

Speaker Biographies

Canada National Fire Smoke Forum

Theme: Emergency and Health Management

October 28 2016

Welcoming Address

Dr. Sarah Henderson is the Senior Environmental Health Scientist at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and an Assistant Professor in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, Canada. Her mandate at the BCCDC is to conduct applied environmental health research and surveillance to support good policy in a wide range of content areas. She specializes in addressing these questions by developing novel methods that combine multiple sources of environmental data with administrative health data to conduct population-based epidemiologic research and public health surveillance. Sarah has been studying forest fire smoke exposure and its health impacts for almost 15 years, and she spends an inordinate amount of time thinking of ways to do it ever better. However, she would never get anything done without the tremendous enthusiasm and support of her colleagues and graduate students.

Session 1: Exposure Assessments

Warren McCormick has worked in the air quality field with BC Ministry of Environment for over 25 years. For much of that time he was the regional air quality guy in the Omenica-Peace and Vancouver Island regions. In this role he directed monitoring for general society and industry impacts, advised permit writers on air issues for permitted facilities, and provided support for assessments under the Environmental Assessment Office. In the last five years he has taken a position with headquarters dealing more with air quality policy and regulations, provincial scale inventory work and projects like BlueSky. Mr. McCormick is married with grown children and the cutest 7-year old grand-daughter on Vancouver Island.

Dr. Kerry Anderson is a fire research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service. Anderson is actively involved in research to predict smoke forecasting, fire weather and fire behaviour. Through this research, Anderson has and continues to develop models to assist fire management agencies in daily operational planning by predicting the potential impact of fires on the landscape. These models provide a means to determine effective fire suppression response strategies to mitigate the threat. In turn, the goals are to help protect the public, communities, and forests; to promote the health of the forest ecosystem; to minimize fire suppression expenditures; and to do all this in time to get home for supper.

Susan O'Neill is an Air Quality Scientist with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, AirFire Team. She has a Ph.D. from the Laboratory for Atmospheric Research at Washington State University and began her Forest Service career in 2002 leading development of the first version of the BlueSky smoke modeling framework. She then continued on to

the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as part of their Air Quality and Atmospheric Change Team, and in 2012 re-joined the AirFire Team. Her research interests extend to all aspects of calculating fire emissions, and modeling smoke dispersion, transport, and chemical transformation in the atmosphere.

Session 2: Interventions

Prabjit Barn is an Environmental Health Scientist with the BC Centre for Disease Control. For her master's research, Prabjit investigated the use of portable air cleaners during wildfire and residential wood burning smoke events to reduce indoor fine particulate matter concentrations in BC homes. At the BCCDC, Prabjit works on indoor and outdoor air quality issues, and was involved with the development of *Guidance for BC Public Health Decision Making During Wildfire Smoke Events*. She is also a PhD candidate investigating the effects of air pollution on fetal growth in an air cleaner intervention study in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Barbara Crumb is the Director of the Office of Disaster Management with the Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living. In 2012, she assumed the director role and has provided leadership during numerous disaster events affecting Manitoba. She has also been responsible for development and implementation of a number of strategic initiatives including a Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Project and the Smoke and Air Quality Initiative. She has multiple years of experience in results-orientated project management and has successfully implemented the health sector's Wildland Fire Smoke Monitoring Network and has expanded the scope of the Common Operating Picture (GIS-based tool) to include a suite of geo-spatial layered data to help in the decision making process during a Wildland Fire event.

Pete Lahm is an Air Resource Specialist, with the Fire and Aviation Management USDA, Forest Service in Washington, D.C. He leads the interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Smoke Committee. Started as a fire fighter, consulted in smoke management, managed the Arizona Smoke Management Program for a dozen years and now works out of Washington, D.C. Works closely with many interagency partners addressing operational response to wildland fire smoke as well as seeking balance in how smoke is addressed in national air quality regulations and guidance.

Session 3: Case Studies

Courtney Howard is a University of British Columbia and McGill University-trained Yellowknife Emergency Physician. Motivated by work on a *Médecins Sans Frontières* pediatric malnutrition project in Djibouti, and by climate-related health impacts on her Northern patient population, she dedicates a substantial portion of her time to Environmental Health, and has become the Climate-health Board Lead for the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE). She does research only when she is very curious about something: she led the first randomized controlled trial comparing menstrual cups to tampons while in residency ([FLOW-Finding Lasting Options for Women](#)) and recently has worked as local medical lead under Primary Investigator Dr James Orbinski on the Summer of Smoke (SOS) mixed methods research project into the NWT's Extreme Wildfire season of 2014. She lives on the shores of

Great Slave Lake in Yellowknife with her Pediatrician husband, Dr Darcy Scott, and their two young daughters.

Dr. Amy Christianson is a fire research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service. Christianson is involved in research on the 'social side' of fire, with a focus on Indigenous Peoples and wildfire management