

ESCAPE Newsletter 10

October, 2011



ESCAPE is a collaboration of more than 30 European cohort studies including some 900,000 subjects. It is aimed at quantifying health impacts of air pollution and at reducing uncertainty.



Greetings!

This is the 10th ESCAPE newsletter with information about our progress.

The first item is, unfortunately, a very sad one. Sally Liu, the Basel PI died from cancer in June, leaving behind her husband and two young children. We miss her very much.

Almost all of you were present at the plenary meeting in Barcelona, Sept 11-13. There was a lot of progress to be discussed, and it also became clear what work is still ahead of us. Overall, there has been a tremendous effort in all participating centers for which I am very grateful. We're now entering the home stretch – I hope and trust you all have sufficient energy left to ensure a splendid finish.

Meanwhile, the European Union has initiated a series of activities which will culminate in the "Year of the Air 2013", marking new policies on emission ceilings and air quality limit values for the protection of public health. This is precisely what ESCAPE was funded for, and we look forward to seeing our results put to good use in this process.

Bert Brunekreef, PhD, Coordinator

*In fond memory of
Lee Jane Sally Liu
02.11.1965 – 06.06.2011*

We are sad to report that Professor Sally Liu passed away on 6 June 2011. She led the research unit for Environmental Exposure Sciences in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health at Swiss TPH, Basel & fundamentally contributed to all environmental exposure assessment work here. She will be remembered as an energetic, talented, inspiring and enthusiastic scientist, teacher & mentor.



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36-month periodic report approved

Just before the ESCAPE plenary meeting we received the news from Brussels that our 36-month periodic report and deliverables have been approved. The review report has been distributed among the ESCAPE PIs and has been made available on the ESCAPE website. We will draft a response to the few comments that the reviewer made.

Thank you all for the hard work that forms the basis of this positive review!

ESCAPE plenary meeting

We had a successful plenary meeting with more than 100 participants in Barcelona on September 12-13 2011. The progress of the project has been discussed with plenary sessions on exposure assessment, statistical issues, dissemination and work package specific sessions on the second day. The meeting ended with useful comments of our external advisory board.

The minutes of the meeting have been distributed to the participants and are available on the ESCAPE website.

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ISEE 2011 conference

The ESCAPE meeting preceded the ISEE 2011 conference. During an ESCAPE exposure symposium the first results of the exposure assessment work package have been shown in 6 oral presentations. There was a lot of interest for this symposium with ~150 attendants.

In addition, in several other oral and poster presentations results from ESCAPE have been presented.

All abstracts are available on the ISEE 2011 website: <http://www.isee2011.org/>

Exposure assessment

Finalizing land use regression (LUR) model development and exposure assessment for the cohort addresses needs to have priority now. The schedule is that exposure assessment for the first year study areas needs to be finalized as soon as possible. The LUR models for the second year groups need to be finalized as soon as possible, with exposure estimation finished in October/November.

Please keep this schedule in mind, because the exposure estimates for the cohort addresses are necessary for the epidemiological analyses. Please also make sure that you are familiar with the ESCAPE exposure assessment manual and the extended procedures for exposure assessment for cohort addresses and for extrapolation back in time. These procedures are available on the ESCAPE website.

If you have any questions about LUR model development and/or exposure assessment please contact Rob Beelen at the coordinating center (r.m.j.beelen@uu.nl).

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ESCAPE website

The ESCAPE website address is:

www.escapeproject.eu

In the "Member"-section all ESCAPE manuals, SOPs, meeting minutes and progress reports can be found (the "Member"-section is password-protected but the password is available upon request).

We would like to have all key documents, such as manuals, analytical protocols etc, available on the website. In that way all these documents are available for all ESCAPE participants and everybody uses the same version. Separate sections for each work package have been made at the website to make WP-specific documents available.

If you have any documents or information that you would like to have available or would like to add on the ESCAPE website, please let us know.

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