

Chair Chatter

June 2, 2023

I hope you enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend – welcome to June! This week seemed a little quieter compared to the excitement of last week’s graduation festivities, but there is still plenty of activity even though many of our continuing students are off for the summer. Today, for example, many in our department are participating in the Harvard-Chan NIEHS retreat.

Shruthi Mahalingaiah (senior author), along with first author Huichu Li and several other colleagues from the school published an article in *NPJ Digital Medicine* entitled “[Menstrual cycle length variation by demographic characteristics from the Apple Women’s Health Study](#)”. This important study once again highlights how valuable the Apple Women’s Health Study is to the discovery of new insights in women’s health. Shruthi was also quoted in a *New York Times* article entitled “[Cycle syncing is trendy. Does it work?](#)”. And lastly, Shruthi will be addressing the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine today at 1:00 - see upcoming events.

Former White House National Climate Advisor and former C-CHANGE Director Gina McCarthy and I wrote an editorial in the *Boston Globe* entitled “[Carbon capture isn’t the climate change health benefit the world needs](#)” in which we argue that carbon capture is not enough; reducing the use of fossil fuels as quickly and as much as possible is essential for human health.

I want to remind people that annual staff performance evaluations were due yesterday; please complete them asap if you haven’t already. Also, the postdoctoral annual progress reviews are due by the end of this month. Please attend to these as well.

Weekly Policy Snippet: Honorarium is a payment made without legal obligation on the payor’s part, made to A PERSON for their services in a volunteer capacity or for services for which fees are not traditionally required. Please determine a prospective payee’s visa and work authorization status before services are rendered because, depending on their visa type and work authorization status, they may be prohibited from receiving payments. In some cases, Harvard can make alternative payment arrangement, such as paying the speaker’s sponsoring agency, which in

turn can pay the speaker – but only if these arrangements are made BEFORE the speaker performs services. Prior to offering an honorarium payment, please review the [Honoraria and Reimbursements for Foreign Nationals Policy](#) .

June is LGBTQ+ Pride month. Again, we are proud to honor all members of our department who affiliate with this group. Diversity makes our department stronger!



Please send any upcoming events and news to eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu.

Enjoy your weekend!

Best,
Kari

Upcoming Events

Save the date:

September 29: EH Department retreat/ Whittenberger lecture

Chair Open Office Hours

Building 1, Mondays 1:00 –2:00 PM, Room 1301
Landmark, Thursdays 2:00-3:00 Room 404

Tea Time – Take a break and just stop by

Building 1, Wednesdays 2:00-3:00, 13th floor kitchen area
Landmark, Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 Room 404

Friday, June 2, 1:00 – 2:00

Speaker: Shruthi Mahalingaiah

Title: Exploring wearable applications in other research areas such as disease monitoring, interventions, and biomedicine

Details: This virtual workshop is hosted by The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, will explore how can cutting edge wearable technology be leveraged for precision environmental health, digital health and biomedical research

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3nqHIwD>

Wednesday, June 7, 3:00 PM

Event: Communications 101: How to Make the Case About Climate Change, Health & Equity

Speakers: Anna Chen and Nick Seaver, *Burness*

Registration and more information: Sign up and learn more here:

<https://medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org/event/training-series-climate-communications-champion/>

Best Practices for Working with the Media

3 P.M. ET // 12 P.M. PT on Wednesday, June 7,

During this session, you will gain foundational skills for communicating with reporters, journalists, and news outlets — all important conduits to engaging broader audiences about climate change and health.

Weighing in on the News: Writing Op-eds and Letters to the Editor

3 P.M. ET // 12 P.M. PT on Wednesday, June 21

Your health voice is a powerful one. Find out ways to apply your personal perspective to persuade others to act around a certain issue.

Weighing in on Policy: How to Testify and Provide Public Comment

3 P.M. ET // 12 P.M. PT on Wednesday, July 12

Harness your expertise and effective messaging to help shape policy and regulations in the U.S.

Social Media: Getting Started and Being Strategic

3 P.M. ET // 12 P.M. PT on Wednesday, July 26

We spend so much of our time online. Learn how to share your unique voice and perspective on social media to build an understanding of the connections between climate change, health, and equity.

Rules of the Road for Engaging with Policymakers

3 P.M. ET // 12 P.M. PT on Wednesday, August 9

Discover strategies for working with and speaking with policymakers to create change that benefits your patients and the climate.

Please email Ryann Cohen (rcohen@burness.com) with any questions

JUNE 10, 10AM-12PM

Community Event: Let's Talk Clean Beauty!

Details: How we can better our health through better understanding. Come learn how you can choose safer products and prevent exposure to metals and harmful chemicals. Make your own safe beauty product!

Location: Bethel AME Church Youth Center, 84 Wachusetts St., Jamaica Plain

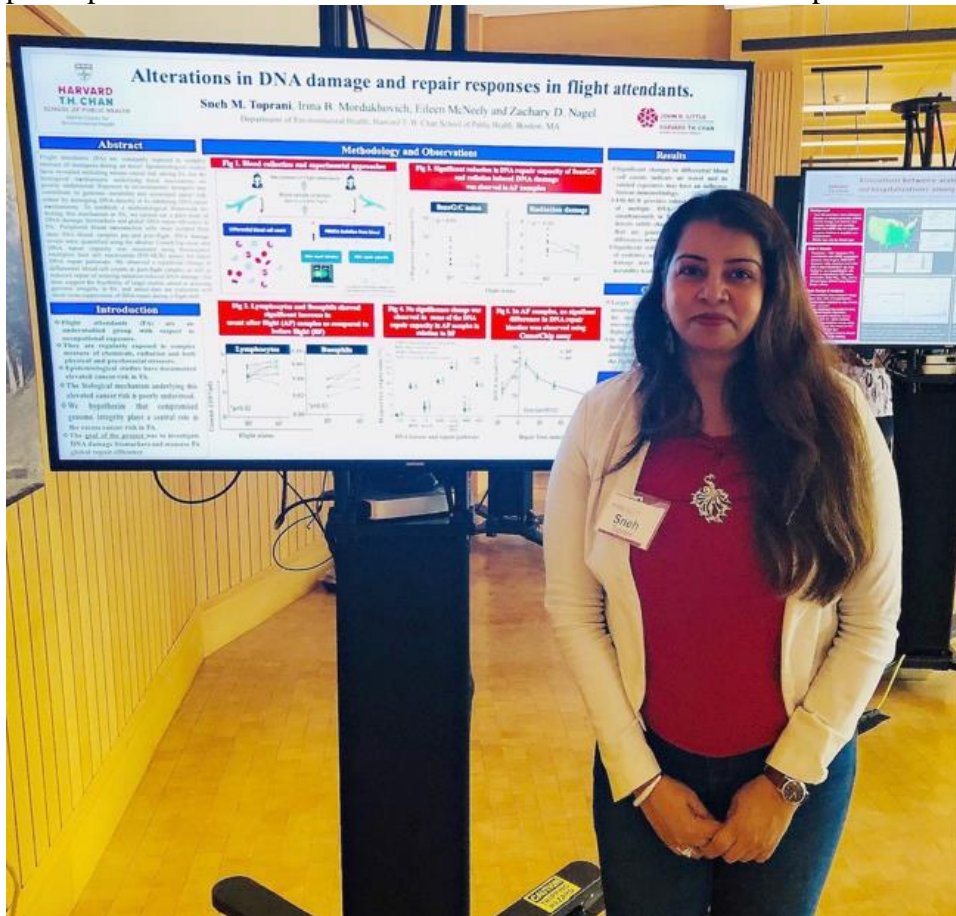
Registration: 617 519-7604 or



Chair Chatter
June 9, 2023

The world literally took a dangerous turn this week as the Canadian fires wreaked havoc on millions of people thousands of miles away. The world understands the health effects of smoke, which contains PM2.5, in large part due to research that was done years ago in our department. We continue to build upon the foundation of that research. Kimberly Humphrey, a visiting scholar and climate change and health fellow in **C-CHANGE**, was quoted in an article in *Bloomberg* entitled “[How wildfire smoke impacts human health](#)”. I was interviewed for *Scientific American* in an article entitled “[How to protect yourself from smoky wildfire air](#)”. Once again, public health issues about the environment grab headlines and speak to the importance of the work we do in our department and at the school.

On a brighter note, last Friday the **Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center** held a very successful retreat that highlighted its past successes and looked to future directions as we begin to prepare for our competitive renewal. The retreat featured poster presentations and a community outreach panel. Thanks to Marc Weisskopf, Eileen Chao, Monica Russell for organizing it and to all the participants who shared their research and ideas to make this a productive and fun event.



Sneh Toprani of the JBL Center (above) presents her poster which was a result of a pilot project supported by the Center grant which combined her work in the Nagel lab with the McNeely SHINE group's research, one of many such posters supported by Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center funds (below).



Xinan Wang, Christopher Romero-Gutierrez, Jui Kothari, Andrea Shafer, Yi Li, and David Christiani had an article published in *Jama Network Open* entitled “[Prediagnosis smoking cessation and overall survival among patients with non-small cell lung cancer](#)”. They found that the earlier a person stopped smoking the greater their chance of survival. It gained much attention in the [medical and popular press](#).

Adam Haber, Jin-Ah Park, and I were at the [Aspen Lung Conference](#) this week where Jin-Ah gave a talk on “Mechanistic Compression-Induced Unjamming Transition Regulated by a Mechanosensor HIC-5 Protein”. I gave the Thomas L. Petty Lecture entitled “Cellular cross-talk understanding mechanisms underlying asthma susceptibility”.

Research Resource Highlight: Access to Non-Public Federal Microdata through the Boston Research Data Center

The Harvard Chan School recently purchased an institutional subscription to the [Boston Research Data Center](#) (BRDC), which greatly reduces the cost of accessing non-public federal microdata for School researchers. These microdata represent unit-level or otherwise highly-disaggregated data on individual persons or households and fine geographic units such as blocks

or zip codes. The BRDC provides secure, on-premises access to perform statistical analyses on non-public microdata from 16 federal agencies including:

- Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
- CDC National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality

Additional information on the data available, the process to access the facility, and additional costs that may apply can be found on our School's [BRDC information webpage](#).

ISGlobal, in partnership with the Health Environment Research Agenda for Europe and Excelencia Severo Ochoa, are hosting a workshop titled "[Advancing the Science on Environment, Climate and Cancer: Challenges and Future Research](#)." This virtual workshop will take place from October 30-31, 2023 from 8am – 1pm EST/2pm – 7PM CET. The workshop aims to catalyze discussions on existing work on these topics, knowledge gaps, and future research directions.

In addition to the main workshop, there will be a [Satellite Session for Early Career Investigators](#). This satellite session will allow graduate students, postdocs, and junior researchers to share and discuss work with peers. Submissions from academic and non-academic (government, industry, non-profit) scientists are welcome. Abstract submissions for the Early Career Investigator workshop are open and due Friday, July 14, 2023. Abstracts can be emailed to [Mar Ferrer](#).

Weekly Policy Snippet - International SOS Registration: Before traveling internationally, it is required that all Harvard affiliates—faculty, staff, students, and researchers – register their travel with International SOS. In the event of an emergency or incident abroad, there will be attempts to contact you via email, SMS, or a phone call to confirm your well-being and provide help. Other benefits include access to country-specific advice, security alerts, and more. Please note that travel booked through one of [Harvard Preferred Travel Agencies](#) will be automatically registered with International SOS for you. [Register International Travel Here](#)

Today's I hear you: As I talked to our faculty and researchers, I heard from several that there is a need to help you bring your science to educate the public and policymakers. Liz Willetts has over 15 years of experience as an international policy consultant, with expertise in the health-environment nexus. She has joined our department as a visiting scholar and is available to work with you to help increase the impact of your science. Liz can be reached at ewilletts@hsph.harvard.edu.

Please send any upcoming events and news to eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu.

I hope you and your families stay safe and that the smoke pollution dissipates quickly. Have a great weekend!

Kari

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Chair Chatter

June 16, 2023

Sunday is Father's Day. We have a special opportunity to take time to honor those people in our lives who have been fathers and father-like to us – those who have nurtured us, loved and encouraged us, have guided and mentored us, have been our safety nets and compassionate listeners. Though we each have or had unique relationships with our fathers, we all share the common experience of being born. Whatever our relationship may have been or is, this Sunday can be a time of reflection, gratitude, healing, and forgiveness. For all the beings who are providing or who have provided father support over the years - thank you! And happy Father's Day to all in our community that are fathers!

The school is closed on Monday in celebration of [Juneteenth](#), now a federal holiday commemorating the day in 1865 that news that slavery was abolished reached Texas, when all slaves in the U.S.A. were freed. It is a holiday to celebrate, and also to reflect on the past and present shadow that slavery and racism has cast on our country. We have come a long way, and still have a long way to go in terms of justice, including environmental justice. I was heartened to hear that the Supreme Court surprisingly ruled in favor of [Black Alabama voters and upheld that part of the Voting Rights Act](#); it is a significant victory for the cause of democracy and equal justice.

I am very excited to announce that we have just started two separate faculty searches. One is for a [Director for our Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment \(C-CHANGE\)](#). The other search is for an [Assistant or Associate Professor in Environmental Health: Biological, Exposure, or Population Sciences](#). Please share widely with your networks and contacts; we look forward to expanding our EH faculty roster with bright new talent. I would like to thank Barbara Zuckerman for organizing the search process.

Speaking of talented faculty, congratulations to Christopher Golden, who was promoted to Associate Professor of Nutrition and Planetary Health!

Several of our faculty were quoted in recent articles on the Canadian wildfires. Joseph Allen and Francesca Dominici were quoted in a *Harvard Gazette* article entitled "[In the thick of it.](#)" They predict that more fires are likely to occur in future years and offer suggestions on how to minimize the health risks by taking measures to filter indoor air. Petros Koutrakis was quoted in a *Boston Globe* article entitled "[Here's what experts say about the hazy skies and air quality right now](#)".

Senior author Andrea Roberts and Marc Weisskopf were among the authors of a study published in *Jama Network* entitled "[Multidimensional sleep health prior to SARS-CoV-2 infection and risk of post-Covid-19 condition](#)". This was covered in the *Harvard Gazette* and on the school's website in a feature entitled "[Healthy sleep may lower risk of long Covid](#)".

Last week I mentioned the Harvard Chan-NIEHS retreat. I thought you might be interested in seeing some more [photos](#) of the event.

The International Society of Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) Ethics and Philosophy Committee announces a call for an environmental ethics essay contest for graduate students and early career researchers (< 5 years of terminal degree, two page limit). Scan this code to participate!



Weekly Policy Snippet: Personal Use of Corporate Cards: Cardholders are responsible for all transactions charged to their Harvard-issued credit card. Harvard-issued credit cards should be used solely for Harvard business-related expenses. Per Harvard’s Corporate Card Application Agreement, located at [HU Card Services](#), improper use of Harvard Cards, including for personal purchases, requires full reimbursement to Harvard or Citibank of the amount inappropriately charged. A cardholder may also be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. You can find more information on Cardholder Responsibilities, Travel Policy, and Business Expense Policy at [HU Card Guidance](#) .

I’m looking forward to Tuesday when EH alum Tom Polton and I will host an HBS virtual roundtable discussion entitled “[Mobilizing the health sector to commit to climate action](#)”. It’s complementary for current Harvard Chan students! See upcoming events below for more details.

In the meantime, again enjoy your Monday off in honor of Juneteenth and happy Father’s Day to all the dads out there!

Best,

Kari

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Tuesday, June 20, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Event: Mobilizing the Health Sector to Commit to Climate Action

Speakers: Kari Nadeau and Tom Polton

Description: Climate change impacts health and the health sector impacts climate change.

Experts estimate that the health sector accounts for 4.5% of global greenhouse gas emission and 8.5% of US emissions. On June 20th, join Dr. Kari Nadeau, Chair Harvard Chan School of Public Health Environmental Health Department, and alum Tom Polton, NV Sustainability LLC and former Pfizer global environmental sustainability lead, for a Virtual Roundtable targeted to leaders and investors in the healthcare sector to learn:

- Why the health sector needs to commit to climate action.
- How leaders can take action to reduce emissions, protect public health and improve resiliency

Note this webinar is complementary for Harvard Chan and HBS students!

For Information and Registration:

<https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1738/cc/21/page.aspx?sid=1738&gid=11&pgid=80330&cid=167563>

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Chair Chatter
June 30, 2023

I'm sure we are all looking forward to the upcoming long weekend when the school will be closed on July 3rd and 4th.

Yesterday we learned that the US Supreme Court struck down race-conscious approaches to admissions (in cases explicitly involving Harvard and UNC).

<https://links.repoint.harvard.edu/servlet/MailView?ms=MzQ5Nzc2ODES1&r=MjE4MzYzMTQ1NzcS1&j=MjQyNTQ2ODkwNwS2&mt=1&rt=0>. The department of EH remains committed to an environment grounded in equity, diversity, belonging, justice, and inclusion. Advancing public health, as our colleague John Quakenbush writes “requires that we understand the broad-based factors that influence health and well-being and doing so requires that our community includes perspectives and ideas that go beyond what any of us can individually provide”. President-elect Claudine Gay also offered her thoughts on the recent SCOTUS decision: [President-Elect Claudine Gay Message to the Community](#)



Moving on to news in the department, congratulations to Associate Professor Gary Adamkiewicz, who reached his 20-year anniversary. Gary's many contributions to the department are much appreciated!

Several of our faculty and trainees attended and presented at the inaugural International Society of Environmental Epidemiology North American Chapter meeting in Corvallis, Oregon last week. The meeting was hosted by Environmental Health department alums Molly Kile and

Marianthi Kioumourtzoglou, and Carrie Brinton and Jaime Hart served on the scientific committee. Tamarra James-Todd gave a fantastic plenary and led an after-conference workshop focused on community engagement. The meeting was an incredible success; everyone is eagerly awaiting the next one!

Barrak Alahmad was quoted in an article in *The Guardian* in an article entitled “[Going abroad cost me my health’: Nepal’s migrant workers coming home with chronic kidney disease](#)”. The article highlights the effects that the lack of heat protection has on the health of migrant workers.

Carmen Messerlian created a unique podcast that is both personal and universal about her sister’s experience dealing with infertility. It was featured on the school’s website entitled “[Podcast aims to help women boost health, fertility](#)”.

Petros Koutrakis and his team gave several of us a tour on the roof top of Countway to explain his and his team’s air pollution monitoring devices.



Petros and Professor David Jones also showed us the inhalation toxicology area where studies on air pollution were conducted by EH investigators. Dr. Jones is writing a book on the Clean Air Act and the Six Cities project that many of our faculty and researchers were involved in.



Lastly, we would like to bid a fond farewell to Jo Ellen Mistarz, senior program manager who has been the lead administrator for the ERC training grant for the last couple of years and helped shepherd it through its successful competitive renewal. We welcome Mircea Filimon as our new ERC Senior Program Manager. Mircea is moving from New York City, where he worked on NIH-funded research grants for Columbia University and Rutgers. Mircea has an MPA from Rutgers and BA from Hunter College, as well as BA and MA degrees from the University of Bucharest. He is a native of Romania, and he enjoys travelling and hiking in his free time. We wish Jo Ellen much happiness in her retirement and look forward to working with Mircea.

Please continue to send any news and events to EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu.

Please note that due to the holiday we will skip sending Chair Chatter next week. I hope you all enjoy your 4th of July celebrations!

Best,

Kari

Upcoming Events

Save the dates:

Please note: the EH Department retreat/ Whittenberger lecture previously scheduled for September 29 has been changed. Stay tuned for our new date!

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Tuesday, July 11, 4:00 – 5:00

Title: How Neuroscience Can Help Solve Our Environmental Crisis

Speaker: Dr. [Ann-Christine Duhaime](#), with discussion following with Sharon Weinberger

Description: In this virtual talk, [Ann-Christine Duhaime](#) RI '16, will speak about her latest book, [Minding the Climate: How Neuroscience Can Help Solve Our Environmental Crisis](#) (Harvard University Press, 2022). Duhaime is the Nicholas T. Zervas Distinguished Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, associate director of the Mass General Center for the Environment and Health, and associate editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Climate Change and Health*. A practicing board-certified pediatric neurosurgeon, she is deeply interested in environmental issues and the relationship between brain and behavior. Duhaime’s reading will be followed by a discussion with [Sharon Weinberger](#) RI '16, national security and foreign policy editor at *The Wall Street Journal*. The event will also include an audience Q and A.

More information: <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/event/2023-book-talk-ann-christine-duhaime-virtual>

Location: virtual

[Register](#)

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