

8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

14th – **16**th of September **2016**

Location: Parc de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona - PRBB Doctor Aiguader, 88 (at CREAL), Barcelona

The 8th INCHES (International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety Conference) Barcelona 14-16 September, 2016

Children and all humans are under the influence of multiple environmental stressors. However, children are not little adults. Their organs and metabolism are under formation and their capacity to face pollutant stress is different. Exposure to deleterious compounds already starts in the preconceptional and fetal stage. In the first years of life children are affected by exposure to toxic chemical products present in air, water, soil, domestic dust, toys, clothes, furniture and diet. The nature of pollution is changing. In rapidly developing countries. Urbanization, climate change, increasing motor vehicle use and the wide spread of toxic chemicals use, pesticides and polluting industries, levels of ambient and indoor biomass air pollution and soil pollution are increasing sharply the exposure for the most vulnerable. Moreover, some polluting agents are incorporated together with nutrients in the same ingestion processes, e.g. during breastfeeding. Some food items such as fish, the main source of omega 3 fatty acids, also carry pollutants such as organochlorine compounds and methylmercury. Health effects of these toxic compounds may not be noticed directly or shortly after exposure. Damage in growing organisms may result in delayed disorders later in life, e.g. during adolescence, reproductive period or maturity. The effects of pollutants on children's health also depend on individual susceptibility. Full understanding of health impacts requires studies integrating gene-environment interactions. The details will provide more and more proof that we need to protect children.

Many topics are addressed in the 8th International Conference on Children's Environment and Health, which is organized by the International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES) and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA) and Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC). The meeting provides an international forum for the latest research findings in children's environmental health. Specific attention is devoted to identify opportunities to minimize childhood prenatal and postnatal exposure to environmental contaminants, to provide insight in the field of science and policy interface and to develop a greater awareness among health professionals about children's health.

The objectives of the conference

- · Provide an international forum for the latest research findings in children's environmental health;
- · Define the relationship between environmental contaminants and children's health;
- · Strengthen the importance of prenatal exposure to environmental factors on pregnancy outcome and children's health;
- · Identify opportunities to minimize childhood prenatal and postnatal exposure to environmental contaminants;
- · Provide insight in the activities in the field of science and policy interface;
- · Build a platform of knowledge at an international level;
- · Develop a greater awareness among health professionals about children's health, environment and safety;
- · Initiate future directions and international collaborations in research in the field of children's environmental health.

The Scientific Program

The scientific program of the 8th INCHES Conference includes about 140 lectures, short oral presentations and posters presented by scientists from 34 countries covering a broad spectrum of topics. Abstracts of these presentations appear in this issue of the journal.

The topics are related to: Health effects of pollutants in children (pesticides, heavy metals, air pollution, tobacco) prenatal exposures, reproductive health, cancer, obesity, biomonitoring, Children Environmental Health Centres and Specialty Units, children's environmental rights, climate change, sustainable development, e-waste, radiology, safety and injury prevention, training for pediatricians and health policy regarding Children Environmental Health.



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	Peter van den Hazel (chair board INCHES)	
	Mark Nieuwenhuijsen (host organization ISGLOBAL)	
Session 1 (Auditorium) Environmental Determinants of Child Health		
Chair: Stephan Böse-O'Reilly (Germany) and Mark Nieuwenhuijsen (Spain)		
Brainy approaches to children's environmental health – Philippe Grandjean (Denmark)		
Environmental Pollution and Children's Health – Phil Landrigan (USA)		
	mmary of the upcoming Lancet report - Rich Fuller	
	irimalt (Spain)	
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• • •	sioner of Health, City Hall of Barcelona	
Break		
Session 2 (Auditorium) Epidemiological	Session 3 (Darwin) Child labour and other topics	
	Chair: Stephan Böse- O'Reilly (Germany) and	
	Rich Fuller (Pure earth / Blacksmith.	
	Environmental justice)	
Chair: Ruth Etzel (USA) and Isabella Annesi-	Poor education, poor job, poor health. Hanns	
Maesano (France)	Moshammer (Austria)	
•	Occupational injuries among child labourers:	
	results from a cross-sectional study in Peru -	
	Tobias Weinmann (Germany)	
-	Minamata Convention on mercury and vulnerable	
	population - Yuyun Ismawati (Indonesia)	
•	TiPP TAPP - first steps into life – Claudia Gerken	
,	Childless , Workless , Worthless - Jürgen Bilger	
, , , ,	(Germany)	
	Dietary Environment in Preventing Allergic Airway	
	Diseases - H Paramesh (India)	
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	ing Radiation Risks in Paediatric Imaging	
Seminar/discussion session on ° Communicating Radiation Risks in Paediatric Imaging organised and presenterd by Maria Perez (WHO) and Donald Frush (USA), starts at 13.15 hrs		
organised and presenterd by Maria Ferez (Whi	o, and bondia trash (osa), starts at 13.13 1115	
(H)	Environmental Health Issues for Spain – Joan Gopening Ceremony (Auditorium) Peter van den Hazel – INCHES President Joan Grimalt, chair Organising Committee Opening speech: ms. Gemma Tarafa, Commiss Break Session 2 (Auditorium) Epidemiological Jongitudinal studies of child health and environment – birth cohorts- child cohorts Chair: Ruth Etzel (USA) and Isabella Annesi-Maesano (France) Ambient air pollution and onset of asthma in birth cohorts. The rise and fall of evidence - Achim Heinrich (Germany) Current findings on maternal gut microbiome and PCBs concentration in birth cohort study with omics analysis: Chiba Study of Mother and Children's Health (C- MACH) - Chisato Mori (Japan) Preventing Exposure to Environmental Hazards Role of Primordial Prevention - Ruth Etzel (USA) Association between breastfeeding duration and cognitive development, autistic traits and ADHD symptoms: a multicenter study in Spain - Jordi Julvez (Spain) Maternal exposure to particulate matter and birth weight in Dutch children - Margot van de Bor (Netherlands) Birth Cohort Consortium of Asia (BiCCA) on Children's Environmental Health – Pau- Chung Chen (Taiwan) Lunch Seminar/discussion session on ° Communicati	

SDG era

Session 4 (Auditorium) Developing countries and CEH: examples of action on emerging issues by WHO and partners

Chair: Marie Noel Brune Drisse (WHO, Switzerland) and Dr. Maria Neira (WHO, Switzerland) WHO's work on early life exposures and future health –prevention for future generation - Emiko Todaka (WHO)

Radiation imaging communication in paediatric: situation in developing countries and focus on action - Donald Frush (USA)

E-waste and child health WHO global initiative -Marie-Noel Bruné (WHO, Switzerland) Air pollution and CEH action in Brazil - Emerson da Silva (Brazil)

15.30-15.45

Break

15.45 - 16.30

Poster pitch session A (Auditorium)

Chairs: Peter van den Hazel (Netherlands) and Merce Gari (Spain)

Prenatal exposure to environmental chemicals: associations with neurotransmitter levels in cord blood - *Margot van de Bor*

Cognitive effects after low - to moderate dose exposure: study plan in a cohort of childhood cancer survivors - *Elisa Pasqual*

Children exposure to phthalates and bisphenol A in LIFE PERSUADED project: preliminary results on biomonitoring and case-control studies - *Cinzia La Rocca*

Mercury concentrations in commercial seafood from the western Mediterranean Sea - Rosa Maria Llull Cantallops

A review on managing and treating mercury emissions in small artisanal gold mining - *Tara Rava Zolnikov*

Acotinine, cadmium and pahs levels in children's urine as a result of environmental tobacco smoke exposure in two spanish locations - Helena García Autistic Symptoms Associated with Childhood Lead Poisoning - Wan Nedra Komaruddin Organohalogenated pollutants in Argentinean postpartum women living in Salta and Ushuaia - Natalia Bravo

Considerations for policies design aimed to promote drinking water consumption in Mexican children and adolescents: Santa Fe, CDMX - *Arely Vergara-Castañeda*

Prenatal early exposure to the environmental endocrine disruptors - *Joaquim Rovira*

Poster pitch session B (Darwin)

Chairs: Stephan Böse-O'Reilly (Germany) and Barend van Drooge (Spain)

School children exposure to particulate matter (coarse, fine, and quasi-ultrafine) around petrochemical complex. Respiratory tract dosimetry - *Joaquim Rovira*

Noise prevention in kindergarten - *Takacs Katharina* Effect of diet on allergies among preschool children - *Sandra Andrusaityte*

Smoking cessation consultation in pediatrics - *Miguel Felipe Sánchez Sauco*

Pilot phase of TNG STUDY - Pavel Piler

Health and safety predictors of parental attitudes towards children's school travel - Jacques Bergeron School environmental health: the first steps towards environmental health - Miguel Felipe Sánchez Sauco When parents NGOs, environmental NGOs and experts join forces to impulse actions to protect children's environmental health - Catherine Bouland Hazards and Risks in the Glyphosate Debate - Karl Ernst v. Mühlendahl



16.30 -18.00

Session 5 (Auditorium) Toxic Metals Intoxication

Chair: Wojciech Hanke (Poland) and Mahmood Khwaja (Pakistan)
High Risk for Neural Tube Defects from Arsenic in Drinking Water and Rice in Asia - Yona Amitai (Israel)
Lead intoxicated children in Kabwe/ Zambia – Stephan Böse- O'Reilly (Germany)
Children and ASGM in West Sumbawa Regency, Indonesia - Children and ASGM in West Sumbawa Regency, Indonesia - Baig

Low level arsenic exposure during pregnancy

Dewi Krisnayanti (Indonesia)

Session 6 (Darwin) Burden of disease

Chair: Peter van den Hazel (Netherlands) and Kinga Polanska (Poland)

What is Environmental Burden of Disease? An animated video gives an answer - MyriamTobollik (Germany)

Children's environmental burden of disease: Review of key findings - Nadine Steckling (Germany)

Quantifying the burden of disease due to environmental risk factors in children and adolescents in Germany: the UKAGEP project -Myriam Tobollik (Germany) The burden of infectious diseases on congenital in the 3xG cohort in Flanders: less efficient detoxification is associated with higher oxidative stress – Nathalie Lambrechts (Belgium)

Prenatal mercury exposure and fetal development and birth outcomes: results from INMA cohort – Ferran Ballester (Spain) Lead in soil; how can we reduce exposure to young children – Martin Eggens (Netherlands)

Blood lead concentrations from children practicing airgun shooting - Rudolf Schierl (Germany)

malformations: the case of Zika virus and microcephalia in Brazil – Roberto Ronchetti (Italy)



20.00

Conference Dinner at El Cangrejo Loco - Moll de Gregal, 29-30 Port Olímpic 08005 Barcelona

Thursday 15^h of September 2016

8.45 - 10.00

Session 7 (Auditorium) Pollutants at schools and homes

Chair: Achim Heinrich (Germany) and Rudolf Schierl (Germany)

Indoor air and children's health, SINPHONIE and SEARCH projects – Eva Csobod (Hungary)

Engaging schoolchildren in understanding the indoor environment using citizen science - Núria Castell (Norway)

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons from traffic exhausts in primary schools and cognitive development of children – Barend van Drooge (Spain)

Multi residue and non-target screening for characterization of organic chemicals in indoor dust – Garry Codling (Czech republic) Assessment of Indoor Air Quality in Air - Conditioned and Naturally ventilated Schools in Delhi - Pratima Singh (India)

Session 8 (Darwin) Biomonitoring and Spatial Analysis

Chair: Hanns Moshammer (Austria) and Merce Gari (Spain)

Early-life exposure to multiple environmental contaminants and birth weight: pooled analysis in four Flemish birth cohorts - Eva Govarts (Belgium) Spatial Pattern Analysis of Hepatitis A Cases in Children by using Geostatistical Analysis of GIS in Turkey - Ahmet Ozgur Dogru (Turkey) Prenatal exposure assessment approaches need to consider spatio-temporal variation of air pollution - Andrea Ranzi (Italy) Spatial clustering of childhood leukemia in the Region of Murcia, Spain (1998-2010) - Alberto Cárceles Álvarez (Spain)

10.00 - 10.30

Poster pitch session C (Auditorium)

Chair: Ruth Etzel (USA) and Yona Amitai (Israel) Mobile phone and other digital technology use in UK adolescents: The SCAMP Cohort - *Pippa Douglas*

Quality of life of childhood brain tumor survivors: intervention, analysis and results - *Alberto Cárceles Álvarez*

Transgenerational effects of treatment with antiepileptics in pregnancy: behavioural and molecular markers in a mouse study - *Gemma Calamandrei*

Forests for health with the environmental midwife - *Lizbeth Álvarez Gómez*Modifiable factors related to low water intake in Mexican children and adolescents - *María de los Angeles Peña Farfán*

Poster pitch session D (Darwin)

Chair: Jamie Pearce (UK) and David Bellinger (USA) Occupational noise exposure during pregnancy - new aspects in childs language acquisition - *Soile Jungewelter*

Factors influencing breastfeeding initiation - *Lizbeth Álvarez Gómez*

Neuropsychological profile of an adopted patient with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - Esther Tobarra Sánchez

Environmental screening on girls with early puberty disorders - Ferran Campillo i López

Where physical environment is the major culprit: Mapping child health determinants against health-related policies and programs in an East African pastoralist community - *Lioul Berhanu Alemie* Mismatch of classroom furniture and student body dimensions in schools of Delhi - *Dr. Meghna*

10.30- 10.45

Break

10.45 -12.00 Session 9 (Auditorium) Cognitive development of children in relations to environmental exposures Chair: Yona Amitai (Israel) and Phil Landrigan (USA) The impact on chemical pollution into child development from in utero to adolescence - Jordi Sunyer (Spain)

Maternal lifestyle during pregnancy and child neurodevelopment - Kinga Polanska (Poland) Lifelong Exposure to Green Space and Attentional Development: A Prospective Birth Cohort Study - Payam Dadvand (Spain)

The role of local natural space in children's social, emotional and behavioural development in Scotland: a longitudinal study – Jamie Pearce (United Kingdom)

Prenatal exposure to outdoor airborne trace elements and cognitive and psychomotor development during childhood in four European birth cohorts - Malgorzata Joanna Lubczynska (Poland)

12.00 -13.15 | Session 10 (Auditorium) Endocrine disruptors and epigenetics

Chair: Emiko Todaka (WHO, Europe) and Chisato Mori (Japan) Temporal trends of organochlorine

compounds and PBDEs from utero until 4 years of age in the Asturias INMA cohort -Mercè Garí (Spain)

Early life exposure to organochlorine pesticides and behavioral development in children – Margot van de Bor (Netherlands) Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) and children's daily exposure: Physicians, scientists, NGOs and media - working together for a better policy and more protection - Johanna Hausmann (Germany) Persistent Organic Pollutants in women's breast milk and proximity to Municipal Waste Incinerators in the UK - Phillipa Douglas (United Kingdom)

Session 11 (Darwin) Environmental Pediatrics for Pediatric residents

Chair: Ruth Etzel (USA) and Donald Frush (USA) CEH training in Brazil - Emerson Da Silva (Brazil) Strategies for Use of medical Imaging and Radiation Risk: What the Care Provider Should Know - Donald Frush (USA)

Autism Spectrum Diseases, including Asperger Syndrome. Fairy Tales and Facts about Environment and Genetics - Karl Ernst von Mühlendahl (Germany)

Environmental consulting nursing: health from the beginning - Miguel Felipe Sanchez Sauco (Spain)

Empowering Youth and Communities to promote health and environment- The Bangalore Experience - Elizabeth Cherian Paramesh (india)

13.15-14.15 Lunch

14.15-15.30 | Session 12 (Auditorium) Asthma and Respiratory Diseases

Chair: Hanns Moshammer (Austria) and Martin Eggens (Netherlands) An unexpected epidemic of respiratory distress. Hanns Moshammer (Austria) Changing kindergarten practices with localized real-time information on outdoor air: The experience of CITI-SENSE project in Oslo, Norway - Núria Castell (Norway) Impact of air pollution to oxidative damage in newborns and mothers - Katerina Honkova for Radim Sram (Czech republic) Lung function growth trajectories in children in relation to prenatal exposure to particulate matter - Cracow cohort study -Renata Majewska (Poland) Rapid Urbanisation and changing Prevalance of Chronic Cough in children - H. Paramesh (India)

Session 13 (Darwin) Environment and childhood cancer

Chair: Juan Antonio Ortega (Spain) and Elisa Pasqual (Spain)

Environment and childhood cancer survivors: PLASECAP MUR - Alberto Cárceles Álvarez (Spain) How can the increase in childhood cancer be explained? The role of transplacental and ctransgenerational carcinogenesis— Ernesto Burgio (Italy)

Health related quality of life of survivors of childhood extracranial neoplasms - Alberto Cárceles Álvarez (Spain)

Descriptive analysis from a hospital based childhood cancer survivors cohort: report from the project Spain-CCSS - Elisa Pasqual (Spain) Secondhand tobacco smoke and survival in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemias in the region of Murcia (SPAIN) - Alberto Cárceles Álvarez (Spain)

15.30 -15.45

15.45 - 16.30

Poster pitch session E (Auditorium)

Chair: Joan O. Grimalt (Spain) and Joaquim Rovira (Spain)

Particulate matter characterisation in the schools located around petrochemical industrial complex. Infiltration of particle from outdoor to indoor air - *Joaquim Rovira*

Personal exposure to PM2.5 and benzo[a]pyrene in Ostrava, Czech Republic - *Katka Honkova* AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review on differences between rural and urban environments - *Tara Rava Zolnikov* Training modules for paediatricians - Health

Training modules for paediatricians - Health effects of climate change - *Colin O'Reilly* Reality of children's new environment and future policy needs - *Marija Jevtić*

Study of childhood illness for the period 2009-2011, meeting the city. Sofia & Pleven with view to effective health promotion - *P. Karadzhova* Promoting Health: Recommendations of food consumption as a tool to minimize exposure of pollutants to the children's population - *Rosa Maria Llull Cantallops*

Lead and mercury exposure are associated with low resting heart rate in community children - *Naixue Cui*

Potential Environmental Hazards on Child Health in a Prospective Mining Area in North Sumatra, Indonesia - Levina Khoe

Mapping child health against health related policies and programs in East African pastoralist communities - *Lioul Berhanu Alemie*

Poster pitch session F (Darwin)

Chair: Johanna Hausmann (Germnay) and Eva Junque (Spain)

Birth weight in relation to cord blood levels of selected elements in Slovenian mother-child pairs - *Marta Jagodic*

Birth and Growth without OH: Detection and follow up from pregnancy until the end of adolescence of children at risk of neurobehavioral disorders through exposure of alcohol and illegal drugs - *Maria Luisa Azurmendi*

The mercury pollution and child birth defects - *Unursaikham Surenyah*

Prenatal exposure to particulate matter and the occurrence of wheezing in chest in children - *Agnieszka Pac*

The role of trace elements, antioxidants and oxidative stress in very low birth weight infants - *Beatrice Bocca* The PERSIAN birth cohort; A Work in Progress - *Payam Dadvand*

Psychosocial stress and obesity in Kaunas children - Regina Grazuleviciene

Lifestyles of survivors of childhood hematologic neoplasms - *Mayra Alejandra Orozco Llamas* Air pollutants exposure and functional repair activity in placenta - *Nurulshyha Md Yatim*

The role of perinatal essential fatty acids in attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder symptoms and cognitive functions - *Mónica López-Vicente*Maternal Environmental Exposure to Organochlorine Pesticides and its Effects on Birth weight - *Madhu Anand*

Exposure to arsenic and mercury: associated pregnancy outcomes, and early infant developmental outcomes in gold mining areas in Tanzania - Elias Charles Nyanza

16.30 - 18.00

Session 14 (Auditorium) Exposome research in children

Chair: Mark Nieuwenhuijsen (Spain) and Denis Sarigiannis (Greece)

Human biomonitoring data analysis for metals in an Italian adolescents cohort: an exposome approach – Alberto Gotti (Italy) Assessing the impact of hazardous waste on children's health: the exposome paradigm – Denis Sarigiannis (Greece)

Quantitative profiling of metabolic markers to assess dietary and microbiota related exposure factors - Zdenek Spacil (Czech republic)

Persistent pollutants in food items from Menorca Island - Eva Junqué (Spain) Prenatal exposure to perfluoroalkyl substances and cardio-metabolic risk components during early childhood - Cyntia B. Manzano-Salgado (Spain)

Session 15 (Darwin) Miscellaneous

Chair: Payam Dadvand (Spain) and Krystalia Papadaki (Greece)

Health effects of consuming desalinated Sea water - implications for children - Yona Amitai (Israel)

Maternal cell phone use during pregnancy and child behavior problems in five birth cohorts – Laura Birks (Spain)

Determining the impact of smoking point of sale legislation among youth (Display) study: new findings from Scotland – Jamie Pearce (UK) Impact of prenatal exposure to environmental pollutants on autism spectrum disorder: A case report - Esther Tobarra Sánchez (Spain) BORN WITHOUT OH: an innovating model for preventing and managing the neurodevelopmental disorders caused by alcohol and drug prenatal exposure in a Mediterranean region - María Luisa Azurmendi Funes (Spain)

Friday 16 th of September 2016	
8.45-10.15	Session 16 (Auditorium) Children's environmental health policy topics Chair: David Bellinger (USA) and Karl Ernst von Mühlendahl (Germany) Minamata Convention on mercury vulnerable population – Mahmood Khwaja (Pakistan) Children's environmental right - Jonas Schubert (Germany) Environment exposure and neuro-development in MOCEH – Mina Ha (Korea) Improved Relationships in Eastern Kenya From Water Interventions and Access to Water - Tara Rava Zolnikov (USA) Relations between the exposure of factory air polution with asthma impacted in children who live in shelter Around the district of industrial area in Jakarta, Indonesia Trial District In Jakarta Indonesia - Wan Nedra Komaruddin (Indonesia)
10.15 -10.30	Break
10.30 -12.00	Session 17 (Auditorium) Children's Health and the environment in the Mediterranean Chair: Denis Sarigiannis (Greece) and Gemma Calamandrei (Italy) The NAC-II birth cohort in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region: prenatal and childhood exposure to metals and neuropsychological maturation at 7 years – Gemma Calamandrei (Italy) Internal dosimetry metrics for risk assessment of endocrine disruptors – the case of bisphenol A – Denis Sarigiannis (Greece) Urine total arsenic and arsenic species in children from Northern Italy – Beatrice Bocca (Italy) Neurodevelopment, low level mercury exposure and genetic polymorphisms in birth cohort from Slovenia and Croatia - Janja Snoj Tratnik (Slovenia) Children exposure to PAH and potential carcinogenic risk assessment from biomass burning incorporating internal dosimetry metrics – Spyros Karakitsios (Greece) Influence of gestational weight gain on the transfer of organochlorine pollutants into infants – Joan Grimalt (Spain)
12.00 -13.15	Session 18 (Auditorium) Final session Chair: Wojtek Hanke (Poland) and Stephan Böse-O'Reilly (Germany) Protecting children's health from environmental harm - the perspective of WHO Regional Office for Europe – Dorota Jarosinska (WHO, Europe) INMA overview - Jordi Sunyer (Spain) Societal burden of children's exposures to neurotoxicants - David Bellinger (USA) Thinking of the relationship between children's health and the environment as a rights issue - The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion on Children's Rights and the Environment on 23 September 2016 - Jonas Schubert (Germany)
13.15 -13.30	Closing Ceremony: The Barcelona Declaration on Children Environmental Health The 9th International Conference on Children's Environmental Health

The International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES) (http://www.inchesnetwork.net) was founded at a workshop meeting before the 1st International Conference on Children's Environmental Health, August 1998 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where WHO, European Environmental Agency (EEA), US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and other organisations had an active participation, stressing the growing importance of CEH as a global health issue. The WHO and INCHES have been active partners the last 16 years on the topic of Children's Environmental Health.

The International Network on children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES) is a global network with the following goals:

- increase understanding of and accord on how environmental factors influence child health;
- 2) create a global dissemination of research and information on children's environmental health;
- 3) educate and facilitate information exchange on the best practices and policies in children's environmental health;
- 4) identify information gaps and stimulate to new research; and
- 5) advocate for children's environmental health in the intergovernmental arena.

Some highlights of INCHES activities since its formation in 1998 include:

- There are now about 150 organizational members, some of which are well structured, established and active as national NGOs interested in an intensified international cooperation.
- More than 30,000 individual members (most of them health professionals) within these member organizations.
- Strong contacts in several countries where national children's environmental health networks have been founded or under creation.
- Excellent international contact in the field of children, environment and health in the intergovernmental, governmental and NGO circles.
- Some official contacts in the field (relations with WHO, EEA, membership in European Health and Environment Alliance network, International Society of Doctors for the Environment).
- Several members in the medical scientific community covering most aspects of environmental health able and ready to give foundation to the content of INCHES' work.
- Training programs in cooperation with several universities in some countries have been conducted as a project.
- INCHES initiated several projects funded by the European Union.
- INCHES organized or co-organized several conferences on children's environmental health the last two decades.
- INCHES collaborates with similar networks in North America: Children's Environmental Health Network, International Society for Children's Health and the Environment and the Canadian Institute of Child Health.

