

15th International Seminar on Supercentenarians INED, November 16-17, 2023

Call for papers

The series that began in Rostock in 2000 will continue this year with the 15th International Seminar on Supercentenarians, which is being organized by the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED). It will take place at the Campus Condorcet (Aubervilliers, France) on November 16-17, 2023.

In order to gather the necessary information for measuring age-specific mortality risks at very old ages and select the best models for adjusting life tables at the oldest ages, it is crucial to collect and analyse international data on supercentenarians (individuals who have lived 110 years or more) and on semi-supercentenarians (those who have lived 105 to 109 years). This requires facing two challenges: increasing the number of observations at ages that very few reach; and meticulous confirmation of information quality for frequently exaggerated ages. The field has been explored for two decades by an international group of researchers who have built the *International Database on Longevity* (IDL) and published papers and books produced through their participation in the first 14 seminars. The time has come to extend this collective work more broadly to all interested researchers by launching a general call for papers to be included in the 15th seminar.

To date, IDL has used only the individual death records of those aged 105 or over, on whom the data has been validated by following a rigorous protocol. While we cannot abandon this very high standard that has been followed since the 2000s, a conflict has emerged between publishing individual civil status data and various new national laws on data protection. This has resulted in a sharply decreasing number of countries being able to nourish the IDL. To overcome this difficulty, the IDL intends to revise its goals for countries that cannot provide individual civil status data. Thus, the current database can be complemented by available sex-specific statistical tables by year of birth, age at death, and year of death, which are always based on individually validated data and can simultaneously broaden the number of available populations. Therefore, in addition to the customary individual-based analysis, the 15th seminar will also consider papers examining how to overcome the limitations and challenges to combining individual records and aggregated data.

To guarantee treatment of most important areas, we propose the following (short, but not exclusive) list of themes:

Data:

1. Country papers that update the current IDL list of cases
2. Validation of extreme cases
3. Causes of death among the elderly
4. Comparing current vital statistics and validated data
5. The so-called “blue zones”: myths and reality

Analysis and indicators:

6. Longevity indicators: beyond maximum life expectancies, maximum lifespans, minimum mortality rates, modal age at death, etc.
7. Mortality models and prospects at very old ages, including the plateau hypothesis
8. Lifespan dispersion around extreme values
9. What semi-supercentenarian analysis adds to that of supercentenarians
10. Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic at extreme ages
11. Any other relevant topics

A panel session may conclude the seminar and bring together the research community and stakeholders to discuss future perspectives on the upper limits of human longevity, recent trends in life expectancy, and how this debate can be informed by collecting and analysing mortality data at extreme ages.

Please send proposals to super100_seminar2023@listes.ined.fr as soon as possible and no later than May 15, 2023. The title and a short abstract are compulsory, and please indicate if you would agree to give a presentation in the poster session. Of course, there are no prohibitions against sending in addition longer summaries or even full papers!

A scientific committee will select the most interesting proposals and make its decisions before the end of June.

Please note that INED will cover collective expenses (meeting rooms, facilities, etc.) but not individual travelling and living expenses (with exceptions for only a very few legitimate requests).

The organizing committee:

Carlo Giovanni Camarda, Arianna Caporali, France Meslé, Svitlana Poniakina, Jean-Marie Robine, and Jacques Vallin