



## Environmental Health in Latin America and the Caribbean

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### Message from the Guest Editors

The World Health Organization defines Environmental Health as all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person and all the related factors impacting behaviors. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments. This definition excludes behavior not related to the environment, as well as behavior related to the social and cultural environment and genetics.

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have more than 600 million inhabitants, a number which is expected to grow to more than 760 million by 2050. LAC is facing rapid economic growth that challenges the environment and the health of its citizens. Urbanization rates in LAC are among the highest in the world, and climate change is one of the most important threats in the region. Environmental health has been suggested as a key element to support healthy and sustainable economic and social development in the region. Compared with other regions around the world, lack of scientific evidence on environmental health has been a common issue in LAC.





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## Editor-in-Chief

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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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