



Swiss Tropical Institute  
Schweizerisches Tropeninstitut  
Institut Tropical Suisse

# 14<sup>th</sup> STI Symposium

## Environmental Health: Here and There

Swiss Tropical Institute &  
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine

Bildungszentrum 21, Missionsstrasse 21  
CH-4055 Basel, Switzerland

Thursday, 10 December 2009, 14:00-18:00 hours  
Friday, 11 December 2009, 09:00-16:00 hours



# Environmental Health: Here and There

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To commemorate the integration of the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) with the Swiss Tropical Institute (STI), the 14<sup>th</sup> STI Symposium is built around the theme of "*Environmental health: here and there*". A diverse set of case studies will be featured, both from industrialized countries and developing world settings. This thematic focus reflects the substantial body of research, teaching and training of the merged STI/ISPM centred on environmental health issues in the North and in the South.

There are three key-note addresses from international leaders in environmental health science and its application to public health. The remaining presentations will be delivered by scientists from the STI/ISPM research groups and its national and international collaborators. The symposium aims to have an in-depth look at positive and negative health effects due to environmental risk factors. The symposium will allow participants to learn from recent experience in industrialized countries (Europe and North America) and developing countries in Africa, Asia and Central and Latin America. More specifically, the one and a half day symposium will expose and examine the following aspects:

- Health effects in relation to air pollution, growing energy consumptions and lead at a local, regional and global scale.
- Health effects in connection with waste management, water supply and sanitation, particularly in urban settings of the least developed nations.
- Health impact assessment as a tool and methodology for mitigating negative health effects and enhancing positive health effects due to projects, programmes and policies.

The latest available information from the field will be put in context with local, regional and global perspectives, followed by discussions with the audience.

We hope this will be of interest and value and are looking forward to welcoming you in Basel.

Sincerely, on behalf of the organizers from STI/ISPM Department of Epidemiology and Public Health

Jürg Utzinger, Charlotte Braun-Fahrländer, Mitchell Weiss and Nino Künzli


For questions please contact [Margrit.Slaoui@unibas.ch](mailto:Margrit.Slaoui@unibas.ch)

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We like to refer also to the following pre-symposium lecture (held in German):

### **Stadt oder Gesundheit?**

Gemeinsame Antritts- und Semester-Schlussvorlesung der Professoren Arno Schmidt-Trucksäss (Ordinarius für Sportwissenschaften) und Nino Künzli (Ordinarius für Sozial- und Präventivmedizin / Public Health)  
Donnerstag 10.12.2009; 11:10-12:00 h mit anschließendem Apéro  
Grosser Hörsaal, Zentrum für Lehre und Forschung,  
Hebelstrasse 20, CH-4031 Basel



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### Final Programme

#### Thursday, 10 December 2009

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14:00 – 14:10	Welcome and introductions – Nick Lorenz, STI
<b>Chair: Nino Künzli</b>	
14:10 – 15:00	<b>Key-Note I: Paint, petrol, and plumbism: the anatomy of a public health disaster</b> – Joel Schwartz, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA
15:00 – 15:20	<b>Environmental health in a changing climate: case studies from West Africa</b> – Guéladio Cissé, STI
15:20 – 15:30	Discussion
15:30 – 16:00	Break
<b>Chair: Patricia Schwärzler / Mitchell Weiss</b>	
16:00 – 16:20	<b>Integrated framework for health and environmental sanitation assessment: wastewater and excreta use in Vietnam</b> – Hung Nguyen-Viet, STI / Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (EAWAG/SANDEC)
16:20 – 16:40	<b>Novel approaches for environmental sanitation in the developing world</b> – Roland Schertenleib, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (EAWAG/SANDEC)
16:40 – 17:00	<b>Household water treatment in developing countries: Quo vadis?</b> – Daniel Mäusezahl, STI
17:00 – 17:20	<b>Interconnected slums: water, sanitation and health in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire</b> – Brigit Obrist, STI & Institute of Social Anthropology
17:20 – 17:40	<b>Patterns and risk factors of mobile communication</b> – Martin Röösl, STI / ISPM
17:40 – 18:00	Discussion
19:00 – 22:00	Dinner with invited guests ( <i>Restaurant Rossini</i> )

#### Friday, 11 December 2009

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08:30 – 09:00	Light breakfast
<b>Chair: Elisabeth Zemp-Stutz / Jürg Utzinger</b>	
09:00 – 09:50	<b>Key-Note II: Energy, air pollution and public health: global patterns and policy options</b> – Majid Ezzati, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA
09:50 – 10:10	<b>Chronic diseases: here and there</b> – Nicole Probst-Hensch, STI / ISPM
10:10 – 10:30	<b>Rural solutions to urban problems: the ever changing perspective on childhood asthma</b> – Charlotte Braun-Fahländer, STI / ISPM
10:30 – 11:00	Break
<b>Chair: Kaspar Wyss / Christian Schindler</b>	
11:00 – 11:20	<b>Integration of neglected tropical diseases: why and how</b> – Jürg Utzinger, STI
11:20 – 11:40	<b>Urban agriculture and urban malaria in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</b> – Stefan Dongus, Ifakara Health Institute, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
11:40 – 12:00	<b>Modelling the transmission dynamics and cost-effectiveness of rabies control in N'Djamena, Chad</b> – Jakob Zinsstag, STI
12:00 – 12:20	<b>Data on health outcomes: globalisation or trivialisation? The case of immunisation coverage</b> – Xavier Bosch-Capblanch, STI
12:20 – 12:40	Discussion
12:40 – 14:00	Lunch
<b>Chair: Peter Odermatt / Christian Lengeler</b>	
14:00 – 14:20	<b>Health impact assessment: the lay of the land</b> – Robert Bos, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
14:20 – 14:40	<b>Health impact assessment in complex eco-epidemiological settings: advancing tools and methods</b> – Mirko Winkler, STI
14:40 – 15:00	<b>Health impact of an urban air quality management plan</b> – Laura Perez, STI / ISPM
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Key-Note III: The future of health impact assessment</b> – Gary Krieger, NewFields, Boulder, USA
15:30 – 15:45	Discussion
<b>Concluding remarks</b>	
15:45 – 16:00	<b>Environmental health: where do we go from here</b> – Nino Künzli, STI / ISPM
16:00 – 17:00	Apéro

# 14<sup>th</sup> STI Symposium – Speakers



**Nick Lorenz**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel, Switzerland*

Nick Lorenz is the Head of the Swiss Centre for International Health (SCIH) and the Vice-Director of the Swiss Tropical Institute. He is a trained physician with postgraduate degrees in public health and business administration. SCIH is, with its 130 collaborators around the world, a leading organization in national and international advisory services. Activities relate to health system strengthening and global health initiatives, scaling-up and the control of priority diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Nick is an external advisor and expert for various agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), World Bank and, among others, the German and Swiss development agencies. Nick is member of the Board of various organizations and institutions including ICDDR,B in Dhaka, where he has been recently appointed as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.



**Joel Schwartz**  
*Harvard School of Public  
Health, Boston, USA*

Joel Schwartz is a Professor in the Departments of Epidemiology and Environmental Health at Harvard School of Public Health, and Director of the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis. His research has focused on environmental contaminants and health. He was primarily responsible for the banning of lead additives from gasoline in the U.S. and has worked to extend that ban to South America, Egypt and India. His research includes studies of the effects of lead on cognitive function in children and adults, on blood pressure and cardiovascular disease in adults, and studies of other heavy metals. He is interested in air pollution and established that air pollution was responsible for early deaths and respiratory and cardiovascular morbidity. More recently, Joel has explored epigenetic mechanisms of environmental exposures, and used genetic polymorphisms to identify important pathways between air pollution exposure and health outcomes. Methodologically, he introduced Poisson time series analysis and the use of nonparametric smoothing and spline models in environmental epidemiology. He has also made contributions to risk assessment for environmental contaminants, including developing the now standard methodology for valuing the benefits of avoiding lead exposure, and for modelling changes in the shape of the blood lead distribution as different sources are reduced.



**Guéladio Cissé**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel, Switzerland*

Guéladio Cissé joined the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Swiss Tropical Institute in September 2009, after 15 years of professional experience in West Africa. Trained as a sanitary engineer and environmental epidemiologist with a PhD from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Guéladio spent six years at the International Engineering School for Water and Environment in Burkina Faso. In 2001, he became the Regional Coordinator in West Africa of the NCCR North-South. He was the director of the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques in Côte d'Ivoire from 2004 to 2009, leading multidisciplinary research groups, exploring the links between major diseases of poverty and environmental issues in poor urban contexts of West Africa. Guéladio's research interests pertain to health impacts of wastewater use in urban agriculture, lagoon water pollution, solid and liquid waste management and toxic waste discharge. With a network of collaborators, he is currently implementing an ecosystem health approach assessing impacts of climate change on water and health in urban West Africa.



**Hung Nguyen-Viet**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel & Swiss Federal  
Institute of Technology  
Zurich, EAWAG/SANDEC,  
Switzerland*

Hung Nguyen-Viet holds a PhD in Life and Environmental Sciences (2005) from the University of Franche-Comté, France. He joined the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Swiss Tropical Institute in 2007 as a postdoctoral researcher in Microbiology, Health and Environment within the NCCR North-South programme. Hung has developed, in collaboration with SANDEC/EAWAG, a conceptual framework on the combined assessment of health and environmental sanitation and currently validates the concept in different geographically areas in South East Asia and West Africa. He is now leading a research project which aims at developing a health and environmental risk-based approach coupled with technical, economic and social assessment which fosters identification and application of appropriate sanitation options for specific areas in developing countries. He is particularly interested in health risk assessment and promoting this topic in South East Asia through research and training.

# 14<sup>th</sup> STI Symposium – Speakers



**Roland Schertenleib**  
*Swiss Federal Institute of  
Technology Zurich,  
EAWAG/SANDEC,  
Switzerland*

Roland Schertenleib holds an MSc in Civil Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ) and post-graduate degrees in Environmental Engineering from the Stanford University in California. He is author of many publications, especially in his main field of expertise: water and sanitation in developing countries. He has taught for many years at ETHZ and other international academic institutions. He is a member of the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and has been the chairman of its working group on environmental sanitation. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG) and of its Department of Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries (SANDEC). Until recently he was heading the EAWAG/SANDEC activities within the NCCR North-South Project on "Research Partnership for Mitigation of Global Change". Since his retirement from EAWAG he is a freelance consultant and advisor to several international research programmes in the field of water supply and sanitation. He is a life member of the International Water Academy.



**Daniel Mäusezahl**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel, Switzerland*

Daniel Mäusezahl runs a research team focusing on environmental and child health at the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Swiss Tropical Institute. He is a trained epidemiologist and public health specialist with an MSc and a PhD from the University of Basel (1996) and a MPH from the University of California at Berkeley (2000). He acted for the last 8 years as a senior health advisor for the Swiss Government at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. His current research and teaching focuses on the epidemiology and control of water-borne and hygiene-related diseases in children, and the effectiveness of home-based interventions. Current research collaborations in Latin America and Africa focus on the effectiveness and delivery of low-cost household drinking water treatment and integrated intervention approaches to improve indoor air quality, water and food hygiene at scale in Peru.



**Brigit Obrist**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute &  
Institute of Social  
Anthropology, Basel,  
Switzerland*

Brigit Obrist is professor in anthropology at the University of Basel and holds joint positions at the Institute of Social Anthropology at the University of Basel and at the Swiss Tropical Institute. Her main fields of research are medical and urban anthropology. She conducted field research in Papua New Guinea, Switzerland, Indonesia and Tanzania and leads a medical anthropology research group. Her most recent project was on "Social Vulnerability and Resilience" in the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South examining the potential and limitation of a resilience approach to sustainable development from 2005-2009. Currently she is involved in various projects in East and West Africa in the fields of urban health, sexual and reproductive health, health of the elderly and media and health. Since 2006, she chairs the Medical Anthropology Network of the European Association for Social Anthropologists.



**Martin Rösli**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel, Switzerland*

Martin Rösli is head of Environmental Epidemiology and Risk Assessment Unit at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine at the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel. He has a background in atmospheric physics and received his PhD in environmental epidemiology. Since February 2009, he is a Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) assistant professor in Basel. His research focuses on environmental health and includes exposure assessment studies, aetiological research and health risk assessments in the area of electromagnetic fields (EMFs), ionizing radiation, passive smoking, noise exposure and ambient air pollution. He is principal investigator of the QUALIFEX study, a prospective cohort study on health-related quality of life and radiofrequency EMF exposure. Additionally, he is principal investigator of the Swiss part of the multicenter study CEFALO, an international case-control study on use of mobile phones and brain tumour in adolescents and children.

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**Majid Ezzati**  
*Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA*

Majid Ezzati is an Associate Professor of International Health, Department of Global Health and Population and the Department of Environmental Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. Majid's research interests have two primary foci. First, he pursues field-based projects on air pollution and health in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia with an emphasis on characterizing and measuring exposure to individual pollutants or pollutant mixtures in both rural and urban areas, quantifying the role of sources such as biomass use and transportation on air pollution levels and exposure, measuring and quantifying the health impacts of alternative energy technologies, and designing new technological interventions and intervention delivery programmes. Second, he conducts population-level analysis and modeling of the health effects of risk factor exposures and interventions. This involves analysis of the effects of environmental risks, smoking, and nutritional and metabolic risk factors on population health and on health disparities globally and in specific countries. Majid led the World Health Organization's collaborative project entitled "The Comparative Risk Assessment Project", which appeared in the World Health Report 2002. At present, Majid leads the Comparative Risk Assessment component of the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors 2005 Study.



**Nicole Probst-Hensch**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel, Switzerland*

Nicole Probst-Hensch heads the Chronic Disease Epidemiology Unit at the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Swiss Tropical Institute. She is trained in pharmaceutical sciences (PhD University of Basel) and epidemiology (PhD UCLA). She held positions as Research Assistant Professor at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, as Head of the Unit of Cancer and Molecular Epidemiology at the Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) Basel, as the director of the Cancer Registry Zurich and the National Institute of Cancer Epidemiology & Registration, and as Head of Chronic Disease Epidemiology at ISPM Zurich. She is now Associate Professor at the University of Basel. Her research and teaching focuses on the complex aetiology of chronic diseases with an emphasis on gene-environment interactions in cancer, respiratory and

cardiovascular diseases. She heads SAPALDIA biobank and genetics and she is a member of the SAPALDIA directorate and is heading Biobank/Genetics in this largest, population-based biobank of Switzerland.



**Charlotte Braun-Fahrländer**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel, Switzerland*

Charlotte Braun-Fahrländer was heading the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) in Basel between October 2005 and May 2009 and is now part of the Environmental Epidemiology and Health Risk Assessment Unit. She has a medical background with a postgraduate training in epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK. Her research group has been involved in a large number of field studies in paediatric environment epidemiology investigating, among other issues, effects of air pollution on asthma and allergies. In addition, her research group has made important contributions to elucidating the role of environmental microbial exposures as protective factors for childhood allergy. The group is involved in several EU-funded projects and collaborations such as the PARSIFAL, PASTURE and GABRIEL studies. The focus of her research group has recently expanded to also include physical activity patterns in children and their relation to personal and environmental risk factors.



**Jürg Utzinger**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel, Switzerland*

Jürg Utzinger heads the Ecosystem Health Sciences Unit at the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Swiss Tropical Institute. He is trained in environmental sciences at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich and, in 1999, obtained a PhD in epidemiology from the Swiss Tropical Institute. After four years of postdoctoral research at Princeton University in the US, he returned to Basel as a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in epidemiology. Jürg's research, teaching and training interests pertain to the epidemiology and control of tropical parasitic diseases, particularly schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, food-borne trematodiasis and malaria with ongoing collaborative projects in China, Côte d'Ivoire and elsewhere in Africa and Asia. Over the past five years, Jürg has been engaged in health impact assessment and long-term follow-up of the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project in Lao PDR.

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**Stefan Dongus**  
*Ifakara Health Institute,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*

Stefan Dongus completed a PhD in Epidemiology at the Swiss Tropical Institute in early 2009, funded by the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South. Stefan holds an MSc in Geography and Mathematics from the University of Freiburg, Germany. During the past 10 years, his research has focused on malaria control and urban agricultural land use in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and solid waste management in the Philippines. Since late 2009, Stefan is a visiting scientist at the Ifakara Health Institute in Dar es Salaam, where he is planning to conduct postdoctoral research, teaching and training related to environmental health and integrated vector management. One of Stefan's particular interests is the participatory use of geographical tools such as geographical information system (GIS) platforms for research and malaria control interventions.



**Jakob Zinsstag**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel, Switzerland*

Jakob Zinsstag graduated with a doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Bern in 1986. After his studies he worked in rural practice and as a postdoctoral fellow on trypanosomiasis research at the Swiss Tropical Institute (STI). Between 1990 and 1993 he led a livestock helminthiasis project at the International Trypanotolerance Centre in The Gambia. From 1994 to 1998 he directed the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Since 1998 he leads a research group at STI on the interface of human and animal health with a focus on health of nomadic people and control of zoonoses in developing countries. He holds a PhD from the Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine of Antwerp, Belgium. Since 2004 he is Assistant Professor in Epidemiology and teaches at the University of Basel.



**Xavier Bosch-Capblanch**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel, Switzerland*

Xavier Bosch-Capblanch is an MD with an official specialisation degree in Preventive Medicine and Public Health and is a Honorary Lecturer at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. He is the deputy head of the Systems Performance and Monitoring Unit at the Swiss Centre for International Health, Swiss Tropical Institute (SCIH/STI). Xavier has conducted and assessed several surveys measuring outcomes and impact. In the last two years he has been analysing primary data from demographic and health surveys (DHS) and MICS to assess discrepancies in immunisation coverage between different sources and to describe the determinants of children not being vaccinated. He is also coordinating the Global Fund Data Quality Audits for SCIH.



**Robert Bos**  
*World Health Organization,  
Geneva, Switzerland*

Robert Bos is a Dutch public health biologist with 25+ years of experience in the World Health Organization (WHO). From being the Executive Secretary of the joint WHO/FAO/UNEP Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Vector Control (PEEM), his career took him to the position scientist in the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WSH) Unit in WHO's Department of Public Health and Environment, covering a broad area of responsibilities in the context of water resources and human health. This included capacity building in health impact assessment, health dimensions of integrated water resources development, economic evaluation and burden of disease studies of water interventions for health, research and development of land and water resources management methods as alternatives to DDT and other chemicals used in vector control, and the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater in agriculture and aquaculture. Since April 2009 Robert is the Coordinator of the WSH Unit with responsibility for two flagship programmes: the WHO drinking-water quality guidelines and related water safety plans, and the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation.

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**Mirko Winkler**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel, Switzerland*

Mirko Winkler holds an MSc in Environmental Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, and currently pursues a PhD in Epidemiology at the Swiss Tropical Institute. Mirko's research interests pertain to health impact assessment of large infrastructure development projects in complex eco-epidemiological settings in various parts of the developing world. In the frame of a public-private partnership, he is at the same time a consultant of the US-based enterprise NewFields LLC that has long-term experience and expertise in health impact assessment in the extractive industries (e.g. oil/gas and mining) and of water-resource developments (e.g. large dams). Mirko is currently involved in health impact and health need assessments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinée, Guyana, Mozambique and Tanzania.



**Laura Perez**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel, Switzerland*

Laura Perez is a postdoctoral research scientist in environmental epidemiology at the Swiss Tropical Institute. Her field of research focuses on investigating the health effects of air pollution and developing methods to evaluate the air pollution impact for public health. Prior to entering research, Laura worked for several years in the private sector as an environmental scientist developing human health risk assessments for contaminated soil, groundwater and air. Laura holds an MSc in engineering geology with specialization in environmental sciences from the University of Geneva and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, an MSc in epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and she recently completed a PhD in epidemiology at the University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.



**Gary R. Krieger**  
*NewFields, Boulder, USA*

Gary R. Krieger is an Associate Professor (Adjunct) at the University of Colorado, Department of Molecular and Environmental Toxicology, School of Pharmacy and a Senior Partner of the US-based consultancy enterprise NewFields LLC. Gary is certified in toxicology, occupational medicine, internal medicine and has a diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Gary has over 20 years of experience with multi-media environmental health issues, including international health impact assessment, health risk assessment, health needs assessment and quantitative regulatory-based risk assessments in the United States and in a host of developing countries. For example, Gary has been the theme leader of the health impact assessments of the Chad-Cameroon petroleum development and pipeline project and the Nam Theun Hydroelectric Project in central Lao PDR. Collaboration with the Swiss Tropical Institute built around the issue of health impact assessment dates back to 2003.



**Nino Künzli**  
*Swiss Tropical Institute,  
Basel, Switzerland*

Nino Künzli, an MD by training with a PhD in environmental epidemiology from the University of California Berkeley, USA, has been appointed as Chair (Ordinarius) of Public Health and Director of the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) at the University of Basel in May 2009. In the past, he was research professor at the Centre of Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) in Barcelona and at the University of Southern California Los Angeles. As of June 2009, ISPM got integrated into the Swiss Tropical Institute, where Nino will act as deputy director and as the head of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. He is an environmental epidemiologist with a research focus on the assessment of exposure, health effects and population risks related to ambient air pollution. He is a steering member of large cohort studies, including the Swiss SAPALDIA study, the European Community Respiratory Health Survey, and REGICOR-AIR in Spain.



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Swiss Tropical Institute / Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine

## List of Speakers, Chairs and Participants

### SPEAKERS

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## CHAIRS

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