Candidate for Faculty

The Department of Community, Environment & Policy Presents Elaine Symanski, PhD, who is interviewing for a position in Environmental Health Sciences.

Improving Environmental Health in Vulnerable Populations

October 9, 2019 ~ 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM
Drachman A114

Dr. Elaine Symanski earned her MSPH and PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. With training in exposure science and epidemiology, her research expertise is in developing and applying methods for assessing occupational and environmental exposures, particularly in health effects studies of vulnerable populations. Dr. Symanski has led studies investigating associations between air pollution and preterm birth, childhood leukemia, childhood asthma and hypertension and her interests expand to exploring the role of chemical and non-chemical stressors in the built, natural and social environments on health. She serves as co-director of a recently funded NIEHS P30 Center of Excellence, the Gulf Coast Center for Precision Environmental Health (GC-CPEH), which is a multi-collaborative effort with Baylor College of Medicine and UTMB (Galveston). Dr. Symanski is also PI of a NIOSH-funded Education and Research Center (ERC), which supports graduate-level education, professional workforce development and outreach in worker health, safety and well-being. She led efforts in response to Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and, more recently, the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) fire in 2019. Currently, she is a member of a NAS committee to investigate hazards among the military serving in the Southeast Asia Theater due to open pit burning and previously served on the Working Group for the IARC Monograph on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans – Volume 120 (Benzene).

Dr. Symanski will discuss current work that includes a community-based participatory research to action project to identify and mitigate health risks associated with metal aerosols from metal recycling operations in Houston, Texas; a disaster research response (DR2) study to investigate the impact of flooding on children’s metal exposures; and an investigation to evaluate associations between air pollution and rising temperatures on risks of stillbirth.

For more information, please contact Karen O'Shaughnessy @ 520-626-4912 or email: koshaughnessy@email.arizona.edu