

Call for papers: 'Emerging Infectious Disease: The role of environmental, built environment, and social risk factors'

Sponsorships

Geographic Information Science Specialty Group
Medical Geography Specialty Group
Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group

Organizers

Debarchana Ghosh, University of Minnesota
John DeGroot, University of Northern Iowa, GeoTREE Center

Emerging Infectious Disease: The role of environmental, built environment, and social risk factors

The rise in incidence of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and most recently West Nile Virus (WNV) has been observed in both developing and developed countries. Researchers all over the world are associating the emergence of infectious disease with the dramatic environmental and human induced changes sweeping our planet. This has created an urgent need to understand how these environmental changes impact disease spread and burden. For example deforestation, road and dam building, urban sprawl, natural habitat destruction for agriculture, mining and the pollution of air and water are promoting conditions under which new and old pathogens thrive. In addition, climate change may aggravate the threats of infectious disease, primarily by altering the ecosystems under which many disease and their carriers flourish. A recent focus has been to use Geographic Information Science (GIS), Remote Sensing (RS), and spatial statistics to identify environmental and built environment risk factors and investigate their relationship with disease transmission. You are invited to submit abstracts for presentation that address issues in one or more of the following areas:

1. Environmental and social determinants of infectious disease
2. Effects of climate change on infectious disease
3. Integrating GIS, near real-time remote sensing, and statistical spatial models to understand the environmental and built environment correlates of disease risk
4. Extending and developing new geospatial tools to extract relationships between disease risk factors and disease transmission
5. Application of geospatial technologies and spatial statistic to investigate the spatiotemporal spread of disease

Submitting papers

Interested participants should send expression of interest, questions and/ or title and **abstract of 250 words or less** to Debarchana Ghosh (ghos0033@umn.edu), and John DeGroot (John.DeGroot@uni.edu) by **September 30th 2008**. Contributors will have to register for the conference and submit their abstract the regular way (through the AAG website: <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2009/index.htm>), and should then send the *registration code (PIN)* they receive to us. Once everyone has done this (+/- mid-October), we register for a session, and mention all registration codes that will be in our session(s).