
Chair Chatter

April 1, 2022

On this first day of April, I am pleased to share that early this morning I received an email from a royal benefactor who wants to make a substantial gift to the department. This gift could be an unexpected legacy for the department. I will keep you apprised of further developments.*

The American Public Health Association (APHA) has designated April 4 - 10 as [National Public Health Week](#). The theme for this year's NPHW is "Public Health is Where You Are."

Yesterday the White House Office of Public Engagement hosted a Health Equity Forum on "Environmental Justice, Climate Change, and Health Equity." C-CHANGE and Yerby Fellow Renee Salas discussed why healthcare providers should care about climate change as it relates to the health of their patients. Gina McCarthy, former director of C-CHANGE and now National Climate Advisor in the Climate Policy Office, also presented. They spotlighted the intersection of climate change, environmental justice, health equity, and key provisions in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that meaningfully address environmental harms that disproportionately impact our nation's most vulnerable patients.

The [free-cycle event](#) sponsored by the Harvard Chan Student Association went well. If you missed it, don't worry – they will be hosting another one on April 27-28. Drop off your new or lightly used clothing and household goods between now and then in boxes in Kresge lobby.

Congratulations to Mohammad Alseidan (ScD '16) who was recently appointed as the Director of Kuwait's Public Health Administration. We always enjoy hearing from our alumni!

And now to wrap up Women's History Month, here is our final batch of women mentors in public health:

Julia Brody

Tenacity, commitment, and vision for how to address impacts of the environment on women's health

Kathleen Attfield

Florence Nightingale

Nightingale's rose figure is the best data visualization in my opinion. The figure shows how complex information can be conveyed in a beautiful way.

Longxiang Li

Mary Snow Wolff

Mary Wolff was my first boss and mentor in public health as a premedical student. Phil Landrigan had made the introduction: When he recruited me to Mount Sinai's Children's Environmental Health Center out of a Bronx, NY public school classroom, he didn't have any job openings, but referred me to Mary, who then needed an assistant. She was maybe the best woman working in environmental health today, he said, and knowing nothing about her, I

Googled her biosketch. Immediately I was daunted by her accomplishments: a Yale PhD (I think before women could attend as undergrads), seminal environmental epidemiology research as a postdoc for Irving Selikoff, then her myriad investigations with Phil. When I first met her in her office, I was shocked by this prolific scientist's Zen nature. She nursed plants in the window, recommended the best chocolates in the West Village, and explained how she maintained her neti pots around her many, many heaps of neatly annotated papers. Though my role on her team was mostly administrative, she taught me about everything I know about scientific writing, ethics, and integrity, and that was on top of her expertise on the science of endocrine disruptors. Everything she did was so precise, yet seemed so easy, and I was in awe of it half of the time. (The other half, she told me to chill, and she was right.) Mary has over time built a powerhouse roster of women scientists there around her, and she basically sold me on NYU School of Medicine based on her daughter's experiences of practice there. Though our research interests diverged, and I haven't seen her often in recent years, I consider her my first and greatest mentor in epidemiology. Her choice to hire me helped change my life, on top of the many lives she has likely saved through her science.

Maureen Miller

As usual please send news or events for Chair's Chatter to eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu. Also, follow us on twitter [@HarvardEnvHlth](https://twitter.com/HarvardEnvHlth)

*Don't forget that this is April Fool's Day.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 1 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

GRAND ROUNDS: PFAS Human Health Effects & Fire Fighter-Related Concerns

Presenter: James M. Medeiros, DO, MPH, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident, Harvard Chan School of Public Health

Discussant: John W. Downs, MD, MPH, FACP, FACOEM, LTC(P), Associate Program Director and Adjunct Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics, Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, MD.

Drs. Medeiros and Downs will describe the commonly identified sources of PFAS in the environment. They will discuss the currently known toxicology and health effects and describe how to respond to patient inquiries about the health effects of PFAS.

Location of the event: HSPH Kresge 502 and ZOOM

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0rpQcuzUurWsPem

Monday, April 4 (10:00 AM ET)

A Call to Action for a Well-being Agenda: The Need for a Planetary Health Approach

Join us on April 4th at 10AM EST for a joint webinar during Global Public Health Week between WHO, PHA, and the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU).

Participants will include the PHA's Associate Director Carlos Faerron, World Health Organization's Rüdiger Krech, and Sabine Gabrysch from WBGU.

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Yz241FNgRVStCJuFC2BcOg

Monday, April 4 (1:10 PM ET)

Monday ERC Seminar “Cannabis and Work”

Speaker: John Howard, MD, MPH, Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Dr. Howard will describe data about industries where cannabis consumption is most prevalent and discuss the hazards to workers in the cannabis industry. He will explain the relationship between cannabis consumption and occupational injuries and list the ways to determine worker impairment.

Location: FXB G13 and ZOOM

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

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

Tuesday, April 5 (12:00 – 1:00 PM ET)

From Policy to Practice: Community Roles & Responsibilities

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). To commemorate SAAM, the Longwood campus is offering an exclusive workshop of related topics. The Office for Gender Equity and the Title IX Resource Coordinators from the Longwood community will be coming together to deliver this new program. Specifically, this session will build on shared community knowledge of Harvard’s policies and protocols to promote gender equity, including preventing and responding to potential sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct. This session will also provide attendees with the opportunity to meet their local Longwood Title IX Resource Coordinators by featuring a Q&A panel with these individuals to help address the most prevalent questions and concerns facing the community currently.

To submit questions or suggest topics or concerns in advance: [Panel Questions](#)

[Submission Link](#)

Register here: [From Policy to Practice Registration Page.](#)

Thursday, April 7 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET)

The Planetary Health Colloquium: How the Private Sector Can Help Stimulate a Great Transition Toward Planetary Health

The Departments of Environmental Health, Global Health and Population, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, and Nutrition, along with Harvard University Center for the Environment, the Harvard Global Health Institute, Planetary Health Alliance, and the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network (EEAC) warmly welcome Rüdiger Krech, Paul Polman and Michael Weatherhead as the seventh speakers of the Planetary Health Colloquium Series. The event will be streamed live from Zoom

Presenters: Rüdiger Krech, PhD, Paul Polman, Michael Weatherhead

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwufuurrz4jE9Y4mZ7kryxeo5WbVxuD_t2P

Friday, April 8 (1:10 PM ET)

GRAND ROUNDS: 'Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance Attributed to Electromagnetic Fields (IEI-EMF)'

Presenter: José Villa-Uribe, MD, Resident in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Discussant: Stefanos N. Kales, MD, MPH, Director, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency and Professor, Department of Environmental Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Location: HSPH Kresge 502 and ZOOM

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ZzvX59DSJGtpzM

Monday, April 11 (1:10 PM ET)

Monday ERC Seminar “Using Volatile Organic Compounds in Breath for Early Detection of Lung Cancer”

Speaker: Olga Gorlova, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
Dr. Gorlova will describe volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the breath of lung cancer patients and explain the approach to the use of VOCs for early lung cancer detection.

Location: Zoom only

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3aWYZphxeXVzqYu

Monday, April 11, 2022 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

EH PhD PHS Dissertation Defense: “We Don’t Farm Because It’s Trendy”: An Environmental Justice Approach to Exploring the Connection Between Urban Agriculture and Health

Speaker: Ashley Gripper

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/95709370819?pwd=ZWRtblhVVnFHem9jb2dJdzdBSUR3UT09>

Password: Booster

Chair Chatter

April 8, 2022

This week and next is a confluence of important religious holidays in the Islamic, Jewish and Christian worlds. For the many members of our community that observe Ramadan, Passover or Christian Holy Week, we wish you a Ramadan Mubarak, Happy Passover, and Happy Easter. It is a reminder that diversity in our department is a strength.

Speaking of diversity, I encourage you to complete the EDIB Campus Climate Survey. Sharing your experiences will help the school understand and respond to community needs and experiences. You can access the survey [here](#).

Please join me in welcoming our newest EH finance team member, Kent Neumann. Kent will be with our Accounts Payable and non-sponsored accounts. He comes to us from Harvard's Center on the Developing Child. He has been with Harvard University since 2000, so he is already familiar with Harvard systems. We are very excited to have Kent and are looking forward to working with him!

Congratulations to Zac Nagel, who received a Research Scholar Grant from the American Cancer Society for his grant proposal entitled "Role of translesion polymerases in temozolomide resistance in glioblastoma". Well done, Zac!

Congratulations also to Chimwemwe Mwase, a BPH student in Jin-Ah Park's lab. Chim has been selected to be a Recipient of the 2022 Minority Trainee Development Scholarship (MTDS) Award from the American Thoracic Society. Great work, Chim!

Also, kudos to Xinye Qiu, Mahdieh Danesh-Yazdi, Yaguang Wei, Qian Di, Allan Just, Antonella Zanobetti, Marc Weisskopf, Francesca Dominici, and Joel Schwartz for their paper entitled "[Associations of short-term exposure to air pollution and increased ambient temperature with psychiatric hospital admissions in older adults in the USA: a case-crossover study](#)" that was just been published in The Lancet Planetary Health. They found that in the US Medicare population, short-term exposure to elevated concentrations of PM_{2.5}, NO₂ and cold season ambient temperature increase were significantly associated with an increased risk of hospital admissions for psychiatric disorders (including depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorders). Considering the increasing burden of psychiatric disorders in the US population, these findings suggest that intervening on air pollution and ambient temperature levels through stricter environmental regulations or climate mitigation could help ease the psychiatric healthcare burden.

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Discussant: Stefanos N. Kales, MD, MPH, Director, Occupational and Environmental

Medicine Residency and Professor, Department of Environmental Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Location: HSPH Kresge 502 and ZOOM

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ZzvX59DSJGtpzM

Monday, April 11 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

PhD PHS Dissertation Defense: “We Don’t Farm Because It’s Trendy”: An Environmental Justice Approach to Exploring the Connection Between Urban Agriculture and Health

Speaker: Ashley Gripper

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/95709370819?pwd=ZWRtblhVVnFHem9jb2dJdzdBSUR3UT09>

Password: Booster

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Location: Zoom only

Website link to register for ZOOM link:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3aWYZphxeXVzqYu

Tuesday, April 12 (9:30 – 10:30 AM ET)

MIPS Work-in-Progress Seminar - “Age: Where Ribosomal & Lung Biology Meet”

Speaker: Charleen Adams, PhD MPH

Zoom link:

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

Wednesday, April 13 (1:00 – 2:00pm ET)

The Role of Implementation Science in Environmental Public Health

Presenter: Lindsey Martin, NIEHS

Join us for our colloquium series on *Re-envisioning the Environment: Diverse Voices in Environmental Health*. This month, we welcome [Lindsey Ann Martin, PhD](#), a health science administrator in the Population Health Branch of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). She is a medical anthropologist and supports a broad environmental health portfolio focused on environmental health disparities, community-based research approaches and implementation/dissemination sciences. This event will be held via Zoom.

Students and Postdocs: We will host a virtual Trainee Session with Dr. Martin after her presentation from **2:30-3:30pm 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 information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/hsph-niehs-colloquium-series-lindsey-martin-phd/>

Sunday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. followed by an 8PM reception outdoors around the fire.

Gathering Light: An Earth Day Celebration

Ravel piano concerto performed by Neave Trio. Sponsored by Religion and Public Life, Planetary Health Alliance, Harvard Divinity School, and Harvard Center for the Environment.

Location: Williams Chapel, Swartz Hall, Harvard Divinity School

Register [here](#)

Monday, April 25, 10:00am-11:00am (EDT)

Adding Community Voice to Research: How the Community Coalition of Equity in Research can help

Presenter: Dr. Rebekka Lee, Director of the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program.

The Community Coalition for Equity in Research, developed by the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program, works to build community voice and considerations for health equity into public health and clinical research, as well as strengthen community-academic relationships throughout Massachusetts. This coalition is co-led by Karen Emmons, the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program faculty lead, and Michael Curry, CEO at the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. The coalition offers researchers high-quality community input on research projects and provides a trusted communication channel between researchers and community stakeholders. An ideal time for getting community input on research is prior to protocol development as researchers are preparing their initial IRB submission. In this monthly education session, Dr. Rebekka Lee, Director of the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program will provide an overview of the coalition approach and describe how you can bring your research for review by their community stakeholder members.

Register [here](#) .

Thursday, April 28 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate: Climate Change and Health – Implications for Inherently Hot Regions and Cardiovascular Health

Speaker: Barrak Alahmad

Location: Zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/95884188415?pwd=aS9DYUFkQm1aaFEzQTNydnndlTmRCUT09>

Password: Booster

Friday, April 29 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate: Environmental Exposures and Diabetes Risk

Speaker: Melissa Fiffer

Location: Zoom and HSPH Building 1, Room 1302

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/93606534216?pwd=SzQzYStFU0FZTGsva00wNUZTenNIQT09>

Password: Booster

Chair Chatter

April 15, 2022

Today is home opening day for the Red Sox, a harbinger of warm weather and summer sports. People at Landmark will notice that the Fenway area comes alive with fans attending the game.

Monday is one of my favorite days of the year -- Patriot's Day, a Massachusetts (but not a Harvard) holiday. For those new to Boston, this day commemorates the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. It is also the traditional day of the Boston Marathon. I highly recommend that you find time to cheer the runners on as they make their way down Beacon Street and through Kenmore Square.

Adam Haber's [research](#) on racial disparities in government responses to asthma-triggering housing conditions in Boston was featured in a front page article in the [Boston Globe](#) this week. Adam and his colleagues found that people of color and poorer people are more frequently exposed to unhealthy housing conditions that can trigger asthma, and the city is typically slower to address these problems than in whiter areas.

Congratulations to Ashley Gripper who successfully defended her doctoral dissertation "*We Don't Farm Because It's Trendy: An Environmental Justice Approach to Exploring the Connection between Urban Agriculture and Health.*"

Congratulations to Antonella Marrocco, who received a paper of the year award from the Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section at the Society of Toxicology meeting in San Diego. Antonella's paper appeared in the Journal of Immunology and is entitled [Metabolic Adaptation of Macrophages as Mechanism of Defense against Crystalline Silica](#). Antonella was also recognized at the same meeting for serving as the Postdoctoral Student Representative for the Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section. We were proud to partially offset some of Antonella's travel expenses using the EH department's Dr. Horning travel funds. Well done, Antonella!

There is an interesting feature about the NTU-Harvard Chan Initiative for Sustainable Nanotechnology (NTU-Harvard SusNano) on the school's website that describes a way to use nanotechnology to package food using "[smart](#)" [packaging as an alternative to plastic](#). Congratulations to Phil Demokritou and his team for devising this novel solution.

A week from today (April 22) is [Earth Day](#); Harvard has many activities planned to commemorate this international day meant to celebrate the earth and to remind us to take care of our precious planet.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 15 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

Friday Grand Rounds – *Aeromedical Concern for Routine Medical Care*

Presenter: Joseph Abrams, DO, First-year Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Discussant: Phillip Strawbridge, MD, Lt Col, USAF.

Location: HSPH Kresge 502 and ZOOM

Drs. Abrams and Strawbridge will describe the abnormal physiologic conditions in flight and explain the diverse influence of various airframes on flight physiology. They will describe the impact of aerospace medical standards on the pharmacological treatment of common diseases and the aeromedical concerns around the management of hypertension and seasonal allergies.

Website link to register for ZOOM link: <http://hsph.me/Pre-register for Aeromedicine Grand Rounds>

Tuesday, April 19 (9:30 – 10:30 AM ET)

MIPS Work-in-Progress Seminar - “Apoptosis Regulation in the Lung from Birth to Adulthood: Impact on Health and Disease Including COVID-19”

Speaker: Kristopher Sarosiek, PhD

Zoom Link:

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

Friday, April 22 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

Friday Grand Rounds – Avoid the Red Herring: The Case of a Septic Knee Joint in an Occupational Medicine Clinic

Speaker: Rachael Zacks, MD, First-year Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Discussant: Jeffrey E. Vogel, MD, MPH, Instructor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Attending Physician, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Cambridge Health Alliance.

Location: HSPH Kresge 502 and ZOOM

Drs. Zacks and Vogel will describe the red flag symptoms for a clinical knee exam and describe the risk factors for development of monoarticular septic arthritis. They will identify the common organisms associated with septic arthritis.

Website link to register for ZOOM link: <http://hsph.me/Pre-register for Septic Knee Grand Rounds>

Sunday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. followed by an 8PM reception outdoors around the fire.

Gathering Light: An Earth Day Celebration

Ravel piano concerto performed by Neave Trio. Sponsored by Religion and Public Life, Planetary Health Alliance, Harvard Divinity School, and Harvard Center for the Environment.

Location: Williams Chapel, Swartz Hall, Harvard Divinity School

Register [here](#)

Monday, April 25, 10:00am-11:00am (EDT)

Adding Community Voice to Research: How the Community Coalition of Equity in Research can help

Presenter: Dr. Rebekka Lee, Director of the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program.

The Community Coalition for Equity in Research, developed by the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program, works to build community voice and considerations for health equity into public health and clinical research, as well as strengthen community-academic relationships throughout Massachusetts. This coalition is co-led by Karen Emmons, the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program faculty lead, and Michael Curry, CEO at the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. The coalition offers researchers high-quality community input on research projects and provides a trusted communication channel between researchers and community stakeholders. An ideal time for getting community input on research is prior to protocol development as researchers are preparing their initial IRB submission. In this monthly education session, Dr. Rebekka Lee, Director of the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program will provide an overview of the coalition approach and describe how you can bring your research for review by their

community stakeholder members.
Register [here](#) .

Monday, April 25 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

Monday, ERC Seminar – Grand Rounds: Retained Bullet Fragments: Follow the Lead

Presenter: J. David Sterns, MD, MPH. Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Discussant: Rose H. Goldman, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Physician – Occupational Medicine, Cambridge Health Alliance.

Drs. Sterns and Goldman will describe the symptoms of lead toxicity and explain the risks of lead toxicity from retained fragments. They will discuss an approach to managing patients with retained bullet fragments.

This is a Grand Rounds presentation that was moved into the Monday ERC Seminar spot. The presentation has been pre-recorded; the Q/A will be virtual/live.

Location: Zoom Only

Website link to register for ZOOM link: <http://hsph.me/Pre-register for Retained Bullet Fragments>

Monday, April 25 (2:30 – 4:30 PM ET)

Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate: Approaching an Affinity for Nature as a Determinant of Use and Health Benefits

Speaker: Linda Powers Tomasso

Location: Zoom and FXB G12

Zoom link: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96539698419?pwd=S0hBS2UwYlRvcjdrS2dOeG8xa3Z5UT09>

Password: Booster

Wednesday, April 27 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET) via Zoom

HSPH-NIEHS Center Chalk Talk Series

Speaker: Dr. Shruthi Mahalingaiah, assistant professor of environmental, reproductive and women's health

Title: Physiological approach to study design for understanding the associations between environmental exposures and ovulation disorders

More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/center-chalk-talks-shruthi-mahalingaiah-md-ms/>

Thursday, April 28 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate: Climate Change and Health – Implications for Inherently Hot Regions and Cardiovascular Health

Speaker: Barrak Alahmad

Location: Zoom

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/95884188415?pwd=aS9DYUFkQm1aaFEzQTNydnndlTmRCUT09>

Password: Booster

Thursday, April 28 (12:00 – 1:30 PM ET) via Zoom

HSPH-NIEHS Center Specific Aims Review Session

The NIEHS Center for Environmental Health offers to review your Specific Aims for upcoming grant submissions. In a friendly, constructive open session, a panel of Center senior

faculty members offer their critique of and suggestions for improving Specific Aims section for junior faculty and post-docs. Session is open to all members, collaborators and their trainees.

If you would like your document reviewed this session, please send an email to niehsctr@hsph.harvard.edu by 5pm ET on Monday, April 25th and include the following information:

- Name (first and last)
- Affiliation
- Sponsor
- Type of grant/award you are applying for
- Anticipated submission date
- Attach your Specific Aims document (MS Word is preferred)

This session will be held via Zoom only. If you would like to attend our Specific Aims Review session as a reviewer, please email niehsctr@hsph.harvard.edu and you will be sent the calendar invite and Zoom URL. Please feel free to share with your trainees who are applying for an upcoming grant.

More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/specific-aims-review-session/2022-04-28/>

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Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate: Environmental Exposures and Diabetes Risk

Speaker: Melissa Fiffer

Location: Zoom and HSPH Building 1, Room 1302

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/93606534216?pwd=SzQzYStFU0FZTGsva00wNUZTenNIQT09>

Password: Booster

Chair Chatter

April 22, 2022

[Happy Earth Day!](#) It is a day to celebrate the Earth, and to think about what we can do as individuals and as a human community to help sustain it. Heaven knows we have a lot of work to do! Here are [Harvard Earth Day planned events](#). Many of the people in our department work on climate and sustainability issues; for example, you can visit [C-Change](#) or the [Planetary Health Alliance](#) to learn more about what is happening on a broader scale and what actions you can take.

This week the White House launched its Clean Air in Buildings Challenge as part of the Biden Administration's National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. Guided by environmental health experts, including our very own Joe Allen, the Challenge is a call to action for leaders and building operators to assess their indoor air quality and make ventilation and air filtration a top priority in protecting the health of their occupants.

In a [New Times essay](#) this morning, Ed Nardell and our colleagues Don Milton and David Michaels also advocate for the use of air disinfection with germicidal ultraviolet light to control COVID in public spaces. Ed and Mel First showed the effectiveness of germicidal ultraviolet light in controlling the airborne spread of tuberculosis.

Congratulations to Joe Allen and his team who received a \$3 million gift from the Login5 Foundation for their work on the Co-Benefits of Built Environment Research (CoBe).

Congratulations to Jose Guillermo Cedeno Laurent who will be joining the faculty at Rutgers University Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Institute (EOSHI) this summer. Memo is a graduate of our doctoral program and has been a leader in our healthy buildings research for almost twelve years. We are sorry to see him leave our EH family but look forward to following his success at EOSHI and continuing to collaborate with him.

Tamarra James-Todd is being honored today as the 2022 Estrellita and Yousuf Karsh Visiting Professorship in Women's Health at the Brigham and Women's Hospital Division of Women's Health. This Visiting Professorship in women's health brings in renowned leaders in women's health to present to, and discuss with, medical staff the most significant and recent advances in women's health. Tamarra is giving the lecture entitled "*Environmental Justice and Women's Health: A Novel Lens for Understanding Reproductive Health Disparities Across the Life Course*" today at noon. See upcoming events to learn how to attend.

Congratulations to Chimwemwe Mwase, who is a recipient of the Joseph Brain Fellowship.

We extend our best wishes to Liz Whalen, the EOME/ERC Administrative Coordinator, who left for a new position this week. Liz has been an extraordinary contributor to our department for two years. She will be missed. While we search for a replacement, Jo Ellen Mistarz, Senior Program Manager for EOME/ERC, will be the point person to contact.

Speaking of administrators, Wednesday April 27 is Professional Administrators Day. The EH department simply would not be able to function without the contributions of its many talented administrators. Please take a minute to thank them for the crucial work that they do to help make our department so successful!

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 22 (12:00 – 1:00 PM ET) BWH DOM Division of Women's Health

Yousuf and Estrellita Karsh Visiting Professorship in Women's Health Grand Rounds
Environmental Justice and Women's Health: A Novel Lens for Understanding
Reproductive Health Disparities Across the Life Course

Speaker: Tamarra James-Todd, Mark and Catherine Winkler Associate Professor of Environmental Reproductive Epidemiology.

<https://partners.zoom.us/j/6198138926?pwd=VS9FOWhMNkVkdGpFc2hQMfVXL2VkUT09>

Meeting ID: 619 813 8926, Passcode: 971407

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Location: HSPH Kresge 502 and ZOOM

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Website link to register for ZOOM link: [http://hsph.me/Pre-register for Septic Knee Grand Rounds](http://hsph.me/Pre-register%20for%20Septic%20Knee%20Grand%20Rounds)

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Adding Community Voice to Research: How the Community Coalition of Equity in Research can help

Presenter: Dr. Rebekka Lee, Director of the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program.

The Community Coalition for Equity in Research, developed by the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program, works to build community voice and considerations for health equity into public health and clinical research, as well as strengthen community-academic relationships throughout Massachusetts. This coalition is co-led by Karen Emmons, the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program faculty lead, and Michael Curry, CEO at the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. The coalition offers researchers high-quality community input on research projects and provides a trusted communication channel between researchers and community stakeholders. An ideal time for getting community input on research is prior to protocol development as researchers are preparing their initial IRB submission. In this monthly education session, Dr. Rebekka Lee, Director of the Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement program will provide an overview of the coalition approach and describe how you can bring your research for review by their community stakeholder members.

Register [here](#) .

Monday, April 25 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

Monday, ERC Seminar – Grand Rounds: Retained Bullet Fragments: Follow the Lead

Presenter: J. David Sterns, MD, MPH. Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Discussant: Rose H. Goldman, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Physician – Occupational Medicine, Cambridge Health Alliance.

Drs. Sterns and Goldman will describe the symptoms of lead toxicity and explain the risks of lead toxicity from retained fragments. They will discuss an approach to managing patients with retained bullet fragments.

This is a Grand Rounds presentation that was moved into the Monday ERC Seminar spot. The presentation has been pre-recorded; the Q/A will be virtual/live.

Location: Zoom Only

Website link to register for ZOOM link: [http://hsph.me/Pre-register for Retained Bullet Fragments](http://hsph.me/Pre-register%20for%20Retained%20Bullet%20Fragments)

Monday, April 25 (2:30 – 4:30 PM ET)

Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate: Approaching an Affinity for Nature as a Determinant of Use and Health Benefits

Speaker: Linda Powers Tomasso

Location: Zoom and FXB G12

Zoom link: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96539698419?pwd=S0hBS2UwYlRvcjdrS2dOeG8xa3Z5UT09>

Password: Booster

Wednesday, April 27 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET) via Zoom

HSPH-NIEHS Center Chalk Talk Series

Speaker: Dr. Shruthi Mahalingaiah, assistant professor of environmental, reproductive and women's health

Title: Physiological approach to study design for understanding the associations between environmental exposures and ovulation disorders

More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/center-chalk-talks-shruthi-mahalingaiah-md-ms/>

Thursday, April 28 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate: Climate Change and Health – Implications for Inherently Hot Regions and Cardiovascular Health

Speaker: Barrak Alahmad

Location: Zoom

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/95884188415?pwd=aS9DYUFkQm1aaFEzQTNydnndlTmRCUT09>

Password: Booster

Thursday, April 28 (12:00 – 1:30 PM ET) via Zoom

HSPH-NIEHS Center Specific Aims Review Session

The NIEHS Center for Environmental Health offers to review your Specific Aims for upcoming grant submissions. In a friendly, constructive open session, a panel of Center senior faculty members offer their critique of and suggestions for improving Specific Aims section

for junior faculty and post-docs. Session is open to all members, collaborators and their trainees.

If you would like your document reviewed this session, please send an email to niehsctr@hsph.harvard.edu by 5pm ET on Monday, April 25th and include the following information:

- Name (first and last)
- Affiliation
- Sponsor
- Type of grant/award you are applying for
- Anticipated submission date
- Attach your Specific Aims document (MS Word is preferred)

This session will be held via Zoom only. If you would like to attend our Specific Aims Review session as a reviewer, please email niehsctr@hsph.harvard.edu and you will be sent the calendar invite and Zoom URL. Please feel free to share with your trainees who are applying for an upcoming grant.

More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/specific-aims-review-session/2022-04-28/>

Friday, April 29 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate: Environmental Exposures and Diabetes Risk

Speaker: Melissa Fiffer

Location: Zoom and HSPH Building 1, Room 1302

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/93606534216?pwd=SzQzYStFU0FZTGsva00wNUZTenNIQT09>

Password: Booster

Friday, May 6 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

Friday Grand Rounds – A Heads-Up on Repetitive Workplace Head Trauma

Presenter: Kevan Lutchman, MD, first year resident in the HSPH Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency.

Discussant: Mary Alexis Iaccarino, MD, Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Charlestown MA

Drs. Lutchman and Iaccarino will define and grade traumatic brain injuries, explain treatment modalities and discuss expected recovery times. They will also cover the potential long-term consequences of repetitive injury in high-risk occupations and the considerations related to post-concussion return to work.

Location: HSPH Kresge 502 and ZOOM

Website link to register for ZOOM link: <http://hsph.me/Pre-register for Repetitive Head Trauma>

Chair Chatter

April 29, 2022

The end of April is an exciting time, particularly for our graduating students. We are in the midst of prime dissertation defense season, which gives our doctoral students an opportunity to teach us about the areas where they have developed their particular expertise.

Congratulations to the following doctoral students on the successful defense of their dissertations:

Linda Powers Tomasso for her dissertation entitled “*Approaching an Affinity for Nature as a Determinant of Use and Health Benefits,*” and

Barrak Alahmad for his thesis entitled “*Climate Change & Health: Implications for Cardiovascular Health & Inherently Hot Regions.*”

Well done Linda and Barrak!!

Congratulations to Jonathan Buonocore, Research Scientist in C-CHANGE and EER, who will be joining the faculty at Boston University’s School of Public Health as an Assistant Professor in their Environmental Health department. We are excited for Jonathan and look forward to continuing to collaborate with him!

Congratulations to Gary Adamkiewicz, whose work on both healthy indoor environments and environmental justice, was featured by the NIEHS in their April 18 publication’s [grantee highlights](#) section.

Congratulations also to Jennifer Ford, Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator in Russ Hauser’s lab, who was nominated for the Sarah K. Wood Award for Outstanding Staff Performance.

Lastly, we are preparing our next Environmental Health Department newsletter. While we cannot include everything, please let us know of your recent awards/honors, translation of research, media coverage, upcoming events/seminars, etc. Alumni updates are welcome too! If you have something that you would like us to include, or if you have something that you would like us to include on our twitter feed ([@HarvardEnvHlth](#)), please complete this [Qualtrics survey](#) by Monday, May 2.

As always, please send news/events to eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 29 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate: Environmental Exposures and Diabetes Risk

Speaker: Melissa Fiffer

Location: Zoom and HSPH Building 1, Room 1302

Zoom link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/93606534216?pwd=SzQzYStFU0FZTGsva00wNUZTenNIQT09>

Password: Booster

Friday, April 29 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

Friday Research Seminars – MS2 Student Presentations

Presentation I: The Association between Smoking Cessation and Lung Cancer Mortality

Christopher Romero-Gutierrez, B.A.

MS Environmental Health Candidate, Student and Research Assistant

Christopher Romero-Gutierrez will discuss the effects of smoking cessation on lung cancer mortality and the relationship between smoking and heterogeneous lung cancer diagnoses.

Presentation II: The Inclusion of Occupational Health in Health Disparity Research
Marjorie Naila Segule

MS Environmental Health Candidate

Naila Segule will describe approaches for collection occupational health data that has been neglected in disparity research and discuss strategies for promoting the inclusion of occupational health surveillance in future health disparity monitoring.

Location: HSPH Kresge 502 and ZOOM

Website link to register for ZOOM link: <http://hsph.me/Pre-registration for MS2 Presentations April 29>

Tuesday, May 3 (9:30 – 10:30 AM ET)

MIPS Work-in-Progress Seminar - “Dissecting the role of senescence in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s Disease”

Speaker: Hong Zhang

Zoom link:

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

Wednesday, May 4 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET)

Planetary Health Colloquium – Planetary Health as a Frame for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from Local to Global

Presenter: Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, President, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)

Presenter: Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Discussant: Samuel Myers, MD, MPH, Director, Planetary Health Alliance

Registration link: [Register Here](#)

Thursday, May 5 (5:30 pm - 6:30 PM ET)

Department of Environmental Health Career Panel Event

Join us for a virtual expert panel to learn about Environmental Health careers from alumni working in industry/consulting, government/non-profit, and academia/research. You'll learn about their career stories, gain insights into working in various industries and organizations, plus tips on application and hiring processes.

Participating Alumni:

[Lisa Baxter](#): Division Director for the Public Health and Environmental Systems Division at US EPA

[Cindy Hu](#): Lead Data Scientist at Mathematica

[Erica Walker](#): Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Brown University, Founder of [Noise and the City](#) and the [Community Noise Lab](#) (Brown)

[Alex Wu](#): Epidemiologist at MITRE, worked previously as a consultant with Vital Strategies, and as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the CDC

For more information and to RSVP visit Engage:

<https://harvardsph.campuslabs.com/engage/event/8083436>

Zoom link: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/99123517028>

Friday, May 6 (1:10 – 1:50 PM ET)

Friday Grand Rounds – A Heads-Up on Repetitive Workplace Head Trauma

Presenter: Kevan Lutchman, MD, first year resident in the HSPH Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency.

Discussant: Mary Alexis Iaccarino, MD, Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Charlestown MA

Drs. Lutchman and Iaccarino will define and grade traumatic brain injuries, explain treatment modalities and discuss expected recovery times. They will also cover the potential long-term consequences of repetitive injury in high-risk occupations and the considerations related to post-concussion return to work.

Location: HSPH Kresge 502 and ZOOM

Website link to register for ZOOM link: <http://hsph.me/Pre-register for Repetitive Head Trauma>

Wednesday, May 11 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET)

“Social Determinants of Health as Targets of Precision Medicine” (HYBRID)

HSPH-NIEHS Center Colloquium Series

Speaker: Kenneth Olden, PhD

Location: Building 1, 1302 and via Zoom

The HSPH-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health welcomes Kenneth Olden, PhD, who recently retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where he served as Director of the National Center for Environmental Assessment from 2012-2016. From 1991-2005, Ken served as Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), in the National Institute of Health (NIH), and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He made history in this role as the first African American to direct one of the Institutes in the National Institutes of Health.

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

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

Wednesday, May 11 (4:00 PM ET)

Herbert Sherman Memorial Lecture - “Improving the Patient Care Experience and the Well-Being of Healthcare Workers.”

Please join the Department of Health Policy and Management for our bi-annual **Herbert Sherman Memorial Lecture**, featuring **Dr. Ingrid Nembhard (UPenn)** as this year’s keynote speaker.

The lecture will begin at 4pm (ET) with Q&A to follow. All are welcome to join.

Register at: hsph.me/HPM-Herbert-Sherman-Memorial-Lecture_Register