

International Congress
ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
International Society of Doctors for the Environment – ISDE 20th Anniversary
19-20 November 2010
Auditorium Aldo Ducci, Arezzo Municipality, Via Cesalpino 53 - Arezzo

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION TO/FROM ENGLISH

Under the sponsorship of the Arezzo Municipality

The **International Society of Doctors for Environment (ISDE)** was created in 1990 in Cortona, Italy in response to the determination of strengthening the commitment of medical doctors to the safeguard of the environment. The main objectives of ISDE are: the recovery of the ethical role of the medical profession, the promotion of the commitment to the protection of the environment, to privilege measures of primary prevention, to inform and involve patients, colleagues, students, teachers as well all citizens on environmental issues, to have a role in establishing solid and efficient links between scientific societies, research centers, governmental and non governmental associations on key issues related to Environment and Health. (*Tomatis L. GEA, European Journal of Aerobiology and Environmental Medicine 2006*)

Global health. A globalized, interdependent world, characterised by the increasing movement of individuals and populations – and where disease recognises no borders – means that health has become a global issue. Global health is determined by factors which themselves often show scant respect for national boundaries – such as international trade, climate change, pollution, conflicts, environmental degradation and poverty. Our responsibility is to harness the opportunities of globalisation to improve the health of people across the world.

Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide: it accounted for 7.9 million deaths (around 13% of all deaths) in 2007. Lung, stomach, liver, colon and breast cancer cause the most cancer deaths each year. Deaths from cancer worldwide are projected to continue rising, with an estimated 12 million deaths in 2030. Yet about 30% of these deaths can be prevented. Cancer arises as the result of the interaction between a person's genetic factors and three categories of external agents, including: physical carcinogens, such as ultraviolet, ultrafine particles and ionizing radiation; chemical carcinogens, such as asbestos, components of tobacco smoke, aflatoxin (a food contaminant) and heavy metals as arsenic (a drinking water contaminant); biological carcinogens, such as infections from certain viruses, bacteria or parasites. Recently some International Agency for Research on Cancer researchers used the large European database of childhood and adolescent cancer cases to estimate patterns and trends of incidence and survival within Europe: analysis of 113,000 cancers in children and over 18,000 cancers in adolescents during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s showed how the incidence rates of cancer increased by around 1% for children and 1.5% for adolescents per year. The increases were recorded for virtually all tumor types in children, while in adolescents the major changes were seen for carcinomas, lymphomas, soft tissue sarcomas, germ-cell and CNS tumors. These results are clear evidence of an increase of cancer incidence in childhood and adolescence during the past decades, and of an acceleration of this trend. We should not forget that cancer is a preventable disease. The true challenge is primary prevention: since the “War on Cancer” was declared in 1971, we have never engaged the real enemy – carcinogens: a real decrease in cancer incidence can and must be achieved by eliminating carcinogens from the air we breathe, the water we drink, the products we use, our places of work, and the food we eat. Safe and healthy environments, free of cancer-causing substances, should be the birthright of all our children

Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) is bringing new insights into the pathogenesis of disease. We have understood that poor fetal growth, small size at birth and embryo-fetal stress are followed by increased risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, tumors. This has led to the hypothesis that these disorders originate in utero through unbalanced nutrition, maternal stress, chemical toxic burden. DOHaD is now a burgeoning research area in both basic and clinical sciences: if so many diseases are found to be triggered by foetal (environmental) perturbations then concerted efforts need to be made to prevent such diseases before subsequent generations are adversely affected.

Every body should be aware that children are the most vulnerable and exposed to contamination by a lot of dangerous pollutants; that a great number of these substances or toxic products are transported across the placenta and pass to the foetus; that many of these chemical accumulate in human adipose tissue and are then found in breast-feeding mothers' milk; that, in addition, children can ingest and/or inhale these substances or products even in their

own homes. For all these reasons ISDE has struggled for 20 years ISDE all over the world for children right not to be polluted.

Yet we must believe that the world now stands at the most opportune moment imaginable for reaching these global health goals and the eight **Millennium Development Goals** (ranging from halving extreme poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria to providing universal primary education and ensuring environmental sustainability, that form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions in 2000) and for mobilising a **global alliance** dedicated to achieving a breakthrough in human development based on **specific actions for children**.

Friday 19 November

9.00 **Welcome**
Authorities greetings
Giuseppe Fanfani, Mayor of Arezzo

9.30 **Opening**
Hanns Moshhammer, ISDE Austria President, Wien
Roberto Romizi, ISDE Italy President, Arezzo

10.00-12.30 1° Session - "Global Health"

Introduction – Maria Grazia Petronio
ISDE Italy Vice President

Environment, global health and development - Eduardo Missoni
Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

Environments and Health: from Miasma to Mixtures - David Gee
Senior Adviser, Science, Policy, Emerging Issues, Integrated Environmental Assessment, European Environment Agency (EEA)

Chemical Safety: 20 years of international collaboration - Judy Stober
Former Executive Secretary Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)

Possible health effects of GMOs - Gianni Tamino
University of Padua, Italy; ISDE Italy Scientific Committee

Climate change and health - Joanna Nurse
WHO Regional Office for Europe

2010 the International Year of Biodiversity: the benevolent disorder of life. Diversity of organisms between Science and Society - Marcello Buiatti
University of Florence, Italy; ISDE Italy Scientific Committee

Conclusions – Carlo Modonesi
University of Parma, Italy

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.30 2° Session "Children Environmental Health"

Introduction - Giorgio Tamburini
Italian Global Health Watch

Pollution Reduction Options and Children Health - Peter Van Den Hazel
ISDE Former president; INCHEM International Coordinator, Arnhem, the Netherlands

The increased incidence of childhood cancer - Giuseppe Masera
University of Milan, Italy; ISDE Italy Scientific Committee

Strategies to tackle inequities in children's environmental health: a framework for action - Giorgio Tamburlini
Italian Global Health Watch

Conclusions - Ernesto Burgio
ISDE Italy Scientific Committee Coordinator

15.30-18.00 3° Session - "Environmental Carcinogenesis"

Introduction - Fabrizio Bianchi
ISDE Italy Scientific Committee

Cancer as an environmental disease - Dominique Belpomme
President of ARTAC - Association for Research Treatments Against Cancer, France

Fetal origins of adult diseases and cancer - Ernesto Burgio
ISDE Italy Scientific Committee Coordinator

Adipose tissue as a reservoir for environmental carcinogens - Philippe Irigaray
ARTAC - Association for Research Treatments Against Cancer, France

Waste incineration - Damien Downing
British Society for Ecological Medicine (BSEM)

Conclusions - Balestreri Federico
ISDE Italy

Saturday 20 November

9.00-13.00 4° Session "Progress in science and policies"

Introduction - Lucio Sibilia
ISDE Italy

ISDE history: a review of ISDE resolutions - Hanns Moshhammer
ISDE President; Medical University of Wien

ISDE, 20 years of International activities and projection on health and Environment - Lilian Corra
ISDE International Secretary; AAMMA/ISDE Argentina

Science and policies in developing countries: the new Constitution in Ecuador - Raul Harari
IFA; ISDE Ecuador

Environmental Policies and Legislation for Industrial Pollution Control: Pakistan Initiatives and Arrangements - Mahmood A. Khwaja
Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI); ISDE Pakistan

Independent research: role of Ramazzini Institute in collaboration with ISDE - Morando Soffritti
Istituto Ramazzini Scientific Director; ISDE Italy Scientific Committee

Free interventions - National ISDE sections

Tribute to Jenny Pronczuk

ISDE 20th Anniversary Recognition Awards presented to Werner Nussbaumer and Judy Stober

Words from Werner Nussbaumer and Judy Stober

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-18.00 5° Session "The next 20 years: scientific and advocacy activities"

Introduction - Stefania Borgo
ISDE Italy

Equity and health (proposed resolution) - Roberto Romizi
ISDE Italy President, Arezzo

DOHAD-Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (proposed resolution) - Ernesto Burgio
ISDE Italy Scientific Committee Coordinator

Joint document/declaration of the Italian Federation of Colleges of Physicians and ISDE Italy on individual and collective right to health and a healthy environment: a model to spread internationally (a model to follow at international level) - Raimondo Ibba
Federation of Italian Health Professionals Orders (FNOMCeO)

Children's health and the Environment: a training WHO/ISDE collaborative program - Ruth A. Etzel
Children's Health and Environment, Department of Public Health and Environment, WHO

ISDE: the future - Cathey Falvo
ISDE elected president; PSR - ISDE USA

A positive approach to Cancun climate negotiations - Feargal Duff
ISDE Ireland

Communication on Health and environment: a challenge for international health -Walter Gatti
Editor in Chief of the official web Newsmagazine of Federation of Italian Health Professionals Orders (FNOMCeO)

The roads to follow:- Roundtable - Representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations

Closing words - Hanns Moshammer, Cathey Falvo and Roberto Romizi

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