

STEPHANIE E. CLELAND, PhD, MSPH

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RESEARCH FOCUS

Topic: Human health impacts of exposure to climate change-influenced environmental hazards

Tools: Environmental epidemiology, spatiotemporal exposure assessment, health impact assessment

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Simon Fraser University – Burnaby, British Columbia

Faculty of Health Sciences

Assistant Professor, Legacy for Airway Health Chair in Promotion of Lung Health 2023 – present

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute – Vancouver, British Columbia

Legacy for Airway Health

Research Scientist 2023 – present

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control – Vancouver, British Columbia

Environmental Health Services

Affiliate Investigator 2024 – present

University of British Columbia – Vancouver, British Columbia

Faculty of Medicine, Division of Respiratory Medicine

Affiliate Assistant Professor 2024 – present

United States Environmental Protection Agency - Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment

Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Research Fellow 2020 – 2023

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill - Chapel Hill, North Carolina

The Climate Health and Air Quality Lab

Graduate Research Assistant 2018 – 2020

Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering

Graduate Teaching Assistant 2018 – 2019

CleanAIRE NC – Durham, North Carolina

Advocacy & Education Intern

2020

athenahealth - Watertown, Massachusetts

athenaClinicals Performance & Analytics

Product Analytics Associate 2017 – 2018

athenaClinicals Task Awareness

Product Management Associate 2016 – 2017

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill – Chapel Hill, North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health	
Doctor of Philosophy, Environmental Sciences & Engineering <i>Advisors:</i> Dr. Ana Rappold and Dr. Jason West	May 2023
Master of Science in Public Health, Environmental Sciences & Engineering <i>Advisors:</i> Dr. Marc Serre and Dr. Jason West	May 2020
Graduate Certificate in Global Health	May 2020
Tufts University – Medford, Massachusetts	
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science and Community Health, <i>cum laude</i>	May 2016

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Cleland, S.E., Steinhardt, W., Neas, L., West, J.J., Rappold, A.G.** (2023). Urban heat island impacts on heat-related cardiovascular morbidity: A time series analysis of older adults in US metropolitan areas. *Environment International*. doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2023.108005.
Interactive dashboard: shiny.epa.gov/Heat_CVD_UHI_Dashboard/
- Wyatt, L.H., **Cleland, S.E.**, Wei, L., Paul, N., Patil, A., Ward-Caviness, C., Henderson, S.B., Rappold, A.G. (2023). Long-term exposure to ambient O₃ and PM_{2.5} is associated with reduced cognitive performance in young adults: A retrospective longitudinal repeated measures study in adults aged 18–90 years. *Environmental Pollution*, 320. doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2023.121085.
- Cleland, S.E., Wyatt, L.H., Wei, L., Paul, N., Serre, M.L., West, J.J., Henderson, S.B., Rappold, A.G.** (2022). Short-term exposure to wildfire smoke and PM_{2.5} and cognitive performance in a brain-training game: A longitudinal study of US adults. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 130(6). doi.org/10.1289/EHP10498.
Interactive dashboard: ehs-bccdc.shinyapps.io/PMSmoke_Attention_Dashboard/
☆ Selected for *EHP's* Editor's Choice Collection 2022 [[link](#)]
- Cleland, S.E., Serre, M.L., Rappold, A.G., West, J.J.** (2021). Estimating the acute health impacts of fire-originated PM_{2.5} exposure during the 2017 California wildfires: Sensitivity to choices of inputs. *GeoHealth*, 5(7). doi.org/10.1029/2021GH000414
- Delang, M.N., Becker, J.S., Chang, K.L., Serre, M.L., Cooper, O.R., Schultz, M.G., Schröder, S., Lu, X., Zhang, L., Deushi, M., Josse, B., Keller, C.A., Lamarque, J., Lin, M., Liu, J., Marécal, V., Strode, S.A., Sudo, K., Tilmes, S., Zhang, L., **Cleland, S.E.**, Collins, E.L., Brauer, M., West, J.J. (2021). Mapping yearly fine resolution global surface ozone through the Bayesian Maximum Entropy data fusion of observations and model output for 1990-2017. *Environmental Science and Technology*, 55. doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.0c07742
- Cleland, S.E., West, J.J., Jia, Y., Reid, S., Raffuse, S., O'Neill, S., Rappold, A.G., Serre, M.L.** (2020). Estimating wildfire smoke concentrations during the October 2017 California fires through BME space/time data fusion of observed, modeled, and satellite-derived PM_{2.5}. *Environmental Science and Technology*, 54 (21). doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.0c03761
- Brugge, D., Simon, M.C., Hudda, N., Zellmer, M., Corlin, L., **Cleland, S.E.**, Liu, E.Y., Rivera, S., Byrne, M., Chung, M., Durant, J.L. (2017). Lessons from in-home air filtration intervention trials to reduce urban ultrafine particle number concentrations. *Building and Environment*, 126. doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2017.10.007

RESEARCH FUNDING

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Project Grant** October 2024 – September 2027
 Early Life Exposures to Wildfire Smoke and Respiratory Health Outcomes During Childhood
Role: Principal Investigator *Amount:* \$294,526
Co-Principal Investigator: S.B. Henderson
Co-Investigators: E.P. Brigham, E. Lavigne, A-M. Nicol, T. To
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Team Grant in Lung Health** April 2024 – March 2029
 Lungs on Fire: Wildfire Smoke, Incident Diseases, Susceptible Populations, and Community Values in Canada
Role: Co-Principal Investigator *Amount:* \$1,999,990
Principal Investigator: C. Carlsten
Co-Principal Investigators: N. Bansback, M. Brauer, E.P. Brigham, P. Camp, S.B. Henderson, N. Mookherjee

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Cleland, S.E., Paul, N., Coker, E., Henderson, S.B.** (2024 August). The co-occurrence of wildfire smoke and extreme heat events in British Columbia, 2010-2022: Spatiotemporal patterns in population-level exposure [Oral presentation]. 36th Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, Santiago, Chile.
- Cleland, S.E.** (2024 January). The cognitive and mental health impacts of wildfire smoke exposure [Invited oral presentation]. Annual Cascadia Symposium on Environmental, Occupational, and Population Health, Blaine, Washington, United States of America.
- Cleland, S.E., Paul, N., Coker, E., Henderson, S.B.** (2024 January). Population-level exposure to co-occurring wildfire smoke and extreme heat events in British Columbia, 2010 – 2022 [Oral presentation]. Annual Cascadia Symposium on Environmental, Occupational, and Population Health, Blaine, Washington, United States of America.
- Cleland, S.E., Rosman, L., Hill, K.L., Mazzella, A.J., Ward-Caviness, C., Rappold, A.G.** (2023 September). The impact of temperature and relative humidity on ventricular arrhythmias in patients with implanted cardiac devices in North Carolina, 2010-2021 [Oral presentation]. 35th Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- Cleland, S.E., Wyatt, L.H., Wei, L., Paul, N., Serre, M.L., West, J.J., Henderson, S.B., Rappold, A.G.** (2022 November). Daily and hourly exposure to wildfire smoke and PM_{2.5} and cognitive performance in a brain-training game: A longitudinal study of US adults [Oral presentation]. 2022 Wildland Fire Canada Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- Cleland, S.E., Steinhardt, W., Neas, L., Rappold, A.G.** (2022 September). Urban heat islands and heat-related cardiovascular morbidity in older adults: A time series study of US metropolitan areas [Poster presentation]. 34th Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, Athens, Greece.
- Cleland, S.E., Wyatt, L.H., Wei, L., Paul, N., Patil, A., Henderson, S.B., Rappold, A.G.** (2021 December). The cognitive performance effects of short-term PM_{2.5} and wildfire smoke exposure [Oral presentation]. American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2021, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States of America.
- Cleland, S.E., West, J.J., Jia, Y., Reid, S., Raffuse, S., O'Neill, S., Serre, M.L.** (2021 September). Fusing observed, modeled, and satellite-derived concentrations to produce fine-resolution estimates of PM_{2.5}

during the 2017 California wildfires [Invited oral presentation]. [2021 Meteorology and Climate - Modeling for Air Quality Conference](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E., Wyatt, L.H., Wei, L., Paul, N., Patil, A., Henderson, S.B., Rappold, A.G. (2021 August). Short-term PM_{2.5} exposure impacts cognitive performance: A longitudinal repeated measures study of the Western US 2017-2018 [Lightning talk presentation]. [33rd Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E., West, J.J., Jia, Y., Reid, S., Raffuse, S., O'Neill, S., Rappold, A.G., Serre, M.L. (2020 September). A data fusion approach for evaluating smoke exposure: Estimating PM_{2.5} during the 2017 California wildfires [Oral presentation]. [International Society of Exposure Science 30th Annual Meeting](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E., West, J.J., Jia, Y., Reid, S., Raffuse, S., O'Neill, S., Serre, M.L. (2020 August). A space/time data fusion method for estimating smoke concentrations during the October 2017 California fires to inform population-level exposure [Oral presentation]. [32nd Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E., West, J.J., Serre, M.L. (2020 April). Evaluating the acute health impact of PM_{2.5} exposure during the October 2017 California wildfires [Oral presentation]. [3rd International Smoke Symposium](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E., Serre, M.L., Becker, J., DeLang, M., West, J.J. (2019 October). Fusing CMAQ with observations to estimate the air quality and health impacts of the October 2017 California wildfires [Poster presentation]. [18th Annual Community Modeling and Analysis System Conference](#), Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States of America.

Cleland, S.E., Serre, M.L., Becker, J., DeLang, M., West, J.J. (2019 October). Estimating the hospital admissions attributable to the 2017 California wildfires [Poster presentation]. [2019 Triangle Global Health Annual Conference](#), Durham, North Carolina, United States of America.

INVITED TALKS

Cleland, S.E. (2024 September). Wildfire Smoke and Lung Health: Knowns, Unknowns and Future Directions. [BC Lung Foundation Webinar](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E., Wilkinson, S., Murphy, B., Nelson, A. (2024 September). Megafires in BC: Impacts, Strategies, and Future Outlook. [Vancouver Climate Day](#), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Cleland, S.E. (2024 June). The health impacts of wildfire smoke and exposure mitigation strategies. [BC Municipal Safety Association Regular General Meeting](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E., Whitehead, J., Nelson, A., Freeman, R. (2024 May). The wildfire crisis. [SFU Vancouver Lunch 'n' Learn](#), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Cleland, S.E., Yao, A., Barn, P., Coker, E., Brigham, E., Pawlovich, J., Newton, C. (2024 May). Protecting patients through wildfire Season: What you need to know. [University of British Columbia Continuing Professional Development Webinar](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E. (2024 April). The impacts of wildfire smoke exposure on cognitive health. [Oregon Smoke Ready Communities Group Meeting](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E., Lan, J., Brauer, M., Henderson, S.B. (2023 October). Diverse health impacts of wildfire smoke [Webinar]. [Cascadia Wildfire Webinar](#), Virtual.

Cleland, S.E. (2022 July). Daily and hourly exposure to PM_{2.5} and wildfire smoke and cognitive performance in a brain-training game: A longitudinal study of US adults. National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health: Environmental Health Seminar Series, Virtual.

Cleland, S.E. & Wyatt, L.H. (2021 September). The impacts of short and long-term exposure to air pollution on cognitive performance. University of British Columbia: Occupational and Environmental Hygiene Friday Seminars, Virtual.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor:

Environmental Health Exposure Assessment and Analysis Spring 2024
HSCI 471/846, Simon Fraser University

Teaching Assistant:

Space/Time Exposure Mapping and Risk Assessment Spring 2019
ENVR 765, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Temporal GIS and Space/Time Geostatistics for the Environment and Public Health Fall 2018
ENVR 468, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

The Conversation: “As wildfires become more frequent and intense, how will persistent smoke exposure affect long-term health?” Stephanie Cleland and Ryan Allen, July 26, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

The Conversation: “These tips can help keep you safe during a potentially severe 2024 wildfire season.” Stephanie Cleland, May 23, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

The Conversation: “Wildfire smoke is an increasing threat to Canadians’ health.” Ryan Allen and Stephanie Cleland, August 27, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

MEDIA OUTLET INTERVIEWS

The New York Times: “How Wildfire Smoke Threatens Health.” Jane C. Hu. August 28, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

The Weather Channel: “Wildfire Smoke: New Research Links to Brain and Mental Health.” August 23, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

CBC Radio: “A B.C. program is helping vulnerable residents breathe easier with homemade air cleaners.” August 16, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

NBC News: “Wildfire smoke is probably harming your brain.” Aria Bendix. July 30, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

Healthline: “Long-Term Exposure to Wildfire Smoke May Raise Your Risk of Dementia.” Shawn Radcliffe. July 30, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

Science News: “Wildfire smoke may cause tens of thousands of premature deaths.” Aimee Cunningham. June 7, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

SFU Engage Magazine: “Addressing the urgent human health impacts of B.C. wildfires.” Summer 2024. [\[link\]](#)

CFNR Network: “Expert advises precautions as wildfire season begins in BC.” Sabrina Spencer. May 17, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

CKPG Today: “Prince George Emergency Operation Centre in need of a permanent facility says city official.” Chris Koo. April 29, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences: “New assistant professor brings creative, collaborative quantitative approaches to planetary health research.” Sharon Mah. November 6, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

Daybreak North with Carolina de Ryk. Radio interview about how wildfire smoke affects human health. September 8, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

Freerail: “Running Through Smoke.” Keegan Sentner, September 7, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

National Geographic: “How wildfire smoke can permanently damage your brain and body.” Tara Haelle, August 14, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health: “New research finds risk from hot weather depends partly on where you live.” July 31, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

EPA Science Matters: “Fighting the Haze: Effects of Wildfire Smoke and Particulate Matter on Brain Function.” May 4, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

Press Democrat: “Concerns about long-term health effects grow since 2017 North Bay wildfires.” Martin Espinoza, October 17, 2022. [\[link\]](#)

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health: “Could an app help scientists understand wildfire smoke’s impact on cognition?” August 16, 2022. [\[link\]](#)

EHP Science Selection: “Well Played: Using Game App Data to Assess Wildfire Smoke and Cognitive Performance.” Charles Schmidt, July 13, 2022. [\[link\]](#)

AWARDS & HONORS

Gillings School Academic Excellence Award [UNC-Chapel Hill]	2023
Gary G. Koch and Carolyn J. Koch Student Travel Award [UNC-Chapel Hill]	2021
UNC-Chapel Hill’s Three Minute Thesis Competition Finalist	2021
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Training Grant	2020
Department of Environmental Sciences & Engineering’s Environmental Sciences Achievement Award [UNC-Chapel Hill]	2020
Best Student Poster at the 18 th Annual Community Modeling and Analysis System Conference	2019
Triangle Global Health Annual Conference Student Scholarship	2019
Weiss Urban Livability Fellowship [UNC-Chapel Hill]	2018
B.B. Parker Fellowship [UNC-Chapel Hill]	2018
Alan and Linda Rimer Endowed Scholarship in Environmental Science [UNC-Chapel Hill]	2018
Gillings Merit Scholarship [UNC-Chapel Hill]	2018

PROFESSIONAL & VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Professional:

<i>Member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee</i> Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences	2024 - present
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Member of Network Advisory Committee 2024 - present
 BC Respiratory Health Network (RespNetBC)

Graduate Student Representative at Faculty Meetings 2019 - 2020
 UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of Environmental Sciences & Engineering

Ad Hoc Reviews:

Journals: GeoHealth, Nature Climate Change, Scientific Reports, Environmental Research 2023 - present

Grants: SSHRC Insight Grants 2024

Institutional: Applications for MPH Program (Simon Fraser University) 2024

Volunteer:

Skype a Scientist, Science communication outreach to K-12 classrooms 2023 - present

CleanAIRE NC, Member of planning committee for NC BREATHE Conference 2020 – 2023

Science Club for Girls, Mentor for after-school science club for elementary school girls 2017 – 2018

RELATED SKILLS & MEMBERSHIPS

Programming Languages: R, MATLAB, Python, SQL, C++, Java, HTML, CSS, JavaScript

Software: RStudio, MATLAB, ArcGIS, STATA, Jupyter, Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office Suite

Memberships: International Society of Environmental Epidemiology, International Society of Exposure Science