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THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ON HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RISK III

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Environmental Health Risk III

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PREFACE

The efforts of our modern civilization to create an environment which would match human aspirations have two sides, one is the success story of constant improvements of our lifestyle and the other the increased risks to human health due to deterioration of the environment. It is questionable whether there is any part of nature that has been left unaffected due to human activities. In most cases, the closer we get to high density urban settlements, the higher the health risks due to air pollution, traffic, radiation fields, noise, and many other factors. Yet, almost all of us have to accept this way of life with the commodities that they offer and the health risks that they create.

This situation has motivated many scientists throughout the world to analyze the environmental factors that can affect our health and to calculate the levels of risk. Risks that are found to be unacceptably high require immediate action. However, it is not always straightforward to estimate all possible scenarios such as combined risks due to several factors, like for example various man-made chemicals in the environment and much more research is needed.

This book comprises the edited version of papers presented at the Third International Conference on the Impact of Environmental Factors on Health, which took place in Bologna, Italy. The conference provided a forum for the dissemination and exchange of information for the interrelation between environmental risk and health which is often complex and can involve a variety of social, occupational and lifestyle factors that emphasizes the importance of considering an interdisciplinary approach.

The book contains a series of papers dealing with some of the most recent developments in the field of Environmental Health, which are arranged in the following sessions:

- Risk analysis
- Air pollution
- Food contamination
- Occupational health
- Water quality issues
- Electromagnetic fields
- Housing and health
- Remediation
- Social and economic issues

The organizers are grateful to all the participants for having contributed to the success of the Meeting and, in particular, to the authors whose papers are published in this book. Special appreciation is due to the members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee who have helped the editors with the reviewing of abstracts and papers.

The Editors
Bologna, 2005

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