



Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health

in association with the
Harvard School of Public Health

"Protecting the Environment and Safeguarding Public Health"

Harvard
School of
Public Health



HSPH-Cyprus Initiative
Landmark Center West
410 Park Avenue, Rm: 401
Boston, MA 02215 USA

telephone: 617-384-8847
fax: 617-384-8833
email: cii@hsph.harvard.edu
website: www.hsph.harvard.edu/cii
(under construction)

HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH – CYPRUS INITIATIVE

Recognizing the importance of building international capacity in environment and public health research and practice, the Harvard School of Public Health and the Republic of Cyprus established recently an International research, education, and technology initiative for the Environment and Public Health. This International Initiative will bring together researchers, educators, and practitioners from Harvard, Cyprus and the Mediterranean Region to confront regional environmental issues through its two research and training locations in Cyprus and Boston.

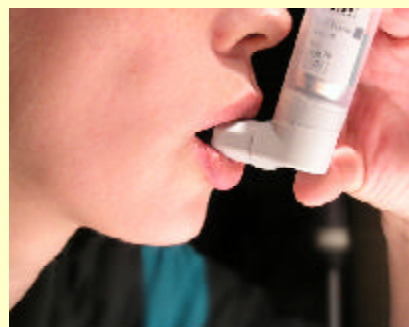
The Cyprus International Institute (CII) for the Environment and Public Health in Association with the Harvard School of Public Health will be based in Cyprus, and will provide a centralized location to address environment and public health problems on a local, regional and international level. Through research, educational and outreach activities, CII will enhance the skills and overall capacity of researchers in Cyprus and the region to address present and future societal needs. The HSPH-Cyprus Program (HCP) which has been launched in Boston will train students from Cyprus and the region and collaborate with CII on the development and execution of training and research programs. Both through the Cyprus International Institute in Cyprus and the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, the Initiative will provide top-quality education and training in environmental, occupational, and public health to students, scholars, and mid-career professionals.

Respiratory Diseases and the Environment

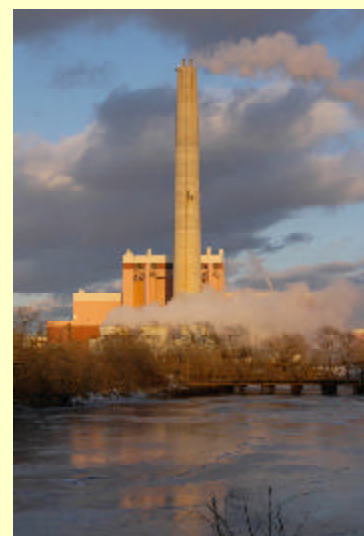
2004 Symposium

Introduction The lungs are the doorway to life, providing oxygen and eliminating carbon dioxide. Since they are in constant contact with both the outside air and the body's internal environment, the lungs are uniquely vulnerable to disease. Every year, millions of people die of lung disease, making it the third most frequent cause of death in the world. Additionally millions of us are living with chronic lung diseases such as asthma and emphysema. Recent advances in Environmental Health Sciences have allowed Scientists to reveal the Gene-Environment interactions for certain respiratory diseases. Environmental contaminants in the air we breathe are considered a major problem around the globe, in both urban and rural areas. Many air pollutants, such as those that form urban smog and toxic compounds, remain in the environment for long periods of time and are carried by the winds hundreds of miles from their origin. Both long-term and short-term exposure to air pollution can cause cancer and long-term damage to the immune, neurological, reproductive, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems.

Focus of the Symposium The focus of this Symposium will be to bring together several levels of interested parties in Cyprus and the region with a group of environmental health and science experts from the Harvard School of Public Health-Cyprus Initiative for the Environment and Public Health. The purpose will be to consider the variety of environmentally-related respiratory diseases that might affect local populations. The Harvard group will describe the approaches that have been used in the past in other areas of the world to explore these environmental concerns. Participants should include members of regional governments including but not limited to the Ministries of Public Health, Environment, representatives of Local and Regional Medical Societies and Scientists, representatives of interested and relevant voluntary associations (Lung Associations, Allergy and Asthma Associations, Environmental Preservation Societies, etc.) and industrial groups involved in both traffic-related industries and large scale stationary power production and use.



Outcome The outcome of the Symposium will be to identify and prioritize potential research needs in the aforementioned areas and to build coalitions with regional governmental and non-governmental organizations and other academic institutions. Additionally, a series of specific local pilot research projects will be proposed, which may be conducted over the ensuing year to obtain the preliminary data necessary to apply for resources for larger-scale regional studies. Another goal is to identify potential local research personnel trainees and research infrastructure to carry out such studies.



Symposium December 1st 2004 at Hilton Hotel, Nicosia, Cyprus

Symposium on Respiratory Diseases and the Environment

Symposium Venue

Hilton Hotel, Nicosia, Cyprus

Agenda

Wednesday December 1, 2004

- 8:30 - 9:00 Registration and Informal Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15 Introduction and Setting the Agenda
Professor Philip Demokritou, Harvard School of Public Health
Interim Director of the Cyprus International Institute
on the Environment and Public Health
- 9:15 - 9:35 **Overview of Respiratory Health Issues in Cyprus**
Dr. Evis Pagdades of the Cyprus Lung Association
- 9:35 - 9:55 **Major Environmental Concerns in Cyprus**
Nicos Georgiades, Director of Environment Service,
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Environment
- 9:55 - 10:15 **Applied Research Requirements within the Department of
Labour Inspection Related to the Cyprus International Institute**
Leandros Nicolaides, Director of Labour Inspection Department,
Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
- 10:15 - 10:35 **Overview of Approaches to Environmental Health Research**
Professor Frank Speizer, Harvard School of Public Health
- 10:35 - 10:55 BREAK
10:55 - 11:15 **Assessing Human Exposures to Air Pollutants**
Professor Petros Koutrakis, Harvard School of Public Health
Director of HSPH-Cyprus Program on the Environment and Public Health
- 11:15 - 11:35 **Acute Effects of Air Pollution on Respiratory and Cardiac Health**
Professor Douglas Dockery, Harvard School of Public Health
- 11:35 - 11:55 **Effects of Long Term Exposures to Air Pollution on Respiratory Health**
Associate Professor Joel Schwartz, Harvard School of Public Health
- 11:55 - 12:15 **Causes of the Asthma Epidemic: What Do We Know?**
Donald Milton, Senior Lecturer, Harvard School of Public Health
- 12:15 - 1:30 LUNCH
— Stakeholders' Presentations —
- 1:30 - 1:50 **Initial Assessment of Air Quality in Cyprus**
Savvas Kleanthous, Senior Labour Inspection Officer, Air Quality Section,
Dept. of Labour Inspection, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
- 1:50 - 2:10 **EAC Research and Technological Development Activities**
Andreas Poulikkas, Senior Engineer Technological Development,
Electricity Authority of Cyprus
- 2:10 - 2:50 Additional Speaker(s) to be Announced
2:50 - 3:10 BREAK
3:10 - 4:40 Panel Discussion
4:40 - 5:00 Closing Remarks by Dr. Frank Speizer
5:00 ADJOURN
7:00 - 9:30 Reception and Dinner with Keynote Speaker
Minister Akkelidou, Minister of Health of the Government of Cyprus

Thursday December 2, 2004

- 7:00 - 12:30 Individual groups will meet and discuss research projects



Sponsors

Harvard-Cyprus Initiative
on the Environment and
Public Health

Cyprus Medical Association

Ministry of Health,
Republic of Cyprus

Ministry of Agriculture and
Environment, Republic of
Cyprus

Cyprus Institute of Genetics
and Neurology



Symposium December 1st 2004 at Hilton Hotel, Nicosia, Cyprus