

Marla Orenstein

Senior Partner
Habitat Health Impact Consulting Corp.
Calgary, Canada
Tel: (403) 451-0097
Email: marla@habitatcorp.com
Website: www.habitatcorp.com



Marla Orenstein is an Epidemiologist, a founding partner of Habitat Health Impact Consulting, and an international leader in the field of Health Impact Assessment. She works with decision-makers in business, government and academia to assess the health of communities, the factors that influence it, and how social, economic or physical change might impact community health. Her recent work has focused on the health implications of natural resource development. Marla has led over a dozen HIAs, mainly for resource development projects including oil & gas developments, sustainable energy projects, mining projects, and linear features.

In addition, Marla has helped develop HIA practice standards, and has provided mentoring and assistance to external agencies to help them complete their own HIAs. She has worked with government to help develop HIA processes for public policy and has offered HIA training in Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, the US and Canada. In 2010, Marla co-authored a guidance tool that helps project proponents and impact assessors to anticipate the health effects commonly associated with resource development projects, and she is currently co-authoring a textbook on HIA that will be published by Springer in early 2014.

Marla has a M.Sc. in Epidemiology from the University of Edinburgh, and as an epidemiologist with the Alberta Cancer Board and the University of California was involved in designing, conducting, analyzing and publishing results of population-level research studies including studies on physical activity and cancer risk, chronic disease in rural populations, and environmental determinants of disease.

As her Selected Key Projects indicate (below), Marla has ample experience working with communities, government and industry and understands the demands placed on both parties when proposing resource extraction projects.

Marla is a member of the International Association of Impact Assessment, and is a founding member of the Society for Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment.

Professional Affiliations & Registrations

- International Association of Impact Assessment, Member
- Society for Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA), founding member
- Institute for Population Health, member

Fields of Competence

- Epidemiology
- Health Impact Assessment
- Integrated assessment
- Health / research study design

Education

- M.Sc. Epidemiology, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 1997
- B.A. English Literature, McGill University, Canada 1990

Key Industry Sectors

- Natural resource sector
- Transportation

Committee Activities

- Member, Scientific Committee, Health Impact Assessment international conferences, 2009 and 2012.
- Organizer, Health Impact Assessment in the Americas Workshop (2008, 2010, 2011)
- Member, North American HIA Practice Standards Group
- Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA), Member

Selected Key Projects

Health Impact Assessment and Health Action Plan for Ras Laffan Industrial City Qatar. Client: Qatar Petroleum. 2013-2014.

Health Impact Assessment of the South Athabasca Oil Sands Regional Study Area. Client: Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development. 2012-2013.

Health Impact Assessment of Mining Activities in Keno City, Yukon Client: Yukon Department of Health & Social Services. 2012

Yukon Health Status Report 2012. Client: Government of Yukon, Department of Health & Social Services. February-March 2013.

Health Impact Assessment for Shell Canada's shale gas project in British Columbia. Client: Shell Canada. August 2010-2012.

Public Health sections of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared for the effects of seismic and exploratory drilling activities in the Arctic Ocean. Client: North Slope Borough Alaska. Sept 2010 - ongoing

Public Health sections for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Leasing Plan. Client: North Slope Borough Alaska. Sept 2010 - ongoing

Community Health Assessment of the Trans-Mountain pipeline expansion project, British Columbia Client: Kinder Morgan. 2012-ongoing

Technical advisor for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site HIA. Client: PEW Charitable Trusts and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. 2012 - ongoing

Health Impacts of Resource Development: A Guide for Health Impact Assessment. Client: HIA Gateway / Association of Population Health Observatories (UK). April-August 2009

Evaluation of Environmental Contaminant Exposure in Children in Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan Client: Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company. 2009-2010

Public Health Strategy Baseline Indicators Report and Evaluation Framework, Government of Nunavut Client: Nunavut Department of Health & Social Services. 2011-2012

Health and Social Indicators Baseline Report, Bigstone Cree Nation and the MD of Opportunity Client: Royal Dutch Shell. 2007-2009

Health Impact Assessment for Public Policy (HIAPP) Project Client: Government of Alberta / Alberta Health and Wellness. 2009-2010

Synthesis Paper and Policy Options Related to Food Insecurity in Nunavut Client: Nunavut Health and Social Services Department. 2010-2011

NWT Diabetes Strategy 2008-2017: Recommendations to the Government of the NWT Client: Northwest Territories Department of Health & Social Services. 2007-2008

Development of a Rapid Mental Health Impact Assessment Toolkit. Client: Public Health Agency of Canada. Sept – Dec 2011.

Health Impact Assessment for Public Policy Project (HIAPP). Client: Government of Alberta – Alberta Health and Wellness. September 2009 – March 2010

Scan of Health Equity Impact Assessment Tools. Client: Public Health Agency of Canada. January-March, 2009

Selected Publications

Book: *Health Impact Assessment in the United States.* Ross, C., Orenstein, M., Botchwey, N. In press.

Orenstein, M., Angel A., and Lee, M. (2013). *Determinants of Health and Industrial Development in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.* Fort McMurray, AB: Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) and Habitat Health Impact Consulting Corp.

Froese K and Orenstein M. Integrating Health in Environmental Risk Assessments (chapter). In: *Environmental Risk Assessment and Management from a Landscape Perspective*; L. Kapustka & WG Landis, ed. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons (2010)

Orenstein M, Fossgard-Moser T, Hindmarch T, Dowse S, Kuschminder J, McCloskey P, Mugo RK. (2010) *Case study of an integrated assessment: Shell's North Field Test in Alberta, Canada.* Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal. 28:2; 147-157.

Barron T, Orenstein M, and Tamburrini A-L. *Health Effects Assessment Tool (HEAT): An Innovative Guide for HIA in Resource Development Projects.* HIA Gateway / Association of Public Health Observatories. August, 2009.

Friedenreich CM, Orenstein MR. *Physical activity and cancer prevention: etiologic evidence and biological mechanisms.* Journal of Nutrition, 2002 Nov;132(11 Suppl):3456S-3464S.