

From: [Dockery, Douglas W.](#)
Subject: Chair Chatter - May 6, 2022
Date: Friday, May 6, 2022 9:31:18 AM

Chair Chatter May 6, 2022

Sunday is Mother's Day. I'd like to thank all the mothers in our department who manage work and family responsibilities – no easy task! Hope you all enjoy your special day – Happy Mother's Day!

I'd also like to recognize the extraordinary work in our department to understand the health risks to mothers and children from environmental exposures during the critical neonatal and prenatal periods. We have a terrific cadre of leading faculty and researchers in maternal environmental health. In that vein, congratulations to Tamarra James Todd who received a new R01 grant award entitled "Pregnancy and postpartum as vulnerable exposure windows: phthalates and maternal cardiometabolic health". Thanks to all working in this area.

Congratulations to Melissa Fiffer, who successfully defended her dissertation entitled "*Environmental Exposure and Diabetes Risk*". Well done, Melissa!

I am proud to report that Mahdiah Danesh Yazdi has been appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Family, Population & Preventive Medicine at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, and a member of their Core Faculty in the Program in Public Health. Congratulations to Mahdiah; we look forward to continued collaborations and to following your future success!

Kudos to our department's wet labs, who passed the annual fire inspection without any major findings (not something every department can claim). It takes a total team effort to keep everyone safe. Thanks to Sally Bedugnis and all of our lab personnel for paying attention to the details that make for a safe laboratory environment.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and it is a good time to remind our benefits eligible employees that they have access to [KGA, Harvard's employee assistance program](#). KGA is a free, confidential service that can help you and your adult family members with any mental health and wellness needs.

Check out the upcoming events below. In particular, don't miss the Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center Colloquium on Wednesday (1:00 – 2:00 PM EDT) by our colleague and friend Dr. Ken Olden. Dr. Olden will speak on “Social Determinants of Health as Targets of Precision Medicine.” Join in person in Building 1, 13th Floor, Room 1302 or by Zoom <http://hsph.me/colloquium2021>.

I invite you to follow us on twitter [@HarvardEnvHlth](https://twitter.com/HarvardEnvHlth) , and as always please send your news/events to eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu.

Upcoming Events

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>

Friday, May 6 (3:00 – 5:00 PM ET)

Dissertation Defense of PhD Candidate “Environmental Radiation and Human Health: From Radon to the Sun”

Speaker: Man Liu

Zoom Link:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/94166738102?pwd=dCs3c0gxR1Bnd2hQYXo0dE51SzRpQT09>

Password: Booster

Tuesday, May 10 (9:30 – 10:30 AM ET)

MIPS Work-in-Progress Seminar: “Lung organoids: miniature lungs with

maximum potential”

Speaker: Ya-Wen Chen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Zoom link:

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

Wednesday, May 11 (1:00 – 2:00 PM ET)

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

Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center Colloquium Series

Speaker: Kenneth Olden, PhD

Location: Building 1, 1302 and via Zoom

The Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health welcomes Kenneth Olden, PhD, former Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1991-2005. Ken was Yerby Visiting Professor in our Department in the 2006-2007 academic year. From 2008-2012, Ken served as Founding Dean of the School of Public Health at the City University of New York (CUNY). Ken then was Director of the ES EPA National Center for Environmental Assessment from 2012-2016.

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**

From: [Dockery, Douglas W.](#)
Subject: Chair Chatter - May 13, 2022
Date: Friday, May 13, 2022 12:06:21 PM

Chair Chatter May 13, 2022

Today marks the last day of spring semester classes; our students can take a well-deserved break. The faculty can take a breather once grades are submitted on Monday.

Looks like the weather is cooperating. We have finally turned the corner, and warm spring/summer temperatures are expected this weekend! For those that want a special treat, gaze up at the moon on Sunday night around 11:30 to see a [total lunar eclipse](#).

Congratulations to Man Liu, who successfully defended her dissertation entitled “*Environmental Radiation and Human Health: From Radon to the Sun.*” Well done, Man!

We were delighted to learn that Jaime Hart will be receiving a 2022 Harvard Chan Student Mentoring Award during the Convocation Ceremony on Wednesday, May 25. This special award was based on nominations submitted by students, which were then reviewed by an awards committee. Students spoke glowingly of Jaime’s intellect, ability to inspire, and kindness. Thank you to the students who took the time to nominate Jaime, and congratulations Jaime for this much deserved honor!

Peter James was quoted in a Harvard Magazine feature entitled “[The Effects of Noise on Health](#)”. Peter’s work suggests that the effects of noise are not well studied. He connects climate change to noise, and the negative combined effects they have on health outcomes.

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As this is the end of the semester, we have no upcoming events to mention for the upcoming week.

From: [EH Alumni](#) on behalf of [Dockery, Douglas W.](#)
Subject: [EH_Alumni] Chair Chatter - May 20, 2022
Date: Friday, May 20, 2022 10:29:25 AM

Chair Chatter May 20, 2022

The faculty and I are looking forward to congratulating our graduating EH students who have put in the hard work under extraordinarily difficult COVID conditions to achieve their degrees. They have proven that they have the intelligence, skills, training, and, perhaps most importantly, the grit to accomplish goals regardless of the difficulty. We salute the EH graduating class of 2022!

We look forward to joining you at the school's convocation ceremony. We also are looking forward to being able to celebrate with the returning graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021 at their graduation ceremony. We could not be prouder of all of our graduates, and hope that you will remain active participants in our EH community as alumni. Please keep us abreast of your future accomplishments which I'm sure will be both numerous and impressive!

Congratulations to Barbara Zuckerman, who has been promoted to EH Director of Faculty and Academic Affairs. This promotion reflects the tremendous contributions and critical role that Barbara plays, particularly in our department's academic endeavors.

Peggy Lai sent EH-Chatter the following message: "In 2016 I received the flash funding grant at the NIEHS center retreat. It was the seed money that allowed me to get additional grants and eventually conduct a randomized controlled trial of indoor solar lighting to reduce household air pollution in rural Uganda. I just wanted to let you know that we have published two papers from this trial, and one of the publications has been highlighted in the [May NIEHS Environmental Factor Newsletter as a paper of the month.](#)" Congratulations to Peggy and co-authors Joseph Allen and Jose Vallarino for this honor, and thank you Peggy for letting us know that the Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health has made a difference in launching your career!

Over the summer we will be publishing the Chair Chatters less frequently, but please still do continue to send your updates to eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu and remember to follow us on twitter [@HarvardEnvHlth](https://twitter.com/HarvardEnvHlth)

Congratulations again to all of our recent graduates – we're looking forward to seeing you next week!

Department of Environmental Health Graduating Students

PhD in Population Health Sciences

Barrak Alahmad, Melissa Fiffer, Ashley Gripper, Man Liu, Xinye Qiu, Lisa Rokoff, Linda Tomasso, Kathryn Tomsho, and Xinan Wang.

Master of Science

Mahaa Ahmed, Jennifer Dai, Yuhong Hu, Yunfei Li, Jessica Chun-Han Lin, Jennie Lytel-Sternberg, Himaja Nagireddy, Shivani Parikh, Christopher Warner Romero-Gutierrez, Marjorie Tunu Naila Segule, Jessica Schiff, Samantha Tracy, Katherine Uriarte, Emma

Willcocks, and Saiwen Zhang

Master of Public Health (65 credits)

Alexandra Azevedo

Occupational and Environmental Medical Residency

Alexander Jobrack, Shane Joseph, Samuel Ko, James Medeiros, Jonathan David Sterns

Masters of Public Health (45 credits)

Joseph Abrams, Yuan-Hsin Chen, Anne Hui Yi Goei, Kevan Lutchman, Julia Malits, Jose Villa-Uribe, Rachael Zacks

Upcoming Events

Friday, May 20, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

HMS Students for Environmental Awareness in Medicine present

The Role of Sustainability and Climate Resilience in Healthcare

Panel Discussion:

Gregg Furie, Medical Director for Climate Sustainability at BWH

Adrienne Allen, Senior Medical Director of Quality, Safety and Sustainability at North Shore Physician's Group

Jonathan Stuzman, Director of MGH Center for the Environment & Health, Medical Director for Environmental Sustainability at MGH

Madeleine Bartzak, Clinical Director of Environmental Sustainability at Newton-Wellesley Hospital

The registration/RSVP: <https://forms.gle/AikS7Ce1SbfYayXu5>.

Zoom: <https://www.tinyurl.com/SEAMHMS>

Monday May 23, 12:00- 1:00 p.m. ET The Mahalingaiah Lab presents

“The Brain Phenotype in PCOS: Androgens, Anovulation, and Gender”

Speaker: Sarah L. Berga, MD

Description: Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a common condition with reproductive and metabolic features. Building on the notion that the brain is a target of hormones of all classes, in this chapter we characterize the brain phenotype in PCOS and explore the evidence that the brain phenotype is the result of androgen exposure that not only predisposes to anovulation

and obesity, but also has the potential to skew gender identity and sexual orientation.

Zoom: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96559613933>

Zoom meeting ID: 965 5961 3933 Zoom meeting password: 314794

Graduation Festivities

Wednesday, May 25, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm: Harvard T.H. Chan School Convocation Ceremony for the Class of 2022, Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury, MA

Thursday, May 26, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm: Harvard University 2022 Commencement, Cambridge/Harvard Yard

Friday, May 27th 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Building 1, 13th floor; Department of Environmental Health Open House for 2020, 2021, 2022 graduates (invitation only event)

Saturday, May 28, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Harvard T.H. Chan Graduation Ceremony Classes of 2020 and 2021, Harvard Medical School Quad; Reception 12:30-1:30