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## Chair Chatter

### August 12, 2022

We survived an extended heat wave, and it looks like a pleasant summer weekend is coming up. And then a week from Monday (August 22<sup>nd</sup>), we are excited to be welcoming our newest class of students, with classes starting the following week (August 29<sup>th</sup>). We are looking forward to the planned enhanced in-person experiences in the new academic year for everybody.

Meanwhile, there are lots of things to report since my last chatter. Zhi-Min Yuan, the Morningside Professor of Radiobiology, announced his retirement as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to Zhi-Min for his leadership as the Director of the John B. Little Center for Radiation Sciences, for his scientific contributions to our understanding of the biology of carcinogenesis, to the design of effective strategies for the prevention, early detection, and treatment of cancer, and for his mentoring of our students, postdocs, and faculty in our department over the past 6 years. Best wishes to Zhi-Min as he transitions into the next chapter of his life.

Please join me in welcoming our new EOME/ERC Administrative Coordinator, Ann McHugh, who started working at Harvard Chan on August 1. Ann will oversee the EOME and ERC administrative activities related to human resources, academic appointments, visa and payroll administration, student administration, training grant coordination, and program administration and operations. Ann is passionate about the intersection of social equity, human health, education, and environmental stewardship, and is a great addition to our department. Outside of work, she is an avid cyclist and sculptor. Ann's office is in building 1, room 1404F, and you can contact her at [kamchugh@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:kamchugh@hsph.harvard.edu).

Over the past year Shruthi Mahalingaiah's team has been collaborating with the Museum of Science in Boston. They designed an educational animation that is inclusive and engaging about the menstrual cycle. Their first installation, a wonderfully creative animation that anthropomorphizes menstrual cycle anatomy and physiology, is now being shown at the museum. This installation is part of the Museum's Living Lab research efforts, which means they have the unique opportunity to learn from visiting caregivers and children to understand how they engage with their exhibit. Check it out at the museum on Tuesdays (1-4 pm) and Thursdays (10 am-1 pm) through the end of August! Learn more at <https://mahalab-mos.com/>

Ari Bernstein, Tamarra James-Todd, and Caleb Dresser from EH were among the many presenters at the [Harvard Chan C-Change Youth Summit on Climate, Equity, and Health](#). This week-long summer course brought together 121 highly motivated high school students from around the world who care deeply about the effects of climate change to learn from Harvard's faculty, researchers and students.

Charlie Roscoe, Ari Bernstein and Francesca Dominici were featured in an interview on the school's website to discuss the implications of the recent [Supreme Court's decision](#) that eliminated the EPA's authority to place state-level caps on carbon emissions under the 1970 Clean Air Act regulate emissions from coal plants.

Congratulations to Rose West, our academic coordinator who was nominated for the ACE award, which celebrates employees who have demonstrated extraordinary efforts in the workplace. Rose certainly fits that bill!

I so enjoy hearing from our esteemed alums. Congratulations to Thuy Lam, who was recently promoted to Assistant Professor in the Health: Science, Society, and Policy (HSSP) Program at Brandeis University.

We would like to hear any updates from you about your activities that could be included in the Fall 2022 issue of the Environmental Health Department Newsletter. Please let us know of your awards/honors, translation of research, media coverage, upcoming events/seminars, etc. by completing this [Qualtrics survey](#) by September 16<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any updates you would like me to share in the Chair's Chatter or Department's Twitter feed ([@HarvardEnvHlth](#)), please send them to [eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!

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**Chair Chatter**  
**August 19, 2022**

This is one of the most exciting times of the year; the time when we welcome our newest class of students. This year the EH department has 40 incoming students from all over the world; they bring a wealth of diverse experiences with them, and will no doubt leave with the education and skills that will truly enable them to meet the public health challenges caused by environmental factors. We can't wait for them to get started with orientation on Monday and for them to join our returning students who return the following week!

Please join me in welcoming our incoming class:

**Doctor of Philosophy in Population Health Sciences**

Julian Chen	Marshae Nickelberry
Shuxin Dong	Shivani Parikh
Xin Fang	Jennifer Rooney
Justin Farmer	Joseph Wilson, Jr.
Evan Lemire	

**Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Sciences in Public Health**

Midori Flores

**Master of Science**

Nicole Alkhoury	Aashna Shah
Jane Berrill	Yizhi Shen
Khushi Desai	Damini Singh
Claire Dinehart	Samiha Uddin
Emma Goetzing	Amelia (Yuzhu) Wang
Longkai Ma	Zhiqing Wen
Cynthia (Mingyue) Ma	Amanda Windsor
Hui Miao	Madeleine Wissoker
Qiyue Nie	Jialin Xu
Jinia Sarkar	Maryam Zafar

**Master of Public Health**

Jacob Berry (OEMR)	Kenneth Motoyama (OEMR)
Matthew Hamm (OEMR)	Samuel Ntow (OEH)
Sally Hamm (OEMR)	Saad Salman (OEMR)
Alicia Wan Ling Lim (OEH)	Saumya Singh (OEH)
Prahlad Govinda Krishnan (OEH)	Melissa Wan (OEH)

OEMR – Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency

OEH – Occupational and Environmental Health

To our incoming class, I look forward to meeting each of you. Look for these regular Chair *Chatter* emails, in which I highlight the accomplishments of members of our EH community, and list upcoming events that you are always invited to. Welcome to our EH community – get ready for an exciting year!

*Doug Dockery*  
*Acting Chair, Department of Environmental Health*

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## Chair Chatter

### August 26, 2022

This was a glorious week; we finally got some days with much-needed rain, had some days with nice summer sunshine, and most importantly welcomed our new class of 40 incoming students. Big thanks to Barbara Zuckerman, Shaun Heller, and Rose West for organizing the department orientation events on Tuesday, and to all of the faculty, staff, and current students who attended and participated. The orientation confirmed that our newest class is dynamic, enthusiastic, and talented. I can't wait for them to integrate with our returning students when classes start on Monday. All signs point to a great year ahead!

I am happy to report that for the first time in a couple of years due to COVID, we are once again able to host a welcome back EH department party on Monday, September 12 for all current EH faculty, instructors, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, students, and staff. See upcoming events; please  [RSVP](#) by September 7.

Congratulations to Zintis Inde (Sarosiek lab), who received an F32 post-doctoral training award from the National Institute on Aging. Zintis has been a post-doctoral fellow in the Physiology NHLBI T32 Training Grant. This award, entitled "Apoptotic Regulation and Neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's Disease", will allow Zintis to continue his studies, but also is an important step in his professional career demonstrating he can successfully compete to obtain an NIH grant of his own. Congratulations Zintis!

Also congratulations to Research Associate Longxiang Li (ScD '20, Koutrakis lab) who is receiving a K99/R00 award from the NIEHS. With this award, entitled "Estimating acute impacts of unconventional oil and gas development on cause-specific hospitalization via satellite-based exposure assessment", Longxiang will work with Brent Coull, Petros Koutrakis, Francesca Dominici, and John Paisley (Columbia University) to investigate the acute health effects of fracking. The K99/R00 mechanism is designed to help trainees transition to independent investigator status. Terrific accomplishment Longxiang!

Check out the interview with Carmen Messerlian on the Harvard Chan website. She discusses [how environmental factors impact reproductive health](#), and what people can do to minimize its deleterious effects. She also mentions her team's recent piece in the journal *Fertility and Sterility*, entitled "[Reproductive medicine in the face of climate change: a call for prevention through leadership](#)".

The Harvard Chan [website](#) also featured a study published in *Environmental Science and Technology* by Professor Joel Schwartz and Heresh Aminia, a fellow of the Cyprus Harvard Endowment Program for the Environment and Public Health. The article, entitled "[Stringency of COVID-19 Containment Response Policies and Air Quality Changes: A Global Analysis across 1851 Cities](#)", found that in cities around the world that implemented stricter policies to contain COVID-19 during the early months of the pandemic, air quality was more likely to improve.

If you have any news or upcoming events suitable for chatter, please send them to me via [eh-chatter](#).

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, September 12th; 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**  
**Department of Environmental Health Welcome Back Party**

Calling all current EH faculty, instructors, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, students, and staff! Please join us for our Department's Welcome Back Party.

**RSVP by September 7<sup>th</sup>:**

[https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_37qYpC8nDoKLfIY](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_37qYpC8nDoKLfIY)

**Location: Kresge Cafeteria**

**Tuesday, September 27th, 1:00 pm - 2:00pm ET**

**HSPH-NIEHS Center Chalk Talks – Apple Women's Health Study**

- **COVID-19 vaccination status and menstrual cycle length in the Apple Women's Health Study (Speaker: Elizabeth Gibson, PhD)**
- **Variation in menstrual cycle length by age, race/ethnicity, and body mass index: Findings from the Apple Women's Health Study Details (Speaker: Huichu Li, PhD)**

Join us for our monthly Center Chalk Talks series (usually 4th Wednesday; note special day this month), a chance for members and affiliates to showcase the exciting research they are working on and solicit collaboration. This event will be held via Zoom and recorded. For more information, email [niehsctr@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:niehsctr@hsph.harvard.edu).

**Join by Zoom: [CLICK HERE](#)**

**More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/center-chalk-talks/>**