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United Nations University - International Network on
Water, Environment and Health

UNU-INWEH WATER HEALTH SEMINAR



Presents

Dr Corinne Schuster-Wallace

Date: Oct 22nd 2007 @ 9 A.M.

Location: Council Chambers

Gilmour Hall 111

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

Free and Open to Public

“Drinking Water Systems, Waterborne Disease and Burden of Illness in Canada”

Canadians generally have faith in their delivered potable water system. However, events such as those in Walkerton, Ontario (2000) and Kashechewan, Ontario (2005), demonstrate the vulnerability of both the system and specific community groups. Even with an effective multiple barrier approach to water treatment, failures continue to occur, and with every occurrence there exists a risk of waterborne disease. The burden of illness attributable to waterborne disease in Canada is currently unknown. As a result, future demographic shifts, migration patterns and climate change effects are difficult to quantify.

This presentation will provide an overview of the link between weather events and outbreaks of waterborne disease, cascading effects of failures within the drinking water system, a summary of disease outbreaks associated with drinking water and potential effects of climate change on waterborne diseases.

About the speaker:

Corinne Wallace, a programme officer with UNU-INWEH, obtained her Ph.D. from the Cold Regions Research Centre, Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research interests include links between high impact weather events and waterborne illness; failure in drinking water systems and consequent impacts on public health; and, assessing the burden of illness associated with drinking water.

Find out more at

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