

Workshop on Syndromic Surveillance of Health and Climate-Related Impacts
KFL&A Public Health
March 17&18, 2014

Speaker Bios

Julia Gunn

Julia E. Gunn, RN, MPH, has worked for the Boston Public Health Commission in the Communicable Disease Control Division for over 15 years, assuming the position of Director in 2008. During this time, she has contributed to dozens of publications and presentations enhancing the understanding of communicable disease surveillance and response, tuberculosis, food-borne illness, and other communicable illnesses. Julia has played a key role in the development and integration of enhanced surveillance systems in Boston, including the syndromic surveillance system and emergency tracking for mass casualty events. She was also a member of the meaningful use workgroup that developed the 2011 ISDS Recommendations for Emergency Department and Urgent Care.

Dr. Alex Elliot

Dr. Alex Elliot is the Project Lead for the Public Health England Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Team. Alex was appointed to this position in 2008, and with Dr. Gillian Smith (Consultant Epidemiologist for the team), has since expanded and developed the team to deliver a World leading syndromic surveillance service, providing vital national surveillance support during pandemics, floods, volcanic ash clouds and Olympic Games! Alex is committed to further strengthening the utility of syndromic surveillance within PHE, exploring innovative sources of health surveillance data and working with public health colleagues across the World to explore the usefulness of syndromic surveillance in responding to public health incidents and mass gatherings. Alex has held positions within the Royal College of General Practitioners and the MRC National Institute for Medical Research. He has a PhD in molecular virology and has over 50 peer reviewed publications on syndromic surveillance and influenza research.

Dr. Bonnie Henry

Dr. Bonnie Henry is currently the Medical Director of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control and Public Health Emergency Management with the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, and is Medical Director for the provincial Emerging and Vectorborne Diseases program as well as a provincial program for surveillance and control of healthcare associated infections; a position she started in February of 2005. Previously she was Associate Medical Officer of Health for Toronto Public Health, where she was responsible for the Emergency Services Unit and the Communicable Disease Liaison Unit. She is a specialist in Public Health and Preventive Medicine and is Board Certified in Preventive Medicine in the US. She graduated from Dalhousie Medical School and completed a Masters in Public Health in San Diego, residency training in preventive medicine at University of California, San Diego and in community medicine at University of Toronto.

Dr. Henry worked with the WHO/UNICEF Polio eradication program in Pakistan in 2000 and with the World Health Organization to control the Ebola outbreak in Uganda in 2001. She joined Toronto Public Health in September 2001 and in 2003 the operational lead in the response to the SARS outbreak in Toronto. She was on the executive of the Ontario SARS Scientific Advisory Committee and is an Associate professor at the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Medicine. She is the Chair of the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion and a member of the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the National Infection Control Guidelines Steering Committee. She chaired the Canadian Public Health Measures Task Group and was a member of the Infection Control Expert Group and the Canadian Pandemic Coordinating Committee responding to pandemic H1N1 (2009) influenza. She has been involved with planning, surveillance and response to mass gatherings in Canada and internationally, most recently with the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games. She is the author of “Soap and Water & Common Sense” a guide to staying healthy in a microbe filled world.

Shubhayu Saha

Shubhayu Saha is a health scientist with the Climate and Health program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Part of his research involves spatiotemporally linking environmental exposures (like heat, precipitation, pollen) with health outcomes to assess the epidemiologic risk associated with those exposures. He also conducts cost-effectiveness analysis of community-level health intervention strategies. He joined the CDC as a Prevention Effectiveness Fellow after completing his Ph.D. in Environmental Economics. He is a member of the International Health Economics Association, International Society of Environmental Epidemiology, and American Meteorological Society.

Matthew Roach

Matthew Roach currently serves as the Climate & Health Program Manager at the Arizona Department of Health Services, where he is responsible for managing activities for the Building Resilience against Climate Effects (BRACE) cooperative agreement between Arizona and the CDC. He has a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology and previously served as an Environmental Epidemiologist at the Arizona Department of Health Services, working under CDC’s Developing Public Health Capacity and Adaptations to Reduce Human Health Effects of Climate Change grant awarded to Arizona. His work focused on enhancing surveillance of heat illness, in addition to advancing policy efforts on heat safety and improving health outreach. Matthew co-facilitates a climate and health syndromic surveillance workgroup, which has over 60 participants from public health agencies in the US and Canada.

José Jesus Heraclio Herrera Bazán

José Jesus Heraclio Herrera Bazán is the Executive Deputy Director of Risk Policies for the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk, Health Ministry, Mexico. He previously served as the Manager of Sampling and Monitoring at the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk, where he was responsible for methodology design for sampling, monitoring and human health risk evaluation for exposure to food additives, cosmetic

ingredients, pesticides and plant nutrients, toxic substances, environmental contamination and polluted places. José has a Master of Biological Sciences in Experimental Biology with a specialization in Genetic Toxicology.

Dr. Céline Caserio-Schonemann

Dr. Céline Caserio-Schonemann has a medical degree and a Master of Public Health, and currently serves as the head of the Syndromic Surveillance Unit in the Department of Coordination of Alerts and Regional Offices at the French Institute for Public Health Surveillance. Céline has been involved in coordinating the French syndromic surveillance system SurSaUD since 2011, and has contributed to the European Triple S project. She is responsible for the national syndromic surveillance strategy in France, and serves as co-leader of the drafting group for the “Data collection, preparation and provision” section of the Triple S project *Guidelines for designing and implementing a syndromic surveillance system*. Céline has expertise in the fields of infectious diseases, environmental events, and mass gathering events, and in the use of a variety of data sources such as mortality data, data from emergency departments, and data from General Practitioners’ offices.

Dr. Tom Kosatsky

Dr. Tom Kosatsky is Medical Director of Environmental Health Services at the BC Centre for Disease Control and Scientific Director of the Public Health Agency of Canada-funded National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. He is a public health physician who has worked for the US CDC, the WHO and the Montreal Health Department, and has taught at McGill University. Current interests are in heat and health, bio-monitoring, environmental epidemiology methods, and new surveillance initiatives.

Dr. David Buckeridge

David Buckeridge is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill University in Montreal where he holds a Canada Research Chair in Public Health Informatics and directs the Surveillance Lab. He is also a Medical Consultant to the Montreal Public Health Department and the Quebec Public Health Institute. His research focuses on the informatics of public health surveillance and disease control. Dr. Buckeridge has consulted on surveillance to groups such as the Public Health Agency of Canada, the US Institute of Medicine, the US and Chinese Centers for Disease Control, the European Centers for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization. He has a M.D. from Queen's University, a M.Sc. in Epidemiology from the University of Toronto, and a Ph.D. in Biomedical informatics from Stanford University. Dr. Buckeridge is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada with specialty training in Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

Kathryn Morrison

Kathryn Morrison is a PhD student in epidemiology at McGill University, working in the Surveillance Lab under the supervision of Dr. David Buckeridge. Her co-supervisor is Dr. Sarah Henderson, a senior environmental health scientist at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control. Her background is in geographic information science and statistics, and she is interested

in methods for modeling spatial and temporal epidemiological data, particularly applied to surveillance and public health.

Elaina MacIntyre

Elaina MacIntyre holds a PhD from the University of British Columbia and completed her Post-Doc at the German Research Centre for Environmental Health. She is currently an Epidemiologist Specialist in Environmental and Occupational Health at Public Health Ontario.

Dr. Brian Schwartz

Brian Schwartz currently serves as Chief, Emergency Preparedness at Public Health Ontario (PHO). In this capacity he is responsible for leading the development of PHO's strategy, design, policies, procedures and response to health emergencies and incidents, including hazardous materials, catastrophic events and outbreaks. Prior to joining PHO, he practiced emergency medicine for over 30 years in both community and academic settings, as well as held the position of Director of Sunnybrook Osler Centre for Prehospital Care from 1996-2009.

Dr. Schwartz chaired the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Scientific Response Team during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. He also held the position of vice-chair of Ontario's SARS Scientific Advisory Committee and served as scientific advisor to the Emergency Management Branch of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care from 2004 until 2011. Dr. Schwartz is an author of over 40 peer reviewed papers on emergency medicine, prehospital care and emergency preparedness and response. He holds the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Jessica Harris

Jessica Harris is a Senior Consultant at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Emergency Management Branch, and has worked for the ministry for more than 15 years. She has been involved in a number of major emergency preparedness projects, including health system preparedness for the G8 and G20 Summits in 2010.

Dr. Paul Bélanger

Dr. Paul Bélanger is KFL&A Public Health's Associate Director of Knowledge Management. He is an adjunct Associate Professor of Geography and adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences at Queen's University. His team leads KFL&A's research, health informatics, and evaluation programmes, mandated to bring more advanced analytic techniques to its syndromic surveillance system, spatial epidemiological studies, and to develop novel health informatics solutions. He more recently served with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa where he and his family were stationed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In addition to overall responsibility for the UN's GIS operations in Africa, Paul was charged with developing spatial data infrastructures for several member States, applied disaster response and early warning systems, and on rebuilding the geomatics capacity of post-conflict countries like Sierra Leone

and Liberia. His research interests lie in contextual modelling, space-time cluster detection techniques, and Bayesian methods for risk mapping. Dr. Bélanger holds a doctorate in geography from the State University of New York at Buffalo and he is a certified GIS Professional.

Dr. Ray Copes

Ray Copes completed his undergraduate degrees in psychology and biology at Simon Fraser University. He subsequently attended McGill University where he obtained his MD and MSc. After medical school, Ray did his residency training in Family Medicine at the University of Western Ontario and in Occupational and Environmental medicine at St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto. He has worked as an occupational physician, first in industry and then with the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Division as Senior Medical Consultant and later as Director of Health Services. In 1990, he moved to British Columbia to become Medical Consultant in Environmental Health, Risk Assessment and Toxicology with the BC Ministry of Health in Victoria. Later Ray moved to the BC Centre for Disease Control where he was Director of Environmental Health and the founding Scientific Director of the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health, one of six National Collaborating Centres in Public Health funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Ray has taught courses in environmental health, toxicology, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication at the University of Victoria, the University of British Columbia and University of Toronto. He holds appointments as a Clinical Professor at the University of British Columbia and Associate Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Since July 2009, Ray has been with Public Health Ontario, and is the Chief of Environmental and Occupational Health in Toronto.