"Health Impacts of Urban Transport Planning and Policy"

By Dr. Haneen Khreis

Transport planning and policy play a significant role in promoting or degrading human health, especially in urban areas. The health impacts of transport have become clearer in recent years and show that transport-related practices and environmental exposures contribute to a substantial but preventable burden of disease. These impacts occur through pathways of motor vehicle crashes, air pollution, noise, heat, greenhouse gases and decreasing green space, physical activity, and access to health promoting opportunities or services. Some of the more difficult to quantify but emerging pathways include community severance, social exclusion, stress and electromagnetic fields. Despite this emergent knowledge, transport planning and policy tend to undermine these impacts. In this presentation, I will overview the most up-to-date evidence linking transport planning and policy to public health and some of the underutilized tools that can be used to assess and quantify these impacts. I will highlight research gaps and discuss with participants how a public health approach may bring about positive changes in transport planning and policy.

Lunch will be served.

Dr. Haneen Khreis is a cross-disciplinary professional in the health impacts of transport planning and policy. She has training in transport planning and engineering, vehicle emissions monitoring and modelling, air quality monitoring and modelling, exposure assessment, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, health impact and burden of disease assessment, policy options generation, cross-disciplinary collaboration, curriculum development, and the science-policy link in transport and health. She also has experience and worked in the fields of epidemiology, childhood asthma, climate action and co-benefits and knowledge translation. Khreis completed her doctoral studies working between the Leeds Institute for Transport Studies (ITS) and the Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine (LiCAMM), in close collaboration with the Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) at the Barcelona’s Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal). She has published extensively on the above topics, edited a book on “Integrating Human Health into Urban and Transport Planning,” and is now leading one on “Traffic-Related Air Pollution, Human Exposures and Health” and co-editing another on “Transport and Health.” Khreis is an Assistant Research Scientist at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) and the Center for Advancing Research in Transportation Emissions, Energy, and Health (CARTEEH), and remains an Associated Researcher at ISGlobal. At CARTEEH, she leads the development of a cross-disciplinary curriculum on Transportation Emissions, Air Pollution, Exposures, and Health and leads a European and a USA-wide burden of disease assessment on traffic-related air pollution and childhood asthma.

Lunch will be served.