

# The DEEP Network

## Newsletter Number 2

September 2020

Dear friends and colleagues

Welcome to the second DEEP Network Newsletter. As usual, this newsletter will also be available on our website:

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres-projects-groups/degrading-epidemiology-network>

Please send us any items that may be of interest for future newsletters

### 1. The Network

We currently have 125 members of the Network. As we mentioned in our previous e-mailing, from now on we will use 'cc', i.e. you will be able to see each other's e-mail addresses, so that we can communicate with each other. So a few points in this regard:

- **If you don't want to be openly 'cced' into these mailings**, then please let us know as soon as possible, and we will place you in the "bcc" category or drop you off the list according to your preference
- **If you have a colleague who you think would be interested in joining the Network, please forward this to them.** For future inclusion they would need to contact us.
- **Please don't use 'reply all'** unless you are certain that you want everyone to see your e-mail, potentially irritate dozens of colleagues with email clutter, and you are prepared to receive 50 or more 'out of office' messages
- The aim of the newsletter is communication and to keep everyone informed; thus, **if we cite a symposium or publication it does not mean that we are endorsing it**

### 4. Recent events

The International Society of Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) meeting in August 2020 included a mini-symposium session on: How GREAT is GRADE? Taking stock of GRADE for evidence review in environmental epidemiology. Speakers included: Hanna Boogaard (HEI), David Savitz (Brown University), Tracey Woodruff (UC, San Francisco), Francesco Forastiere (Kings College London), and Neil Pearce (LSHTM). The abstracts are available at:

[https://isee2020virtual.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2020/08/ISEE2020Virtual\\_Abstract\\_Book\\_Session\\_Abstracts.pdf](https://isee2020virtual.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2020/08/ISEE2020Virtual_Abstract_Book_Session_Abstracts.pdf)

### 5. Relevant publications by DEEP members

EFSA Scientific Committee, More S, Bambidis V, Benford B, Bragard C, Hernandez-Jerez A, Bennekou SH, Koutsoumanis K, Machera K, Naegeli H, Nielsen SS, Schlatter JR, Schrenk D, Silano V, Turck D, Younes M, Fletcher T, Greiner M, Ntzani E, Pearce N, Vinceti M, Ciccolallo

L, Georgiadis M, Gervelmeyer A, Halldorsson TI. Scientific Committee guidance on appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies for use in EFSA's scientific assessments. *EFSA Journal* 2020;18(8):6221 [doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2020.6221].

Steenland K, Schubauer-Berigan MK, Vermeulen R, Lunn R, Straif K, Zahm S, Stewart P, Arroyave WD, Mehta S, Pearce N. Risk of bias assessments and evidence syntheses of observational epidemiologic studies of environmental and occupational exposures: strengths and limitations. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, in press.  
<https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP6980>

## **6. Other relevant publications**

Alexander PE, et al. Senior GRADE epidemiologists encounter challenges as part of WHO guideline development panels. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2016; 70: 123-128.

Greenhalg T. Will Covid-19 be evidence-based medicine's nemesis? *PLoS Medicine* 2020;  
<https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1003266>

Pega F, et al. RoB-SPEO: A tool for assessing risk of bias in studies estimating the prevalence of exposure to occupational risk factors from the WHO/ILO Joint Estimates of the Work-related Burden of Disease and Injury. *Environment International* 2020; 135: 105039.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412019305860?via%3Dihub>

Samet JM, et al. The *IARC Monographs*: Updated Procedures for Modern and Transparent Evidence Synthesis in Cancer Hazard Identification. *JNCI* 2020;  
<https://academic.oup.com/jnci/article/112/1/30/5566248>  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6968684/pdf/djz169.pdf>