

Chair Chatter

Friday, November 19, 2021

Let's start off this week's Chair Chatter by congratulating Peter James on his promotion to Associate Professor of Population Medicine. Well deserved, Peter!

Congratulations to Lisa Rokoff who successfully defended her PhD dissertation *Impact of Environmental Chemical Mixtures on Maternal and Child Mental Health!*

Congratulations to John Evans, and co-authors Leonora Rojas-Bracho, James Hammitt and myself for our publication entitled "[Mortality Benefits and Control Costs of Improving Air Quality in Mexico City – The Case of Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles](#)" that the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) has named as the Best Paper of 2021.

Last week's [SHINE Summit 2021](#) at the Radcliffe's Knafel Center was one of the university's first large, in-person gatherings and was a great success. The Summit brought together academics, policy makers and leaders of industry from Fortune 500 companies like Aetna, Amazon, Johnson & Johnson, Levi Strauss, Microsoft, Southwest Airlines, Starbucks and Toyota to advance understanding of work as a platform for human flourishing. A truly cross-disciplinary event, speakers came from across Harvard, including the Business, Kennedy, Law, and Chan Schools. The SHINE team incorporated multiple tiers of health and safety precautions, including requiring vaccine attestations and rapid testing all speakers and attendees upon arrival. Everyone agreed that meeting in-person was especially meaningful and impactful after all this time!

We are looking forward to two special EH talks coming up in coming weeks; Dr. Michelle Bell will be presenting on November 23, and Dr. Muhammad Zaman will present on November 30. See the upcoming events section for more details. Among other special days coming up are a celebration of Joe Brain's career on December 15.

If you are interested in joining the EH Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (DIB) Committee, please sign up [here](#). We welcome representatives from our entire EH community.

Our fall quarterly EH Department newsletter is going out today; if you don't get it you can find it here <https://www.flipsnack.com/hspheh/2021-nov-eh-newsletter-cfb94yan30.html>

Lastly, there will not be a Chair Chatter next week, as the school will be closed from Wednesday through Sunday for the Thanksgiving break. It is a good time for all of us to reflect on the many things that we have to be thankful for. I got a notice this week that I have been in this department at the school for 45 years. It made me reflect on my career here, the many accomplishments that I have seen come out of this department, and the many friendships that I have with my colleagues, both at the school now and among our many alumni. Indeed I have much to be grateful for, and I hope you do as well. I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving break!

Email news and upcoming events that you would like me to share in the next Chair's Chatter here: eh-chat@hsph.harvard.edu .

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 19 (1:00-2:00 pm ET) EOME and Department of EH

The Role of Veterans Affairs Registry Exams for Military-Specific Occupational Exposures

Shane Joseph, MD, MPH, Resident, HSPH Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program.
Maj. Dennis Lacroix, PA, Lead Environmental Registries Clinician, VA Boston Healthcare System

Kresge 502 and Zoom link: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cAVXmOn3rQtlrAa

Friday, November 19 (4:00-5:00 pm ET) Pulmonary Work-In-Progress

SPEAKER #1: Yunju Jeong, Ph.D. (Kim)

“Granzyme K+ T Cells Drive Fibroblast Inflammation in Early, Unclassifiable Interstitial Lung Disease (uILD)”

SPEAKER #2: Rachel Putman, M.D. (Hunninghake)

“Integrating visual reads and quantitative metrics to assess ILA progression”

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

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

Monday, November 22 (8:30 a.m.-9:30 am ET) Environmental Health Special Presentation

Michelle Bell, PhD Yale School of the Environment

Trends in Environmental Health: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Zoom meeting

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/91075838303?pwd=b00valBaRFdObzdRLzd4VHBCdjIzdz09>

Password: 442834

Monday, November 22 (12 noon – 1:00 pm ET) The Mahalingaiah Lab

How it Works--the Biological Mechanisms Connecting Environmental Variation to Human Reproduction

Virginia Vitzthum, PhD

Registration Zoom link: <https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApd--pqTwoH9INBmud5W3zIvGR9XGOi4Ia>

Zoom meeting ID: 944 0617 7256

Zoom meeting password: **540484**

Monday, November 29 (8:30 a.m.-9:30 am ET) Environmental Health Special Presentation

Muhammad Zaman, PhD Boston University

Zoom meeting

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/97050760608?pwd=WXZoMWVmL005UDBVakZTZmtBdFpGUT09>

Password: 971975

Tuesday, November 30 (9:30 am ET) MIPS Work-In-Progress

“When Mechanics Meets Biology: Cell Mechanics and Mechanobiology in Multicellular Systems.”

Ming Guo, PhD MIT

Zoom link: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/99893080868?pwd=L0M2ZHYvU2t3aFE4YWl2YnRsbHlwdz09>

Chair's Chatter

Friday, November 12, 2021

On Wednesday, the Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center held a virtual retreat on the Center's future directions. Four breakout rooms were created to discuss lab sciences, environmental epi and stats, exposure assessment, and community engagement. The highlights were then discussed with all the participants, and common themes emerged. NIEHS Director Rick Woychik gave a terrific keynote address before meeting with some of our trainees. Overall, it was a very successful and thought-provoking event.

Tamarra James-Todd reports that the Superfund Research Center's Community Engagement Core has held two events over the past couple of weeks. First, they educated community members on metals in our soil and environment at the Franklin Park Zoo Howl event, where over 4,000 people came out. Their booth was bustling with interested people. At the Roslindale Farmer's Market, they educated community members in personal care product chemicals. At least 100 people came out for this. Our research and work are translational and can be responsive to community's concerns, in this case, about personal care product chemicals. Both events were very successful. Both the zoo and the Roslindale Farmer's market have invited Tamarra's group back to do more outreach. Thanks to the students and trainees that participated and helped forge new connections with community members and organizations.

Our EH Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee (DIB) will be meeting Monday afternoon and is looking for new members. See details below.

Looks like we will have a foretaste of winter with wind and rain over the next couple of days. All those colorful leaves will soon be on the ground. On the other hand, for those of us who have been around Boston for many decades, these falling leaves seem much later than usual. As the anecdotal and observational evidence of climate change becomes more apparent, let's hope that the COP26 conference, which ends today, leads to some real commitments to address this issue.

In addition to the department events below, you may be interested to know that the longest partial lunar eclipse since the 15th century will be happening early next Friday morning! See here for details: <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/boston>

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, November 12 (1:10-1:50 pm ET) Occupational and Environmental Medicine Grand Rounds

Human Factors and the Flight Surgeon

Alex Jobrack, MD, MPH

Colonel Robert P, McCoy, DO, MPH

Register: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0rAhWYEu3nEgFfc

Monday, November 15 (1:10-1:50 pm ET) ERC Seminar Series

The Post-Covid Workforce

Joseph B. Fuller, AB, MBA

Register https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eEWe7pa1DEI2PCC

Monday, November 15 (3:00-4:00 pm ET) EH Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee (DIB)

New members welcome!

Zoom:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/98875028042?pwd=Z0ZiYURuZkxUdDJRT3Q0U0JaVIYvdz09>

Tuesday, November 16 (9:30-10:30 am ET) MIPS WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Organoid Modeling of Lung Disease and Lung Cancer

Carla Kim, PhD

Building 1, Room 1302 and Zoom:

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

Chair's Chatter

Friday, November 5, 2021

We are delighted to welcome Liana Lawrence, our new MIPS Program Coordinator. Liana comes to us from Boston University, where she has worked since 2016, first in the School of Social Work and most recently in the BU School of Law as their Senior Program Coordinator of Faculty Services. Liana will be sitting in 1310A (formerly Marshall's office) on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Please stop by to say hello.

We want to wish two members of our team good luck as they move on in their careers. First, Grant Manager Chris Tam is leaving us to join the Harvard University Employee Credit Union (HUECU) as a data analyst. We thank Chris for his hard work and wish him much success in his new job.

Likewise, we wish the best of luck to Lauren McCalla, who is moving on to a new position. She was the Executive Assistant to the Chair and has served Russ Hauser and me admirably over the past four years. I want to personally thank Lauren for all she has done for so many of us in the department.

Last week Ann Backus, Director of Outreach for the Harvard Chan Education and Research Center, gave a virtual Roundtable presentation at the APHA Annual Convention. Her talk, "Occupational health and safety education for community health workers can increase effectiveness and social connectedness," connected directly with this year's APHA conference of "Strengthening Social Connectedness."

In exciting news— Zac Nagel's and David Christiani's groups were each featured in the NIEHS [Environmental Factor](#) Newsletter as a Paper of the Month! The E-Factor Papers of the Month highlight the highest impact and most innovative research funded by NIEHS.

Last week, the John B. Little Center hosted its annual symposium. The symposium was well attended and discussed transformative research in COVID-19. Our thanks to Zack Nagle, Kris Sarosiek, Zhi-Min Yuan, and Melissa Curran for organizing and to everyone who participated.

The Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center will hold its virtual retreat on Wednesday next week. This year's retreat will discuss the direction of the Center in our competing renewal. Issues such as climate change, planetary health, environmental justice, diversity, equity, and belonging will be considered. NIEHS Director Rick Woychik will be this year's featured speaker. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

As a reminder, the University will be closed on Thursday, November 11th, in observation of Veteran's Day. Let us keep the sacrifices and contributions of our country's many veterans in mind on this special day.

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 05 (1:10-1:50 pm ET) Harvard Chan Education and Research Center Grand Rounds

The multi-level complexity associated with the mental health of aging workers in Europe during the COVID-19 pandemic

Lilah Rinsky, MD, PhD, MOccH

Register: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0MJdBgZfaWFsUMC

(RESCHEDULED) Monday, November 08 (1:10-1:50 pm ET) ERC Seminar Series
Global Occupational Disease, Climate, Pandemics and Planetary Health – Universal Occupational Health Coverage, A Roadmap

Thomas Gassert, MD

Register: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0q9Uuhq3RyqajNs

Tuesday, November 09 (9:30-10:30 am ET) MIPS Works-in-Progress Seminar
Genomic Signatures of the Unjamming Transition in the Compressed Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells

Margherita De Marzio, PhD

Zoom:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/99893080868?pwd=L0M2ZHYvU2t3aFE4YWl2YnRsbHlwZz09>

Wednesday, November 10 (11:15 am- 3:30 pm ET) Harvard Chan NIEHS Retreat

More Information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/hsph-niehs-center-retreat-2/>

Wednesday, November 10 (1:00-2:00 pm ET) Harvard Chan NIEHS Retreat
Climate Change and Health and Precision Environmental Health: Emerging New Areas of Focus for NIEHS

Rick Woychik, PhD, Director of the NIEHS

Register: https://harvard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GsBXm92XQsm783w4hNBqDg

Wednesday, November 10 (2:00-3:00 pm ET) Harvard Chan NIEHS Retreat

Student and Postdoc Trainee Session with Dr. Rick Woychik

Rick Woychik, PhD, Director of the NIEHS

Register: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b47bC5EewI0x8ai

Friday, November 12 (1:00- 2:00 pm ET) Harvard Chan Education and Resource Center and EOME

Human Factors and the Flight Surgeon

Alex Jobrack, MD, MPH, HSPH Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident

Colonel Robert P. McCoy, DO, MPH, United States Air Force

Kresge 502 and Zoom

Register: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0rAhWYEu3nEgffC