



New Indicators for the Assessment and Prevention of Noise Nuisance

Guest Editors:

Dr. Luca Fredianelli

Institute of Chemical and
Physical Processes of National
Research Council, via G. Moruzzi
1, 56124 Pisa, Italy

Prof. Dr. Peter Lercher

Institute for Highway Engineering
and Transport Planning, Graz
University of Technology, 8010
Graz, Austria

Prof. Dr. Gaetano Licitra

ARPAT, Environmental Protection
Agency of Tuscany Region, 50144
Livorno, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

At present, health effects induced by prolonged noise exposure are widely studied for the most diffused noise sources and their effects. Annoyance, sleep disturbance, cardiovascular diseases and learning impairments, are already known through environmental epidemiology studies. Usually, these studies relate the health effects of noise with a regression of an acoustic exposure metrics, which is an average energetic dose over a long time period, such as Leq or Lden.

Recently, the scientific community started to investigate the possibility that health effects induced by prolonged noise exposure should be studied considering other features of noise too. Among those remarkable effects are its intensity variation over time, impulsivity of events, frequency distribution, and psychoacoustics parameters. Peak levels, maximum levels, and variability can have a significative influence on nuisance perception, and citizens can complain more about single high levels rather than average exposure. This can be the origin of flaws in dose-effects relationships for annoyance or sleep disturbance.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Paul B. Tchounwou

RCMI Center for Urban Health
Disparities Research and
Innovation, Richard Dixon
Research Center, Morgan State
University, 1700 E. Cold Spring
Lane, Baltimore, MD 21251, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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