

Recent Insights into the Effects of Air Pollution on Human Aging

Over the last decade, global climate change and the negative effects of environmental contamination have received a great deal of media attention. In particular, the air we breathe contains potentially harmful levels of pollutants such as particulate matter.

Although it is well-known that exposure to pollutants can promote genome instability, a major contributor to human aging, recent research suggests that older adults are at greater risk from adverse environmental changes compared with younger adults, particularly those with chronic disease. Besides the well-known detrimental effects of polluted air on the pulmonary and cardiovascular system, exposure to poor quality air from vehicle exhausts and burning solid fuels can also contribute to stroke and neurodegenerative diseases. Furthermore, new research has associated particulate matter with memory loss, dementia, and depression. Since older adults often spend a significant part of their day at home, in a nursing home, or in hospitals, the quality of indoor air and its effect on the health is of particular concern to the elderly.

Healthy Aging Research invites submissions of original research and review articles that provide insights into the environmental threats to healthy aging with particular focus on air pollution. Topics of interest for this special issue include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Elucidation of the molecular mechanisms to explain how air contaminants contribute to stroke onset
- Role of air pollution in the pathology of Alzheimer's disease and neurodegeneration
- Influence of air pollutants on cognitive health and depression
- Influence of indoor air quality on older people's health
- Recommended standards for indoor air quality specifically for the aged population
- Policy and community health care recommendations in relation to "clean" air



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