



## Heat-Health Warnings: Bridging the Gap between Heat Forecasts and Efficient Warning Systems

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Environmental conditions inevitably affect human health and biodiversity. Hot conditions cause human discomfort and heat-induced illnesses, and they are significantly associated with the mortality of more susceptible population subgroups. These effects intensify under hot and humid environments. The continuous increase of air surface temperature and especially record-breaking heat waves such as those in summers 2003 and 2010 in Europe has motivated the rapid development of adaptation strategies, such as the improvement of heat–health warning systems. Such warning systems attempt to protect the population against environmental heat by means of a whole chain of various components: the meteorological forecast system, the metric(s) used to quantify heat conditions, the thresholds triggering the warnings, the implementation of intervention strategies, the communication of the warnings, and the evaluation and periodical revision of the whole system. The final aim of these elements is to take timely and effective actions based on a robust and reliable system, which is essential today in the era of meteorological and climate services.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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