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Jan C. Semenza is an environmental epidemiologist with 30 years of experience in climate change and health research. He led the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) response to the 1995 heat wave in Chicago that claimed the lives of more than 700 individuals. He elucidated the underlying medical, environmental, societal, and behavioral causes of heat-related mortality and characterized the co-morbid conditions of heat-related morbidity. These insights became the blueprint for heat health action plans as early warning systems for heat waves. As a section head at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) he was responsible for the work programme on infectious diseases and climate change, where he operationalized climate-based early warning systems. He is a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, co-author of the global Lancet Countdown reports, and the lead of the European Lancet Countdown adaptation working group. He is currently associated with Umeå University in Sweden and Heidelberg University in Germany.