

# JORDI SUNYER

**CV**

PARTICIPANT AT:

## URBAN AIR QUALITY: THE CHALLENGE OF NON-EXHAUST ROAD TRANSPORT EMISSIONS

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**Jordi Sunyer**, Co-Director of the [Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology \(CREAL\)](#) and Professor of [Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Universitat Pompeu Fabra \(UPF\)](#), Barcelona, Spain

Jordi Sunyer, Ph.D., is the coordinator of the research program in respiratory health, air pollution and childhood development of the Sea Hospital Institute for Medical Research (IMIM). In 1984 he coordinated a study of an epidemic of asthma that had occurred in Barcelona. Urban air pollution was not found to be involved in the origin of the asthma epidemic but they did find a short-term effect of urban pollution, at levels previously considered to be safe, in patients with a respiratory exacerbation. These investigations had a great public health impact with accompanying editorials advocating for increased research and revision of the safety standards for air pollution. Subsequently, he had taken part in a series of European consortium studies of air pollution. He established a new line of research on the effects of environmental hazards on neurodevelopment and in particular an interest in research on the effects of early-life exposures to persistent pollutants on these outcomes. His first study in 2003 of high levels of hexachlorobenzene (HCB) in the air surrounding an electrochemical plant provided his first opportunity to study the neurodevelopment effects in newborns. This had become a highly productive line of research, and since 2003 he published 32 articles on the effects of environmental exposures on neurodevelopment outcomes including breastfeeding and DDT, smoking, HCB, NO<sub>2</sub>, and PBDE. Those studies have led to the inclusion of both HCB and DDT assessments by the International Program Chemical Safety to establish WHO guideline values for these chemicals and his participation in their advisory board. In addition we have started the study the role of gene-environment interactions on neurodevelopment. He has developed an interest and new initiatives to investigate the prenatal and postnatal origins of neurodevelopment and functional disorders in children resulting from early life exposures to environmental exposures. Jordi Sunyer participated on the building of a network of birth cohorts in Spain, named INMA which has become a highly productive structured platform for etiological research on children's development and has already generated more than 150 scientific publications.

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