

**In this issue.....**

**Next events:**

- Conference on primary health care - 6-7 November, Almaty city (former Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan).
- 7th international conference on children's health, environment and safety. A healthier world for our children - 20-22 November, Jerusalem (Israel).

**Other news:**

- "Toxic emissions from a military test site in the territory of Sardinia" di M. Cristaldi, C. Foschi, G. Szpunar, C. Brini, F. Marinelli, L. Triolo.
- "General practitioners' responses to global climate change. Lessons from clinical experience and the clinical method" by G. Blashki, M. Abelson, R. Woollard, N. Arya, M.W. Parkes, P. Kendal, E. Beli, R.W. Behl.

**NEXT EVENTS**

**CONFERENCE ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Alma-Ata Primary Health Care Declaration Conference will be held in Almaty city (former Alma-Ata), Kazakhstan, on 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The conference will be organised around the central question: How can we structure and organise primary health care to support intersectoral delivery of health care services in current times of changing context and population needs? And will have several themes and tracks to assure that the main issues are covered. There will be possibility to make publications in the the Abstract Book of the 35th Anniversary of the Alma-Ata Primary Health Care Declaration Conference, poster and oral presentations. We are cordially inviting you to publish your research papers and participate in the Conference! Participation is free of charge, you should pay only your travel and accommodation expenses.

Info: [www.phc35.kz](http://www.phc35.kz)

**7<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY.  
A HEALTHIER WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN**

On 20-22 November 2013, in Jerusalem (Israel), there will be the 7<sup>th</sup> International conference on Children's Health, Environment And Safety "A healthier world for our children". This conference offers a world-wide platform dealing with health problems of children caused by important environmental influences. The objectives of this conference are to provide an international forum for the latest research findings in children's environmental health; to define the relationship between environmental contaminants and children's health; strengthen the importance of prenatal exposure to environmental factors on pregnancy outcome; to identify opportunities to minimize childhood prenatal/postnatal exposure to environmental contaminants; to provide insight in the activities in the field of science and policy interface; to build a platform of knowledge at an international level; to develop a greater awareness among health professionals about children's health, environment and safety; to initiate future directions in research in the field of children's environmental health. Topics of Children's Environmental Health (CEH), including basic science, clinical and laboratory aspects (epidemiology, biomonitoring), regulation, Sustainable Development, Green Energy, Recycling, Child Safety, aspects of Health Management, Health Policy and Health Economy involving CEH. This cross-sectional conference is intended for health professionals, scientists and policy makers who have a special interest in children's environmental health, as well as leaders from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and community organizations, and all levels of government.

## OTHER NEWS

**TOXIC EMISSIONS FROM A MILITARY TEST SITE IN THE TERRITORY OF SARDINIA** di M. Cristaldi, C. Foschi, G. Szpunar, C. Brini, F. Marinelli, L. Triolo.

This work assesses the environmental impact from chemical emissions due to military tests and routine activities in the area occupied by the Italian Inter-force Test Range (PISQ), located at Salto di Quirra, Sardinia, Italy. After reviewing the military activities carried out at PISQ, such as rocket launching, blasting and armament destruction, projectile and mortar fire impact, the associated pollution is evaluated. Chemical analyses were performed by means of Scanning Electronic Microscopy and Energy Dispersion Spectrometry on biotic and abiotic matrices. Residues of Rb, Tl, W, Ti and Al were found in matrices collected in the PISQ areas and environs. A review of experimental data on air, water, soil, milk, forage and animal tissues obtained by various Public Agencies of Sardinia proved that toxic element residues often exceeded the legal limits. PM10 and PM2.5 air concentrations also exceeded the legal limits after military blasting. Cd and Pb contents in the liver and kidneys of sheep living in farms at PISQ and in control farms that were located more than 20 km away from PISQ were higher than the legal limits. This work was performed to investigate concentration of xenobiotics in ecosystems emitted from PISQ activities. This assessment could be useful to focus future epidemiological studies carried out in PISQ and its neighbouring areas.

Info: [www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/10/4/1631](http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/10/4/1631)

**GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' RESPONSES TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE. LESSONS FROM CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND THE CLINICAL METHOD** by G. Blashki, M. Abelsohn, R. Woollard, N. Arya, M.W. Parkes, P. Kendal, E. Beli, R.W. Behl.

Source: Chinese Journal of General Practise, pg. 1081-1084.

Climate change is a global public health problem that will require complex thinking if meaningful and effective solutions are to be achieved. In this conceptual paper we argue that GPs have much to bring to the issue of climate change from their wide - ranging clinical experience and from the principles underpinning their clinical methods. This experience and thinking cells forth particular contributions GPs can and should make to debate and action. We contend that the privileged experience and GP way of thinking can make valuable contributions when applied to climate change solutions. These include a lifetime of experience, reflection and epistemological application to first doing no harm, managing uncertainty, the ability to make necessary decisions while possessing incomplete information, an appreciation of complex adaptive systems, maintenance of homeostasis, vigilance for unintended consequences, and an appreciation of the importance of transdisciplinarity and interprofessionalism. General practitioners have a long history of public health advocacy and in the case of climate change may bring a way of approaching complex human problems that could be applied to the dilemmas of climate change.

If you want this article you can ask it to our secretariat at [isde@ats.it](mailto:isde@ats.it)

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