

Abstract

Evidence on the health effects of desert dust remains unclear. Recently, a systematic review by the World Health Organization reported inconsistent results across different studies and geographical areas. The main sources of heterogeneity being the study settings, the exposure assessment methods and the epidemiological study designs. The, apparently simple, question “does desert dust impact human health?” requires a careful definition of what the relevant exposure of interest is and how health effects can be quantified. When investigating the short-term effects of desert dust on human health, four alternative exposure definitions can be used:

1) dust events as binary exposure; 2) particulate matter (PM) as continuous exposure modified by dust events; 3) independent effects of desert and anthropogenic sources of PM, in two-pollutant models, and; 4) independent effects of desert and anthropogenic PM accounting the effect modification of anthropogenic sources by dust events.

Besides the dust exposure definition used, it is also important to consider the different patterns of dust advections across geographic locations and the relative toxicity of different PM sources.

Speaker



Dr. Aurelio Tobias

Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research,
Spanish Council for Scientific Research.

He is a statistician and obtained a PhD in Epidemiology and Public health. He has a broad range of research interests with a common theme of applied statistical and epidemiological methods in environmental health studies. In particular, the application of time-series regression models in public health, also the statistical methods for meta-analysis.

His current research focus on environmental epidemiology, studying the short-term effects of environmental risk factors, mainly air pollution and on human health. Please access the link to know about his publications.

<https://scholar.google.ch/citations?user=Lo3AsZMAAAAJ&hl=en>



Date & Time

14th February 2019

4:30pm-5:30pm

Venue

Seminar Room L

Global Health General Research Building
1-12-4 Sakamoto, Nagasaki City

