

# DEPARTMENT NOTES

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Updates,  
Awards, Grants,  
& Accolades



Promotions and  
Appointments



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Translating Our  
Science



In Other News



### Updates, Awards, Grants, and Accolades



#### Lifetime Achievement Award

Awardee: DIANE GOLD, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Chan School

Diane has been recognized for her exemplary career. She has been awarded the Environmental, Occupational and Population Health (EOPH) John Peters Award, named after a former colleague. The award recognizes significant contributions to environmental or occupational health through leadership in research, education, or public health. The award was presented at the 2019 ATS International Conference in

May, 2019. Pictured from right to left: Dr. Stephanie London, Dr. Diane Gold, and Dr. Howard Kipen.

#### Environmental, Occupational and Population Health (EOPH) David Bates Award

Awardee: HIROKI TASHIRO, Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr. Hiroki Tashiro, a fellow in Stephanie Shore's Lab, was this year's recipient of the David V. Bates Award for Promising Investigation in the Field of Environmental and Occupational Health. This American Thoracic Society award is given to a fellow or junior faculty member who submits the best abstract in the field of Environmental of Occupational Health. Hiroki presented his abstract entitled "Fecal transplant with an obese microbiome augments pulmonary responses to ozone in mice" on Sunday May 19, 2019 at the ATS meeting.

#### Harvard Chan Postdoctoral Association Poster Day Award

Overall Winner: FEIBY NASSAN, Postdoctoral Fellow

The fifth annual Harvard Chan poster day was held on April 25th in the Kresge Cafe. The event aims to bring together students, postdocs, and research associates across the school and allows them to share research results and engage with one another. It is organized by the Harvard Chan Postdoctoral Association and supported by the Office of Faculty Affairs.

#### NIEHS Extramural Paper of the Month in March 2019

Awardee: SARA GILLOOLY, Project Coordinator

Sara Gillooly published 'Development of an in-home, real-time air pollutant sensor platform and implications for community use' (senior author Gary Adamkiewicz) in Environmental Pollution and was selected by NIEHS as one of their extramural papers of the month (March 2019). The paper describes a low-cost, portable, in-home air sampling platform (Environmental Multi-pollutant Monitoring Assembly: EMMA) developed to characterize indoor pollutants and highlights resources and maintenance considerations necessary to support community-based research goals. Authors found that achieving higher quality low-cost sensor data could inform individuals or communities on daily health risks, but required resources that were not available in communities without support from scientific groups.

## **Harvard Heroes**

Awardee: JENNIFER FORD, Research Nurse Manager

Harvard's premier University-wide recognition program which acknowledges the accomplishments of Harvard staff who have made tremendous contributions to the University. The award is given to 60 staff members each year and is a great honor to be awarded.

## **Sarah K. Wood Award for Outstanding Staff Performance**

EH 2019 Nominees:

PATRICE AYERS, Faculty Assistant

TRACY SACHS, Administrative Director

JOHN YONG, Assistant Director of Finance

This award recognizes a staff member who demonstrates qualities of dedication, competence, positive attitude, initiative, and ability to mentor, encourage and inspire others as well as demonstrate a commitment to the School's mission.

## **HARVARD CHAN ANNIVERSARIES**

RUSS HAUSER & JOSE A. VALLARINO - 25 years of service

ANTONELLA ZANOBETTI, HEIKE GIBSON & ANDREA SHAFER - 20 years of service

CAROLYN LANGER - 10 years of service

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2018 - 2019 EH GRADUATES**

### **PhD Populations Health Sciences**

Zhihui Wang

### **Doctor of Science**

Sarah Coppola

Yichen Guo

Kale Kponee

Hannah Laue

Rosie Martinez

Vy Nguyen

Ran Rotem

Katharine Silkaitis

Dilpreet Singh

### **Master of Science**

Yu-Shan (Sammi) Chung

Sifan Guo

Sijie Ma

Xinye Qiu

Matthew Schaefer

Angela Shields

Weiyu Yao

Jing Yuan

Yufei Yuan

Michael Zhou

### **Master of Public Health (65 Credits)**

Misbath Daouda

Heloisa Dunshee de Abranches Jardim

Ethan Hughes

Yechaan Joo

Jessica Kilpatrick

Darya Minovi

John Nagao

Abhiyant Suresh Tiwari

### **Master of Public Health (45 Credits)**

Robert Filler

Nathan Jones

Hussam Kurdi

Elizabeth Nolan

Michael Parenteau

Christopher Scheibler

### **Completing the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency (June 2019)**

Jacob Ankeny

Leslie Cadet

Jeffrey Kiser

Christopher Scheibler

Chih Chao (Justin) Yang

### **Master of Public Health (65 Credits) / Master of Urban Planning**

Mariana Pereira Guimaraes

## NEW GRANTS IN THE DEPARTMENT

### Harvard Chan NIEHS Award

We are delighted that the Harvard Chan NIEHS Center for Environmental Health has been renewed for the next five years. This \$10.2 million grant is the longest continuously running grant in NIEHS history – the renewal will take us from years 56 through 60! We would like to thank Dr. Doug Dockery for his service over the past 11 years as Center Director, under his leadership the Center provided extraordinary resources to the Department and Center members including Pilot funding, Facility Access funds, Specific Aims Sessions, and Colloquium & Research Seminars. We look forward to exploring new areas of the Environment Health and Science in the next five years as the torch is passed to Marc Weisskopf as the new Center Director.

### United States Patent

Quan Lu, Associate Professor of Environmental Genetics and Pathophysiology has been granted his third patent for his work on ARMMs. Delivery of Cargo Proteins via ARDC1-Mediated Microvesicles (ARMMS) on April 16, 2019. Patent No. US 10,260,066 B2.

| Principal Investigator | Award Title  | Sponsor  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Joseph Brain           | Therapeutic modulation of zinc for lung injury and mechanobiology  | NIH/NHLBI – BWH  |
| Quan Lu                | Prenatal metal mixtures and neurodevelopment: Role of placental extracellular microRNAs  | NIH/NIEHS  |
| Eileen McNeely         | Foundation Evaluating social impact domestically and abroad and the leverages points to maximize it                                      | Eileen Fisher, Inc.  |
| Jennifer Mitchel       | Cell Jamming in Airway Homeostasis and Repair  | Francis Family Foundation  |
| Sam Myers              | Impacts of Elevated CO <sub>2</sub> on Bees and Pollination Services via Alterations in Pollen Nutrition                                 | Star-Friedman Challenge for Promising Scientific Research        |
| Zac Nagel              | High throughput platform for functional analysis of sequence context effects on DNA repair efficiency                                    | SPARC/Broad  |
| Andrea Roberts         | Maternal Exposure to Childhood Abuse and Disparities in Offspring Neurodevelopment: Identifying Mechanisms                               | NIH/NICHD  |
| Ramon Sanchez          | Innovation and Sustainability in Hidalgo   | Consejo de Ciencia, Tecnologia e Innovacion de Hidalgo (CITNOVA) |
| Matthew Smith          | Fellowship Agreement Seeding Food Innovation 2019  | Weston Foods US, Inc.  |
| Jack Spengler          | Assessing the influence of nature on physical health and wellbeing in an urban development prototype                                     | Magnolia Quality Development Corporation                         |
| Damaskini Valvi        | Developmental exposure to perfluoroalkyl substances and cardiometabolic outcomes in adulthood: Potential links via the plasma metabolome | NIH/NIEHS  |
| Marc Weisskopf         | Harvard-Chan NIEHS Center for Environmental Health   | NIH/NIEHS  |
| Zhi-Min Yuan           | Pharmacological p53 Preservation As A Novel Strategy To Treat Cancer   | Sanofi US Services, Inc.   |
| Zhi-Min Yuan           | Target MDM2/MDMX for reducing normal tissue toxicity induced by chemotherapy.  | NIH/NCI  |
| Antonella Zanobetti    | Evidence to improve heat warning effectiveness in reducing morbidity and mortality   | NIH/NIEHS/Brown University                                       |

## Promotions and Appointments

### NEW APPOINTMENT



Please welcome CARMEN MESSERLIAN on her appointment as Assistant Professor of Environmental Reproductive, Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology. She officially joins the Faculty of the Department of Environmental Health on June 1, 2019. She holds a BS in nursing and PhD in epidemiology from McGill University as well as an MS in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Carmen previously worked as a pediatric nurse at the Montreal Children's Hospital and as a maternal child public health consultant for local, state and national governments. Recently, she has held visiting scientist and research scientist appointments at Harvard Chan.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**NIEHS CENTER RETREAT-** The Harvard Chan NIEHS Center for Environmental Health will be holding the Center Retreat for Center members on Monday, June 3rd at the Arnold Arboretum's Weld Hill Research Building. Center members please register at <https://tinyurl.com/2019harvardniehsretreat>. Please register early as space is limited.

**RISK ASSESSMENT, ECONOMIC EVALUATION, AND DECISIONS WORKSHOP** - This event will take place on September 26 & 27th at the Harvard University Center for the Environment in Cambridge and will honor JOHN EVANS, who has been a core member of the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis for almost 30 years.

**EH DEPARTMENT RETREAT** - Please save the date for the Department of Environmental Health Research Retreat which will be held on December 12, 2019 from 8:30-5:00 at the Joseph B. Martin Center.

For more information on upcoming events, please refer to the Department of Environmental Health Calendar found here: [EH Calendar](#).

## Popular Press: Translating Our Science

### **Paper Probes Legacy Health Effects of Occupational Secondhand Smoke**

The SHINE Harvard researchers who worked on a Flight Attendant Health Study recently published a paper that looked at the effects of secondhand smoke on never-smokers. They found several negative associations between secondhand tobacco smoke and risk of respiratory outcomes such as MI, PAD, and repeated pneumonia. They also observed associations to myocardial infarction and peripheral artery disease. You can find the full article in the Gazette [here](#).

### **Bugged by Vaping**

Mi-Sun Lee, Joe Allen and David Christiani authored a study featured in the Harvard Gazette and Environmental Health Perspectives that found that most e-cigarettes contain one or more microbial toxins that have been associated with chronic respiratory health diseases. This is particularly concerning given the exponential growth in the number of middle and high school students that are vaping in recent years. You can find the full article in the Gazette [here](#).

### **Playground Lead Levels in Rubber, Soil, Sand, and Mulch surfaces in Boston**

This article was written by a group of Harvard Chan master's students, Khaled Almansour, Nicholas Arisco, May Woo, and Anna Young along with two faculty members, Gary Adamkiewicz and Jaime Hart. The study looked at levels of lead in poured-in-place rubber and compared them to levels in soil, sand, and wood mulch from various playgrounds in Boston, MA. They found lower levels of lead in mulch and sand compared to rubber and soil. This data should be used to inform playground design for optimal health in children. You can read the paper here in PLOS ONE [here](#).

## In Other News

### COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY SAM MYERS, Principal Research Scientist

Sam Myers, MD, Director of Harvard University's Planetary Health Alliance, delivered the commencement address at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing's spring commencement ceremony on May 17.

The University of Minnesota's School of Nursing is a member of the Planetary Health Alliance, which is a consortium of over 120 universities, NGOs, government entities and research institutes around the world committed to advancing planetary health. The alliance works with a broad array of scientific disciplines to build an evidence base for informing policy solutions aimed at optimizing both human health and environmental stewardship objectives.

"We are at an extraordinary moment in human history. Human activity is the dominant force determining biophysical conditions around the planet," said Myers, at a lecture at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing last year. "We need to understand the moment that we're in and the implications of the decisions we're making to fuel that fierce urgency of why what we do now is so important."

You can watch his commencement speech [here](#).