Dear Raffaella Bosurgi,

I am writing to inquire whether Lancet Planetary Health would be a suitable place to submit a comment article on the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN). The article would introduce the GHHIN network, a major new initiative led by Joy Schumake-Guillemot and the WHO/WMO Joint Office for Climate and Health and the NOAA Climate Program Office.

Please find the summary abstract of GHHIN below.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Robbie

**GHHIN Abstract**

(adapted from https://ams.confex.com/ams/97Annual/webprogram/Paper315301.html):

Human exposure to extreme heat is one of the principle and most manageable impacts of climate on human health.  Every year worldwide, tens of thousands of people die as a result of avoidable heat-induced health consequences such as heat stroke, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, dehydration, and pharmaceutical side effects.[REF] Countless others who are exposed to prolonged excessive temperatures experience physiological stress and ill health, which in some cases is permanent.[REF]  The impacts in developing countries in recent years, such as South Asia, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East have been particularly dramatic, especially in vulnerable and unprepared communities.[REF] A recent study has also shown that even under the most strongly mitigating climate change scenarios, the number of deadly heat events will increase sharply in the majority of cities in the low- to mid- latitudes.[REF]

GHHIN is an international network of professionals including, and intended to assist, public health practitioners, government authorities, community service organizations, urban planners, and the meteorological and climate community by providing greater access to information which can facilitate more effective collective action and accelerate life-saving measures for heat health protection.  GHHIN is also designed to provide feedback into data, observations and research needs. To facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices, GHHIN members will be encouraged to incorporate a common framework into their projects and activities, and to meet or otherwise communicate regularly.

The goal of GHHINs is to improve the collective capacity of governments and professional partners to protect populations from the avoidable health risks of extreme heat. The following objectives are designed help to achieve this goal:

1) to generate actionable evidence vis-à-vis activities to develop, share, and promote standardized technical guidance, research, data, and decision-tools;

2) to provide a communication and information sharing mechanism that can promote best practices in heat health research, prevention, communication to accelerate the implementation of heat health prevention;

3) to build capacity for heat health action through the mobilization of a wide-range of expert resources;

4) to use available evidence to advocate for action and cultivate sustained funding for the global network, its partners, and activities.

GHHIN will use as its guiding backbone the NOAA and CDC-led National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) Framework. The NIHHIS framework consists of a set of key questions that must be resolved in order to provide specific, impactful, and adaptive climate and health information to a diverse set of decision-makers on time scales from short-term early warning to long-term climate resilience. These questions include consideration of institutional capacity and partnerships, heat-health parameters and monitoring, data and forecast product needs, and engagement & communication strategies.

GHHIN is also launching regionally-focused nodes, such as the emerging network of partners in South Asia, as a result of the April 2016 WMO Climate Service User-Forum which explored the needs and opportunities for a South Asia Heat Health Action Network.  The purpose of this presentation is to communicate GHHIN to a wide audience and encourage others working on heat health to become engaged.

In summary, GHHIN will provide an essential service of developing a network of stakeholders who will be able to share best practice in developing Heat-Healt Action Plans (HHAPs). This will accelerate the propogation of good science, and will thereby improve the resilience and mitigation capacities of communities around the world against the onset of increasingly frequent and dangerous heat events.