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New Indicators for the Assessment and Prevention of Noise Nuisance

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Message from the Guest Editors

At present, health effects induced by prolonged noise exposure are widely studied for the most diffused noise sources and their effects. Annoyance, sleep disturbance, cardiovascular diseases and learning impairments, are already known through environmental epidemiology studies. Usually, these studies relate the health effects of noise with a regression of an acoustic exposure metrics, which is an average energetic dose over a long time period, such as Leq or Lden.

Recently, the scientific community started to investigate the possibility that health effects induced by prolonged noise exposure should be studied considering other features of noise too. Among those remarkable effects are its intensity variation over time, impulsivity of events, frequency distribution, and psychoacoustics parameters. Peak levels, maximum levels, and variability can have a significative influence on nuisance perception, and citizens can complain more about single high levels rather than average exposure. This can be the origin of flaws in dose–effects relationships for annoyance or sleep disturbance.

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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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