

# Climate Change and Public Health

Tuesday 30th August 2011

## About the seminar:

There is now overwhelming scientific evidence that an accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is causing global warming and changes to the global climate. Climate model projections indicate trends for increasing average temperatures, greater climate variability, increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, and rising sea levels. Climate change is becoming a prominent issue in everyday life, with daily media commentary, political debate, and exposure of many Australians to extreme weather events including heatwaves, drought, severe storms and floods.

This seminar will address the potential impact of climate change on public health. Firstly, climate change science will be discussed in a 'nutshell', and evidence of a role for climate change in recent extreme weather events in Australia explored. The question 'Why is climate change a public health issue?' will be addressed, and speakers will discuss potential direct and indirect health impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, vector-borne infectious disease, food and water quality, air quality and mental health. Adaptation and mitigation initiatives will be discussed, including the co-benefits of these for health.

## Who should attend:

The seminar will be of value to policy makers, health care providers, educators and researchers involved in the assessment, management, prevention and communication of the potential health impacts of climate change, particularly regarding vulnerable groups.

**Venue:** State Library of Victoria, Village Roadshow Theatre, Entry 3 (Conference Centre entrance), 179 La Trobe Street, Melbourne Vic 3000.

**Seminar date:** Tuesday 30th August, 2011

**Seminar time:** 9:00am - 4:30pm  
(Registration opens at 8:30am)

**Cost:** \$250 per person (incl. of GST)

Further venue details, accommodation and parking information can be found on our website at: [www.crepatientsafety.org.au](http://www.crepatientsafety.org.au)

Enquiries to Catherine Pound on +61 3 9903 0891 or [catherine.pound@monash.edu](mailto:catherine.pound@monash.edu)



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## Speaker and Facilitator details

(in order of appearance)

**Professor Peter Cameron** is Head of the Critical Care Research Division of the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Monash University, Academic Director of the Emergency and Trauma Centre at The Alfred Hospital, Head of the Victorian State Trauma Registry, Associate Director of the National Trauma Research Institute and President of the International Federation of Emergency Medicine. His main research interests include trauma epidemiology, injury prevention and management, pre-hospital care and health services and systems research.

**Professor David de Kretser AC** is a reproductive endocrinologist whose academic career at Monash University has included appointments as Professor of Anatomy, the founding Director of the Monash Institute of Medical Research and the Associate Dean for Biotechnology Development. In 2003, he was named a Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor. He served as the 28th Governor of Victoria from 2006 to 2010 and is a Companion of the Order of Australia. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. He has served on the Human Reproduction Program of the World Health Organisation and the Executive Council of the International Society of Andrology, including a term as its President.

**Professor David Griggs** was appointed Director of the Monash Sustainability Institute in 2007, which aims to deliver solutions to key sustainability challenges. In November 2008 he was appointed CEO of the newly created organisation ClimateWorks Australia. Dave is vice-chair of the World Climate Research Programme and is a member of the Victorian Ministerial Reference Council on Climate Change Adaptation, the Australian Council of Environmental Deans and Directors and the Climate Institute Strategic Council. Dave was awarded the Vilho Vaisala award (World Meteorological Organization) in 1992.

**Professor Neville Nicholls** spent 35 years in climate research in the Bureau of Meteorology before joining Monash University in 2006 where he is an Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow. Neville is President of the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, and an editor of the journal Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change. He is a Coordinating Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report "Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation", to be completed in 2011.

**Professor Tony Capon** is professor with the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University and visiting professor in the City Futures Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, where he is a director of the Healthy Built Environments Program. Tony is an authority on environmental health and health promotion, convenes the Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Human Health, and leads a CSIRO-funded research program on urban settlements, climate change and health. He is currently working with the International Council for Science to develop a new interdisciplinary science program on systems approaches to health and wellbeing in the changing urban environment.

**Dr Margaret Loughnan** is a Research Fellow in the School of Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University. Margaret has developed a population-based approach to describe possible relationships between climate and non-fatal acute myocardial infarctions in Melbourne, Australia. Her current research interests focus on weather and climate related impacts on public health, with a special interest in social and environmental epidemiology and heat stress, and the spatial determinants of health.

**Dr Kathleen McInnes** joined CSIRO in 1990. Her research interests are the impacts of climate change on the coast and her research has been mainly concerned with modelling storm surges under current and future

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## Speaker profiles

climate conditions and understanding the effect of climate change on the meteorological drivers of extreme sea levels. She has undertaken numerical modelling studies of tides, storm surges and coastal flooding in various locations, and has contributed to two coastal vulnerability studies for the Sydney Coastal Councils and the Western Port Region which applied integrated approaches to addressing climate vulnerability at the regional scale to assist councils in the management of, and adaptation to, the risks posed by climate change. She was a contributing author to the IPCC second, third and fourth assessment reports and is a contributing author on the IPCC fifth assessment report. She is currently a lead author on the IPCC Special Report on Extremes.

**Dr Deborah Abbs** is a Principal Research Scientist and Leader of the Climate Projections Science Team at CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research. Her research expertise is in the high-resolution, numerical modelling of severe weather events such as tropical cyclones, east coast lows and hailstorms. Dr Abbs has recently completed a project studying climate change and coincident rainfall and storm surge events. As part of the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative she is investigating the impact of climate change on the frequency, intensity and size of tropical cyclones affecting the Australia-Pacific region. She was lead author for the "Severe weather" section of "Climate Change in Australia" released by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology in 2007 and she is lead author for the Tropical Cyclones sections of "Climate Change in the Pacific" which will be released later this year.

**Mr Iain Scott** is the head of the Office of Aged Care Quality and Compliance in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. Key elements of the Office's responsibilities include the Aged Care Complaints Investigation Scheme, oversight of the aged care standards frameworks, administration of aged care workforce programs and financial and corporate regulation of approved providers. Iain joined the Department in 2006, following work on the Taskforce on Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Business – also known as the Banks Review.

**Ms Judith McInnes** is a Research Assistant with the Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. She has been Project Officer for research investigating attitudes, knowledge and practices of health professionals and carers regarding the minimisation of harm to elderly clients from episodes to extreme hot weather, and is co-author of the Victorian Department of Health (Aged Care Branch) publication "Residential Aged Care Services Heatwave Ready Resource".

**Dr Martine Dennekamp** received an MSc in Environmental Sciences, specialising in 'Environment, Labour and Health' from The University of Wageningen in the Netherlands, and completed her PhD at the University of Aberdeen on the topic of "Personal exposure to particulate air pollution, assessed by number and mass." Martine joined the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH) in February 2005 as a Research Fellow and is currently involved in 'Healthwise', a large occupational cohort study on Australian aluminium industry workers, and a study investigating the relationship between air pollution and cardiac arrests in Melbourne.

**Associate Professor Grant Blashki** is Associate Professor at the Nossal Institute for Global Health, Head of the Health and Equity Theme at the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute at University of Melbourne, and an honorary lecturer at Kings College London. His two themes of research are climate change and health, and primary mental health care. He has been actively engaged with community work including as Board Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, a clinical advisor to beyondblue, a mentor in the Al Gore Climate Leadership Project, a cofounder of Doctors for the Environment Australia, a Member of the Strategic Advisory Group of the Climate Institute, and was a participant in the Australia 2020 summit. In 2008, he was a co-recipient of the Fundraisers Institute of Australia's Major Grants fundraising award for philanthropic work. In 2009 he was co-recipient of an Australian Evaluation Society Award for Excellence in Evaluation in relation to evaluation of major primary health care reforms in Australia.

**Dr Martha Sinclair** is a Senior Research Fellow in the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit of the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. Her original training was in microbial genetics, molecular biology and applications of microorganisms in biotechnology, and she has worked in public health for 18 years. Since 1995 she has been involved in research on waterborne diseases, including health risks from drinking water and from alternative water sources such as rainwater, greywater and recycled water. She is the chief writer and editor of the WQRA public health newsletter Health Stream, and has also served on national committees responsible for developing water quality guidelines.

**Associate Professor Karin Leder** is an Infectious Disease physician. She is Director of Travel Medicine and Immigrant Health for the Victorian Infectious Disease Service at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and Head of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. Her specific areas of research interest include travellers' health, health issues in immigrants/refugees, and waterborne infections.

**Professor Joseph Ibrahim** is a consultant physician in geriatric medicine and health services researcher with a principal interest in quality of care, patient safety, and the effects of extreme hot weather on the health of older persons, and is co-author of the Victorian Department of Health (Aged Care Branch) publication "Residential Aged Care Services Heatwave Ready Resource". He is an Associate Director of the Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety, in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, and Clinical Director of Subacute Services at the Ballarat Health Service.

**Ms Sandra Johnson** is an Epidemiological Scientist who has been working at the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in the UK for the past five years. One of her roles while working at the HPA has been in evaluating the Heatwave Plan for England which was developed in 2004 and activated for the first time in 2005. Since the initial evaluation in 2005 she had been involved in organising an annual Heatwave Seminar with the Department of Health and the HPA to review the previous summer and any new research and developments in the field of Heatwave Epidemiology.

**Professor Nigel Tapper** holds a Personal Chair in Environmental Science at Monash University where over the last ten years he has served as Head of the School of Geography and Environmental Science, Foundation Director of the Monash Sustainability Institute, and Joint Coordinator of the Monash Atmospheric Science Program. He is currently on the Executive of the Monash Centre for Water Sensitive Cities and the Implementation Committee of the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research. Nigel has been actively involved in the work of the IPCC over the last 10 years and is currently a Member of the IPCC Expert Panel on Infrastructure and Settlements.

**Mr Ian Shears** is the Manager of Urban Landscapes for the City of Melbourne. Ian's horticultural career spans 20 years. The last 10 have seen him strategically managing the City of Melbourne's tree population as Team Leader Tree Planning. Ian has recently been appointed Manager of Urban Landscapes, heading a branch that oversees park and tree planning and water sensitive urban design (WSUD). This branch is primarily tasked with the delivery of Melbourne Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Ian recognises the importance of combining academic research in all levels of Government planning and policy for Australian Urban Forests.

**Associate Professor Keith Dear** is a biostatistician at the ANU's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), where he leads the research effort on Air Quality and Health. His group's main research focus is the direct human impacts of increased heat under climate change, and they contributed the analysis on that topic to the 2008 Garnaut Review of Climate Change in Australia. He is a contributing author to the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report, currently in preparation.

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Time	Speaker	Organisation	Area covered
0830	<b>REGISTRATION</b>		
Session 1:	Climate change: the science in a 'nutshell'		Facilitator: Prof Peter Cameron
0900 - 0920	Prof David de Kretser AC	Monash Institute of Medical Research	Opening address
0920 - 0940	Prof David Griggs	ClimateWorks Australia	Climate change in a 'nutshell'
0940 - 1000	Prof Neville Nicholls	Monash University	Extreme weather in Australia - Climate change or La Nina?
1000 - 1020	Prof Tony Capon	Australian National University	Why is climate change a public health issue?
1020 - 1030	Questions to speakers		
1030 - 1045	<b>MORNING TEA (15 minutes)</b>		
Session 2:	Extreme events and health		Facilitator: Prof Neville Nicholls
1045 - 1105	Dr Margaret Loughnan	Monash University	Heatwaves - Risk to urban populations of extreme heat
1105 - 1125	Dr Kathleen McInnes	The Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research	Extreme sea level events
1125 - 1145	Dr Deborah Abbs	The Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research	Severe storms and cyclones
1145 - 1205	Mr Iain Scott	Dept of Health and Ageing, Canberra	Floods - Aged care impacts in Queensland and Victoria
1205 - 1215	Questions to speakers		
1215 - 1300	<b>LUNCH (45 minutes)</b>		
Session 3:	Indirect and long-term health impacts		Facilitator: Ms Judith McInnes
1300 - 1320	Dr Martine Dennekamp	Monash University	Outdoor air quality
1320 - 1340	A/Prof Grant Blashki	Nossal Institute for Global Health	Mental health
1340 - 1400	Dr Martha Sinclair	Monash University	Food and water-borne disease
1400 - 1420	A/Prof Karin Leder	Monash University	Recent trends in vector-borne diseases in Australia
1420 - 1430	Questions to speakers		
1430 - 1445	<b>AFTERNOON TEA (15 minutes)</b>		
Session 4:	Adaptation, mitigation and the future		Facilitator: Prof Joseph Ibrahim
1445 - 1505	Ms Sandra Johnson	UK Health Protection Agency	Heatwave planning - The UK experience
1505 - 1525	Prof Nigel Tapper	Monash University	Urban planning for sustainable cities - Cities as water supply catchments
1525 - 1545	Mr Ian Shears	City of Melbourne	Co-benefits of adaptation - Green spaces in the City of Melbourne
1545 - 1605	A/Prof Keith Dear	Australian National University	Climate change and health - Projections and uncertainties
1605 - 1630	Questions to speakers		
1630	CLOSE		

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## REGISTRATION FORM

### COST - \$250 per person (incl. of GST)

Payment can be made by cheque payable to Monash University, or by credit card. Cheque payments must be forwarded independently of any other payments. A copy of your registration must be included with your payment. (You will be notified by email within 5 working days of receipt of registration).

### PAYMENT

**To pay by CREDIT CARD (Visa or Mastercard only)** please pay on line by visiting <http://ecommerce.med.monash.edu.au/default.asp?c=61938> (NB: this is a hyperlinked web address). You can search for "climate" in the top left or click on the seminars link on the left to find the item. You will automatically receive a tax invoice/receipt when paying on line with a credit card.

**To pay by CHEQUE or MONEY ORDER** please complete the form below asap and **EMAIL** completed registration form to [catherine.pound@monash.edu](mailto:catherine.pound@monash.edu). The cheque can be forwarded at a later date.

**POST** cheques or money orders to:  
CRE Patient Safety Seminar - Catherine Pound  
School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine  
Monash University  
The Alfred Centre, Commercial Road  
Melbourne Victoria 3004

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**Please complete the form below for CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER payments ONLY. Please keep a copy of this form as a tax invoice/receipt**

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Cheque  (submit form asap to reserve place)

Total amount paid \_\_\_\_\_