

EVENTS CALENDAR

Hydropolitics Speaker Series

CHRISTINE MOE



The Water and Sanitation Crisis in Healthcare Facilities in Low-Income Countries: Status, Consequences and Challenges

Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 12:30PM - 2:00PM

Bio Medical Research Tower, Room 115

460 W. 12th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43210

[Register here for this event](#)

[Download event poster \(pdf\)](#)

Introduction by Jiyoung Lee (Associate Professor, Environmental Health Sciences) and Jeffrey LeJeune (College of Veterinary Medicine)

Christine Moe is the Eugene J. Gangarosa Professor of Safe Water and Sanitation in the Rollins School of Public Health and director of the Center for Global Safe Water at Emory University. Her research focuses on the environmental transmission of infectious agents, in particular foodborne and waterborne diseases.

Her field research in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, India, Kenya, Mozambique, the Philippines, Rwanda, Uganda and the United States includes studies of diarrheal diseases, dry sanitation systems, fecal contamination in low-income urban environments, water quality in distribution systems, water, sanitation and hygiene in healthcare facilities in low-resource settings, and environmental contamination of vegetable crops.

Moe served on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board and chaired a National Research Council Committee to advise USAID on Grand Challenges in International Development. She has been a consultant for the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She has also served on the Water Science and Technology Board of the National Research Council and the Research

Advisory Council for the American Water Works Research Foundation. She has received the World Bank Development Marketplace Infrastructure award and the NSF Food Safety Leadership award. She has a B.A. in biology from Swarthmore College and M.S. and Ph.D. in environmental sciences from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Abstract

Universal access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities (HCF) is part of the new Sustainable Development Goal 6. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified WASH in HCF as an urgent priority that falls under the WHO constitutional mandate to strengthen health services and improve environmental hygiene. However, results from a recent WHO assessment of conditions in HCF indicate that water access at health facilities is often worse than households; in 51 countries, only 61 percent of the HCF have access to an improved water source within 500 meters.

In order to advocate for improved WASH in HCF in low-income countries, researchers and global health leaders need to develop an evidence base that documents the conditions, health outcomes, and costs associated with poor WASH in HCF in these countries.

Understanding the health consequences of poor WASH in HCF is especially important in West Africa, where Ebola prevention and control depend strict hygiene and appropriate WASH infrastructure and practices.



Christine Moe
Eugene J. Gangarosa
Professor of Safe Water and
Sanitation
Emory University

Currently, many HCF in low-income countries suffer from water shortages, poor water quality, deteriorating water infrastructure, rudimentary sanitation, and poor hygiene that may cause increased health risks. Instead of being models of good WASH practices, these HCF demonstrate a neglected crisis in providing the level of WASH services that are necessary to support the delivery of healthcare.

Health practitioners in these settings may have limited knowledge about the relationship between WASH and health outcomes and may not make WASH a priority. Furthermore, the potential cooperative overlap between appropriate WASH infrastructure and established infection control practices is not clearly delineated. WASH professionals in low-income countries typically have little experience dealing with the special WASH needs of HCF, and the responsibility for WASH in HCF may fall between government agencies for health and water and not receive adequate attention.

This presentation will include an overview of the status of WASH conditions in HCF globally, results from our recent assessments of WASH in HCFs in Honduras, Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda and Cambodia; evidence on the consequences of poor WASH in HCFs, and a discussion about the unique challenges to providing and maintaining WASH infrastructure in HCF settings.

This event is co-sponsored by the Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Disease (PHPID) program at the Global Water Institute at The Ohio State University.