



Prof. Josep M. Antó is a respiratory physician and epidemiologist whose research has focused on the epidemiology of asthma and COPD with special interest on the environmental determinants and prevention of these diseases. He is Professor at Barcelona Institute of Global Health (ISGlobal) and at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Among other leading positions, has been the Founding Director of Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) (2005-2016) and Founding Scientific Director of ISGlobal (2016-2019). During the last years he has been increasingly devoted to adapt environmental health strategies to the fight against climate change and to promote the concept of

planetary health locally and internationally.

«Redefining epidemiology and public health in the era of the Anthropocene. An approach from planetary health»

In a New York a high-level climate summit in 2014, Ban Ki-Moon then head of the United Nations warned that humanity had never faced a greater challenge than climate change. And yet the best assessments of global health burden do not include the impact of the climate warming in the big picture of health. In 2015, a Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission launched a novel approach called Planetary Health and proposed a concept, a strategy and a course of action. Shortly, the report argued that, to safeguard human health in the Anthropocene epoch, human health and the health of Planet should go together. The planetary health strategy included the need to act urgently, a need that was strongly reinforced by the 2018 IPCC 1.5° report. Though the progression of the planetary health since its inception has been remarkable, it has been mostly confined in the academic domain. To fully deploy all the potentiality of the planetary health approach in the context of urgency, a large transformative strategy is needed. A transformative agenda of planetary health should include: i) the adoption of a Planetary Health Approach at the highest governing level by health authorities and health related institutions, ii) transforming current health and health care policies and practices to make them beneficial for the health of the planet, ii) a large effort in adaptation and mitigation strategies to face current, predicted and unknown-potential health impacts and iv) to embed the planetary health approach at the core of our knowledge systems and education programs, from universities to society. A program like this has profound implications for epidemiology and epidemiologist including the challenges related to the complexity, the interdisciplinarity and the urgent need to support transformative changes. The EU Green Deal and the launch of the Missions of the Horizon Europe programme offer a unique opportunity for the development of the planetary health. The current COVID-19 pandemic, which can be seen as a disease of the Anthropocene, provides a unique opportunity to examine and eventually redefine the role of epidemiology.

Join the lecture on Thursday, 10 December 2020 at 1:00 pm online on zoom!

Join the lecture on zoom:

<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/95899598945?pwd=VXpncVZTRlhweC9STUt3TEZxZlFudz09>

(Meeting ID: 958 9959 8945, Passcode: 576228)