
Chair Chatter

September 2, 2022

Welcome back our returning students! Classes for our fall semester began on Monday. It is great to see more students and faculty around! Students, please remember that Thursday, September 8 is the last day to add, drop or change classes. Even though classes just started, I'm sure many of us are looking forward to the Labor Day weekend. Remember that Monday is a holiday when the school will be closed, so relax and enjoy it!

Please remember the deadline to RSVP to our EH department's welcome back party is this Wednesday, September 7. See upcoming events below for details.

We want to extend our wishes for a speedy recovery to our friend Solomon Zerihun, the Kresge security guard who many of you see every day. Solomon suffered a stroke while at work, and he fortunately was taken quickly to a local hospital where he was treated. We wish Solomon our best as he starts his rehabilitation program.

We would like to hear from you about any updates on your activities that could be included in the Fall 2022 issue of the Environmental Health Department Newsletter. We are also actively seeking content for the Department's Twitter feed ([@HarvardEnvHlth](https://twitter.com/HarvardEnvHlth)). While we cannot include everything, please let us know of your awards/honors, translation of research, media coverage, upcoming events/seminars, etc. If you have something for us to include, please complete this [Qualtrics survey](#) by September 16th. We look forward to hearing from you! As you can see, the upcoming events section below is starting to fill up as the semester gets underway in earnest. Please send any upcoming events or news you would like me to include in Chair Chatter to [EH-Chatter](#).

Upcoming Events

Monday, September 12th; 4:00 pm-7:00 pm

Environmental Health Welcome Back Party

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

RSVP by September 7th:

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_37qYpC8nDoKLf1Y

Location: Kresge Cafeteria

Tuesday, September 13; 9:30 – 10:30

MIPS Work in Progress Seminar Series

Speaker: Jeffrey Fredberg, PhD, Professor of Bioengineering and Physiology, MIPS

Title: Cell jamming: Lessons in physiology from cancer biology

Location: Building 1, Room 1302

Wednesday, Sept 14; 1-2pm pm

HSPH-NIEHS Center Colloquium Series

Speaker: Natasha DeJarnett, PhD, MHS, BCES

Title: Environmental Health at the Intersection of Research and Policy

DESCRIPTION: Join us for our 2022-2023 colloquium series on *Environmental Health in Action*. This month, we welcome [Natasha DeJarnett, PhD, MHS, BCES](#), assistant professor in the Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute at the University of Louisville Division of Environmental Medicine, researching the health impacts of extreme heat exposure and environmental health disparities.

Students and Postdocs: We will host a Trainee Session with Dr. DeJarnett from 12:00 – 1:00pm ET (before her presentation). 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 required for the Trainee Session](#) (not required for the main presentation).

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/hsph-niehs-colloquium-series-natasha-dejarnett-phd-mhs-bces/>

LOCATION: Hybrid – in HSPH Building 1, 1302 and via [Zoom](#)

Tuesday, September 20; 9:30 – 10:30

MIPS Work in Progress Seminar Series

Speaker: Lora Bankova, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine Allergy & Immunology, HMS and BWH

Title: Olfactory microvillar cells join the chemosensory family as allergen sensors

Location: Building 1, Room 1302

Tuesday, September 27; 9:30 – 10:30

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Speaker: Hongpeng Jia, MD MSc, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Title: ACE2, beyond SARS-CoV-2

Location: Building 1, Room 1302

TUESDAY, SEPT 27; 1:00-2:00pm 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.

Join by Zoom: [CLICK HERE](#)

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

Chair Chatter

September 9, 2022

I hope you all had a nice Labor Day weekend; we had beautiful weather on at least two of the three days. Now we are starting to enjoy the cooler evenings of autumn.

I would like to recognize Jane Burns, who is retiring after 19 years at Harvard. For the past 12 years she worked on the Russian Children's Study with Russ Hauser, Susan Korrick, Paige Williams and Mary Lee, as well as her Russian colleagues. She contributed to all aspects of the study from study design, database management, and preparation of manuscripts and grants. She will be missed by her colleagues, the department and school. We wish Jane a healthy and joyful retirement, and we're glad she will remain connected for at least a little while longer as an associate of the EH department.

Senior Research Scientist Andrea Roberts was quoted in a [Harvard Gazette article](#) and on the [Harvard Chan website](#) that covered a study in *JAMA Psychiatry* that argued that a wide range of prior psychological and social issues are risk factors for long COVID and daily life impairment due to COVID. Luwei Quan and Marc Weisskopf were among the co-authors of this important study.

Now that the summer exhibit at the Museum of Science has wrapped up, we can share the delightful animation about menstruation that Shruthi Mahalingaiah's group displayed at the Museum of Science Living Lab. You can watch the animation here: https://youtu.be/_xP9oN4UvMQ and learn more about the study at the project website: <https://mahalab-mos.com/>. Shruthi thanks all the contributors and visitors that came to the exhibit.

Remember to send us any highlights about your activities that should be included in the Fall 2022 issue of the Environmental Health Department Newsletter. Let us know of your awards/honors, translation of research, media coverage, upcoming events/seminars, etc. If you have something for us to include, please complete this [Qualtrics survey](#) by September 16th. We look forward to hearing from you!

We have lots of great activities planned for next week and beyond; see upcoming events below. I particularly encourage our students and postdocs to sign up for the trainee lunches like the one on Wednesday with Dr. DeJarnett, sponsored by the HSPH-NIEHS Center grant. This gives you the opportunity to broaden your horizons and meet in a small group with leaders in the field from outside of Harvard. Also, for anyone that is contemplating submitting a grant at some future point, take advantage of the specific aims review session on September 29.

Please send any upcoming events or news you would like me to include in Chair Chatter to [EH-Chatter](#). Also follow us on Twitter ([@HarvardEnvHlth](#)).

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Those who have rsvp'd please join us for this fun event.

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Speaker: Jeffrey Fredberg, PhD, Professor of Bioengineering and Physiology, MIPS

Title: Cell jamming: Lessons in physiology from cancer biology

This is a zoom only meeting: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJjWwVLSG1jVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09>

Password: 451603

Wednesday, September 14; 12:00-12:45pm

Trainee Lunch with Dr. Natasha DeJarnett

Description: Students and post-docs are invited to meet with Dr. Natasha DeJarnett, whose research focuses on health impacts of extreme heat exposures and environmental health disparities. This is a chance for trainees to meet with our colloquium speaker to discuss research interests, career advice, funding opportunities, etc. Space is limited; RSVP required. Free Box Lunch included.

RSVP Now: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5grjmvNykCcaFZc

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Speaker: Natasha DeJarnett, PhD, MHS, BCES

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LOCATION: Hybrid – in HSPH Building 1, 1302 and via [Zoom](#)

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Speaker: Lora Bankova, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine Allergy & Immunology, HMS and BWH

Title: Olfactory microvillar cells join the chemosensory family as allergen sensors

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Join by Zoom: [CLICK HERE](#)

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

Thursday, September 29; 12:00 – 1:30pm

HSPH-NIEHS Center Specific Aims Review Session

Description: These sessions are open to investigators at all levels with upcoming grant submissions. A panel of faculty members offer their critique of and suggestions for improving Specific Aims sections for junior faculty and post docs in a friendly, constructive, open session. Open to all members, collaborators and their trainees. This session will be held via Zoom.

More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/specific-aims-review-session-2/2022-09-29/>

Chair Chatter

September 16, 2022

It was wonderful to see so many faculty, researchers, students and staff at the EH department's welcome back party. What a treat to be able to have an in-person event again! We hope to do several more social gatherings in the future. Thank you to Barbara Zuckerman for organizing it. And, speaking of Barbara, she just reached her 15 year milestone in our department. Congratulations, and many thanks to Barbara for all that she has done for the department over these years!

I want to thank the members of our department's Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Equity (DIBE) committee who have served over the past year. The DIBE Committee has representation from all the members of our community, including staff, fellows, students, researchers, and faculty. It is dedicated to addressing issues of racism, inequality, implicit and systemic bias, and environmental justice. The committee meets 1 - 2 times a month to share ideas and to organize activities that promote inclusion and belonging in our department and at the school. I encourage interested members from any of the above groups to join; please [fill out this survey](#) and someone from the committee will be in touch.

This coming week is National Postdoc Appreciation Week. Every one of our faculty members knows how crucial a role fellows play in contributing to our research and teaching efforts. Our department is particularly blessed to have so many talented postdocs who help to make our department a success. Please join me in thanking our postdocs for all that they contribute to moving the environmental health field forward!

The NIOSH-funded Harvard T.H. Chan Education and Research Center (ERC) announces the availability of funds to support occupational health, industrial hygiene, safety, and occupational medicine pilot projects in Region I (New England). The program will support small research projects conducted by early investigators including student investigators at the pre-doctoral stages, post-doctoral research fellows, and/or by new/junior faculty investigators. Funds of up to \$20,000 per pilot project are available. For more information and an application, please visit the [ERC Pilot Project webpage](#). Applications are due October 7, 2022.

Today is the last day to submit items for the Fall 2022 department newsletter; submit items for that and/or the [EH twitter account](#) here: [Qualtrics survey](#). And, if you have any items that you would like me to mention in the chatter, please send them to [EH-Chatter](#). Have a great week!

Chair Chatter

September 23, 2022

Aargghh! Ahoy mates – in case you weren't aware, Monday was officially “Talk like a Pirate Day”. If you missed it, I give you special dispensation to talk like a pirate today. Try it – it feels good! Also, where were you last night at 9:04 p.m.? That's when summer officially became [autumn](#), a wonderful time of the year in New England. Enjoy the crisp cool nights and the changing colors of the leaves.

This week we had a breakfast celebration for our post-doc fellows who are valued members of our department. Of course, it takes many people with different skillsets to keep our department and school going strong. Sunday September 25 is [National Research Administrators Day](#). Take a minute to thank your sponsored program administrators, department pre- and post-award grant managers, and EH-Finance AP team; they all put in countless hours to support you and your research endeavors. Our department certainly couldn't function without them!

Many of our faculty and researchers are attending the ISEE meeting in Greece this week. Three of our researchers won “Outstanding Abstract Early Career Researcher” Awards. Congratulations to them all! The winners and their abstracts were:

Kritika Anand: *Solar and Geomagnetic Activity Reduces Pulmonary Function and Enhances Particulate Pollution Effects*

Barrak Alahmad: *Climate change and migrant workers: Projections of temperatures and mortality in Kuwait*

Charlie Roscoe: *Exposure to Noise and Cardiovascular Disease in a Nationwide US Prospective Cohort Study of Women*

And last but certainly not least, congratulations to Antonella Zanobetti who is PI of a newly awarded R01 entitled “*Characterizing the link between multiple environmental exposures and Parkinsons disease exacerbation*”. Antonella and co-PI Danielle Braun from the Biostatistics Department will work on this important grant together. Well done!

I will be on a fishing vacation next week (maybe pretending to be a pirate), so your next chatter will just consist of upcoming events. Still please keep sending your news to [EH-Chatter](#) and follow us on twitter [@HarvardEnvHlth](#).

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 27; 9:30 – 10:30 am

MIPS Work in Progress Seminar Series

Speaker: Hongpeng Jia, MD MSc, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Title: ACE2, beyond SARS-CoV-2

Location: Building 1, Room 1302 (preferred for current EH researchers)

Zoom: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJWXXVLSGIJVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09>

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More information: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/specific-aims-review-session-2/2022-09-29/>

Tuesday, October 4; 9:30-10:30 am

MIPS Work in Progress Seminar Series

Speaker: Hirofumi Kiyokawa, MD PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, Center for Regenerative Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine

Title: Airway basal stem cells reutilize the embryonic proliferation regulator, Tgfb-Id2 axis, for tissue regeneration

Location: Building 1, Room 1302

Zoom: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJWXXVLSGIJVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09>

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Tuesday, October 11; 9:30-10:30 am

MIPS Work in Progress Seminar Series

Speaker: Quan Lu, PhD, Professor of Environmental Genetics and Physiology, MIPS, HCSPH

Title: Biology and application of extracellular vesicles

Location: Building 1, Room 1302

Zoom: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJJWXVLSGIJVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09>

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Friday, October 14; 12:00-2:00 pm

Creating and Curating Content Relevant to Women's Health

Speaker: Mahalingaiah Lab and Museum of Science, Boston

DESCRIPTION: Please join us as we share the process used to create this educational animation about menstrual physiology, the promising results and insights generated from our research around the animation, and future directions for the Mahalingaiah-Museum of Science collaboration. Detailed agenda to follow.

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/creating-and-curating-content-relevant-to-womens-health/>

LOCATION: Museum of Science, Boston

RSVP by Sept 30: Email periods@hsph.harvard.edu

Tuesday, October 18; 9:30-10:30 am

MIPS Work in Progress Seminar Series

Speaker: Longxiang Li, ScD Research Associate, EER, HCSPH

Title: Estimating the mortality influence of exposure to unconventional oil and gas development

Location: Building 1, Room 1302

Zoom: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJJWXVLSGIJVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09>

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Friday, October 21; all day

HSPH-NIEHS Center Retreat

DESCRIPTION: We look forward to hosting the 2022 HSPH-NIEHS Center Retreat in-person this year (online streaming option also available). RSVP is required. This year, we invite all Center members and affiliates to present a poster (digital) at the retreat. If you would like your research featured, please visit our [event page](#) and fill out the corresponding surveys.

*Note: Please fill out BOTH surveys if you plan to present a poster.

MORE INFO: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/2022-center-retreat/>

LOCATION: Arnold Arboretum, Weld Hill Research Building and via online streaming

RSVP by Oct 14.

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