

Why a changing climate matters to microbiology?

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Extrême weather and climate events affect human health by causing death, injury, and illness, as well as having large socio-economic impacts. Climate change has caused changes in extreme event frequency, intensity and geographic distribution, and will continue to be a driver for change in the future. Some of these events include heat waves, droughts, wildfires, dust storms, flooding rains, coastal flooding, storm surge, and hurricanes. The pathways connecting extreme events to health outcomes and economic losses can be diverse and complex. The difficulty in predicting these relationships comes from the local societal and environmental factors that affect disease burden. More information is needed about the impacts of climate change on public health and economies to effectively plan and adapt to climate change. This presentation will discuss changes in extreme events and provide examples of the potential impacts on human health and microbial pathogens.

Biography

Jesse E Bell is a Scientist and Research Scholar for the NOAA-funded Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites in North Carolina. His research explores the relationships of climate change and climate variability on natural and human processes. He is currently working on many projects associated with the US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) and other NOAA data sources to understand climate variability. He is also active in understanding the link between climate and human health. This area of his research primarily involves combining climate data observations with morbidity and mortality data. He has served as a Climate Science Advisor for the Climate and Health Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He was a lead author of the US Global Change Research Program report, the impacts of climate change on human health in the United State: a Scientific Assessment that was released by the White House in 2016.

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