

## **Report from the course in Health Risk Assessment II: Challenges in Risk Assessment**

**Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, June 7-11, 2010**

Course organiser: Annika Hanberg and Ulla Stenius, Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden.

Course committee: Helen Håkansson, Johanna Zilliacus and Annika Hanberg, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, Kirsi Vähäkangas and Jarkko Loikkanen, University of Kuopio, Finland, Ibrahim Chahoud, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Polly Boon, RIVM, Netherlands

The course was organised by RA-COURSES, a project funded by European Union Marie Curie Actions and the Postgraduate programme in Environmental Factors and Health at Karolinska Institutet.

The course had 119 applicants from 32 countries and 30 were accepted to the course. 20 participants in their first 4 years of research activity and without a PhD degree and 5 with at least 4 years and less than 10 years of research experience or with a PhD degree received funding for travel, subsistence and course fee from RA-COURSES. In addition 5 participants with more than 10 years of research experience or who are professionals in industry or authorities participated in the course. The selection of participants was based on the relevance of the field of research or area of work, previous training and motivation. The participants came from 12 different countries.

The course provided knowledge and understanding on challenging issues in health risk assessment, i.e. health risk assessment of combined exposures and of the sensitivity of early exposure during development. The course included state-of-the-art international procedures and guidance regarding health risk assessment of combined exposures and of the sensitivity of early exposure during development. A special focus was on developmental exposure and effects that occur at or persist until adulthood. International regulatory strategies to assess the health risks related to these effects were presented and the usefulness and limitations of these procedures discussed.

The course consisted lectures, discussions and a group work.

The course literature was handouts from the lectures and material distributed for group work. The course literature, the group work presentations, photos and descriptions of the participants are also available for the students and teachers after the course at the RA-COURSES internal website.

The social programme included a get-together on Monday night and a course dinner on Wednesday evening.

The course received a very good evaluation from the participants and the questions "Overall, are you satisfied with the course?" received 4.5 marks out of 5 possible.