

## Special Issue

# River Connectivity— Environment and Ecosystem Functions

### Message from the Guest Editors

River networks are affected by a multitude of pressures, but few compare to river fragmentation caused by artificial instream structures. The presence of artificial barriers can hinder or block fish and other aquatic species from reaching essential breeding and rearing habitats, leading to contracted ranges, reduced abundance, species extirpation, altered genetic flow, and disruption of metapopulation and metacommunity dynamics. Further, the alteration of flow regimes and sediment transportation affects ecosystem functioning, often drastically magnifying the impact of local stressors, while conversion of lotic into lentic environments often favors the success and proliferation of non-native species. Even small barriers, although sometimes disregarded, usually vastly outnumber large dams, thus making their cumulative impact much greater. The increasing recognition of barrier impacts on river ecosystems and the fact that most existing barriers cannot be removed, due to the ecosystems services they provide, highlights the need to apply a systematic approach to enhancing river connectivity.

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### Guest Editors

Dr. Paulo Branco

Prof. Dr. Jesse O'Hanley

Prof. Dr. Paul Kemp

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 August 2021)



## International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

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### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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