



College of  
Public Health



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# 2024

## Second Annual International Conference on Public Health and Environment



## WATER AND AIR QUALITY CONTROL: PROTECTING HUMAN HEALTH AND ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



July 4-5



9.00



**Academy of Sciences of Albania**  
Tirana, Albania

## PROGRAM

## July 4 – Day 1 Session



9:00 – 5:00 pm (17:00)

8:30 – 9:00      *Registration*

9:00– 9:30      Welcoming Remarks  
Dr. **Melissa Perry**, College of Public Health, George Mason University  
Acad. **Skënder Gjinushi**, President Albanian Academy of Sciences  
Ms. **Albana Kociu**, Minister of Health and Social Protection  
Ms. **Mirela Kumbaro**, Minister of Environment and Tourism  
Dr. **Arthur Frank**, Collegium Ramazzini

### 9:30 – 11:00      **CURRENT PERSPECTIVES ON AIR QUALITY**

*Chairs:* **Erinda Lika, Ilir Alimehmeti, Ilirjan Malollari**

*Impact of air and water pollution on immune-mediated diseases: A literature review and comprehensive analysis*

**Genc Sulcebe**, University of Medicine, Tirana; Academy of Sciences of Albania

*Community exposures to Asbestos.*

**Arthur Frank**, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA

*Distribution of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the most frequented stations in Tirana and links with Covid-19.*

**Alma Shehu**, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tirana, Albania

11:00– 11:15      *Discussion*

11:15– 11:30      *Break*

### 11:30 – 13:00      **AIR PARTICULATES AND RISK**

*Chairs:* **Neki Frashëri, Romeo Hanxhari, Alban Ylli**

*Assessment of risk factors in the development of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases in several districts of Albania (Tirana, Fier, Elbasan, Kukes and Korça)*

**Elida Mataj**, Institute of Public Health, Tirana, Albania

*Climate change and gastroenteritis projections in Albanian children*

**Alban Ylli**, Institute of Public Health, Tirana, Albania

*Aerobiology: A discipline in support of allergic diseases*

**Elona Gjebrea**, University of New York, Tirana, Albania

*Air pollution and impact to health in Albania.*

**Valbona Mazreku**, Milieukontakt, Tirana, Albania

12:45 – 13:00      *Discussion*

13:00 – 14:00      **Lunch**

**14:00-15:30 PROTECTING WATER QUALITY: PATHOGENS AND CONTAMINANTS**

*Chairs: Erda Qorri, Ilia Mikerezi, Enver Roshi*

*Monitoring the potable water quality in Albania*

**Shkelqime Poga**, Institute of Public Health of Albania and University of Tirana

*Risk assessment of chemicals in drinking water: the example of selenium and fluoride*

**Marco Vinceti, Tommaso Filippini**, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia Medical School, Modena, Italy

*Drinking water quality: An assessment of residual chlorine and its health effects*

**Rozarta Nezaj**, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

*Overview of pollution levels in the Vlora port*

**Esmeralda Halo**, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tirana, Albania

*The physico-chemical characteristics of water in Trush water supply in Shkodër, Albania*

**Julia Preka**, University of Shkodër, Albania

*Monitoring of indicators in bathing water on the Albanian coast*

**Lindita Salia Molla**, Institute of Public Health, and National Environmental Agency, Albania.

**15:15 - 15:30 Discussion**

**15:30 - 15:45 Break**

**15:45 - 18:00 GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS IN AIR AND WATER**

*Chair: Denny Dobbin MS, Emeritus National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Chapel Hill, USA; Melissa Perry, Besnik Baraj*

*Potential health risk of biota, water and sediments of Vjosa River: mercury levels assessment*

**Besnik Baraj**, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tirana, Albania.

*Global plastics pollution and health*

**Philip Landrigan**, Boston College, Boston, USA (via Zoom)

*Assessment of Cadmium and Chromium concentration in the aerosol sampling using atomic absorption spectrometry*

**Mirela Alushllari**, Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics, University of Tirana, Albania

*Effective removal of NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> gas emissions from waste incineration: Implications for air pollution control and human health protection*

**Ilirjan Malollari**, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tirana, Albania

*Environmental health impacts of mining*

**Ian von Lindern**, Terragraphics International Foundation, Moscow, USA (via Zoom)

**17:45 - 18:00 Discussion**

**18:00 - 19:00 Reception and Cultural Event**

**19:00 Dinner**

## July 5 – Day 2 Session

9:00 – 12:30 pm

### 9:00 – 11:00 WATER QUALITY AND MARINE PROTECTION

*Chairs:* **Kapllan Sulaj, Ariola Bacu, Rozarta Nezaj**

*The role of waste water as a main component of persistence and the spread of antimicrobial resistance genes affecting environmental health quality in Albania*  
**Erinda Lika**, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

*Assessment of ground water quality of the Lushnja aquifer in Albania*  
**Iris Bakiri**, Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics, University of Tirana, Albania

*An analysis of the relationship that exists between urban greening and noise levels: The case of the Durres municipality*  
**Marsida Klemo**, Professional Studies Faculty, Aleksander Moisiu University, Durres, Albania

*An integrated approach based on the use of monitoring and research protocols for water quality assessment in Albania*  
**Ariola Bacu**, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tirana, and Academy of Sciences of Albania.

*Discussion*

11:00 – 11:15 *Break*

### 11:15 – 12:30 INNOVATIONS, INTERVENTIONS AND CHARTING A PATH FORWARD

*Chair:* **Aleko Miho, Anila Hoda, Carol Rice**, Emeritus, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, USA

*Unveiling the seasonal dynamics of PM<sub>2.5</sub>: a synergistic approach combining low-volume sampling and meteorological monitoring*  
**Dhurata Premti**, IGEO-PUT, Tirana, Albania

*A new approach about air and water quality control in the context of climate change*  
**Petrit Zorba**, IGEO-PUT, Tirana, Albania

*A novel composite material for comprehensive remediation of polluted waters*  
**Kledi Xhaxhiu**, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tirana, and Academy of Sciences, Tirana, Albania

*From the research to sustainable development - in focus Vjosa Wild River National Park and its basin*  
**Aleko Miho**, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tirana, Albania

*Experiences in drafting Serbian asbestos profile according to European Union requirements*  
**Petar Bulat**, University of Belgrad, Serbia

*Discussion*

12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 14:30 *Discussions and Drafting of the Joint Agreement Conference Resolution*  
**Melissa Perry**, College of Public Health, George Mason University,  
**Genc Sulcebe**, University of Medicine, Tirana, and Academy of Sciences of Albania.

14:30 – 15:30 **Closing Remarks**

- **Tritan Shehu**, Albanian Parliament Member and Vice Rector, Catholic University (Our Lady of Good Counsel), Tirana, Albania
- Representative of American Ambassador to Albania (*invited*)
- **Melissa Perry** College of Public Health, George Mason University, Fairfax, USA.

*Meeting Formally Adjourns*

### **Organizing Committee**

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