Wiedinmyer is the Director of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. A former scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Dr. Wiedinmyer holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Tulane University and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Wiedinmyer's research focuses on the identification and quantification of various emission sources and modeling the transport and fate of emitted pollutants in the atmosphere. She is the creator of the Fire INventory from NCAR (FINN) model that estimates emissions of pollutants from open burning globally.

Tracey Holloway, University of Wisconsin—Madison, USA

Dr. Tracey Holloway is a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the three-time Team Lead of the NASA Health and Air Quality Applied Sciences Team (HAQAST, "hay-kast"). HAQAST the national team funded by NASA to connect satellite data with health and air quality decision-making and applications. Holloway has been recognized as a Member of the National Academy of Medicine and a Fellow in the American Geophysical Union, among other honors.

Carl Malings, Morgan State University & NASA Goddard, USA

Carl Malings is an Assistant Research Scientist at Morgan State University, working at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to bring together atmospheric chemistry models, satellite retrievals, and surface monitor data to better estimate & forecast air quality. He also participates in capacity building through the NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training (or ARSET) program, the GEO Health Community of Practice, and other avenues.

Helena Chapman, NASA & Booz Allen Hamilton, USA

Helena Chapman serves as Associate Program Manager for Health and Air Quality Applications in the Earth Action Program (Booz Allen Hamilton) of the Earth Science Division at NASA Headquarters. She is Executive Coordinator of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Health Community of Practice. Trained

in medicine, epidemiology, and One Health, she is passionate about promoting the One Health concept, highlighting the value of transdisciplinary collaborations to investigate and mitigate health risks to humans, animals, and ecosystems.

Ellen Considine, University of Colorado Boulder, USA

Ellen Considine is an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado-Boulder, based in the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences and the Department of Geography. Previously, she trained as a biostatistician at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her research focuses on the application of innovative data science methods to address environmental health challenges.

Driving Change: Intermodal Freight's Air Quality and Health Challenges and Opportunities

Session chairs: Jane Lin, University of Illinois Chicago, USA and HEI Heavy-Duty Diesel Fleet Turnover Panel

Jane Lin is Professor in the Department of Civil, Materials, and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois Chicago. Her research focuses on intersection between transportation and environmental sustainability. Lin is Editor-in-Chief of Transportation Research Part D: Transportation and Environment. She chaired the Sustainability and Resilience Group at the Transportation Research Board, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2020 – 2024) and served on the Board of Scientific Counselors, US EPA (2022 - 2026).

Albert Presto, Carnegie Mellon University, USA and Energy Review Committee

Albert Presto is a research professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, and the director of the Center for Atmospheric Particle Studies (CAPS). He holds a B.S. from Cornell University and a PhD from Carnegie Mellon University, both in Chemical Engineering. He has specific expertise in mobile sampling to understand spatial patterns in urban air pollution, quantification of emissions of methane and air pollutants from the oil and gas industry, and the development and deployment of low-cost air pollutant sensors and techniques.

Dr. Presto is an editor for Atmospheric Measurement Techniques. He is a founding member of AfriqAir, a Research Fellow of the Kigali Collaborative Research Centre, and the U.S. State Department Air Quality Fellow for Burundi and Guinea.

Michael Roeth, North American Council for Freight Efficiency, USA

Mike has worked in the commercial vehicle industry for over 40 years, is the Executive Director of the North American Council for Freight Efficiency and is the trucking lead for RMI. Mike's specialty is brokering green truck collaborative technologies into the real world at scale. He has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the Ohio State University and a Master's in Organizational Leadership from the Indiana Institute of Technology. He understands the customers, operations and intricacies of the commercial vehicle industry.

Thomas O'Brien, CSU Long Beach, USA

Dr. Thomas O'Brien is Associate Dean in the College of Professional and Continuing Education (CPaCE) at California State University, Long Beach, and Director of the CA Local Technical Assistance Program (CALTAP) Center. He previously served as Executive Director of the Center for International Trade and Transportation (CITT) also at CSULB. His teaching and research focus on logistics, supply chain management, and goods movement policy as well as transportation workforce development. He is Chair

of the Transportation Research Board's Intermodal Freight Transport Committee. He also serves on the Boards of the Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce and Los Angeles Transportation Club.

Rachael Nealer, Atlas Public Policy, USA

Dr. Rachael Nealer is a Director at Atlas Public Policy, where she provides strategic leadership and policy expertise to advance data-driven solutions for transportation electrification, climate policy, and infrastructure. She brings over a decade of experience spanning federal government leadership, academic research, and cross-sector collaboration to tackle complex energy and environmental challenges.

Rachael holds a joint Ph.D. in Civil & Environmental Engineering and Engineering & Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University, with a focus on sustainable transportation supply chains. She is based in Washington, D.C.

Kanok Boriboonsomsin, College of Engineering - Center for Environmental Research and Technology, University of California at Riverside, USA

Dr. Kanok Boriboonsomsin is an Associate Director at the University of California at Riverside's College of Engineering - Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT). His research specializes in transportation energy and emissions with an emphasis on the medium- and heavy-duty sectors. Dr. Boriboonsomsin currently serves on the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Transportation Energy Data and Technology Committee and contributes his expertise to two project panels for the Health Effects Institute (HEI).