

What's New

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Keep up to date with new initiatives and activities in the ecohealth field. Regular updates are available at the EcoHealth website: <http://www.ecohealth.net>.

ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES MEETING AND WORKSHOPS

A meeting on ecology and evolution of infectious diseases will take place June 3–5, 2010, at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, continuing a seven-year tradition of annual gatherings on this topic. In addition, two-day workshops on modeling and analysis of ecological and evolutionary processes affecting infectious disease dynamics will follow the meeting. These workshops are designed to provide graduate students and postdoctoral researchers with applied analysis skills using the programming environment R. Parallel workshops on ecology or evolution of infectious disease will also be held. For additional information, please visit http://www.eeid.cornell.edu/EEID_2010.html.

95TH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEETING

The next conference of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) will be held August 1–6, 2010, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The city of Pittsburgh is a leader in the environmental movement, with the highest number of “green-certified” buildings in the United States, and it will serve as this year’s host city for World Environment Day. This year’s ESA conference theme, “Global Warming: The Legacy of Our Past, The Challenge for Our Future,” will place global warming influences at all levels of ecological organization at center

stage. Conference details are available at <http://www.esa.org/pittsburgh/>.

THIRD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ECOLOGY AND HEALTH

Join the IAEH for its third biennial EcoHealth conference, August 18–20, 2010, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London, UK. The conference, entitled “Global EcoHealth Challenges, Multiple Perspectives,” will bring together academic institutions, government bodies, and civil society groups to discuss the major challenges facing people, wildlife, and ecosystems internationally. The three major themes of the conference are urban ecohealth, biodiversity and ecohealth, and sustainability and future priorities for ecohealth. For more information or to register, please visit <http://www.ecohealth2010.org/>.

SMITHSONIAN-MASON GLOBAL CONSERVATION STUDIES PROGRAM: COURSE ON EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND ECOLOGICAL STATISTICS

During a 10-day residential session (August 17–27, 2010) at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, VA, this course will provide an intensive overview of the quantitative methods for ecological research and conservation. This will include a review of study design, statistical methods used in modern ecological research, and hypothesis building. Topics on monitoring and analysis techniques—such as distance sampling, analysis of genetic data, niche and species distribution modeling, and spatial

analysis—will be included in daily course exercises using the programming environment R. Complete information about this and other conservation training courses is available online at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MAB/GMU/>.

PROPOSED NATIONAL CENTER FOR EMERGING AND ZONOTIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plans to begin operations of a new centralized National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, which is being formed by a reorganization that unites two former centers of the CDC: the National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases, and the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases. The new center is expected to improve resource allocation and collaboration and will be guided by a holistic “One Health” strategy that recognizes global interconnectedness. The new center’s approach will be interdisciplinary, deriving strength from a diverse workforce endeavoring to detect, prevent, and control infectious diseases to improve public health. For more information about the new center, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nceid/>.

NEW EMERGING PATHOGENS INSTITUTE AT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

On January 26, 2010, the University of Florida dedicated its new Emerging Pathogens Institute, which is focused on

new infectious diseases affecting plants, wildlife, and public health. The Institute’s home is a new green-certified 80,000-square-foot building that is designed to foster collaboration. It holds more than 20 biological labs, greenhouses, and offices for faculty and students, as well as an 80-person seminar room. The Institute is multidisciplinary, combining eight colleges to create breadth of scope and expertise, with a global vision for building understanding of how new diseases emerge or old diseases reemerge in new places or with new characteristics. Details about this new institute are available at <http://www.epi.ufl.edu/>.

FIRST UNITED NATIONS “STATE OF THE WORLD’S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES” REPORT

The United Nations (UN) issued its first report on the State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, and it presents a number of alarming statistics regarding how indigenous peoples are faring in health. The report includes a specific chapter dedicated to issues of the environment that explores environmental threats and degradation. In addition, another chapter explores the interdependence between these environmental issues and indigenous peoples’ health, among other drivers. Overall, the report illustrates how contamination of natural resources and other factors are contributing to the poor current state of indigenous health. The complete report is available online at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/sowip.html>.