Global Change and Sustainability Center
Fall Seminar Series

Children and Ambient Air Pollution: 21st Century Canaries in a Coal Mine

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Tuesday, November 19, 2013
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
295 FASB (Sutton Bldg.)

Cosponsored with the Program for Air Quality, Health, and Society

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Abstract
This talk will describe the unique sensitivities of children to outdoor air pollution, examine deficiencies within the current regulatory framework that prevent the optimal protection of health, and propose an alternate viewpoint highlighting disproportionate health impacts and the health economics of air pollution to drive policy change.

Bio
Michelle G. Hofmann, M.D., M.P.H. is Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Director of Riverton Hospital’s Children’s Unit. In addition to caring for hospitalized children, Dr. Hofmann’s research interests include quality improvement in the hospital setting and children’s environmental health. She is currently Principal Investigator on a multi-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control focusing on the environmental management of pediatric asthma.

Dr. Hofmann directs a fourth year medical student elective entitled Human Health and the Environment and is an advocate on various children’s environmental health issues. Locally, she has been instrumental in several multi-stakeholder collaborations addressing outdoor air pollution, and is a member of the Utah Department of Health Asthma Task Force, involved in crafting school recess guidelines during particulate matter inversions and recommendations for outdoor physical activity during summertime ozone season.

Dr. Hofmann serves on the Board of Directors for several air quality organizations, including Breathe Utah, Utah Clean Cities, and Governor Herbert’s Clean Air Partnership. She has written public comments advocating for stronger national ambient air quality standards and has spoken to numerous audiences along the Wasatch Front regarding the health impacts of air pollution.