

Chair's Chatter

Friday, September 23, 2021

The Autumnal Equinox on Wednesday marked the official beginning of the fall season. For those new to the area New England is particularly known for spectacular foliage. We look forward to cooler days and nights, and crisp autumn air.

We're glad to welcome Glenn Stern, our Director of Administration, back from his recent medical leave of absence.

Tomorrow, September 25th has been designated as ***National Research Administrator's Day***. It is a reminder to thank all of our dedicated and expert research administrators who have diligently, under very challenging conditions these past many months, kept us moving forward with the department's multi-faceted and expansive research activities. The success of our research and the impact it has had on public health would not be possible without the outstanding stewardship and guidance of our research administrators. Thanks!

Monday is the start of the **Harvard Chan Alumni Week** celebration. Our Department will be participating with a breakout session specifically for our EH Alumni on Tuesday, the 28th from 6:00 – 7:30. We're looking forward to reconnecting with our esteemed alumni and updating them on the great work that continues in our Department. We will also have short research updates by Carmen Messerlian ("*Human reproduction in our plastic world - what we know and where do we go*"), Gary Adamkiewicz ("*People, places and policies: Improving health in public housing*"), and Joe Allen ("*Buildings that make us sick, or keep us well: a paradigm shift to combat indoor respiratory infection*"). Should be a fun evening. Please register [here](#)

We would like to hear from you any updates on your activities that could be included in the next issue of the quarterly ***Environmental Health Department Newsletter***. Please let us know of your awards/honors, translation of research, media coverage, COVID related activities, upcoming events/seminars, etc. We have added a section in the Newsletter on our Alumni, and would welcome news from our Alumni on what you are doing, transitions, or life events. Please complete the Qualtrics survey by Monday, October 4th [here](#).

Upcoming events:

Monday Sept 27th 1-2 PM. NIOSH ERC Seminar Dr. David Christiani. "Update on Vaping Associated Lung Injury" Registration required https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Z9Yi95zm6IADrg

Tuesday Sept 28th 6:00 – 7:30. Harvard Chan Alumni Week, Environmental Health Gathering. Register [here](#)

Chair's Chatter

Friday, September 17, 2021

We are very pleased to welcome back our students and many of our faculty, fellows, researchers, and staff to campus. We had hoped that we would be starting to return to our normal academic routines this fall, but the risk of COVID remains high.

The school has been vigilant in minimizing the risk of COVID exposure. Vaccinations and regular testing are required. Ventilation and filtration systems have been enhanced in our buildings. Masks are required indoors. Priority for meetings has been given to students, faculty/instructors, researchers, and those staff working directly with our educational operations. In-person gatherings, outside of classes, are being discouraged. Everyone must remain masked during any gathering and no food or drink is permitted.

With the return of students and more of our Harvard Chan community returning to campus, there has been strain on testing and tracking. We have been asked to advise everyone to carefully review your need to come to the campus at this time. Please consult with your supervisor about your need to come into campus. For those of you who do come to campus, note that an additional laboratory has been engaged to assist with testing, due to the increased number of tests each week. The testing cadences and procedures are the same, but the testing kits may look different.

Thanks for your patience and understanding as we ramp up over the next couple of weeks.

On Wednesday, Petros Koutrakis presented a webinar to the European Radon Association. Petros described his research on radiation as a risk factor for non-cancerous diseases, and on radiation as a pathway for PM Toxicity. This innovative work has been supported by the Harvard/MIT Air Climate Energy Center.

Congratulations to our colleague and alumnus Jay Mizgerd who has been named the Jerome Brody Professor of Medicine at Boston University. Also congratulations to Lee Quinton, who was a postdoc here in MIPS working with Jay Mizgerd has been appointed Professor of Medicine at U Mass Medical School.

We are collecting news of your activities for the upcoming edition of the *Department of Environmental Health's Quarterly Newsletter*. Please let us know of your awards/honors, translation of research, media coverage, upcoming events, etc. at https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8bJCeIMUGKbT5u6. The deadline for submissions is Friday, October 1st.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ERC Seminar Series. Monday, September 20 (1:10 pm – 1:50 pm)

Marjorie Naila Segule, BS, Masters of Environmental Health Candidate

“Occupational Health in Incarcerated Settings”

Pre-register: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/erc/event/erc-seminar-marjorienailasegule/>

MEMCARE Speaker Series. Monday, September 20 (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
Dr. Takao Hensch, Professor of Neurology, Boston Children’s Hospital
Zoom link <https://memcare.sph.harvard.edu/memcare-src-speaker-series> for the

NIEHS Center Chalk Talks. Wednesday, September 22 (1:00 pm – 2:00 pm)
Wanda Phipatanakul, MD, MS
Community and Precision-Based Approaches to Reduce and Prevent Asthma Disparities
For more information <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/events/>

Planetary Health Colloquium. Wednesday, October 6 (1:00 pm – 2:00 pm)
Dr. Howard Frumkin Presenter; Dr. Allan Brandt Discussant
Planetary Health: Environmental Health 4.0
<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/94929936993>

SAVE THE DATE

September 25th **National Research Administrator’s Day**

October 14th **NIEHS Center - Specific Aims Review**

October 20th **NIEHS SPARC Session**

October 29th **John B. Little Symposium**

EH Chair's Chatter
Friday, September 3, 2021

Welcome back again to all of our students and teaching faculty who started classes on Monday. Hope you had a good first week.

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Tamarra James-Todd to the Mark and Catherine Winkler Associate Professor of Environmental Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology. Tamarra joined the Department in 2015 and has distinguished herself through innovative research investigating the impact of environmental chemicals and metals on maternal cardio-metabolic health during pregnancy, the postpartum period, and in the decades following pregnancy. She is also the Director of the Superfund Community Engagement Core and co-faculty director of the EH Environmental Justice student group. Congratulations and continued success Tamarra.

We are excited to announce a new departmental colloquia series on Planetary Health for this academic year. The series will be offered simultaneously in person and remotely on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. Dr. Howard Frumkin, Former Dean of the University of Washington School of Public Health and Professor Emeritus, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington School of Public Health will be the first speaker on October 6th (1:00-2:00pm) with Dr. Allan Brandt, Amalie Moses Kass Professor of the History of Medicine, as the discussant. More information to follow.

Please note that food and drink are not permitted during seminars and colloquia in the EH conference rooms in Building 1, 13th floor or Landmark 414A.

For those staff, researchers, and faculty who are ready to return to campus (either HSPH or 401 Park Drive/Landmark), you can find guidance on the Department's COVID [website](#).

Monday is the Labor Day holiday in the United States. Although generally recognized as the end of summer, we should not forget that Labor Day celebrates the achievements of workers. We particularly celebrate our NIOSH sponsored Educational Research Center which supports faculty, students, fellows, and alumni who are working to promote and protect the health and safety of workers.

Thanks to everyone in the department who have worked so hard during the past academic year. Let us use this holiday to recharge as we begin a new year.