

Chair Chatter December 10, 2021

We saw our first hint of snow this week and it finally has started to feel like winter. As we head into the week before winter break, we know that our students, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and staff will all be extremely busy. We wish you all good luck with the many tasks that you are involved with as you wrap things up before winter break.

Looking forward to the break, I hope you will take some time off to reset. For those that need to come in over the break (e.g. lab researchers), COVID tests will be picked up at 11:00 a.m. Due to the way holidays happen to fall this year, the last pick up for each week will be on Wednesdays (December 22 and 29) at 11:00 a.m. For those that don't come in, you can ignore the warnings that you missed your regular COVID test. Just make sure you submit a test on your first day back and then follow your regular cadence.

Congratulations to Joe Allen and co-author John Macomber, whose book [*Healthy Buildings: How Indoor Spaces Drive Performance and Productivity*](#) made the New York Times list as one of their [eight favorite books for healthy living in 2021](#).

Congratulations also to Cindy Hu (ScD 2018) who is a winner of *The Story Exchange's* first annual [Women In Science Incentive Prize](#). This prize recognizes innovative female scientists working in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Cindy was cited for her work to make drinking water monitoring data available to the consumer. Her website, [Whatisinmywater.org](#), is a one-stop resource for information on contaminant occurrence, health impacts and solutions.

We are looking forward to celebrating Joe Brain and his 50 years of service to our department and school on Wednesday. We can expect an entertaining and educational send up of our beloved colleague. Be sure to [register here](#).

Check out the other events today and next week before the break below. Be sure to put on your calendar the Planetary Health Colloquium on January 5th.

As always, please email news and upcoming events that you would like me to share in the next Chair's Chatter here: eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu.

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 10 (1:10-1:50 pm ET) Occupational and Environmental Grand Rounds
Optimize Recovery: Focus on Function, Minimize Work Disability!

Presenter: J. David Sterns, MD, MPH

Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident, Harvard Chan School of Public Health

Discussant: Jennifer Christian, MD, MPH, FACOEM

President and Chief Medical Officer, Webility Corporation

Room Kresge 502 and Zoom Registration is required to join by ZOOM. Pre-register with link below:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3edRQCyRUWB3u8S

Friday, December 10 (4:00-5:00 pm ET) BWH Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Pulmonary Work-In-Progress

Speaker #1: David Ziehr, M.D, (Oldham) *“Inhibition of lactate transport therapeutically reprograms fibroblast metabolism in experimental pulmonary fibrosis”*

Speaker #2: Fotios Spyropoulos, M.D. (Christou/Michel) *“Chemogenetic models of heart failure and vascular disease”*

Zoom:

<https://partners.zoom.us/j/85659453504?pwd=UzZ4QTdNL3ZkSDJUbg5rWjUwMFRYQT09>

Dial in: 1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 856 5945 3504 Passcode: 826557

Monday, December 13 (8:30-9:30 am ET), Department of Environmental Health Seminar *Environmental Health Research – Is It Time For A New Paradigm?*

Professor Iona Jaspers, Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Building 1, Room 1302 and Zoom:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/97051790137?pwd=TUtlXBTcmwzRHBBZmZMMUFUcG5oQT09>

Password: 370312

Wednesday, December 15 (9:30 am – 12:30 pm ET), Department of Environmental Health Celebration to Honor Joe Brain’s 50 years of Service in the School

Many distinguished speakers; see agenda when you register.

Zoom: [register here](#).

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 (1:00-2:00 pm ET), The Planetary Health Colloquium *Planetary Change is Driving New Patterns of Non-Communicable Disease*

Francesca Dominici, PhD, Pauline Scheelbeek, PhD, Philip Landrigan, MD, MSc

Register at:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrcuirpzkpH9KVG2J0MnGtAa1xctZ4lPPD>

Chair Chatter
Friday, December 3, 2021

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving break. We're now in that time of year when there is less daylight, colder weather, and of course the end of the semester. December is an especially short month at work, as the school will be closed starting the end of day on December 17. A reminder for those of you who are submitting grants to note the grant deadlines, and for those who need supplies and such to order them early so that they get here before the school closes. It is indeed a busy time of the year!

While we have been away from the campus, the mail has continued to be delivered and to pile up. Much of this mail is journals and catalogues, but there is no doubt some important documents also. It would be great if you could arrange to empty your mailboxes. Even better if you would redirect your mail to a place (e.g. home) where you can receive and review it. Given that almost all journals are available online, it makes sense to reduce the burden on our mailroom and administrative staff so they can attend to important mail. And of course, we should set an example by reducing wastepaper and destruction of forests for pulp. Thanks!

We learned this week that Philippe Grandjean will receive an honorary doctorate from Belgium's Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven). Philippe was cited for his research on the effects of environmental chemicals on human health, such as his studies of the impact of mercury in Faroese birth cohorts—which helped inspire the United Nations decision to develop the Minamata Convention on the control of mercury pollution—and his current work on neurobehavioral development, immune system functions, and metabolic abnormalities associated with exposure to environmental chemicals, especially perfluorinated alkylates (PFAS). His studies provided documentation for new European Union limits for exposure to these compounds. Grandjean will be awarded the honorary doctorate on February 2, 2022, when KU Leuven celebrates its Patron Saint's Day. Congratulations Philippe!

Congratulations also to Xiao Wu (PhD 2021) who was selected for Forbes 30 under 30 in Healthcare. Xiao was recognized for his research on the health impacts of air pollution and climate change. He was specifically noted for his analyses of the link between higher levels of air pollution and higher Covid-19 death rates. All this work was done while Xiao was a PhD student here in Biostatistics mentored by his thesis advisor Francesca Dominici and Rachel Nethery and Danielle Braun. He did collaborative work with Joel Schwartz, Antonella Zanobetti, Francine Laden, Petros Koutrakis, Jaime Hart, Peter James, and many other members of our department. Xiao is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Stanford. We join Xiao's colleagues in celebrating this honor.

Email news and upcoming events that you would like me to share in the next Chair's Chatter here: eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu . Also, we are looking to gather people's Twitter handles; please send them to that address as well. Thanks!

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 3 (4:00-5:00 pm ET) Pulmonary Work-in-Progress

SPEAKER #1: Shikshya Shrestha, Ph.D. (El-Chemaly)

AGTR signaling is critical for TSC2-deficient cell tumorigenesis

SPEAKER #2: Yohannes Mebratu, Ph.D. (Tesfaigzi)

The importance of Bcl-2 Interacting Killer (BIK) in reducing lung inflammation and emphysema development

Zoom link:

<https://partners.zoom.us/j/85659453504?pwd=UzZ4QTdNL3ZkSDJUbG5rWjUwMFRYQT09>

Dial in: 1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 856 5945 3504 Passcode: 826557

Monday, December 6 (8:30 - 9:30 am ET) Department of Environmental Health

Building on the Past, Addressing the Needs of the Present, Improving the Field for the Future

Kari Nadeau, MD, PhD, Stanford University, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and Clinics

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/99334583452?pwd=bVQ2UmRHSHFvaDBkWmdEb09Fcm5HQQT09>

Password: 725893

Monday, December 6 (12 noon – 1 pm ET) Mahalingaiah Lab

Intersecting epidemiologic approaches and implementation science to improve research and clinical gaps for polycystic ovarian syndrome and mental health care

Phoutdavone "Noy" Phimphasone-Brady, PhD

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvc6orjoqH9PHakQ9d6niKmsIIcE8dySw>

Zoom meeting ID: 942 6700 1057, Zoom meeting password: 323711

Monday, December 6 (1:10 – 2:10 pm ET) EOME and Department of EH

The NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program: How we protect workers

Scott E. Brueck, MS, COH, COHC, Sr. Industrial Hygienist, NIOSH Division of Field Studies and Engineering

Location of the event: FXB G13 and ZOOM

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6s7zZf83Pqh38B8

Tuesday, December 7 (9:30-10:30 am) MIPS Work-in-Progress Seminar

Mechanical Compression of Airway Epithelial Cells Induces Secretion of Tenascin C

Chimwemwe Mwase, Teaching Fellow

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/99893080868?pwd=L0M2ZHYvU2t3aFE4YWI2YnRsbHlwdz09>

Wednesday, Dec 8 (1-2pm ET) Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health
Colloquium Series on Re-envisioning the Environment: Diverse Voices in Environmental Health
*Navigating Social Conflicts Related to Environmental Health: Tools from the Philosophy of
Science*

Kevin Elliott, PhD, professor of Philosophy at Michigan State University

Hybrid format – via Zoom and also in person in Building 1, 1302.

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/hsph-niehs-colloquium-series-kevin-elliott-phd/>

Students and Postdocs only: 2-3pm ET after presentation. Space is limited. RSVP is required

<https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Y2gosdmz4GE41E> for the Trainee Session
(not required for the main presentation).