

Preface

Environmental quality has a relevant bearing on human health. According to some observers, in the new modernity the social production of wealth goes systematically hand in hand with the social production of risk: we seem to face an increasing number of risk factors that may be difficult to identify. The multi-factorial origins of many environment-associated diseases are closely linked to the possibility of implementing more effective measures of primary prevention.

This volume of the journal Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità collects papers dealing with a cluster of diverse issues such as the impact of climate changes on health, persistent organic pollutants and reproductive health, urban indoor air quality, health risks and biomarkers, emerging pathogenic microorganisms, neurodegenerative diseases and the environment, waste management, the impact of agricultural activities on the environment, etc. The idea of this monographic issue stems from the International Meeting "Health and Environment: Challenges for the Future" (IMHE), which was held in Rome (Italy), December 9-11, 2009.

It is hoped that this addition to environmental literature will illuminate objectively some of the pressing problems related to anthropogenic impact and climate changes on health.

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Alessandro di Domenico

*Dipartimento di Ambiente
e Connessa Prevenzione Primaria,
Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy*