

Chair Chatter February 25, 2022

Another Friday, another winter storm. I hope everyone stays safe and warm!

We are approaching the end of February, which is designated as [Black History Month](#). Our department has had several events like the riveting presentation by Dr. Robert Bullard "*The Quest for Environmental and Climate Justice*" which was moderated by Tamarra James-Todd, and the launch of the [Environmental Racism in Boston project](#). The school and our fellow departments have also conducted several other events. I hope that you were able to take advantage of some of these learning opportunities.

We learned of a new teaching award, the **Sastry Award for Outstanding Teaching in Public Health**. The award is to recognize the ways that an instructor has, through excellent teaching, inspired students to reach their public health goals. This is just one of several teaching awards that the school bestows; a list of others can be found [here](#). It's something to keep in mind as the spring semester progresses. It means a lot to recognize outstanding teaching by our faculty and fellows.

Speaking of awards, we learned this morning that one of our distinguished alumni, Jane Hoppin (MS 91, SCD 95) received the 2021 Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service from the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Jane was recognized for her "groundbreaking research in environmental epidemiology," her "important research and training collaborations across North Carolina" and her work "to improve the quality of life for underserved communities." You can find more [here](#). We are proud of our alumnae Jane and congratulate her on this recognition.

Please consider supporting the department in advance of [Giving Day](#), which ends on Wednesday March 2. We are particularly trying to raise funds for our fellowship funds recognizing distinguished faculty. You can contribute to the Department fellowship fund, or to fellowships honoring our faculty including:

- Joseph D. Brain Fellowship in physiology
- William A. Burgess Fund in industrial hygiene
- Benjamin Greely Ferris, Jr. Fellowship in epidemiology
- Melvin W. First Fellowship Fund in engineering
- Donald Hornig Fund for post-doctoral fellows
- Jere Mead Fellowship Fund in physiology
- Nyla Medlock Occupational and Environmental Medicine Fellowship Fund
- Leslie Silverman Fund in industrial hygiene and engineering

The department chairs are competing informally to see which department can gather the most contributions. We had great numbers last year, but Biostatistics nosed us out. I am hopeful we can again be leaders in showing broad support. Any amount is appreciated.

As always, send items you want me to include in Chair Chatter to: EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu.

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 25 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

The Association between Mental Wellbeing, Job Fulfillment and Organizational Support during the COVID-19 Pandemic among Healthcare Workers

Presenter: Alex Jobrack, DO, MPH, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident

A Randomized Trial to Investigate the Impact of Professional Development Coaching for Physicians

Presenter: J. David Sterns, MD, MPH, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident

These two presentations are research-in-progress presentations by the second year residents in the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Jobrack will discuss which health care groups are impacted by COVID-19 and how their wellbeing can be addressed. Dr. Sterns will discuss burnout in the healthcare setting and a novel approach to reduce it in a teaching hospital.

Location: Zoom

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ESvtWR7rFbMLxs

Monday, February 28 (12:00 PM ET)

Environmental and Reproductive health Lecture Series: The Long Road to Understanding Menstrual-cycle Irregularity

Speaker: Allen Wilcox, MD PhD

How common is menstrual irregularity? What distinguishes pathological from natural variability? What patterns might be risk factors for future disease? As important as these basic questions are, we know remarkably little – in part, because there has been so little research on the epidemiology of menstrual cycles. I will trace the history of menstrual-cycle studies, present some recent research, and suggest what lies ahead.

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEudeGgpz8rG9DUQLHBwun1W2S6BuBnFp-W>

Wednesday, March 2 (1:00-2:00 PM ET)

Planetary Health Colloquium: Displacement and Conflict: How Biophysical Changes are Undermining Global Security

Presenters:

Hélène Benveniste, PhD, Postdoctoral Environmental Fellow at the Harvard University Center for the Environment based at the Harvard Kennedy School

Cullen Hendrix, PhD, Professor, Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver; Nonresident Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics; Nonresident Senior Research Fellow, Center for Climate & Security.

Jon Proctor, PhD, Postdoctoral fellow jointly at the Harvard Data Science Initiative and the Harvard Center for the Environment.

Information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/environmental-health/planetary-health-colloquium-march/>

Zoom: Register [here](#)

Friday, March 4 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

"It's been months - am I still sick from carbon monoxide poisoning?"

Speakers: Alex Jobrack, DO, MPH, second year resident in Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Rose Goldman, MD, MPH, Occupational Medicine Physician, Cambridge Health Alliance

Drs. Jobrack and Goldman will present and discuss several interesting cases from the Cambridge Health Alliance Occupational and Environmental Medicine Clinic.

Location: Kresge 502 and ZOOM

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bl4j1vSylaZjWt0

Friday, March 4 (2:00 – 4:30 PM ET)

Next in Climate Change: The Ethel and David Jackson Next in Science Program

The Next in Science series provides an opportunity for early-career scientists whose creative, cross-disciplinary, and cutting-edge research is thematically linked to introduce their work to non-specialists, fellow scientists, and one another.

The speakers in “Next in Climate Change” will discuss emerging scientific research and multi-dimensional implications of climate change for people, society, and our planet. The program will focus on five critical areas of inquiry and the connections among them: extreme weather and its impacts on communities, infrastructure, and the environment; economic effects of climate change, as well as economic opportunities; consequences of climate change on global health, ranging from cancer to pandemics; impacts on particularly vulnerable populations; and approaches to mitigation for the results of climate change.

Speakers:

- [Edo Berger](#), codirector of the science program, Harvard Radcliffe Institute and professor of astronomy, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences

- [Joan A. Casey](#), assistant professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
- [Immaculata De Vivo](#), codirector of the science program, Harvard Radcliffe Institute; professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School; and professor of epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- [Greeshma Gadikota](#), assistant professor and Croll Sesquicentennial Fellow; Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability Fellow, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University
- [Kimberley R. Miner](#), scientist, NASA Jet Propulsion Lab and research assistant professor, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine
- [Amruta Nori-Sarma](#), assistant professor, Department of Environmental Health, Boston University School of Public Health
- [R. Jisung Park](#), assistant professor of public policy, Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA

To register, visit www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/event/2022-next-in-climate-change-program.

Wednesday, March 9 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET)

“Examining Sensitivity to Air Pollution Through Electronic Health Records and Epigenetics”

The Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center’s colloquium series on *Re-envisioning the Environment: Diverse Voices in Environmental Health* will welcome [Cavin Ward-Caviness, PhD, computational biologist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#), whose research focuses on understanding the impact of environmental or neighborhood factors, such as living in a neighborhood with lower socioeconomic factors, on health, and the biological pathways that link exposures and health.

This presentation will be held virtually via Zoom.

Students and Postdocs: We will host a virtual Trainee Session with Dr. Ward-Caviness after his presentation from 2-3pm ET. This is a chance for students and postdocs to meet privately with our speaker to discuss research interests, career advice, funding opportunities, etc. Space is limited. [RSVP is required](#) for the Trainee Session (not required for the main presentation).

More info: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/hsph-niehs-colloquium-series-cavin-ward-caviness-phd/>

Join by Zoom: <http://hsph.me/colloquium2021>

Chair Chatter February 18, 2022

We are now in mid-February. The university will be closed on Monday, February 21, for the federal President's Day holiday. I hope you enjoy your long weekend!

Join us between now and March 2nd to support the third annual Harvard Chan Giving Day! Your gift will support financial aid for our exceptional students and fellows. Francine Laden and I will match the first \$1000 raised dollar for dollar! To give, visit [the Department of Environmental Health Giving Day Page](#). You can donate to the general EH department financial aid fund, or use the dropdown arrow and choose to give to a specific EH funds including the *Joseph D. Brain Fellowship Fund* (physiology), the *William A. Burgess Fund* (industrial hygiene), the *Benjamin Greeley Ferris Jr. Fellowship Fund* (epidemiology), or any other departmental fellowship. All donations are appreciated. It is the number of gifts that we receive that shows your support for our work. As an additional incentive, a group of alumni and friends of the school have established the *Next Generation Challenge*, with an additional \$75,000 for financial aid when we reach 250 gifts. This is an opportunity for our greater Environmental Health Department community, including our current and former members and friends, to show support for our students and fellows. Thank you for considering!

Some good news: the Harvard JPB Environmental Health Fellowship Program, led by Jack Spengler, Gary Adamkiewicz, Marc Weisskopf and Laura Kubzansky, has received \$6.1 million over four years for its third cohort of Fellows. Established in 2014, the program was the first national program to benefit vulnerable communities by investing in the professional development of junior faculty and senior agency research scientists dedicated to social and environmental justice. A unique aspect of this program is that its Fellows are committed to research that examines the combined influence of both the social and environmental determinants of health inequities. By bringing together a new generation of multidisciplinary academic and agency leaders from institutions across the U.S., the Fellowship offers training, mentoring, research funding and the opportunity to build relationships with recognized scientific experts across the country. Currently there are 20 faculty fellows, 7 federal agency fellows and over 20 students who have been or are supported by the program. Recruiting for the third cohort begins later this spring. More details will be shared in March on this website: <https://ehfellows.sph.harvard.edu/>

Last week I mentioned the March 4 deadline for the next round of applications for the [Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center's pilot project grants](#). This week I want to highlight another pilot project opportunity. The NIOSH-funded Harvard Chan [Education and Research Center \(ERC\) announces the availability of funds](#) to support pilot projects. Awards of up to \$20,000 will support small research projects conducted by early investigators, including student investigators at the pre-doctoral stages, post-doctoral trainees, and/or by new/junior faculty investigators. Research needs to focus on one or more of the following sectors identified by the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA): the changing nature of work, safety, and health of working people; or research priorities identified in NIOSH's strategic plan. For more information and an application, go to <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/erc/pilot-projects/>. Applications are due March 21, 2022.

Lastly, do you have questions about purchasing (B2P), Concur, invoice processing, or reimbursements? Send them to EHAP@hsph.harvard.edu for specific answers and guidance from our finance team.

Do you have something you would like me to share in the next chatter? Please send items to eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu.

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 18 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

How Do We Accommodate This?

Presenter: Sam Ko, MD, MPH, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident

Discussant: Thomas Winters, MD, President and CMO, Occupational and Environmental Health Network (OEHN)

Drs. Ko and Winters will discuss the occupational context for adverse anesthesia reactions and review regulations regarding accommodations for this situation. They will discuss a multidisciplinary decision-making strategy for complicated accommodation requests.

Location: Kresge 502 & Zoom

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_09emxw3zSZA1D3E

Tuesday, February 22 (9:30 – 10:30 AM ET)

MIPS Work-in-Progress Seminar

Cellular and Molecular Determinants of Rhinovirus Illness Severity

Speaker: James E. Gern MD, Chief, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Zoom:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/95915233377?pwd=ZF15N3JwZUNKSEhtd0Rxa2h1Y2ZBUT09>

Wednesday, February 23 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET)

Towards Healthy Homes for All: Geospatial Analysis of Asthma Can Identify Dangerous Indoor Exposures City-Wide

Our monthly Center Chalk Talks series (4th Wednesdays) is a chance for members and affiliates to showcase the exciting research they are working on and solicit collaboration. This month, we are excited to invite [Adam Haber, assistant professor of computational biology and environmental health](#) to speak about his research. This event will be held via Zoom only and will NOT be recorded.

More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/events/>

Zoom: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/93854403999?pwd=L3Nvbml2bnQyT3ZObi9BQmxGN3VZZz09>

Friday, February 25 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

The Association between Mental Wellbeing, Job Fulfillment and Organizational Support during the COVID-19 Pandemic among Healthcare Workers

Presenter: Alex Jobrack, DO, MPH, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident

A Randomized Trial to Investigate the Impact of Professional Development Coaching for Physicians

Presenter: J. David Sterns, MD, MPH, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident
These two presentations are research-in-progress presentations by the second year residents in the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Jobrack will discuss which health care groups are impacted by COVID- 19 and how their wellbeing can be addressed. Dr. Sterns will discuss burnout in the healthcare setting and a novel approach to reduce it in a teaching hospital.

Location: Kresge 502 & Zoom

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ESvtWR7rFbMLxs

Chair Chatter **February 11, 2022**

I hope you had a nice week. I know some of you are looking forward to the Super Bowl, or maybe just the commercials.

Philippe Grandjean was given an honorary doctoral degree at Ku Leuven, Belgium's oldest and largest university established in 1425. He gave a terrific acceptance speech which you can see [here](#).

As usual, there are several interesting seminars next week. Gary Adamkiewicz will give a talk on "*Ongoing Studies of Indoor Air Pollution and Implications for Intervention*" on Tuesday. On Wednesday the Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center will sponsor a SPARC session on "*Addressing Public Health Priorities with Community Based Research, Innovation and Translation.*" You can find details below, and on our EH twitter link, [@HarvardEnvHlth](#).

Also on Wednesday, the *Health Effects Institute* is sponsoring a webinar by Francesca Dominici and her colleagues describing their recent examination of the associations between exposures to low concentrations of ambient air pollution and risk of mortality among enrollees in the U.S. Medicare program. You can find more information and register [here](#).

We are assembling our spring semester's Department Notes, which features highlights of the past few months. We would love to hear of the accomplishments, honors and grants from our community and our alumni. Please send your submissions by Friday, February 18 by filling out [this form](#). We would also be happy to highlight items such as upcoming events, recent publications, etc. on our twitter account; you can use the same form for that.

It's always nice to end with good news. Congratulations to Peter James and his family as they welcomed their son Sean Samuel Declan James, who will be called Declan.

Don't miss the chance to Make Your Own Valentine's Day Cards this afternoon (1:00-2:00) in the Landmark 4W student lounge.

As always, please email things you'd like me to include to eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu.

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 11 (1:00-2:00)

Make Your Own Valentine's Day Cards

Landmark 4W in the student lounge

Take a break between classes and get ready to celebrate Valentine's Day this year by making your own cards to give to your loved ones. A crafting station will be set up in the student lounge at Landmark with everything from construction paper to stickers to doilies. Nothing shows your love more than a personalized, handmade card!

Tuesday, February 15 (9:30 – 10:30 AM ET)

MIPS Work-In-Progress Seminar

Ongoing Studies of Indoor Air Pollution and Implications for Intervention

Speaker: Gary Adamkiewicz, Associate Professor of Environmental Health and Exposure Disparities, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Zoom:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/95915233377?pwd=ZF15N3JwZUNKSEhtd0Rxa2h1Y2ZBUT09>

Wednesday, February 16 (3:00-5:00 PM ET)

Addressing Public Health Priorities with Community Based Research, Innovation and Translation

Please join us for a special Harvard Chan-NIEHS SPARC session. This session will discuss 1) scientists working with community members to conduct research; 2) how to report back research findings to individual community members; and 3) how to use our research to benefit the community at large. Featured speakers will include:

- Robin Dodson, ScD, research scientist at Silent Spring Institute
- Lisa Frueh, MPH, research assistant at Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health
- Felicia Heykoop, MPH research assistant at SRC Community Engagement Core

More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/sparc-session-3/>

Zoom: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/95851791573?pwd=aEFMU0xOcFFaeEIyMmZ4c0c2bEtkQT09>

Wednesday, February 23 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET)

Towards Healthy Homes for All: Geospatial Analysis of Asthma Can Identify Dangerous Indoor Exposures City-Wide

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More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/center-chalk-talk-adam-haber-phd/>

Zoom: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/93854403999?pwd=L3NvbmI2bnQyT3ZObi9BQmxGN3VZZz09>

Chair Chatter

February 4, 2022

I hope you were able to get through the blizzard last week and today's storm as well, not to mention Groundhog Day earlier this week. No matter what the weather is or how long winter lasts, our department continues to chug right along!

Our *Harvard Center for Work, Health, and Wellbeing* published an important Viewpoint in *Lancet Public Health* this week entitled "[Work and worker health in the post-pandemic world: a public health perspective](#)." Thanks to Susan E. Peters, Jack Dennerlein, Greg Wagner, Glorian Sorensen for highlighting the importance of worker safety, health, and wellbeing in a post-pandemic world.

Gary Adamkiewicz, Tamarra James-Todd, and Lisa Frueh have just launched an amazing interactive story-mapping web project documenting [Environmental Racism in Greater Boston](#). This project was funded as part of the *Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Research*. The topic of environmental justice is integral to the work of our department, and this launch couldn't come at a more appropriate time than in February, which is National Black History Month. Please explore the project and share with your colleagues.

Speaking of the *Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center*, I want to remind its members that the next deadline for [pilot projects](#) is coming up on March 4. The pilot project program is a great opportunity for researchers to obtain seed money that can provide proof of concept data for innovative projects that can then be used in larger grant applications. Please take advantage of this and the many other [opportunities](#) that are afforded by this Center.

I am sorry to have to report on the passing of two friends of our department. [Mary Smith](#), wife of retired faculty member Tom Smith, passed away on January 6th. Tom and Mary were always supportive and gracious hosts to colleagues, fellows, and students in our EER and EOME programs.

We also mourn [Robin Herman](#) who was Assistant Dean of Communications here at the Harvard Chan School from 1999 to 2012, and our neighbor on the 14th floor of Building 1. Before that she was a ground-breaking sports journalist for the [New York Times](#) and Washington Post. Our condolences to Tom and his family, as well as to Robin and her family. May their memories be a blessing.

It is always nice to hear news from our alumni. Erika Eitland reports that she is now the Director of the Human Experience Research Lab at Perkins & Will, the second largest architectural design firm in the world. One of the main facets of her job is translating public health research into design. Her team just launched a new podcast, [Inhabit](#), that focuses on how the built environment impacts our health. Their first episode is focused on the healthy buildings movement and features an excellent interview with Joe Allen. Look for upcoming episodes which will feature Drs. Anna Young and Xindi Hu. Tune in and share with other built environment enthusiasts!

Next Friday, take a break between classes and get ready to celebrate Valentine's Day by making your own cards to give to your loved ones. A crafting station will be set up from 1:00 pm to 2:00

pm in the student lounge at Landmark 4 West with everything from construction paper to stickers to doilies. Nothing shows your love more than a personalized, handmade card!

As always, please send any news-worthy items to [EH-Chatter](#).

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 4 (1:10 – 1:50 PM)

Environmental and Occupational Medicine and Epidemiology Program
Emissions Testing: 2-cycle Lawn and Garden Equipment

Speaker: James Medeiros, DO, MPH, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident

Dr. Medeiros will describe the current status of regulations that govern emissions from 2-cycle engines and discuss the impacts of emissions on the environment. He will also explain the health concerns related to 2-cycle engine emissions for the operator.

Register: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_09emxw3zSZA1D3E

Monday, February 7 (1:10 – 1:50 PM)

Environmental and Occupational Medicine and Epidemiology Program
The Blueprints: Strategic Initiatives to Advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at NIOSH

Speaker: Rashuan Roberts, PhD, Associate Director for DEI, Office of the Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Dr. Roberts will explain the need for advancing DEI in a public health institute and will outline the strategic planning initiatives undertaken to identify DEI priorities, then describe the implementation of those priorities that are currently in progress.

Register: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dgalwq5PKdslCu

Wednesday, February 9 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET)

Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center Colloquium Series: The Social Cost of Water Pollution

Speaker: [Catherine L. Kling, PhD](#), Tisch University Professor in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management and Faculty Director at the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future at Cornell University

Please join us for the next installment of our 2021-22 Colloquium Series on *Re-envisioning the Environment: Diverse Voices in Environmental Health*. This event will be held via **Zoom only**.

More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/hsph-niehs-colloquium-series-catherine-kling-phd/>

Join by Zoom: <http://hsph.me/colloquium2021>

Friday February 11, 2022 1-2pm ET
Make Your Own Valentine's Day Cards

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