

Written Biography; Conrad (Dan) Volz, DrPH, MPH

Dr. Volz is an Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH) at the Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH), Director for the GSPH Environmental Health Risk Assessment Certificate Program and Director for the Center for Healthy Environments and Communities at the Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH), University of Pittsburgh. He also has a secondary appointment as an Assistant Professor in the School of Law and is a technical consultant to the University of Pittsburgh Environmental Law Clinic. Dr Volz's research interests are primarily focused on how industrial and municipal contaminants, including toxic heavy metals and elements (Hg, As, Se etc), and endocrine disrupting chemicals-particularly those that are estrogenic, move through the air, water, soil and groundwater to reach people and how to block this movement. He is a specialist in the fields of human and ecological receptor exposure assessment and fate and transport of contaminants through environmental media and teaches these classes at the GSPH.

Dr. Volz was the Principal Investigator for the 2005 Three Rivers Fish Consumption Project, which has found significantly elevated MCF-7 human breast cancer cell proliferation from application of extracts of southwestern Pennsylvania area channel catfish. The MCF-7 cell proliferation assay is exquisitely sensitive to estrogenic chemicals including pharmaceutical estrogens and xenoestrogens. In this study MCF-7 proliferation indexes of channel catfish extract were highest in river reaches having the highest density per mile of combined and sanitary sewer overflows. This project has also discovered significantly elevated levels of heavy metals and elements, including selenium and mercury, in fish in the Allegheny River and even Store-Bought Fish. He was Director of the 2004 Amchitka Expedition to determine radionuclide concentrations in marine biota from underground nuclear test shots fired in the Aleutian Islands. Dr. Volz is the PI for the Allegheny River Stewardship Project of 2008, a Heinz Endowment, and Alle-Kiski Health Foundation funded, community based participatory environmental research and outreach program that is testing several hypotheses concerning identification of sources of pollution by sampling of fish, sediment and water in different locations of the Allegheny River.

Dr. Volz has over 30 years experience in occupational-environmental health, he received his initial training in Public and Occupational Health in the Department of Occupational Health at the University of Pittsburgh's, Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) on a fellowship from the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Dr. Volz holds an MPH and Doctor of Public Health degree from GSPH. After holding progressively responsible posts in private industry (National Steel Corporation), government (California OSHA Consultation Service) and non-governmental agencies (Western Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences, Berkeley California), Dr. Volz started an environmental health consulting company in 1984. He has worked in 24 different countries on 5 continents performing radionuclide transport studies, occupational/environmental contaminant/toxin exposure pathway analysis, exposure assessments, environmental risk assessments and engineer and policymaker

training. He joined the faculty of EOH-GSPH in May of 2004. Dr. Volz was elected to the Omicron Chapter, Delta Omega Honor Society, National Public Health Honor Society in 2006. He recently received the endowed, Dr James Craig Award for Teaching Excellence at GSPH for year 2008-2009.

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