

Original article found here: <http://www.insp.mx/avisos/3518-contaminantes-aire.html> (Spanish)

Translation below:

Environmental health experts from various institutions and cities met on November 24-25 this year at the National Institute of Public Health (INSP). Attendees participated in the seminar "Methods for estimating exposure to air pollutants" organized by the INSP, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (MSSM), and the Harvard School of Public Health.

The event aimed to present and discuss different methodological alternatives modeling exposure to particulate matter in Mexico City and was divided into two sessions led by academic leaders and key decision makers. The academic session (November 24), opened with welcoming remarks by Dr. Mara Tellez-Rojo, a member of the Center for Research in Nutrition and Health at INSP. Dr. Horacio Riojas, director of Environmental Health at INSP presented a historical overview of research in Mexico on air pollution and an assessment of its public health impact. Dr. Riojas discussed projects STARTED (Metropolitan Long-term study of the effects of pollution on schoolchildren in the city of Mexico) and SCALE (Study of Health and Air Pollution in Latin America). The latter showed, in all cities monitored, a partnership between ambient concentrations of  $PM_{10}$  and increased risk of mortality. Furthermore, the project STARTED found that long-term exposure to ozone,  $PM_{10}$  and nitrogen dioxide among schoolchildren in Mexico City was associated with a deficit in lung function (FVC and FEV1). Dr. Riojas said the research conducted in Mexico since the 1990s has been used to design the official regulations on air quality and environmental health.

Additionally, Maestro José Luis Texcalac, DSA researcher, presented a sample of his work that estimated the impact on health from exposure to pollutants through the data network monitoring air quality in Mexico City. He also explained the *Health Impact Assessment (HIA): "26 Cities Project"*, which seeks to estimate the impact on health from exposure to pollutants (ozone,  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ ) in the 26 cities in the country that have monitoring networks.

Allan Just, Itai Kloog and Robert Wright, researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, presented on the use of satellite images to calculate the concentrations of  $PM_{2.5}$  in space and time by measuring how light intensity changes through the atmosphere, and the association between exposure to these particles and increased risk of mortality. Dr. Robert Wright of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine presented the PROGRESS study (Programming Research in Obesity, Growth, Environment and Social Stress), a research project conducted between INSP The National Institute of Perinatology, the MSSM and HSPH, and which has monitored pregnant women

in Mexico City and their children in order to study the relationship between child neurodevelopment and pre- and postnatal exposures to different metals, stress and environmental pollution.

During the meeting with decision makers on November 25, the presentations were centered on the use of evidence as a public policy approach. The conference was opened by Dr. Mauricio Hernandez, CEO of INSP, and included Dr. Horacio Riojas and Maestro José Luis Texcalac (DSA INSP); Beatriz Cardenas of the Environmental Commission of Megalopolis (CMEA); Itai Kloog and Joel Schwartz of the HSPH; and Allan Just and Robert Wright of the MSSM.

In addition to the speakers, the seminar was attended by officials from institutions, including the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk, the Ministries of Health and Environment of the GDF, the State Center for Epidemiological Surveillance and Disease Control of the Ministry of Health EDOMEX.