Special Issue

Emerging Issues in Air Quality: Pollutants, Sources, Concentrations, Chemistry, and Health Risks

Message from the Guest Editors

In addition to the most intensively studied pollutants. such as particulate matter (PM), ozone, and nitrogen oxides, other contaminants are emerging in importance as threats to indoor and outdoor air quality. Pollutants derived from consumer products are also precursors to the formation of PM and ozone. Are there approaches for evaluating human exposures to pollutants derived from consumer products, their reaction products, and the risks they pose to human health? Emphasis on assigning health outcomes to PM exposure focuses mainly on mass instead of specific PM components. Is there new evidence relating health outcomes to specific PM components? Nitrogen and sulfur oxides react with naturally occurring molecules in the atmosphere. Is there new evidence linking the species formed from this interaction to health outcomes? Existing ambient air monitoring networks are limited in their capability to measure exposure to air pollutants. Are there advances in measurement techniques based on remote sensing and/or in-situ sensors that will substantively improve the spatial and temporal coverage for monitoring pollutants?

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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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