

EPIDEMIOLOGY

PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

- 591 **Beta Approach for Risk Summarization: An Empirical Bayes Method for Summarizing Pregnancy History to Predict Later Health Outcomes**

DOI Mary V. Diaz-Santana, Molly Rogers, and Clarice R. Weinberg

- 599 **Use of Health Administrative Data to Identify Migraine in Individuals With a Recognized Pregnancy: A Validation Study in Ontario, Canada**

DOI Carmela Melina Albanese, Susan J. Bondy, Christine Lay, Zhen Li, Jun Guan, and Hilary K. Brown

ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

- 606 **Medium-term Exposure to Wildfire Smoke $PM_{2.5}$ and Cardiorespiratory Hospitalization Risks**

DOI Yaping Wei, Edgar Castro, Kishor Yin, Alexandra Stein, Bryan N. Vu, Mahdiq Danesh Yazdi, Longgang Li, Yuesi Liu, Adam A. Peruba, and Joel D. Schwartz

- 616 **Spatial Variability and Clustering of Life Expectancy in the United States: 1992–2019**

DOI Isabel P. De Ramos, Tara P. McAlexander, and Usama Bilal

- 625 **Potential Impact of Maternal Nighttime Light Exposure and Its Interaction With Sociodemographic Characteristics on the Risk of Various Congenital Heart Diseases**

DOI Shanikeshwar Thiruvanan, Yang Qiu, Philip K. Hopfe, Kai Zhang, Ying Liu, Shao Liu, Huiqiao Gu, Ximeng Wang, Sam S. S. Lau, Xian Liu, Xiangmin Guo, Yong Wu, Xindi Zhou, Ziqiang Liu, Man Zhang, Yongping Sun, Xiaoping Liu, Jimei Chen, and Wenguan Zhang

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- 636 **Early Detection of Dengue Outbreaks: Transmission Model Analysis of a Dengue Outbreak in a Remote Setting in Ecuador**

DOI Hannah Van Wyk, Andrew F. Brauer, Guanyah O. Lee, Sally Mungu, Paulina Andrade, Edward L. Snider, Josefina Coloma, and Joseph N. S. Eisenberg

contents continued inside

Registration of Occupational Diseases in Costa Rica

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ISEE-296

[Back to Top](#)

Objective:

Previous efforts have been developed in Costa Rica to systematize and unify the registration of occupational diseases, but with nonpositive results. To better assess the feasibility to standardize the report of occupational risks, the Program in Work and Health in Central America (SALTRA) is conducting a project in 2 CA countries. We are presenting the advances in Costa Rica.

[Back to Top](#)

Material and Methods:

Diagnosis of current situation was performed through revision of various sources: legal situation, existing databases on health institutions, communication with key

persons involved in the process of disease classification and registration, existing documents as previous evaluations and proposals, and theses. An interinstitutional group was developed by representatives from Ministries of Labor (MT) and Health (MS), Social Security System (CCSS), National Insurance Company (INS), Occupational Health and Safety Committee (CSO), and the Society of Occupational Medicine (ACOMET), led by an academic institution, Universidad Nacional (UNA).

[Back to Top](#)

Results:

We present preliminary results of the project. An integration of databases from 2 institutions (INS MS) is under development. A project for the inclusion of diagnosis of occupational diseases as legally mandatory for declaration has been proposed. A proposal for a pilot study on surveillance system in one geographic region of the country, for a limited number of diseases and a training program of first care physicians, has been proposed.

[Back to Top](#)

Conclusions:

Our experience shows an interesting collaboration effort from different institutions and the important role of the academic sector in the integration of sources and communication between sectors of the population.

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