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Preface

This book contains edited versions of the papers presented at the 5th International Conference on the Impact of Environmental Factors on Health (EHR/09) which was held in the New Forest Campus of the Wessex Institute of Technology. The meeting follows four equally successful conferences held in Cardiff (2001), Catania (2003), Bologna (2005) and Malta (2007).

Health risks resulting from environmental effects are a major cause of concern all over the world. The conference regularly attracts a substantial number of researchers and professionals involved in the assessment of the risks resulting from environmental factors, including those related to quality of air, water, soil, food and many others.

The Conference provides a forum for the presentation of studies, experimental techniques, modelling tools and analysis methods that enhance our understanding of the problems involved. The aim is to help establish measures to protect society's health, either by eliminating or reducing the hazardous factors. Achieving this aim is complicated by the continuous development of new products and processes, many of which eventually produce unexpected side effects. Partly because of that, the conference objectives have evolved over the years to encompass new topics and fields of active research.

Environmental Health Risk is a global problem and one that needs to be studied and solved by international cooperation. In this regard, the representation of many different countries and regions of the world at these meetings is most positive and welcoming as it indicates the willingness of the international scientific community and other authorities to find ways of collaborating.

During the Conference a series of papers were presented and discussed. They are grouped in the following sections of this book:

- Air pollution
- Water and soil quality issues
- Risk prevention and monitoring
- Ecology and health
- Food safety
- Toxicology analysis
- Occupational health

The quality of the papers reflects well on the Conference and the work of the International Scientific Advisory Committee and other colleagues who helped to review them. The Editor is indebted to them as well as to all authors.

Carlos A. Brebbia
The New Forest, 2009

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