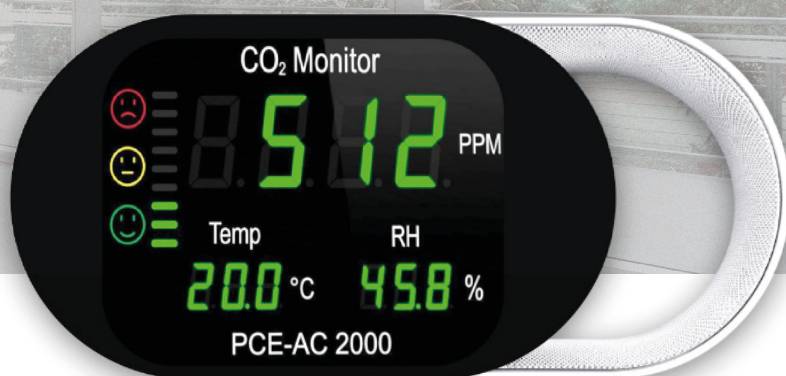


First WHO/Europe Indoor Air Conference



20 SEPTEMBER 2023

BERN, SWITZERLAND

Making a Step Change in Indoor Environments for Human Health



REGISTRATION

Onsite – Full | **Online – still open**

Hotel Schweizerhof Bern & Spa | Bahnhofplatz 11, 3001 Bern

contact@genevahealthforum.com

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of ventilation to mitigate the transmission of respiratory disease.

Beyond COVID-19 there is growing awareness that exposure to pollutants in indoor environments has a substantial impact on health, productivity and performance. Large numbers of buildings do not have good ventilation or good indoor air quality, and there are multiple other considerations including climate change, energy, comfort, noise and security.

We need to learn the lessons of the pandemic and build better after COVID-19 for the health of future generations. The focus of the meeting is to consider what is needed at a strategic level to make effective change to improve indoor environments in buildings. We will explore the practical challenges and opportunities for understanding and mitigating poor ventilation in the most cost effective ways.

Objective

**Make a case for why we need to
monitor and improve indoor air in
buildings.**

Important note: During the event we will maintain and continuously monitor good indoor air quality, thanks to appropriate ventilation and air filtration.



Conference Agenda

Morning

11:00-12:30

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

Catherine Noakes OBE (Moderator)

Professor of Environmental Engineering for Buildings, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
Opening words

David Vernez

Professor, Head of Department, Center for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté), University of Lausanne, Switzerland
The indoor environment as a determinant for health.

Pawel Wargocki

Associate Professor, International Center for Indoor Environment and Energy, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark
What do we need to achieve in buildings? What is realistic vs what is ideal?

Corinne Mandin

Head of the Laboratory of Epidemiology, Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety, France
What do we know about the current state of IAQ in buildings?

Hossein Gorji

Scientist at Empa, Adjunct Research Assistant Professor at University of Southern California (USC)
Infection risk and IAQ in Swiss schools.

Andreas Prenner

Policy Officer at HERA (European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority)
Pandemic management through indoor pathogen transmission suppression – EU innovation funding.

Q&A DISCUSSION WITH
ALL SPEAKERS

Lunch: Meet the Scientists

12.30-13.10

Afternoon

13.10-13.30

WELCOME AND KEYNOTES

Antoine Flahault (Chairman)

Director of the Institute of Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, Switzerland
Welcome and Introduction

Hans Kluge

Director of WHO/Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark
Keynote address

Sir Jeremy Farrar OBE

WHO Chief Scientist
Keynote address

Nora Kronig Romero

Ambassador, Head of International Affairs Division, Vice Director, Member of Senior management
Federal Office of Public Health
Keynote address

Frank Vandebroucke

Minister of Public Health, Belgium
Keynote address

13.30-14.10

FROM SCIENCE TO POLICY

Catherine Noakes OBE

Professor of Environmental Engineering for Buildings, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
Challenge and opportunity for Indoor Air – Learning from the pandemic.

Roger Waeber

Head of Indoor Pollutants Unit, Health Protection Directorate, FOPH, Switzerland
Improving ventilation in Swiss buildings – IAQ as part of sustainability.

Jelle Laverge

Associate Professor, Ghent University, Belgium
Compliance through information sharing in Belgium.

Claude-Alain Roulet

Prof. Emer. EPFL, private consultant EPFL, Switzerland
Priorities for improving indoor air in Switzerland.

14.10-14.45

DISCUSSION PANEL

Kamran Abbasi (Chairman)

Editor in Chief of the British Medical Journal, London, United Kingdom

Martin Bäumle

Member of National Council, Green'Liberal Group – Panelist

Esther Friedli

Member of the Council of States, Democratic Union of the Center – Panelist

Gabriela Suter

Member of National Council, Socialist Group – Panelist

14.45-14.55

CLOSING REMARKS

Hans Kluge

Director of WHO/Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark
Closing remarks