

DEPARTMENT NOTES

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Updates,
Awards, Grants,
& Accolades



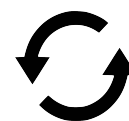
Promotions and
Appointments



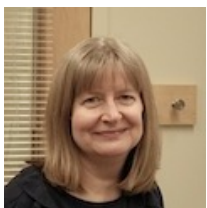
Popular Press:
Translating Our
Science



In Other News



Updates, Awards, Grants, and Accolades



Stephanie Shore's Retirement

Congratulations to STEPHANIE SHORE, *Senior Lecturer, Former Director of the MIPS program*, who will be retiring after a long and illustrious career in our Department. Stephanie received her BSc in Physics and Physiology at McGill University in 1979 and her Ph.D. in Respiratory Physiology at McGill University in 1984. She did her thesis work under the mentorship of Dr. James Martin at the Meakins Christie Labs and moved to Boston in 1984 to join the lab of Dr. Jeffrey Drazen at the Harvard School of Public Health for her postdoctoral fellowship. During that time she worked on models of chronic bronchitis and developed an interest in the sensory innervation of the lung. In 1989, she joined the faculty of the Respiratory Biology Program (now the Molecular and Integrative Physiological Sciences Program) in the Department of Environmental Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, where she is now a Senior Lecturer. In the mid 1990's, Dr. Shore's interests shifted towards understanding how inflammatory cytokines impact airway smooth muscle. Her interest in obesity and its impact on the lung began in the early 2000's as the rising obesity epidemic made the role of obesity as a risk factor for asthma more apparent. Her most recent focus is obesity-related changes in the gut microbiome and their role in obesity-related changes in the lung. Shore has been very active in teaching Physiology and Pathophysiology both at Harvard Chan, at Harvard College, at the Medical School, and at the Harvard Extension School. She is also the immediate former Director of the MIPS program. She is retiring to pursue a new career – as a fiber artist. Her quilts have been featured in local, national, and international shows and she is excited about being able to devote herself fulltime to this new endeavor. We thank Stephanie for her tremendous contributions to the Department and the School. We wish her a healthy and joyous retirement! Stephanie will be missed by all of us.



President/CEO of Natural Resource Defense Council

Appointed: GINA MCCARTHY, *Professor of the Practice of Public Health in the Department of The Center for Climate, Health, and Global Environment*

Gina McCarthy has been named the new President/CEO of Natural Resource Defense Council. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, this opportunity was too important to pass up. We're excited for her as she begins this new position in early January. We are fortunate that Gina will remain in a leadership role for the Center and retain her faculty position at Harvard Chan School. She will chair a newly formed advisory board to continue to guide and provide visibility for the work of the Center. Harvard C-CHANGE has a great team and will continue raising our school's visibility and awareness of how climate solutions will improve the health of families – especially for the most vulnerable: children, the elderly and those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. AARON BERSTEIN will serve as interim director and MARK P. SMITH will serve as co-director of the Center. LIZ PURCHIA and TRACY SACHS continue in their respective roles within the management team and the rest of the team continues on with their work.



Louisiana State University School of Public Health John A. Rock Scholar

Awardee: FRANCINE LADEN, *Professor of Environmental Epidemiology, Associate Chair of the Department of Environmental Health, and Director of Exposure, Epidemiology and Risk Program*
The 2019 LSU School of Public Health John A. Rock Scholar honorarium was awarded to Francine Laden. This prestigious lectureship was endowed by former LSU Health Sciences Center Chancellor John A. Rock to provide an opportunity to have leaders in public health visit the school and share their academic research. Francine visited LSU in October of 2019, gave a keynote lecture and met with faculty and students to discuss research opportunities and strategies.



Honorary Professorship for Lifetime Contributions in Environmental Health and Nanotoxicology Best Environmental Science Journal Editor in Chief in 2019

Awardee: PHIL DEMOKRITOU, *Associate Professor of Aerosol Physics*
Phil traveled to China this summer and was presented two awards: The Honorary Professorship for Lifetime Contributions in Environmental Health and Nanotoxicology from the School of Public Health, Peking University, China and the Best Environmental Science Journal Editor in Chief in 2019 from NanoIMPACT (Elsevier).



2021 New England Fertility Society President

Appointed: SHRUTHI MAHALINGAIAH, *Assistant Professor of Environmental Reproductive and Women's Health*
Shruthi was elected to be the incoming president for the New England Fertility Society (NEFS) starting in 2021. This non-profit organization provides continuing education for members and other infertility professionals and is dedicated to promoting awareness, standards of information, and assistance to providers and patients on infertility in New England.



The Gordon Research Seminars Keynote Speaker

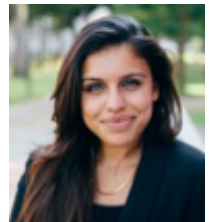
Keynote Speaker: JIN-AH PARK, *Assistant Professor of Airway Biology*
Jin-Ah gave the keynote at The Gordon Research Seminars (GRS) at Bates College in Maine in August 2019. The title of her talk was "Mechanical Force, Airway Remodeling and Epithelial Cell Unjamming". She also gave a second talk at the associated Gordon Research Conferences (GRC) titled "Epithelial Cell UnJamming in Airway Injury, Repair and Regeneration".

DISSERTATIONS

Congratulations to ANNELISE BLOMBERG on her successful defense of her doctoral dissertation "Exposures and Health Effects of Ambient Particle Radioactivity".



Congratulations to ERIKA EITLAND on her successful defense of her doctoral dissertation "Assessment of Building Interventions on Student Health".



Congratulations to AUGUSTA WILLIAMS on her successful defense of her doctoral dissertation "Advancing Understanding of Human Health and Societal Vulnerability to Extreme Heat Events in Boston, MA".



Congratulations to YINNAN ZHENG on her successful defense of her doctoral dissertation "Metals and Maternal Glucose Intolerance: Individual and Joint Associations".



HARVARD CHAN ANNIVERSARIES

JACK WOLFSON - 45 years of service

PETROS KOUTRAKIS - 35 years of service

JOHN Y C YONG - 25 years of service

STEFANOS NIKALAOS KALES - 20 years of service

PAULA LETICIA TEJERA-ALVAREZ & ANDREA ROBERTS - 10 years of service

LIDIA MINGUEZ ALARCON & NANCY DIAO & JAIME HART & JOSE GUILLERMO CEDENO LAURENT &

CARMEN MESSERLIAN & MAOYUN SUN - 5 years of service

NEW GRANTS IN THE DEPARTMENT (SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019)

MYDZUNG CHU, *EH doctoral candidate*, and TAMARRA JAMES-TODD, *Mark and Catherine Winkler Assistant Professor of Environmental Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology*, were awarded the NIEHS Center for Environmental Health Space for Alternative Research Collaborations (SPARC) pilot grant to look at acculturation and the gut microbiome in a cohort of Chinese-American women.

Principal Investigator	Award Title	Sponsor
Ari Bernstein	C-CHANGE – Healthy Kids and Climate	Heising-Simons Foundation
Lindsay Jaacks	Cross Validation of Methods for Measuring Urinary Metabolites of Organophosphate Pesticides in India.	Harvard-Chan NIEHS Center Pilot
Peggy Lai	Environmental chemicals, lung function, and the gut microbiome.	Harvard-Chan NIEHS Center Pilot
Shruthi Mahalingaiah	Menstrual Blood Metabolomics: Assay Development and Optimization	Harvard-Chan NIEHS Center Pilot
Sam Myers	Planetary Health Alliance 2019 Annual Meeting Travel Scholarships	The Wellcome Trust
Hae-Ryung Park	MicroRNAs, ER stress, and arsenic neurotoxicity	NIH/NIEHS
Aaron Specht	A Novel portable KXRF measurement system for in vivo metal measurements	CDC/NIOSH Public Health Service
Jack Spengler	Responsible Travel and Tourism: Sustainability Leadership and Innovation	World Travel and Tourism Council
Marc Weisskopf	Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Device	Taplin Equipment Fund

Promotions & Appointments

We would like to congratulate the following New Appointments and Promotions:



ANDREA BELLAVIA was promoted to Research Scientist.



DREW MICHANOWICZ was promoted to Research Associate.



JONATHAN BUONOCORE was promoted to Research Scientist.



ANDREA ROBERTS was promoted to Senior Research Scientist.



PETER JAMES was promoted to Assistant Professor.



DOROTA WEZIAK-BIALOWOSKA was promoted to Research Scientist.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WINTER PARTY will take place on February 4th from 3:30pm-5:30pm in the Kresge Cafeteria.

Popular Press: Translating Our Science

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health partners with Apple and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for a ground breaking Women's Health Study

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Apple, and the National Institutes of Health have partnered to design a large-scale longitudinal study to advance understanding of menstrual and gynecological health. The study, led by researchers Dean MICHELLE WILLIAMS, Dean MICHAEL GRUSBY, RUSS HAUSER, BRENT COULL, SHRUTHI MAHALINGAIAH, and JP ONNELA will leverage participants' voluntary use of a smartphone research app to advance our understanding of the biological and social determinants of women's health and lead to better health outcomes. In addition to focusing on menstrual cycles and gynecological conditions, the study will inform screening and risk assessments of conditions including polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), infertility, osteoporosis, breast cancer, pregnancy complications, and menopausal transition.

Dangerous Air Pollution Is Getting Into Schools and Homes Near Highways, Research Shows

GARY ADAMKIEWICZ, Assistant Professor of Environmental Health and Exposure Disparities, was featured in a WGBH article in September 2019. The article discussed his research on the health implications of traffic related air pollution in people's homes, specifically in lower income communities.

In Other News

The Planetary Health Alliance (PHA) hosted the 2019 Planetary Health Annual Meeting at Stanford University through their Center for Innovation in Global Health and Woods Institute for the Environment. The PHA is an international consortium of 200+ member organizations committed to advancing planetary health, or the human health impacts of global environmental change, led by Principal Research Scientist SAMUEL MYERS.



The MPH65 Students Poster Presentations: The students presented their posters at the Field Practice E-Poster Night which took place on November 12th in the Kresge Cafeteria. Their poster titles are presented below.

LARISSA MCDONOGH-WONG "Public Health Preparedness: Building a Local Health Toolbox"

LINNEA CHAMP "How can the City of Minneapolis Use Biochar to Maximize Environmental and Health Benefits?"

EMMA POLLACK "Communication for Planetary Health"

MAIA GOKHALE "Green Purchasing for Asthma Prevention in K-12 Schools"

JESSIE CHANG "Clusters of Sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease in the UK"

JUAN REYNOSO "How Can the City of Cleveland Promote A Healthier and More Unified Cuyahoga River Valley?"

The winners were: RACHEL APPLEWHITE (Global Health), YUKI DAVIS (Global Health), JUAN REYNOSO (Environmental Health)

We would also like to congratulate the MPH65's who will be graduating this month. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!