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Impact of air pollution on human health

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A ir pollution is a global problem with far reaching consequences. Exposure to pollutants has been associated with increased rates of cardiovascular and respiratory morbidity and mortality throughout the world, particularly in urban settings where concentrations are usually higher. However, not every pollutant conveys the same risk and not everyone exposed is equally susceptible. In addition, there is no safe air pollution level at which adverse health effects are absent. These complexities have made it very challenging to legislate and develop adequate protection strategies. The objectives of this talk will be to: a) Present a broad overview of criteria air pollutants and related health effects; b) Discuss different types of pollutants and how these relate to different outcomes; c) Give an overview of what is known about susceptibility factors; and d) Show examples of what happens to health outcomes when pollution levels drop. This talk will conclude by arguing the case that new interventions are urgently needed to reduce the health effects among those that are more vulnerable and or most highly exposed.

Biography

Fernando Holguin graduated from La Salle University School of Medicine in Mexico City and continued his training in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care at Emory University in Atlanta. He then returned to Mexico as a researcher in the National Institute of Public Health and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. During his faculty tenure at Emory University, Dr Holguin Directed the Adult Asthma and Allergy Clinics at Grady Memorial Hospital. Currently, he works in clinical and translational asthma research and is Assistant Director of the Asthma Institute.

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