



Physical Environment to Human Health in the Era of Big Data

Guest Editors:

Dr. Behram Wali

Urban Design 4 Health, Inc.,
Rochester, NY 14620, USA

Dr. Keunhyun Park

Department of Landscape
Architecture and Environmental
Planning, Utah State University,
4005 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT
84322, USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

There is now expanding evidence on the role of city design, transportation investments, and the built environment in enhancing public health. This evidence has led to an increase in place-based interventions designed to alter travel and activity patterns in a way that promotes healthy behaviors and reduces undesirable exposures. An understanding of the downstream impacts of the physical environment on healthcare costs is essential to justify the major transport investments to either plan or retrofit communities. On one hand, the physical aspects of the environment, to which everyone is exposed, can encourage or discourage individuals to behave in ways that affect health. Under this behavioral pathway, the built environment offers a protective and prescriptive role in reducing expensive chronic disease-related morbidity and mortality (such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, type II diabetes, and obesity) by altering individuals' behaviors (e.g., physical activity and social interactions). The COVID-19 health pandemic has also sparked a discussion around the influence of built environment on transmission of communicable infectious diseases.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Paul B. Tchounwou

RCMI Center for Urban Health
Disparities Research and
Innovation, Richard Dixon
Research Center, Morgan State
University, 1700 E. Cold Spring
Lane, Baltimore, MD 21251, USA

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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MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
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