

## **An interactive discussion of the newly-revised draft ISEE ethics guidelines: key principles, case studies, and approaches to ethical challenges**

### **Co-Chairs:**

**Shira Kramer, PhD**

**Wael K Al-Delaimy, MD, PhD**

**Aism and short description:** In 1999, the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) adopted the 1996-published Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists. A subcommittee was formed at the 2009 annual ISEE conference to review and update the Guidelines with the goals of (a) including current ethical and philosophical challenges; (b) re-crafting recommendations for professional conduct; and (c) providing case studies to enhance the relevance of the Guidelines and stimulate discussion about solutions. Many members of the ISEE are not aware of the Ethics Guidelines, despite the critical need for principles to avoid unethical practice in our discipline. The goals of the Symposium are to: a) summarize the most critical aspects and updates of the Guidelines, the first in 15 years, b) demonstrate practical application of the Guidelines in professional research, practice, and teaching, through the presentation of case studies; c) provide a forum for interactive debate and discussion about the key elements of the Guidelines, and solutions for preventing/ameliorating ethical conflicts/tensions; and d) to receive input from a broader audience so that the core Guidelines Writing Group can finalize the document.

### **Presentations**

1. Short history and rationale for revised ethics guidelines.  
**Speaker:** Colin L. Soskolne, University of Alberta, Canada
2. Highlights of key principles within subsections of the guidelines, and perspectives on their relevance in the current research climate, emphasizing the policy relevance of our work.  
**Speaker:** Shira Kramer, PhD, Epidemiology International, Inc., USA
3. International experience in regions where there is no requirement for an IRB (Research Ethics Board), and how unethical research may ensue  
**Speaker:** Adetoun Mustapha, MRC-HPA Centre for Environment and Health, Imperial College London, UK
4. Study designs that may lead to unethical research or the inappropriate interpretation of findings; addressing whistle blowing.  
**Speaker:** Wael K Al-Delaimy, University of California, San Diego, USA
5. Ethical concerns in using public data sources: Issues in access and linkage.  
**Speaker:** Daniel Wartenberg, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, USA; W. Douglas Thompson University of Southern Maine, USA; Gerald Harris, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, USA
6. Interactive discussion of ethics guidelines and proposed approaches, and wrap-up.  
**Moderators:** Shira Kramer, PhD, Epidemiology International, Inc., USA. Wael Al-Delaimy MD, PhD, University of California, San Diego, USA