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## Chair Chatter

February 3, 2023

Welcome to February, everyone! Three years ago this week, Massachusetts reported its first case of COVID-19. Little did we know how the world would change at that time! One of the few good things that came out of the pandemic was that it thrust the importance of public health into the spotlight.

On to news in our department. Congratulations Maitreyi Mazumdar, who received a ViCTER (Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary Environmental Research) R01 award from NIEHS. Her project establishes a new consortium to understand how arsenic and micronutrients affect the epigenome to influence spina bifida risk. Co-investigators include Liming Liang (Biostatistics), Andres Cardenas (Stanford), Rick Finnell (Baylor) and Sudipta Mukherjee (National Institutes of Neurosciences, Bangladesh).

Congratulations also to Leah Martin, who was awarded the Barry R. and Irene Tilenius Bloom Fellowship for 2022-23. This fellowship provides support for students and/or postdoctoral fellows who are selected based on academic merit, leadership potential, and commitment to improving public health in fields and areas of the world in greatest need.

Anna Young led a [study](#) published in *Chemosphere* recently entitled “Hormone receptor activities of complex mixtures of known and suspect chemicals in personal silicone wristband samplers worn in office buildings”. The study was also featured on the school website [here](#). Joe Allen, Russ Hauser, and Brent Coull were among the co-authors. Well done, all!

Kudos to Ana Cheong, research associate in Zac Nagel’s JBL lab, who was invited to join the Editorial Board of the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism (JCEM) for the term of February 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. As a JCEM editor, Ana will review manuscripts submitted to the journal and provide recommendations to the Associate Editor.

Jochem Klompmaker, postdoctoral fellow in the Spatial and Contextual Exposomics and Epidemiology Lab (SpaCEE), was lead author of a study entitled “[Associations of Greenness, Parks, and Blue Space With Neurodegenerative Disease Hospitalizations Among Older US Adults](#)” that was published in *Jama Network Open*. Peter James was the senior author, and co-authors included Francine Laden, Jaime Hart, Francesca Dominici, Antonella Zanobetti. It was featured in an article in *The Washington Post* entitled “[Spending time in nature may protect against the risk of dementia](#)”, which quoted Jochem. Well done, all!

Our department celebrates its strong ties with Boston University. Our own research fellow Linda Powers Tomasso recently published an article about her work entitled “[Democratizing Nature Exposure for Better Health](#)” in B.U.’s *Public Health Post*. Well done Linda!

I really enjoy hearing what our alumni are up to. Julia Maltis is a joint MD-MPH student at HMS/Harvard Chan who recently graduated from the MPH program in the EH department in June 2022 and has since returned to HMS to complete her final year of medical school. Together with her peers in the medical school, she spearheaded a campaign to incorporate the health impacts of climate change into the HMS curriculum. Julia let us know that the HMS faculty recently voted to formally embed the health impacts of climate change into the HMS curriculum across all four years. This recent development was shared in the [Boston Globe](#). Thank you Julia for your successful efforts and for letting us know about them!

I thought it might be of interest to some of you to know about opportunities I have come across recently. For example, for faculty this [RFA](#)’s intent is to understand the consequences of natural and human-made disasters, emerging environmental public health threats, and policy changes in the U.S. and abroad. For our students and postdocs, particularly those who are members of underrepresented minority groups, the free [Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference](#) will be held in Boston but hurry – the registration deadline is February 6.

We have a slew of interesting and fun events coming up, from seminars to social events like the skating party and valentine making. See below for details. I particularly encourage students and postdocs to take advantage of the opportunity to have lunch with Professor Greg Wellenius from BU.

A reminder that I plan to have open office hours every Monday starting 2/13 from 1-2 pm in Room 1301, Bldg 1 and every Thursday starting 2/16 from 2-3 pm in Room 404 (Conference room—across from Room 404J) at 401 Park (Landmark).

Please send news and upcoming events to [ch-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:ch-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu).

### Upcoming Events

#### Monday, February 6: 1:10 – 1:50 PM

**Title:** Decent Work in the United States: A Public Health Perspective

**Speaker:** Preethi Pratap, MSc, PhD, assistant professor, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health

**Location:** HSPH FXB G12 and Zoom

**Details:** Dr. Pratap will present her research and insights on decent work. She will define “decent work,” and describe the role of public health in supporting decent work. She will also discuss research and practice opportunities to further the goal of decent work. She is a co-author of a recently accepted APHA policy entitled Supporting Decent Work...”

**Registration:** [https://proxy.qualtrics.com/proxy/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fharvard.az1.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV\\_etb7eab1A2Pwn9Y&token=61nqOJH3YZcOLuqpt%2F2REE59sUeEBFQzykjRoMA3Be%3D](https://proxy.qualtrics.com/proxy/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fharvard.az1.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV_etb7eab1A2Pwn9Y&token=61nqOJH3YZcOLuqpt%2F2REE59sUeEBFQzykjRoMA3Be%3D)

#### Tuesday, February 7: 9:30 – 10:30 AM

**Title:** Prenatal arsenic exposure, folic acid, and spina bifida: Results from a case-control study in Bangladesh

**Speaker:** Chih-Fu Wei, Ph.D. Candidate, Population Health Sciences, Harvard Chan School of Public Health

**Location:** HSPH Building 1 Room 1302 and Zoom

**Details:** Part of the MIPS Works in Progress Seminar Series

**Zoom:** <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=enJJWXLVSGJlVjBuWnhFUGVlTl0tMz05>

#### Tuesday, February 7: 5:00 – 7:00 PM ET

**Event:** Student Advisory Committee Invites you to their Ice Skating Event

**Location:** 401 Park Drive

**Details:** The Student Advisory Committee invites the Department of Environmental Health to join us for a winter Ice Skating event at 401 Park Drive on Tuesday, February 7th, 5:00pm – 7:00pm! Please complete the RSVP survey and the liability waiver to RSVP. Families/partners are welcome to attend as well! Skate rentals are available from the venue for \$7.00. Questions? Check out our [FAQ](#).

**RSVP Here:** [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3F62kUSvZxPOTXU](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3F62kUSvZxPOTXU)

**For more information contact:** [shaunheller@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:shaunheller@hsph.harvard.edu)

#### Wednesday, February 8: 1:00 – 2:00 PM

**Event:** HSPH-NIEHS Center Colloquium

**Title:** Building Resilience to Extreme Heat: Strategies for Adapting to a Warming World

**Speaker:** Greg Wellenius, ScD, professor on Environmental Health at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH)

**Location:** Hybrid – Building 1, 1302 and via Zoom

**Details:** Join us for our 2022-2023 colloquium series on Environmental Health in Action. This month, we welcome Greg Wellenius, ScD, professor on Environmental

Health at the BUSPH and Director of the new BUSPH Center for Climate and Health. He is an environmental epidemiologist committed to reducing the adverse health impacts of continued climate change through research, training, and engagement. Dr. Wellenius also teaches an introductory graduate-level class on quantitative methods and serves on the Research Committee of the Health Effects Institute, as a visiting scientist with Google, and on the executive committee of the Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance.

**More Info:** <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/hsph-niehs-colloquium-series-greg-wellenius-scd/>

**Trainee Lunch:** We will host an (in-person only) Trainee Lunch with Prof. Wellenius from 12:00 – 12:45pm ET (before his 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).

**Friday February 10, 2022 1:00 -2:00 PM**

**Title:** Make Your Own Valentine's Day Cards

**Location:** Landmark 4 West

**Details:** Take a break between classes and get ready to celebrate Valentine's Day this year by making your own cards to give to your loved ones. A crafting station will be set up in the common space at Landmark 4 West with everything from construction paper to stickers to doilies. Light refreshments will be served. Nothing shows your love more than a personalized, handmade card!

**Friday, February 10; 1:10 – 1:50 PM**

**Title:** Research-in-Progress Seminar by Maria Soledad Hershey and Joe Abrams

**Speaker:** Maria Soledad Hershey, MS, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Environmental Health, HSPH Joe Abrams, DO, MPH, second year resident in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Department of Environmental Health, HSPH

**Location:** HSPH Building 1 Kresge 502 and Zoom

**Details:** Dr. Hershey will present her research on Feeding American's Bravest: Assessing the Effect of a Novel Workplace Mediterranean Diet-based Intervention to

Change US Career Firefighters' Eating Habits. Dr. Joe Abrams will present his research project titled "Health Consequences of Remote Work – A Scoping Review."

**Zoom:** [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6FKCISWVDDb6O6qhttps://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=enJlWlVLSGJlVjBuWnhEUGVTL0tMZz09](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6FKCISWVDDb6O6qhttps://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=enJlWlVLSGJlVjBuWnhEUGVTL0tMZz09)

**Friday, March 3; by 5:00PM ET**

**Event:** Deadline for Pilot Project Applications (up to \$30,000 in funding available)

**Details:** Do you study health effects of the environment? Work with communities concerned about environmental exposures? Then apply to our Pilot Project program (up to \$30,000 in funding)! The Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health is now accepting applications for pilot projects related to Environmental Health sciences. All Center members are eligible to apply for these funds. Other faculty or research scientist-level researchers may apply in collaboration with a Center member co-investigator. Applications are accepted from Harvard Research Associates or Fellows working under the supervision of Center faculty, but the role of the sponsoring faculty members must be specified. Doctoral students are not eligible for pilot project support.

**More info:** <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/apply-for-funds/pilot-project-program/>

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I hope everyone's homes went unscathed after last weekend's polar blast. Our department's floors seemed to be spared from the worst of the pipes bursting at the school.

Taking advantage of the winter, on Tuesday night the department held a wonderful and fun ice-skating event at the Landmark Center. We are grateful to William Borchert, Kate Hardock, Amanda Hernandez, Shuxin Dong, Damini Singh, Claire Dinehart, Maddie Wissoker, and Shaun Heller for all of their efforts in organizing such a joyous evening!

Senior author and Senior Research Scientist Andrea Roberts and colleagues from other departments were featured on the school's website in an article entitled "[Following healthy lifestyle may reduce risk of long Covid](#)". The article was based on a *Jama Internal Medicine* study entitled "[Adherence to Healthy Lifestyle Prior to Infection and Risk of Post-COVID-19 Condition](#)". Well done Andrea on your important findings.

Last week I mentioned that Linda Powers Tomasso's PLOS One was featured in Boston University's *Public Health Post*. This week it was featured in our own school's website in an article entitled "[Why some people spend more time in nature than others](#)".

In other news, I just learned that the accreditation council is coming to evaluate the school November 13-15, 2024. This may seem far off but it is a heavy lift to prepare so we may be asking for your input/help in the coming months.

I would like to encourage everyone to take part in the school's giving day on March 1. A \$100,000 matching gift will be unlocked if the school can motivate at least 350 donors to give a gift to support financial aid. I would love to see our department well represented in donor participation; any amount counts and is appreciated! To donate go to [hsph.me/givenow](https://hsph.harvard.edu/giving).

My open drop in hours begin next week on Monday 2/13 from 1-2 pm in Building 1, Room 1301. Also, starting this Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:30 pm, the EH Department will host a weekly Tea Time at Landmark in the Tea Room (conference room 404I). Take a break from your work to enjoy a cup of tea, some biscuits, and friendly conversation with your coworkers. Please stop by on Monday or Thursday just to say hi and to help me get to know you and what's on your mind. Besides that, as usual we have lots of exciting upcoming events listed below.

Please send news and upcoming events to [eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu).

I leave you with a picture of Tuesday's fun ice skating party.



Have a great week and happy valentine's day!

Kari

### Upcoming Events

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**Title:** Make Your Own Valentine's Day Cards

**Location:** Landmark 4 West

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**Title:** Feeding America's Bravest: Assessing the Effect of a Novel Workplace Mediterranean Diet-based Intervention to Change US Career Firefighters' Eating Habits

**Speaker:** Maria Soledad Hershey, MS, PhD, post-doctoral fellow, Department of Environmental Health, HSPH Joe Abrams, DO, MPH, second year resident in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Department of Environmental Health, HSPH

**Location:** HSPH Building 1 Kresge G3 and Zoom

**Details:** Dr. Hershey will present her research on Feeding American's Bravest: Assessing the Effect of a Novel Workplace Mediterranean Diet-based Intervention to Change US Career Firefighters' Eating Habits. Dr. Joe Abrams will present his research project titled "Health Consequences of Remote Work – A Scoping Review."

**Zoom:** [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6FKCISWVDDb6O6qhttps://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJJWXVLSGIJVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6FKCISWVDDb6O6qhttps://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJJWXVLSGIJVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09)

#### **Tuesday February 14: 9:30 - 10:30 AM**

**Title:** 3-Dimensional Cell Jamming in Asthmatic Airway

**Speaker:** Bobby Haney, Research Fellow, Applied Physics, SEAS, Harvard University

**Location:** HSPH Building 1, Room 1302 and Zoom

**Details:** Part of the MIPS Works in Progress Seminar Series

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

#### **Thursday February 16: 12:00 PM**

**Title:** MEMCARE Superfund RETCC Career Panel

**Speakers:** Mahsa Yazdy, PhD, MPH is the Principal Investigator (PI) and the Director of the Massachusetts Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Kathryn Taylor ScD, SM is a Research Epidemiologist and Director of the Soldier Performance Health and Readiness (SPHERE) Database at the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM).

**Details:** Join RETCC Director Susan Korrick in a conversation with Mahsa Yazdy, PhD, and Kathryn Taylor, ScD, SM as they talk about their inspiring career trajectories.

**Zoom:** <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/94638701208?>

[pwd=amZZU113SHJyNEhQSUJNNkNXY3N0Zz09&from=addon#success](#)

**Friday February 17; 1:10 - 1:50 PM**

**Title:** The Case of the Very Sleepy School Bus Driver

**Speaker's:** Vasileia Varvarigou, MD, Occupational Medicine resident Stefanos N. Kales, MD, MPH, FACOEM, Director, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency, Professor of Environmental Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

**Location:** HSPH Kresge 502 and Zoom

**Details:** Dr. Vasileia Varvarigou, a complementary path resident in the HSPH Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency Program and Dr. Stefanos Kales, Director of the Residency Program will discuss a case of sleepiness in the commercial motor vehicle operator. They will discuss polysomnography, history taking to elicit the presence of sleepiness and why not all sleepiness is Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA).

**For more information contact:** [abackus@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:abackus@hsph.harvard.edu)

**Follow this link for registration:** [https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6sTvNvFxnAKM6Jo](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6sTvNvFxnAKM6Jo)

**More information:** [www.hsph.harvard.edu/erc](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/erc)

**Tuesday February 21; 9:30 - 10:30 AM**

**Title:** The complex impact of alveolar epithelial glycocalyx shedding during viral pneumonia

**Speaker:** Eric Schmidt, MD Chief of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine, MGH Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

**Location:** HSPH Building 1, Room 1302 and Zoom

**Details:** Part of the MIPS Works in Progress Seminar Series

**Zoom:** <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJJWVLSG1JVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09>

**Monday February 27; 4:00 PM**

**Title:** Metals, microbiome and neurodevelopment: findings from the New Hampshire Birth Cohort Study

**Speaker:** Juliette Madan, MD, MS, Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Epidemiology, Quantitative Biomedical Data Science Clinical Director, Dartmouth Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center Director and PI, Dartmouth CF Infant and Children Cohort. Director, Pediatric Psycho-Immunology & Neurology Group

**Location:** Zoom

**Details:** Part of the MEMCARE-SRC Speaker Series

**More Information:** <https://memcare.sph.harvard.edu/memcare-src-speaker-series>

**Zoom:** <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/91079797484?pwd=VGRBbTFodkZROndIS040dDdWeHIFUT09>

**Tuesday, Feb 28; 3:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Title:** Assessing Exposure and the Health Effects of Unconventional Oil and Gas Development

**Speaker:** Longxiang Li, Research Assistant with the Exposure Epidemiology and Risk Program

**Location:** HSPH Building 1 Room 1302 and Zoom

**Details:** Join the Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health's monthly Chalk Talks series, a chance for members and affiliates to showcase the exciting research they are working on and solicit collaboration in a friendly setting.

**More Info:** <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/center-chalk-talks-longxiang-li-phd/>

**Friday, March 3; by 5:00PM ET**

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**Details:** Do you study health effects of the environment? Work with communities concerned about environmental exposures? Then apply to our Pilot Project program (up to \$30,000 in funding)! The Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health is now accepting applications for pilot projects related to Environmental Health sciences. All Center members are eligible to apply for these funds. Other faculty or research scientist-level researchers may apply in collaboration with a Center member co-investigator. Applications are accepted from Harvard Research Associates or Fellows working under the supervision of Center faculty, but the role of the sponsoring faculty members must be specified. Doctoral students are not eligible for pilot project support.

**More info:** <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/apply-for-funds/pilot-project-program/>

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## Chair Chatter

### February 17, 2023

I hope you are having a great week. I was delighted to see some of you at various meetings and/or at the open hours in Building 1 on Monday and at teatime at Landmark on Thursday. I welcome the opportunity to meet with all EH members. To begin these open communications, I have scheduled the following virtual meetings over the next weeks. Please check your email for the specific Zoom links.

Staff - Thursday, February 23; 8:30-9:30 am  
Research Scientists - Thursday, February 23; 4:00-5:00  
Postdocs – Friday, February 24; 10:00-11:00  
Students - Thursday, March 2; 9:00-10:00  
Research Associates – Monday, March 13, 2:00-3:00  
Research Assistants – Monday, March 13, 3:00-4:00

I realize not everyone in the groups will be available at those times, but I hope to see those who can make it there, and at the various open hours and tea times. Speaking of getting together, we are starting to plan a full day EH department retreat that will include the Whittenberger lecture at a location near to campus. Please save **Friday, September 29** as the tentative date. More details to come!

I was thrilled to see that EH has three staff members who were nominated for the school's ACE award. People nominate staff who have made extraordinary contributions to the workplace. Congratulations to Marlee Quinn, Research Projects Coordinator in Tamarra James-Todd's group; Midge Van Aller, our EH Administrative Assistant who helps many of our faculty; and Sally Bedugnis, our EH Research Operations Manager. Each of our nominees received multiple nominations, which means that many people appreciate their efforts. I also want to thank the folks who took the time to recognize these valued members of our staff.

Congratulations to lead author Xinye Qiu and EH co-authors Yaguang Wei, Edgar Castro, Marc Weisskopf and Joel Schwartz for their recent paper entitled "Association of Long-term Exposure to Air Pollution With Late-Life Depression in Older Adults in the US" that was published in [JAMA network open](#) last week. This nationwide Medicare population-based cohort study found that long-term exposure to common levels of air pollution was significantly associated with increased risk of depression diagnosis after age 64 years even after accounting for climate co-exposures, neighborhood greenness and socioeconomic conditions. The publication has also received attention from the media and was reported online last Friday by [CNN health](#) as well as on our [school's news](#).

Jin-Ah Park was an invited expert for the journal club presented by the early career professionals working group at the American Thoracic Society (ATS) Assembly on Respiratory Structure and Function group. You can catch Jin-Ah on this video; her part starts around the 14:00 mark [here](#).

As you know, Harvard Chan is searching for a new dean. The university has set up an anonymous email that you can use to give any feedback regarding what or who they should consider when making that decision: [sphdeansearch@harvard.edu](mailto:sphdeansearch@harvard.edu) . Francine Laden is on the advisory committee. Feel free to contact her with questions/comments. I know our faculty have lots on their plates, so I want to gently remind them that their quarterly effort reports are due. Also, our primary faculty's annual FAR reports along with their updated CV's are due by February 28.

The Boston Congress of Public Health has [Thought Leadership Fellowship](#) opportunities available. Info session is on 2/22, application deadline is 3/1. As usual, we have many interesting upcoming events to look forward to through the end of the month. In addition to the interesting events in our department, I am delighted to list upcoming relevant events from the broader Harvard community, e.g., Ariadne labs and Radcliffe Institute. I hope you enjoy the upcoming long Presidents Day weekend. I leave you with a picture of the folks who I enjoyed spending my first teatime with yesterday at Landmark – such fun!



No open office hours Monday due to the holiday.  
Next teatime is Thursday at Landmark 404I at 2:30.  
Please send news and upcoming events to [eh-chat@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:eh-chat@hsph.harvard.edu).

Best,  
Kari

## Upcoming Events

### **Friday February 17; 1:10 - 1:50 PM**

**Title:** The Case of the Very Sleepy School Bus Driver

**Speakers:** Vasileia Varvarigou, MD, Occupational Medicine resident and Stefanos N. Kales,

MD, MPH, FACOEM, Director, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency, Professor of Environmental Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

**Location:** HSPH Kresge 502 and Zoom

**Details:** Dr. Vasileia Varvarigou, a complementary path resident in the HSPH Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency Program and Dr. Stefanos Kales, Director of the Residency Program will discuss a case of sleepiness in the commercial motor vehicle operator. They will discuss polysomnography, history taking to elicit the presence of sleepiness and why not all sleepiness is Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA).

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[pwd=cnJjWwVLSGJjVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09](https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJjWwVLSGJjVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09)

### **Friday February 24; 1:00-2:30**

**Title:** Human-Centered Design in Public Health Innovation, an Ariadne Workshop

**Speakers:** Meghan Long, Assistant Director of the Innovation Platform

Laura Onelio, Innovation and Design Specialist

**Ariadne Labs** is a joint center for health systems innovation at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The Lab works to improve safety, equity, and integration throughout health care and public health, working in areas such as maternal health, primary health care, surgery, and serious illness care. Their unique methodology has produced hundreds of tools that have touched hundreds of millions of lives.

**Location:** Kresge Room 200, lunch served

**Details:** Join Ariadne Labs' innovation experts in a hands-on workshop to learn how they use Human-Centered Design to develop solutions that save lives and reduce suffering around the world. Human-centered design uses empathy, ideation, and experimentation to design tools and systems that center the needs of the humans that use them. In public health, human-centered design can produce tools and systems that work for their most vulnerable users and beneficiaries.

Learn the design process behind tools like the Surgical Safety Checklist and the Serious Illness Conversation Guide – from identifying a problem to designing, testing, and implementing a solution. Then become a designer yourself and approach some of today's greatest challenges in public health, following the research process to center and prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable users.

**Registration:** <https://forms.office.com/r/Pw3as4gRCC>

### **Monday February 27; noon**

**Title:** Analyzing Earth's "Fine Prints": High-Resolution Geological Records Inform Near Future Climate Change

**Speaker:** Hong Yang, Charles J. Smiley Chair Professor of Science and Technology and inaugural vice president for international affairs at Bryant University.

**Location:** Radcliff Institute, Fellow's Presentation, Online on Zoom

**Details:** Dr. Yang's intellectual interests lie in global climate change, plant evolution, and international education. Yang's interdisciplinary research is focused on investigations of modern and ancient organisms and their adaptations to environments and climate. This involves a range of approaches from fieldwork to laboratory experiments. Yang's Radcliffe project utilizes an interdisciplinary data set of ancient decadal-scale climate records to foster better understanding of dynamic causes, behaviors, and consequences of near-future climate change, including the likely hydrological and biological consequences under projected high atmospheric CO2 conditions. He will communicate his findings to support science-informed policymaking and develop a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary experiential learning program to facilitate broader public understanding and societal responses to mitigate the threat of climate change.

**Register:** <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/event/2023-hong-yang-fellow-presentation-virtual>.

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**Speaker:** Juliette Madan, MD, MS, Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Epidemiology, Quantitative Biomedical Data Science Clinical Director, Dartmouth Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center Director and PI, Dartmouth CF Infant and Children Cohort. Director, Pediatric Psycho-Immunology & Neurology Group

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about environmental exposures? Then apply to our Pilot Project program (up to \$30,000 in funding)! The Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health is now accepting applications for pilot projects related to Environmental Health sciences. All Center members are eligible to apply for these funds. Other faculty or research scientist-level researchers may apply in collaboration with a Center member co-investigator. Applications are accepted from Harvard Research Associates or Fellows working under the supervision of Center faculty, but the role of the sponsoring faculty members must be specified. Doctoral students are not eligible for pilot project support.

More info: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/apply-for-funds/pilot-project-program/>

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## Chair Chatter

### February 24, 2023

Yesterday I met with a group of staff, and then later with a group of research scientists. Today I meet with post-docs. It is a pleasure to get to know people in this department through these meetings. I am always interested in exploring how we can build upon the great things that we have in our department to make it even better. I appreciate people's candor, as well as their willingness to share their ideas. Both staff and post-docs are in many ways keys to our department's success. These meetings confirmed my impression that we have enormous talent in this department, and that people at all levels have great ideas about ways we can improve. In addition, I continue to meet with faculty one on one for their ideas and thoughts on the department and I am thankful as well for their contributions. To that end, everyone please be on the lookout for a survey in your email that will help me gauge how members of our community feel about our department, and what we can do to make it better. I look forward to hearing more of your ideas, and to my upcoming meetings on March 2 with students, and on March 13 with research associates and research assistants.

We have several articles that featured important studies from our department's research. Lead author Lidia Minguez-Alarcon, along with Jennifer Ford and Russ Hauser (among other colleagues on the Earth Study Team) were featured in the *Harvard Gazette* in an article entitled "[Study shows higher sperm counts in men who lift heavy objects](#)". This refers to a study published in *Human Reproduction* entitled "[Occupational factors and markers of testicular function among men attending a fertility center](#)". The authors point to the growing fertility problem among men, which tends to be somewhat neglected but of high importance.

Sengjin Choi, Zhiping Yang, Qiyu Wang, Maoyun Sun, Quan Lu and colleagues were featured on the school's website in an article entitled "[New vaccine platform could aid in fight against deadly viruses](#)". The article refers to a study in *ScienceAdvances* entitled "[Displaying and delivering viral membrane antigens via WW domain-activated extracellular vesicles](#)". The articles build upon the authors' previous work that showcase the tremendous potential that EVs may have to deliver medication to cells in a lower cost, more efficient manner.

Diane Gold was one of many authors of an article in *Jama Network* entitled "[Changes in Body Mass Index Among School-Aged Youths Following Implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010](#)". This article by the ECHO team received a lot of popular press in outlets such as the *Associated Press*, *ABC News* and *CNN*. It hints that providing healthier school lunches may reduce teen obesity and improve BMI scores.

Joe Allen received a large gift from the Login5 Foundation to continue his group's work developing his COBE (Co-Benefits of the Built Environment) tool – a web-based, open-access tool that calculates the health and climate co-benefits of energy-efficiency measures in buildings.

Here are two research opportunities that may be of interest to our faculty and researchers: [PAR-22-233](#): Time-Sensitive Opportunities for Health Research (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) and <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-23-004.html>. Speaking of grant submissions, our grants managers ask that you please remember to forward any correspondence from NIH or the funding sponsor asking for information such as Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM), Just-in-Time (JIT) or any other questions about a proposal or award to them so that they can help with any information requests. The grant managers are not listed with the sponsors and do not get these requests directly. Please help them help you!

Francine Laden and I will be donating to the [Giving Day campaign](#), and we hope that you will join us. Let's have the EH department well represented so we can reach the school's 350 participant goal to unlock the \$100,000 matching gift for student financial aid. Remember any amount is appreciated; the key is to get enough participants.

I believe we all could use a little optimism and humor, so I'll leave you with a delightful newsletter created by Marcy Franck from our C-CHANGE team called the [Climate Optimist](#). Marcy was also featured in a *Christian Science Monitor* article entitled "[Rise of the climate optimists, pushing back against the gloom](#)".

Please send news and upcoming events to [eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu).

Best,  
Kari

### Upcoming Events

**Please note that there will not be an open meet the chair on Monday February 27, as I will be at an out of town conference.**

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**Tea time with the chair Thursdays at 2:30, Landmark 404I.**

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**Monday February 27; 4:00 PM**

**Title:** Metals, microbiome and neurodevelopment: findings from the New Hampshire Birth Cohort Study

**Speaker:** Juliette Madan, MD, MS, Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Epidemiology, Quantitative Biomedical Data Science Clinical Director, Dartmouth Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center Director and PI, Dartmouth CF Infant and Children Cohort. Director, Pediatric Psycho-Immunology & Neurology Group

**Location:** Zoom

**Details:** Part of the MEMCARE-SRC Speaker Series

**More Information:** <https://memcare.sph.harvard.edu/memcare-src-speaker-series>

**Zoom:** <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/91079797484?pwd=VGRBbTFodkZRQndIS040dDdWeHlFUT09>

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**Tuesday February 28; 9:30 – 10:30 AM**

**Title:** MIPS Works in Progress Seminar Series: Mechanisms of air pollution exposure

**Speaker:** Kari C. Nadeau, MD, PhD, John Rock Professor of Climate and Population Studies

and Chair, Department of Environmental Health  
**Location:** HSPH Building 1, Room 1302 and Zoom  
**Zoom:** <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96260666705?pwd=cnJWXXVLSGIJVjBuWnhFUGVTL0tMZz09>

**Tuesday, Feb 28; 3:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Title:** Assessing Exposure and the Health Effects of Unconventional Oil and Gas Development

**Speaker:** Longxiang Li, Research Assistant with the Exposure Epidemiology and Risk Program

**Location:** HSPH Building 1 Room 1302 and Zoom

**Details:** Join the Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health's monthly Chalk Talks series, a chance for members and affiliates to showcase the exciting research they are working on and solicit collaboration in a friendly setting.

**More Info:** <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/center-chalk-talks-longxiang-li-phd/>

**Friday, March 3; by 5:00 PM ET**

**Event:** Deadline for Pilot Project Applications (up to \$30,000 in funding available)

**Details:** Do you study health effects of the environment? Work with communities concerned about environmental exposures? Then apply to our Pilot Project program (up to \$30,000 in funding)! The Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health is now accepting applications for pilot projects related to Environmental Health sciences. All Center members are eligible to apply for these funds. Other faculty or research scientist-level researchers may apply in collaboration with a Center member co-investigator. Applications are accepted from Harvard Research Associates or Fellows working under the supervision of Center faculty, but the role of the sponsoring faculty members must be specified. Doctoral students are not eligible for pilot project support.

**More info:** <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/apply-for-funds/pilot-project-program/>

**Tuesday March 7; 9:30 – 10:30 AM**

**Title:** : MIPS Works in Progress Seminar Series: Lung Interoception

**Speaker:** Xin Sun, PhD, Professor, Cell and Developmental Biology, UC San Diego

**Location:** HSPH Building 1, Room 1302 and Zoom

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

**Wednesday, March 8; 1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Title:** Thinking Structurally about Structural Environmental Racism: Lead as a Case Study

**Speaker:** Jessica Wolpaw Reyes, PhD, Professor of Economics at Amherst College

**Location:** Building 1, Room 1302 and via Zoom

**Details:** Join the Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health's colloquium series on *Environmental Health in Action*. This month, we welcome Jessica Wolpaw Reyes, PhD, professor of Economics at Amherst College, whose research focuses on public health and social impacts of environmental pollution, malpractice and physician behavior, factors influencing judicial decision-making, and other topics in applied microeconomics. Prof. Reyes is particularly interested in areas of health and inequality. She is currently studying the effects of environmental toxicants on social behavior, as well as embarking on new projects in law and economics. Prof. Reyes received her Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, focusing her studies in the areas of labor economics, public finance, and health economics.

**More Info:** <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/niehs/event/hsph-niehs-colloquium-series-jessica-wolpaw-reyes-phd/>

**Students and Postdocs:** We will host an (in-person only) Trainee Session with Prof. Wolpaw Reyes from 12:00 – 12:45pm ET (before the 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).

**Save the date: Friday, September 29 for the EH Department retreat.**