



## The Challenge in Evaluation of Nested Cohort Studies in Public Health and Occupational Health Settings

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Studies in the fields of occupational medicine or public health are often conducted as multicenter studies. This results in a nested data structure. Hierarchically structured data are obtained when the study cohort encloses different groups (e.g., geographical or temporal distance from exposure). If the effects of exposure to pollutants/hazardous substances or effects of health interventions are defined as endpoints, it is often appropriate to repeat the measurements after time in order to capture a longitudinal course of the effect parameters. Unfortunately, we notice from time to time that researchers take the easy way out and evaluate such data in a cross-sectional view. The nested structure of the data is often neglected. Modern statistics, however, offer a variety of possibilities to meet these challenges. By adapting the study design, it is sometimes also possible to facilitate the correct handling of the data. The goal of this Special Issue is to provide examples from different research areas to illustrate the possibilities of analyzing and handling hierarchical, nested, and/or longitudinal data in the community and to contribute to the exchange of ideas.





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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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