



Chair Chatter August 4, 2023

From the Desk of the Department Chair: Community Newsletter 

August is here, and we are over the moon to be welcoming our new EH students in just a few weeks. Time flies when you're having fun, and we are so excited to share our stellar department updates with you. Speaking of stars, don't miss the spectacular [Perseid meteor shower](#) that will peak on Aug. 12 and 13. You might also catch a glimpse of the rare blue moon on Aug. 30, which happens when there are two full moons in a single month.

This week we welcome Bianca Quinones, our new Director of Administration. Bianca is an experienced business leader with a passion for Health Equity. Prior to joining HSPH Bianca was the Operations Director at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center where she was responsible for their largest clinical center and home of the Lawrence Family Medicine Residency Program. Bianca holds her MPH from Boston University where she studied Health Policy & Management, and additionally holds a Lean Certification. Outside of work Bianca most enjoys spending quality time with her loved ones, including her fur baby, Stella, who she will talk about with anyone anytime! Here is a photo of Bianca and Stella.



We are thrilled to have Bianca join us! But of course, that means we will be bidding Glenn Stern a farewell soon. I will include a proper send-off for Glenn in a later Chatter. And Glenn's Retirement Party will be Friday August 25th, 2:00 - 4:00 PM in Building 1, 13th floor.

You've seen pets in the Chair Chatter from time to time. The Department would like to formally recognize the many loving pets we all cherish in our homes by creating a Pet Corner Poster which will be displayed in the 13th floor corridor in Building 1 and at Landmark. Please complete the information and upload your favorite photo of your pet using [this survey](#). If you have more than one pet, complete a separate entry for each of them.

★ In the Spotlight:

The White House released draft federal guidance this week which would require government agencies to account for ecosystems in decision-making. This type of

guidance will ensure that nature's vital role in human health, the economy, climate, and recreation is given equal consideration as economic benefits are. The guidance will help the agencies in assigning numerical values to these social goods that we all depend on. You can read more about this crucial proposal [here](#).

The EPA has a few webinars this month that I think many members of our department could benefit from. The topics range from learning data management tools for emergency response to the importance of the Environmental Quality Index. You can find more information on the webinars and details on how to register in the posters included below. I also want to remind everyone that in addition to these thought-provoking webinars, the EPA has many grants taking applications on [their website](#).

Department Updates:

Fall 2023 RCR Course Registration Now Open!

Sign up by August 23

The Fall 2023 RCR course will run on **Fridays from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**, in-person on the HSPH campus from September 1, 2023 through October 20, 2023. This course meets the NIH training requirement for all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development award, research education grant, or dissertation research grant. Go to [this page](#) for more information and to register.

EH In the News

- **Pollution and death risk:** I'm delighted to share with you a new research article led by our postdoctoral research fellow Yaguang Wei, PhD, and co-authored by environmental epidemiology professor Joel Schwartz, PhD. Published in *Environmental Epidemiology*, the article finds that PM_{2.5} and ozone have additive effects on mortality and shows how different levels of PM_{2.5} and ozone exposure can increase the risk of death, which can help policymakers and regulators set better standards and guidelines to protect our health. You can read it [here](#).
- **Cardiovascular Health:** Jaime Hart and Francine Laden are co-authors on a recently published paper entitled "Estimation of Life's Essential 8 Score with Incomplete Data of Individual Metrics." Using data from Nurses' Health Study cohorts, the article shows an alternative way to measure an individual's cardiovascular health when not all LE8 metrics are available. You can read the paper in *Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine* [here](#).
- **A Voice for Migrant Workers:** Joining our long list of trailblazing research fellows, Barrak Alahmad, MD, MPH, PhD, has given a sit-down interview with BBC Arabic to talk about the risks of heat on migrant workers in the Middle East. He has conducted extensive research on how environmental factors affect the well-being of migrant workers, who often lack adequate protection and access to health care. In the interview, he discusses how heat can lead to serious health problems such as dehydration, heat stroke, cardiovascular issues, and kidney failure among this vulnerable population. You can watch the interview [here](#).

- **Symptoms of Segregation:** There's also [this recent Health.com article](#) featuring PhD student Jahred Liddie, who is studying the links between environmental health and social justice. The article explores how segregated neighborhoods can affect life expectancy and health outcomes, concluding that the “average life expectancy was three years lower than the national average (75) in predominantly Black neighborhoods that have experienced high racial segregation”. Jahred is working with Professor Elsie Sunderland on research projects related to the health effects of contaminating PFAs.
- **Youth Summit Feature:** Last week, C-CHANGE hosted our annual youth summit on climate change, equity, and public health, in partnership with Putney Pre-College. The summit brought together 85 high school students from diverse backgrounds who spent a week immersed in the science, policy, and communication of climate solutions. Our students learned from experts across disciplines, such as epidemiology, environmental justice, renewable energy, and journalism. It was a great opportunity to inspire the next generation of climate leaders and to foster a sense of community among them. You can read more about the summit on the Harvard TH Chan [featured news page](#).
- **Heat Wave Heroes:** You might have noticed that two of our faculty members, Caleb Dresser, MD, MPH and Gaurab Basu, MD, MPH, have been in the news a lot these past few weeks, together and individually, for their work on extreme heat. Caleb and Gaurab are both directors at Harvard Chan C-CHANGE and physicians at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Cambridge Health Alliance, respectively. They were both quoted in a WBUR news article on how Harvard Chan School is working with the city of Boston to improve its heat alert system and protect vulnerable residents from extreme heat. Caleb was also featured in an NPR article on how heat waves can affect our brain and mood. You can read the articles here:
 - [How Heat Alerts Could Help Clinicians Intervene for People at High Risk \(WBUR\)](#)
 - [Yes, Heat Can Affect Your Brain and Mood. Here's Why \(NPR\)](#)

- **A Hot Issue:** I'm thrilled to inform you that one of our research scientists, Vanitha Sampath, PhD, has led a review article on the acute and chronic impacts of heat stress on planetary health. The article provides an overview of the current evidence on how heat stress affects human health, ecosystems, and food security. It also discusses the potential solutions and interventions to mitigate the adverse effects of heat stress and to enhance resilience and adaptation. You can read the article [here](#).
- **More of Marcy:** Marcy Franck, C-CHANGE's Senior Communications Strategist and the voice behind The Climate Optimist newsletter, has once again made a splash in the media. This time, she was quoted in a Guardian article on finding silver linings in our climate crisis. Marcy is an expert on how optimism can help us cope with and act on the climate challenges we face. She explains how optimism can motivate us to take action and overcome challenges. You can read the article [here](#).

New Resource(s)

- **Communications Submissions Survey:** In the interest of efficiency, we've created a live Qualtrics form for event, article, and department update submissions. While the eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu inbox will still be open to receive any department news, the survey will enable more streamlined department-wide communications moving forward. Test it out [here](#).

Employment Opportunities

- Check out [the EH Department website](#) for both internal and external job postings.



Weekly Policy Snippets:

Meals and Lodging: Per [Harvard Travel Policy](#), travelers are encouraged to submit reimbursements for actual meal and lodging expenses, particularly for long trips involving multiple stops in different cities. Harvard will reimburse travelers **up to the federal per diem rate**. Per diems will not be paid in advance of a trip. On the first and last travel days of a trip, travelers are only eligible for 75 percent of the total meals and incidental expenses rate for their travel location. For this reason, when booking travel, please review GSA (U.S. General Services Administration) [Per Diem Rates](#) for lodging and meals/incidentals at your destination.



Upcoming Events:

Save the dates for these exciting events...

Please note:

- *The EH Department retreat previously scheduled for September 29 has been changed to October 30.*
- *The JBL annual symposium: “Ionizing radiation and the human brain” is scheduled for October 27.*

Glenn Stern’s Retirement Party

Building 1, 13th floor, Friday August 25th, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

EH Welcome Back Party

Kresge Cafeteria, September 13th, 4:00 pm – 7:00 PM

Chair Open Office Hours

Building 1 Room 1301, Mondays 1:00 –2:00 PM

Landmark Room 404, Thursdays 2:00-3:00 PM

Teatime

Building 1 13th Floor Kitchen Area, Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Landmark Room 404I, Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Tuesday, August 8, 1:00 PM- 1:50 PM

Title: *Hot Topics Seminar Series: The Football Players Health Study: CTE or not CTE, is that the question?*

Speaker(s): Dr. Marc Weisskopf

Description: Hot Topics Seminar Series 2023 is sponsored by the Office of Educational Programs. It has an exciting lineup of engaging discussions on the horizon. See flyer below for more information.

Location: Kresge 200

Wednesday, August 9, 3:00 PM

Title: *Rules of the Road for Engaging with Policymakers*

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

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

Tuesday, August 15, 1:00 PM- 1:50 PM

Title: *Hot Topics Seminar Series: Mindful Eating for Our Health & the Health of Our Planet*

Speaker(s): Dr. Lilian Cheung

Description: Hot Topics Seminar Series 2023 is sponsored by the Office of Educational Programs. It has an exciting lineup of engaging discussions on the horizon. See flyer below for more information.

Location: Kresge 200

Wednesday, September 6, 9:00 AM- 10:15 AM

Title: *Advancing integrated governance for health through national biodiversity strategies and action plans*

Speaker(s): Dr. David Cooper, Dr. Kari Nadeau, Liz Willets

Description: The Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health will host a webinar roundtable to discuss the Lancet Comment on advancing integrated governance for health through national biodiversity strategies. This comes after 196 governments committed to the 2022 Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, leading to updates in national biodiversity strategies globally. The roundtable will explore how governments plan to integrate biodiversity-health interlinkages into these strategies and how the health sector can actively engage in co-design to address the interconnectedness of ecosystem and public health.

Thursday, November 2, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Title: *Cultivating Connections: A Networking Evening in Support of Women*

Speaker(s): Carole Simpson, Diane Darling, Kate Zernike, Dr. Alexis Stokes

Description: Wondering how to build helpful connections across the university? Join us in November for this Harvard-wide event. Four dynamic speakers will share their expertise and experiences on the power of networking and the how-to of building strong networks. A lively panel discussion and audience questions will be followed by structured activities for easy, enjoyable networking. We encourage Harvard faculty, staff, students from Cambridge and affiliated institutions to join us on the Longwood Medical Campus for this energizing event.

That's all for this week's chatter! Stay tuned for more exciting news. As always, please continue to send any news and events to EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu, or feel

free to try out the new [submission survey](#). Remember, your contributions and enthusiasm keep our community thriving.

Enjoy your weekend!

Best,
Kari Nadeau, MD, PhD
Chair, Department of Environmental Health

All students, staff & faculty are welcome to attend!



HOT TOPICS

Seminar Series 2023

July 11th
Dr. David Hemenway
Guns and Public Health



July 18th
Dr. Mingyang Song
Translating Epidemiologic Evidence in the Clinic for Improved Colorectal Cancer Prevention



July 25th
Dr. Michaela Kerrissey
Psychological Safty, Feeling Heard and Burnout Among Healthcare Workers



August 1st
Dr. Irimi Albanti
Leadership Strategies for Humanitarian Organizations



August 8th
Dr. Marc Weisskopf
The Football Players' Health Study: CTE or not CTE, is that the question?



August 15th
Dr. Lilian Cheung
Mindful Eating for Our Health & the Health of Our Planet



1:00 to 1:50pm
Kresge 200
Dessert available!

Sponsored by the Office of Educational Programs



EPA's Office of Research and Development invites you to a free webinar.

Air, Climate, and Energy Research Webinar Series



Tools for Helping State and Municipal Decision-Makers Meet Air Quality, Climate, and Energy Objectives: *GLIMPSE and COMET*

August 15, from 3 to 4:15 p.m. ET

Optional Q&A Session from 4:15 to 4:30 p.m.

A certificate of attendance will be offered for this webinar

Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EV6-oks_QVmx901sAzAhhg#/registration

Local, state, and regional authorities are facing many challenges, including those caused by climate change, urbanization, limited natural resources, and aging infrastructure. In developing management strategies, these authorities also have the objectives of promoting economic development, protecting the environment, and providing clean and affordable energy. The result is a complex decision-making landscape. Decision makers would benefit from tools that help them quantify the impacts of potential management strategies, identify the tradeoffs of planning objectives, and develop win-win solutions. EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) has been building two such tools: GLIMPSE and COMET.

[GLIMPSE](#) is a decision support tool that assists EPA program offices, states, researchers, and others with long-term environmental, climate, and energy planning. [City-based Optimization Model for Energy Technologies \(COMET\)](#) is an energy-environment-economic optimization model. COMET is designed to capture the whole energy system at the city level for a user-defined analysis timeline, from the introduction of energy sources to conversion to useful energy to meet end-use energy service demands. This presentation will describe how these frameworks can be used to support state and municipal planning.



Ozge Kaplan

Dr. Ozge Kaplan is a senior research scientist and project lead with the U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) since 2007. Her research focuses on end-use energy sector technology and fuel trends in buildings, transportation, and industrial sectors. She is leading the development of City-based Optimization Model for Energy Technologies (COMET) and its application to New York City and other cities. Dr. Kaplan holds Ph.D. in Civil Engineering with a minor in Operations Research from North Carolina State University.



Dan Loughlin

Dr. Dan Loughlin is a senior research scientist and project lead with the U.S. EPA's ORD since 2003. His research involves energy system modeling, integrated assessment and uncertainty analysis. Dr. Loughlin is a lead for the GLIMPSE project, the goal of which is to develop a model-based decision support tool to assist states in long-term, coordinated air quality, climate, and energy planning. Dr. Loughlin holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering with a specialization in Environmental Systems Analysis from North Carolina State University.

Webinar series schedule and recordings: epa.gov/air-research/air-climate-energy-research-webinar-series

Learn more about air research: epa.gov/air-research

Get feature articles about our science: epa.gov/sciencematters/

EPA's Office of Research and Development invites you to a free public webinar!



EPA Tools & Resources Webinar

Cumulative Impacts: EPA's Environmental Quality Index (EQI)

Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 3:00 to 4:00 PM ET

REGISTER HERE

Certificates
of attendance are
offered!

The Environmental Quality Index (EQI) is an estimate of U.S. county ambient environmental quality across five domains: air, water, land, sociodemographic, and built environment. The EQI helps researchers better understand how health outcomes relate to cumulative environmental exposures that typically are viewed in isolation. Because the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the buildings around us all play a part in our overall well-being, researchers can use the EQI to investigate and highlight associations between environmental quality and a given health concern. By expanding research beyond singular routes of exposure and pollutants, the EQI helps provide a clearer picture of the relationship between the environment and health.

This presentation will provide an overview of the EQI methodology, including information on rural/urban differences, as well as a summary of the health outcome research that has been conducted to date.

Learn more:

<https://www.epa.gov/healthresearch/environmental-quality-index-eqi>

Multiple Environments



Multiple Environmental Hazards



Who should attend? States, tribes, local governments, non-profits, academic institutions and other organizations interested in learning more about EPA's Environmental Quality Index.

Webinar series schedule and recordings:

[epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series](https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series)

Learn more about EPA research to support states:

[epa.gov/research-states](https://www.epa.gov/research-states)

For registration questions:

tools_resources_webinar@epa.gov

EPA's Office of Research and Development invites you to a free public webinar!



EPA Tools & Resources Training Webinar Data Management Tools for Emergency Response

Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 3:00 to 4:00 PM ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Certificates
of attendance are
offered!

This webinar will explore the critical role of effective data management in disaster response, particularly in the context of environmental sampling and contamination incidents. By providing a comprehensive overview of data management processes, tools and best practices, we will showcase the application of these principles to an environmental field study—the Operational Testing and Evaluation of Chemical Remediation Activities (OTECRA) Demonstration.



This webinar aims to offer valuable insights into data acquisition, management and visualization strategies, addressing the growing challenges of big data in disaster response and recovery. Through the examination of the OTECRA Demonstration, we will emphasize the need for accurate, accessible and organized data, as well as effective Data Management Plans (DMPs), to facilitate informed decision-making, coordination and cleanup efforts.

Who should attend? State and local governments, tribes, and others interested in learning more about effective data management in disaster response.

Webinar series schedule and recordings:

epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-training-webinar-series

For registration questions:

tools_resources_webinar@epa.gov

Learn more about EPA research to support states:

epa.gov/research-states

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

A NETWORKING EVENING IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
CAROLE SIMPSON

Journalist, Author and
former news anchor,
ABC News



SPEAKER:
DIANE DARLING

Author &
Leadership Coach



SPEAKER:
KATE ZERNIKE

Pulitzer Prize Winner,
Author, National
Correspondent,
New York Times



MODERATOR:
DR. ALEXIS STOKES

Associate Chief Diversity and
Inclusion Officer
Harvard Office for Equity,
Diversity, Inclusion &
Belonging

Open to the Harvard Community

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 2

HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

4:00 - 6:30 P.M.

Presented by:

JCSW Joint Committee on
the Status of Women



**HARVARD
T.H. CHAN**

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Environmental Health

Chair Chatter August 11, 2023

High temperatures, drought, and extreme winds from Hurricane Dora provided the perfect opportunity for a fast-spreading wildfire to wreak havoc on Maui this week. As of today, 55 people have been killed, more are injured, and hundreds of structures have been destroyed. Climate change is here, and it is terrifying to see its devastating effects on our planet and our health. Our department has a duty to address the climate crisis through our research and community engagement to protect the health of people and the health of the planet. Our EH strategic planning committees have had many fruitful discussions around the strategy and the direction of our EH department. I am positive that advancing our department's mentoring, teaching, and research activities will produce vital research and solutions for climate change that will ultimately save lives.

☀️ In the Spotlight:

I'm thrilled to announce that Anna Miller, C-CHANGE's stellar communications coordinator, gave birth to a baby girl, Elona Sira Miller, on August 9! Everyone is doing well. Here is a photo of Anna's beautiful daughter.



Congratulations to Aashna Shah, a second-year master's student in EH, who received a scholarship of \$3,000 from the American Society of Safety Professional's Academic Scholarship. These academic scholarships are available for students within the occupational safety and health field. Aashna's research interests include studying the effect of environmental exposures on fertility outcomes and pregnancy loss in India, and she is currently working on projects with Professor Joel Schwartz and Epidemiology Lecturer Stefania Papatheodorou. We are proud of Aashna's achievement and wish her continued success in her academic pursuits.

I received this lovely photo below of Mary Rice, Diane Gold, and Caleb Dresser visiting the Family Van recently. Mary, Diane, and Caleb met with the community healthcare workers and observed their operation for a community-based research project on climate change and health that they are putting together with Drs. Gary Adamkiewicz and Antonella Zanobetti. The Family Van has been doing incredible work providing accessible healthcare for the underserved communities of Boston since 1992.



Headshot of Aashna Shah, MS'24



From left to right: Mary Rice, Caleb Dresser, Simone de Oliveira (Family Van Community Health Worker and Volunteer Program Coordinator), Diane Gold, and Serena Shim (Family Van summer student from BU)

Department Updates:

EH in the News

- **Extreme Heat in the Persian Gulf:** This E&E News story featuring Research Fellow Barrak Alahmad focuses on rapidly heating Gulf Countries who will host COP 28 this year in the UAE. While the oil and gas industry remain central to the economies of Gulf states, action is needed to curb emissions and to adapt to exceptionally hot environments. Coming from Kuwait, Barrak spoke about the risks of extreme heat in the Middle East, especially for those who are not shielded by air conditioning. [Read more here.](#)
- **Heat Alert!** Meet the Press this week covered a new and first of its kind extreme heat alert system created by Climate Central. The system alerts healthcare centers of upcoming high temperature waves in their area so they have time to prepare. The system uses a toolkit made last year by C-CHANGE and AmeriCares, which provides guidance on how healthcare providers can protect the most vulnerable in those extreme conditions. Watch the video [here.](#)
 - [Tune in](#) to learn more about how Caleb's work is propelling us toward a future where our health and climate are seamlessly interwoven.
- **Gen-Z on Gen-Z:** Last month's C-CHANGE Youth Summit brought together passionate high school students from around the world to learn tangible ways to take climate action. C-CHANGE's high school communications intern, Ella Niederhelman, explores this transformative experience, sharing a unique Gen-Z perspective on the event. Between inspiring speeches and dynamic presentations, Ella captures the strong sense of camaraderie that grew as these bright minds tackled Boston and Cambridge during one of the hottest Julys on record. [Read more here.](#)
- **Covid's Summer Resurgence:** I'd like to also shout out Joseph Allen, the Director of Harvard Healthy Buildings Program, and his recent feature in Bloomberg Opinion discussing the importance of indoor ventilation and filtration to protect our lungs from viruses, wildfire smoke, and other pollutants. The article asks whether a recent rise in covid hospitalizations is due to people moving indoors to enjoy air conditioning, and Joe provides his expert opinion on the issue. Read more about it [here.](#)
- **All Bottled Up:** The New York Times quoted EH Instructor Ronnie Levin today in an article on the various ways Americans drink water. Many people choose to refill their reusable bottles with water from single use bottles because they believe it's safer. However, Ronnie says that there is little difference between bottled water and tap water. Read the full article [here.](#)

Commented [LF1]: here you do not use Dr. but up in the previous paragraph you do. I advocate for informality and not using Dr. anywhere...but happy with whatever as long as consistent

Commented [BM2R1]: i agree about informality and consistency.

Commented [LF3]: also no "Dr" here...



Weekly Policy Snippets:

Elective fees: Some hotels, airlines and other vendors ask customers to pay for “elective fees” such as carbon offset credits, donations to charities, etc. According to [Harvard Travel Policy](#), Harvard travelers may pay for these fees with personal funds but should not submit them for reimbursement with university funds. “Resort fees” that are mandatory for all guests staying at a hotel are reimbursable.

Reminders

- RSVP by Monday, August 21st for Glenn’s Retirement Party. Click [here](#) to RSVP.
- Submit a photo of your pet(s) using [this survey](#) to have them included in the Pet Corner Poster, which will be displayed on the 13th floor of Building 1 and at Landmark 4 West.
- Check out the [EH Department website](#) for both internal and external job postings.

As always, please continue to send any news and events to EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu, or feel free to try out the new [submission survey](#). Remember, your contributions and enthusiasm keep our community thriving.

Enjoy your weekend!

Best,
Kari

Upcoming Events:

Save the dates for these exciting events...

Please note:

- *The EH Department retreat previously scheduled for September 29 has been changed to October 30.*
- *The JBL annual symposium: “Ionizing radiation and the human brain” is scheduled for October 27.*

Welcome Back Party

Kresge Cafeteria, September 13th, 4:00 pm – 7:00 PM

Chair Open Office Hours

Building 1 Room 1301, Mondays 1:00 –2:00 PM

Landmark Room 404, Thursdays 2:00-3:00 PM

Tea Time

Building 1 13th Floor Kitchen Area, Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Landmark 4 West, Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Tuesday, August 15, 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Title: Hot Topics Seminar Series: Mindful Eating for Our Health & the Health of Our Planet

Speaker(s): Dr. Lilian Cheung

Description: Hot Topics Seminar Series 2023 is sponsored by the Office of Educational Programs. It has an exciting lineup of engaging discussions on the horizon. See flyer below for more information.

Location: Kresge 200

Friday, August 25, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Title: Glenn Stern's Retirement Party

Location: Building 1, 13th Floor

Register: <https://harvard.azl.qualtrics.com>

Wednesday, September 6, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Title: Advancing integrated governance for health through national biodiversity strategies and action plans

Speaker(s): Dr. David Cooper, Dr. Kari Nadeau, Liz Willets

Description: The Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health will host a webinar roundtable to discuss the Lancet Comment on advancing integrated governance for health through national biodiversity strategies. This comes after 196 governments committed to the 2022 Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, leading to updates in national biodiversity strategies globally. The roundtable will explore how governments plan to integrate biodiversity-health interlinkages into these strategies and how the health sector can actively engage in co-design to address the interconnectedness of ecosystem and public health.

Register: <https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register>

Thursday, September 28, 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Title: Putting Health at the Heart of Climate Conversations

Speaker(s): Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, Chief Scientist for the Nature Conservatory

Description: Climate change puts everyone at risk; yet many remain unaware of its immediate effects on their lives and how they can contribute to climate action. Clearly communicating the health implications of climate change offers a unique opportunity to bridge the psychological distance that often disconnects people from this global crisis. At the same time, however, it is essential to pair information about risks with actionable solutions, addressing the lack of efficacy that leads many of those worried about climate change to feel helpless and disempowered. Join Katharine Hayhoe as she discusses the pivotal role of health-related climate impacts in engaging and activating people to advocate for a better future for us all.

Location: Kresge G1

Friday, September 29, 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Event: Whittenberger Lecturers

Title: **Steps and Scales: Transforming the US Health Sector for Climate Change and Health Equity**

Speaker(s): Dr. John Balbus, Acting Director of HHS Office of Climate Change

Description: Details coming soon.

Location: Kresge G1

Friday, September 29, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Event: Whittenberger Lectures

Topic: **Climate Change and Health in the Media**

Speaker(s): Somini Sengupta, International Climate Reporter for The New York Times

Description: Details coming soon.

Location: Kresge G1

Thursday, November 2, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Title: **Cultivating Connections: A Networking Evening in Support of Women**

Speaker(s): Carole Simpson, Diane Darling, Kate Zernike, Dr. Alexis Stokes

Description: Wondering how to build helpful connections across the university? Join us in November for this Harvard-wide event. Four dynamic speakers will share their expertise and experiences on the power of networking and the how-to of building strong networks. A lively panel discussion and audience questions will be followed by structured activities for easy, enjoyable networking. We encourage Harvard faculty, staff, students from Cambridge and affiliated institutions to join us on the Longwood Medical Campus for this energizing event.

Location: Harvard Medical School

All students, staff & faculty are welcome to attend!

HOT TOPICS

Seminar Series 2023



July 11th

Dr. David Hemenway
Guns and Public Health



July 18th

Dr. Mingyang Song
Translating Epidemiologic Evidence in the Clinic for
Improved Colorectal Cancer Prevention



July 25th

Dr. Michaela Kerrissey
Psychological Safty, Feeling Heard and
Burnout Among Healthcare Workers



August 1st

Dr. Irini Albanti
Leadership Strategies for
Humanitarian Organizations



August 8th

Dr. Marc Weisskopf
The Football Players' Health Study: CTE
or not CTE, is that the question?



August 15th

Dr. Lilian Cheung
Mindful Eating for Our Health &
the Health of Our Planet



1:00 to
1:50pm
Kresge 200
Dessert available!

Sponsored by the Office of Educational Programs

RETIREMENT PARTY

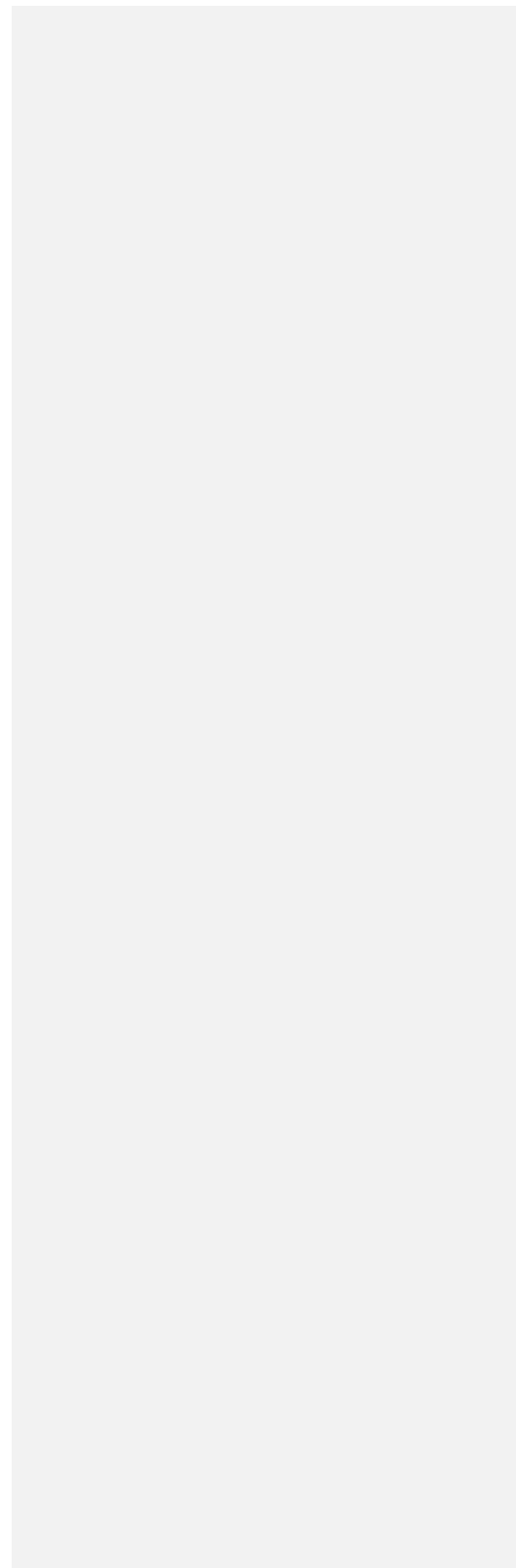
FOR OUR FRIEND & COLLEAGUE

GLENN STERN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25TH
2 - 4 PM
BUILDING 1, 13TH FLOOR

RSVP HERE

BY MONDAY, AUGUST 21





**HARVARD
T.H. CHAN**

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Environmental Health

**ADVANCING INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE
FOR HEALTH THROUGH NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY
STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS**



David Cooper - Executive Secretary,
Convention on Biological Diversity

Opening Remarks

196 governments committed to the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, triggering updates to national biodiversity strategies worldwide. How will governments integrate broad biodiversity-health interlinkages into these strategies? How can the health sector engage in co-design and ensure that the interconnectedness of ecosystem and public health is addressed?

A Welcome from Harvard's Health Community

Kari Nadeau - Chair, Dept. of Environmental Health,
Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health



The Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health will host a webinar roundtable of experts to discuss the recent *Lancet* publication on biodiversity strategies.

September 6, 9:00 - 10:15 AM EDT (Virtual)

Join us for a high-level, deep dive with the articles' co-authors:

[Click Here to Register](#)



Li Winkler, Primary Health Policy Director, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health



Neil Raza, Pandemic Fellow, Conservation International (USA, Kenya)



Carly Singer, International Policy Manager, Conservation International (USA, Global)



Ana Brown, Deputy Director, Inter-American Institute for Health Change Research (Uruguay, Americas)



Benjamin Chittasing, Program Director, Thailand Environment Institute, Bangkok (Thailand)



Sittich Bern, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Department of Environmental Science, Chulalongkornrajavidyalaya Medical Center



Pablin Ojeda, Founder, Centre for Action, Research and Environmental Action (Kenya)



Nathan Bennett, Global Ocean Lead Scientist, Global Oceans, Oceans & WCO (Canada, Global)



Leah Abertoni, Incoming president, World Medical Association (Kenya), Director, Global Action and Project Portfolio, ICI (Kenya)



Cecilia Wangui, Director, Founder, Wangui Githiga & Co Attorneys (Kenya)



Manish Sharma, Learning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (LME) Collaborator for Biomimicry (USA, Global)



Christopher Solari, Program Director and Assistant Professor, Nutrition and Primary Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health



Chair Chatter August 18, 2023

Happy Friday! This is an exciting time for the department as we are preparing to welcome new students to the school on August 21st. This will be my first incoming class as the chair of the Department, and I can't wait to see what amazing things we will accomplish together. I have been working hard to make this semester a great one for all of us, and I have some spectacular events planned for this fall. Stay tuned for more updates as the semester progresses—you won't want to miss them!

Commented [BM1]: can we add something about this being Kari's first incoming classes since becoming chair?

Please join me in welcoming our incoming class:

PhD in Biological Sciences in Public Health

Emma Dyer
Hannah Matthews
Oyku Sumer

PhD in Population Health Sciences

Yazan Alwadi
Erin Burman
Ryan Dalforno
Khondaker Ekram
Sophie Erlich
Leah Martin
Phyllis Mugadza
Yu Chen Zhao
Shiqiao Zhao

Master of Public Health (45 credits) OEH

Sophie Abel
Sheng-Yun Lu
Aishwarya Saravanan

Masters of Science

Seyong Chang
Salma Gudaf
Nancy Jiang
Jordyn Kerr
Amanda Larasati
Yingying Qian
Rezaul Ripon
Saanya Sharma
Zhengyuan Wang
Zongkai Wang
Benjamin Weitz
Qianchao Zhao

Master of Public Health (45 credits) OEMR

Kangwook Huh
Christopher Leopardi
Jianing Shao
Derek Stewart

Commented [BM2]: can you please format this so a list at the bottom of the left column doesn't run onto the top of the right column?

OEMR - Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency
OEH - Occupational and Environmental Health

 In the Spotlight:

It's a week of monumental climate change milestones for both the Department and the U.S.! The Biden Administration's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) celebrated its first anniversary this Wednesday—marking one year of historic climate action. In the past year, the IRA has made significant progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting environmental justice. You can [click here](#) to read the IRA's specific accomplishments and results.

Echoing our excitement, former C-CHANGE director and current White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy met with NowThis News to discuss how the IRA has breathed new life into the clean energy sector. Watch [this video](#) to hear more from one of our former colleagues.



Screenshot from NowThis News twitter video featuring Gina McCarthy.



Youth plaintiffs in *Held v. State of Montana* gathered in June. Picture by Janie Osborne for The New York Times.

A Montana state court made a historical ruling this week in favor of climate action and youths! Judge Kathy Seeley ruled in [Held v. Montana](#) that a provision in the Montana Environmental Policy Act, which precludes the state from evaluating energy projects' climate impacts, is unconstitutional. Youths from Montana testified in court to the negative effects climate change has had on their lives. Their claims were firmly supported by the scientific evidence showing that the change in Montana's climate has been caused by the state's emissions. If *Held v. Montana* is upheld in the Supreme Court, it will have a huge impact on how similar cases are decided. This is a huge win

for the fight against climate change and an encouraging reminder that our research is vital and will make a difference!

Department Updates:

Call for Faculty Input: Through ORSD, the school wants to identify high-value and/or frequently used datasets at the School-level that could be targeted for better coordinated sharing where possible. I strongly encourage our primary faculty to complete this [5 minute survey](#) so that your voice is heard and the school can know how best to devote its resources to best meet your needs.

EH in the News

- **‘Smoke permeates everything and impacts everyone’:** Environmental Epidemiology and Physiology Professor Marc Weisskopf spoke with STAT News this week about a [new study](#) finding that long-term particulate matter exposure could worsen the risk of neurodegenerative diseases like dementia. Though not involved in the study, Marc provided his expert opinion on the issue, highlighting how this new information has made public health intervention for dementia a possibility. Marc says what we’re all thinking when confronted with research like this. You can [read more about it here](#).
- **Yaguang Wei and Joel Schwartz Boston Globe:** The Boston Globe interviewed postdoctoral research fellow Yaguang Wei on his and Joel Schwartz’s recent publication in Environmental Epidemiology, which I highlighted a couple Chatters ago. Yaguang told the Globe that long term exposure to air pollution can increase the risk of multiple types of cancers in older adults. We should all be aware of our local air quality and wear masks outside when there are elevated levels of pollution in the air. You can read the Boston Globe article [here](#).
- **Poor Data Quality Burns Us All:** As temperatures continue to soar heat-related deaths, like that of postal worker Eugene Gates Jr. of Dallas, are on the rise. This week, Harvard Chan Professor of

Epidemiology David Jones spoke with AP News about how “bad data” bars us from preventing repeats of Gates’ tragedy. [Read more here.](#)

- **EJ on the Horizon:** I’d also like to shoutout to Tamarra James-Todd, Professor of Environmental Reproductive Epidemiology, for her participation in a recent retreat focused on developing curricula in the emerging field of Environmental Justice! The retreat brought together faculty members from across the FAS to brainstorm and develop new approaches to teaching this important subject. Keep up the great work, Tamarra! [Read more here.](#)

New Resource(s)

- The [Salata Institute Fellows Program](#) is now accepting applications. The program supports the scholarship or professional development of researchers and practitioners involved in work related to climate change and sustainability. Applications for the Spring 2024 semester are due September 15th. You can find more details on the [Salata Institute website.](#)
- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has an exciting workshop series coming up titled “Embracing the Complexity: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Advance the Science of Cancer Health Disparities.” If you’re interested in participating, visit the [NCI website](#) for more information. Registration ends on August 24th.

Commented [OO3]: shouldn't we move this to updates?

Commented [BM4R3]: salata isn't a part of eh so that's why i didn't put it in dept updates. i was thinking it would be nice with ira and montana because they're all climate related so it would have a theme. or it could go in the new resources section with the NCI workshop i will be adding, but salata seems like a more prominent topic and should be at the top because i believe Kari is involved with it

Commented [OO5R3]: Makes sense!

Weekly Policy Snippets:

- **Work Related Travel to Campus:** According to Addendum to Business Expense Reimbursements Policy for Work-Related Travel to Campus, found on the [Business Expense Reimbursements Policy site](#), employees who work “Fully On-Site” or “Hybrid/Partially Remote” are not eligible for reimbursements for travel to campus. “Fully Remote” employees (those working off-campus, at home or elsewhere, for all working hours) are eligible for qualified reimbursements (nontaxable) at the school or unit’s discretion and meeting the following criteria: 1) University determines when travel to campus is necessary and the work drives the parameters of the visit (e.g., duration), AND 2) employee is traveling from their primary work location which is ≥ 150 miles each way, AND 3) employee cannot exceed 4 trips to campus in a calendar year,

AND all expenses must meet accountable plan rules (business purpose, receipts, timely).

Reminders

- RSVP by Monday, August 21st for Glenn's Retirement Party. Click [here](#) to RSVP.
- Submit a photo of your pet(s) using [this survey](#) to have them included in the Pet Corner Poster, which will be displayed on the 13th floor of Building 1 and at Landmark 4 West. Submit by Friday, September 8th!
- Check out the [EH Department website](#) for both internal and external job postings.

I'll end the Chatter today with a couple of lovely photos from our Department faculty and staff picnic at Larz Anderson Park last Friday. A huge thank you to Jen Razo, Kaitlin Breen, Cori Chisholm, and Barbara Zuckerman for putting together such a wonderful event! Opportunities for our Department to gather in person are a must, and there will be more to come! Keep reading the Chatters so you don't miss any. And if you have any upcoming events you want to announce or news you want to share, please write to EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu or complete the [submission survey](#). Remember, your contributions and enthusiasm keep our community thriving.

Enjoy your weekend!

Best,
Kari



Commented [LF6]: do you want to call this the Department faculty and staff picnic?

Commented [OO7]: RAD! I love it

Commented [BM8R7]: :) thanks

From Left to Right: Amny Maza, Ronnie Levin, and Trachy Sachs

From Left to Right: Marc Weisskopf, Joe Allen, and Kaitlin Breen

Upcoming Events:

Save the dates for these exciting events...

Please note:

- *Due to scheduling changes, the locations of the September 28-29 talks with Drs. Hayhoe, Balbus, and Somini Sengupta have been updated. See event details below.*
- *The EH Department retreat previously scheduled for September 29 has been changed to October 30.*
- *The JBL annual symposium: “Ionizing radiation and the human brain” is scheduled for October 27.*

Welcome Back Party

Kresge Cafeteria, September 13th, 4:00 pm – 7:00 PM

Chair Open Office Hours

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

Tea Time

Building 1 13th Floor Kitchen Area, Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:00 PM
Landmark 4 West, Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Wednesday, August 23, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Event: Dissertation Defense

Title: Parental Preconception and Maternal Pregnancy Endocrine-Disrupting Chemical Exposure and Child Health Outcomes

Presenter: Jordana Leader

Location: Kresge 502; Zoom

Details: The Department of Environmental Health is proud to announce the dissertation defense of Jordana Leader, PhD candidate in Population Health Sciences in the Environmental Health field of study. Poster included below.

Zoom:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/98144496667?pwd=bmtGbEczQXRZDZOpDeVNwcnFHZWFIZz09>

Password: *Summer2023*

Friday, August 25, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Title: Glenn Stern's Retirement Party

Location: Building 1, 13th Floor

Register: <https://harvard.azl.qualtrics.com>

Wednesday, September 6, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Title: Advancing integrated governance for health through national biodiversity strategies and action plans

Speaker(s): Dr. David Cooper, Dr. Kari Nadeau, Liz Willets

Description: The Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health will host a webinar roundtable to discuss the Lancet Comment on advancing integrated governance for health through national biodiversity strategies. This comes after 196 governments committed to the 2022 Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, leading to updates in national biodiversity strategies globally. The roundtable will explore how governments plan to integrate biodiversity-health interlinkages into these strategies and how the health sector can actively engage in co-design to address the interconnectedness of ecosystem and public health. See attached poster to register.

Register: <https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register>

Thursday, September 28, 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Title: Putting Health at the Heart of Climate Conversations

Speaker(s): Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, Chief Scientist for the Nature Conservatory

Description: Climate change puts everyone at risk; yet many remain unaware of its immediate effects on their lives and how they can contribute to climate action. Clearly communicating the health implications of climate change offers a unique opportunity to bridge the psychological distance that often disconnects people from this global crisis. At the same time, however, it is essential to pair information about risks with actionable solutions, addressing the lack of efficacy that leads many of those worried about climate change to feel helpless and disempowered. Join Katharine Hayhoe as she discusses the pivotal role of health-related climate impacts in engaging and activating people to advocate for a better future for us all.

Location: Kresge 502

Friday, September 29, 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Event: Whittenberger Lecturers

Title: **Steps and Scales: Transforming the US Health Sector for Climate Change and Health Equity**

Speaker(s): Dr. John Balbus, Acting Director of HHS Office of Climate Change

Description: Details coming soon.

Location: Kresge 200

Friday, September 29, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Event: Whittenberger Lectures

Topic: **Climate Change and Health in the Media**

Speaker(s): Somini Sengupta, International Climate Reporter for The New York Times

Description: Details coming soon.

Location: Kresge 202

Thursday, November 2, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Title: **Cultivating Connections: A Networking Evening in Support of Women**

Speaker(s): Carole Simpson, Diane Darling, Kate Zernike, Dr. Alexis Stokes

Description: Wondering how to build helpful connections across the university? Join us in November for this Harvard-wide event. Four dynamic speakers will share their expertise and experiences on the power of networking and the how-to of building strong networks. A lively panel discussion and audience questions will be followed by structured activities for easy, enjoyable networking. We encourage Harvard faculty, staff, students from Cambridge and affiliated institutions to join us on the Longwood Medical Campus for this energizing event.

Location: Harvard Medical School

RETIREMENT PARTY

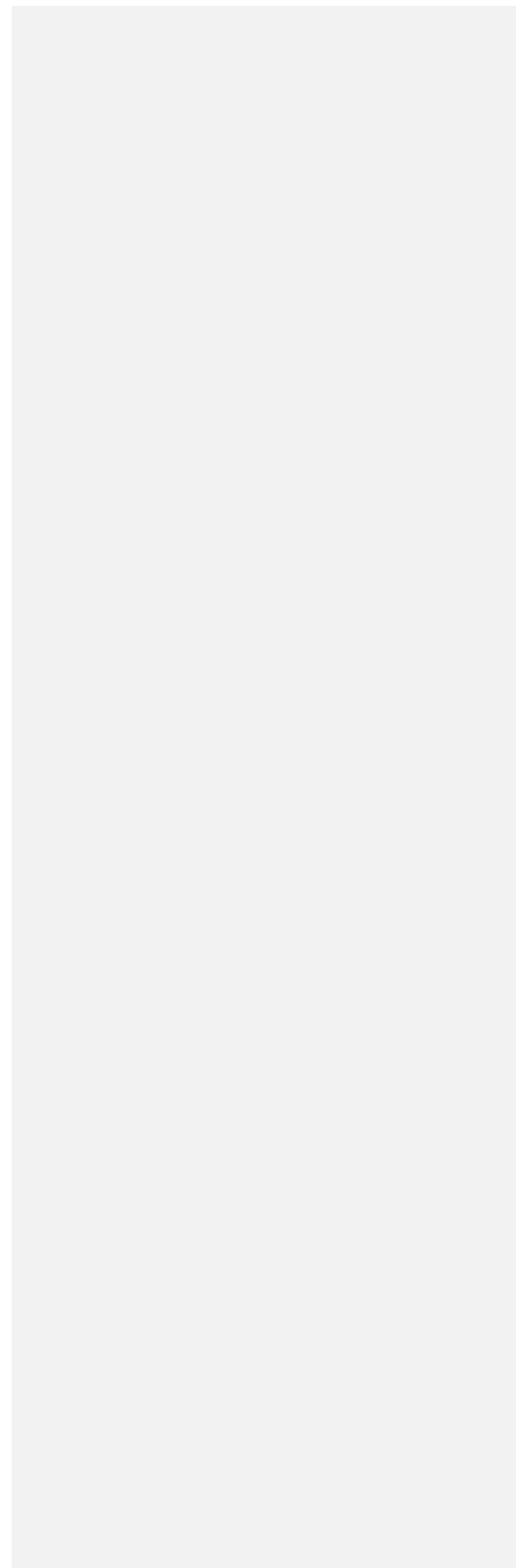
FOR OUR FRIEND & COLLEAGUE

GLENN STERN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25TH
2 - 4 PM
BUILDING 1, 13TH FLOOR

RSVP HERE

BY MONDAY, AUGUST 21





PhD in Population Health Sciences

**The PhD in Population Health Sciences
and Environmental Health Field of Study**

are proud to announce the dissertation defense of PhD Candidate

**Parental Preconception and Maternal Pregnancy
Endocrine-Disrupting Chemical Exposure and
Child Health Outcomes**



Jordana Leader

Date and Time:
Wednesday August 23, 2023
at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ET
Location:
Hybrid - HSPH - Kresge #502

Join by Zoom
<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/9814449667?pwd=bmtGbEczQXRkZ0pDeVNwcnFHZWFiZz09>
Password: Summer2023

All are welcome to attend this defense.



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Environmental Health

PUTTING HEALTH AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
1:00PM - 1:50PM IN KRESGE 502**

**DR. KATHARINE HAYHOE,
CHIEF SCIENTIST FOR THE
NATURE CONSERVANCY**





HARVARD
T.H. CHAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Environmental Health

STEPS AND SCALES: TRANSFORMING THE US HEALTH SECTOR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH EQUITY

JOHN BALBUS

ACTING DIRECTOR OF HHS OFFICE OF
CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH EQUITY



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

1:00PM - 1:50PM IN KRESGE 200

WHITTENBERGER LECTURES

WHITTENBERGER LECTURES

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH IN THE MEDIA



WITH
SOMINI SENGUPTA

INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE REPORTER
FOR THE NEW YORK
TIMES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023
4:00PM - 5:00PM IN KRESGE 202



HARVARD
T.H. CHAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Environmental Health



Chair Chatter

August 25, 2023

This week was orientation, and it was a joy to meet all of our new students! Below is a photo of us after the EH Welcome Session. I want to thank Barbara Zuckerman, Shaun Heller, and Rose West for their excellent efforts organizing orientation and welcoming our new students. And a special thanks to second year SM student Claire Dinehart and second year PhD candidate Marshae Nickelberry for introducing two of our student groups, the Student Advisory Committee and the Journal Club, respectively.

Incoming students, I hope you will consider contributing to our EH community through a student organization. We are so excited to have you here in our department, and we want you to make the most of your time here. Please always feel free to come to me or any member of our faculty and staff for any help you need along the way.



EH Department Chair Kari Nadeau and the 2023 incoming students at orientation.

 In the Spotlight:

I would like to wish Melissa Curran a fond farewell; Melissa will be leaving us after 19 years at Harvard. She worked for many years as Professor Joe Brain's administrative assistant, and more recently for the JBL Center and the Department. We give our best wishes to Melissa as she moves on.

Last week the Environmental Justice Boot Camp was hosted at Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. Tamarra James-Todd is a Co-Director of the program, and she told me that it was a huge success! It had a great turn out with participants representing North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia! The purpose of the EJ Boot Camp is to further the study of environmental disparities and injustices by providing multi-disciplinary seminars and training. Below is a photo of Tamarra and Gary Adamkiewicz with our Harvard Chan students that attended this important workshop. Both Hana Lee and Minyang Zhang were selected fellows for the EJ Boot Camp, sponsored by our NIEHS Center and the Department. Marissa Chan was the teaching fellow for the course.



From left to right: Hana Lee (doctoral student), Mingyu Zhang (postdoctoral fellow), Marissa Chan (doctoral student), Tamarra James-Todd, Gary Adamkiewicz, and Joseph Wilson (doctoral student).

Let's talk about some aces in our department! The 2023 Summer Acknowledging Commitment and Excellence (ACE) Award nominees were announced this week, and two of our dedicated staff members were included: Sally Bedugnis, a Research Operations Manager, and Barbara Zuckerman, Director of Faculty and Academic Affairs. Barbara was nominated in a group of five PHS Field Administrators. Sally and

Barbara both do so much for our department, and I am so thrilled to see them and their amazing efforts be recognized.

Shruthi Mahalingaiah was elected President of the Environmental Health special interest group for the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. Congratulations, Shruthi!

And big congratulations to EH PhD PHS doctoral student Jordana Leader who successfully defended her dissertation titled “Parental Preconception and Maternal Pregnancy Endocrine Disrupting Chemical Exposure and Child Health Outcomes.”

And on a personal note, in the presence of their closest friends and family, Skye Flanigan married Jake Lansburgh on August 12th at The Millbrook School in Millbrook, NY. It was a perfect summer weekend filled with love, laughter, dancing and good food and drinks. The couple is over the moon and gearing up for their honeymoon in Africa in October. Congratulations, Skye and Jake! Here is a photo of the happy couple.



Skye Flanigan and Jake Lansburgh at their wedding.

Department Updates:

Call for Faculty Input: Through ORSD, the school wants to identify high-value and/or frequently used datasets at the School-level that could be targeted for better coordinated sharing where possible. I strongly encourage our primary faculty to complete this [5 minute survey](#) so that your voice is heard and the school can know how best to devote its resources to best meet your needs.

EH in the News

- **Health After Wildfires:** The fires on Maui have taken the lives of 115 people, and there are so many more missing. But as survivors mourn their loved ones and try to rebuild their homes, they also have to be concerned with the possible side effects to their mental and physical health caused by the fires. Professor Marc Weisskopf and Senior Research Scientist Andrea Roberts are quoted in a Washington Post article on the cognitive damage and trauma many wildfire survivors experience. Read the full article [here](#).
- **Prescription for Green Space:** Harvard Medicine featured our own Peter James this week in an article about the health benefits of spending time in nature. If you need a reminder to slow down and take the time to enjoy your local park, check out the article [here](#).
- **Firefighters Follow a Mediterranean Diet:** This Medscape article covers a study co-authored by EH's Stefanos Kales that encourages firefighters to follow a Mediterranean diet, which is associated with lower rates of chronic disease, obesity, and heart disease. The study has shown significant diet adherence after a year. Hopefully with some more time on their new diet these firefighters will begin seeing the health benefits. Read the Medscape article [here](#) and the full JAMA article on the study [here](#).
- **Heat Hurts Our Heads:** A short BBC reel features Gaurab Basu who summarizes how extreme weather affects our brains. Watch the brief video [here](#).

- **The Facts About Farmed Fish:** Chris Golden is mentioned in [this WBUR article](#) on the reality of fish farming in New England. The article references a 2022 paper that Chris co-authored on the injustices in aquatic food systems. If you enjoy seafood, I recommend you give this a read to learn about how your food is produced and prepared. Click [here](#) for the article.
- **Collaboration is Key:** Liz Willets gave an interview on her recent [comment in the Lancet](#) on the importance of preserving biodiversity and the need for major collaboration to make impactful change. You can read the interview [here](#).
- **America's Schools Need AC:** [This Scientific American](#) article discusses the health threat of extreme heat inside American public schools with no air conditioning. Joe Allen says these “school buildings are not up to the task” of protecting students and teachers from heat stroke. Read more [here](#).
- **Heat-Proofing Health:** Learn more about how C-CHANGE and Americares are helping fortify communities against climate change and its adverse health effects with their [tool kit](#) for frontline clinics in [this article](#) from Yale Climate Connections.

New Resource(s)

- The Salata Institute Seed Grant Program in Climate and Sustainability has announced an updated call for proposals. Funding is now available for Harvard Faculty doing early-stage interdisciplinary research across the Harvard schools on quantifying health outcomes after solutions or interventions in climate change mitigation and/or adaptation. You can read the full call for proposals [here](#). Applications are due by Friday, September 8th.
- The Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center just announced the return of their Pilot Projects Funding Program! Harvard NIEHS Center members and affiliates are eligible to apply for funding for innovative environmental health research. Applications are due Friday, October 6. Click [here](#) for more information.



Weekly Policy Snippets:

- **Weekly Policy Snippet:** Booking Travel: Harvard Strategic Procurement has formed key vendor partnerships with certain travel agencies to secure favorable rates. Harvard strongly encourages travelers to book all travel arrangements through these preferred agencies and to always choose the most cost-effective means of travel. It is important to note that the preferred travel

agencies are familiar with Harvard's travel policies. In addition, travel booked with a preferred travel agency will be automatically registered with International SOS for you. See [the Harvard Travel Services website](#) for more information. If you would like assistance booking travel with a preferred travel agency, please reach out to EH Accounts Payable team at ehap@hsph.harvard.edu.

Reminders

- Submit a photo of your pet(s) using [this survey](#) to have them included in the Pet Corner Poster, which will be displayed on the 13th floor of Building 1 and at Landmark 4 West. Submit by Friday, September 8th!
- Check out the [EH Department website](#) for both internal and external job postings.

If you have any upcoming events you want to announce or news you want to share, please write to EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu or complete the [submission survey](#). Remember, your contributions and enthusiasm keep our community thriving.

I hope to see you all at Glenn's retirement party this afternoon!

Enjoy your weekend!

Best,
Kari

Upcoming Events:

Save the dates for these exciting events...

Please note:

- *Due to scheduling changes, the locations of the September 28-29 talks with Drs. Hayhoe, Balbus, and Somini Sengupta have been updated. See event details below.*

- *The EH Department retreat previously scheduled for September 29 has been changed to October 30.*
- *The JBL annual symposium: “Ionizing radiation and the human brain” is scheduled for October 27.*

Chair Open Office Hours

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

Tea Time

Building 1 13th Floor Kitchen Area, Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:00 PM
Landmark 4 West, Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Friday, August 25, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Event: Glenn Stern’s Retirement Party
Location: Building 1, 13th Floor
Register: <https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com>

Wednesday August 30, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Event: Environmental and Reproductive Health Lecture Series, Mahalingaiah Lab
Title: *The Spirit of Science*
Speaker: Dr. Sunhee Choi, The John D. McCullough Professor of Chemistry at Middlebury College
Description: The purpose of this lecture is to tell how basic scientific research can lead to the development of drugs against cancer and Alzheimer's disease (AD). The first story is about the history of an anticancer drug, Cisplatin, and the discoveries made by the Choi group about how a platinum containing chemical compound oxidizes DNA. The second story is about another research done by the Choi group on the mechanism of AD at the molecular level, which may lead to rational designs of drugs against AD.
Location: FXB G03 and Zoom
Zoom: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/93201561437>

Wednesday, September 6, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Title: *Advancing integrated governance for health through national biodiversity strategies and action plans*
Speaker(s): Dr. David Cooper, Dr. Kari Nadeau, Liz Willets
Description: The Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health will host a webinar roundtable to discuss the Lancet Comment on advancing integrated

governance for health through national biodiversity strategies. This comes after 196 governments committed to the 2022 Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, leading to updates in national biodiversity strategies globally. The roundtable will explore how governments plan to integrate biodiversity-health interlinkages into these strategies and how the health sector can actively engage in co-design to address the interconnectedness of ecosystem and public health. See attached poster to register.

Register: <https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register>

Thursday, September 7, 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Event: Casual Seminar Series

Title: *Covariate Adjustment in Randomized Experiments with Missing Data*

Speaker: Fan Li, Professor in the Department of Statistical Science and the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University

Description: The Harvard Data Science Initiative begins the 2023-2024 Causal Seminar Series in September. Click [here](#) to read the abstract for this talk.

Location: TBD (in-person at Harvard University)

Wednesday, September 13, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Event: The Harvard Chan Environmental Health Department Student Advisory Committee (EH SAC)

Details: EH SAC is excited to welcome both returning and incoming students to the first meeting of the 2023-24 academic year! Our first meeting is no-commitment and is open to any EH student. SAC is perfect for you if you're interested in strengthening our campus community, want to create engagement opportunities for you and your peers, and are creative/motivated.

Location: Building 1, 1306A

Register: Sign up through [this link](#) to express your interest and receive more information on how you can get involved!

Wednesday, September 13, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Title: *Five Fundamental Shifts Laying the Foundation for the Healthy Buildings Era*

Speaker(s): Joseph Allen, Associate Professor of Exposure Assessment Science

Location: Building 1, Room 1302 Or Via Zoom

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

Wednesday, September 13, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Event: Department of Environmental Health Welcome Back Party

Location: Kresge Cafeteria

More information: Click [here](#) to RSVP by Friday, September 1st.

Tuesday, September 19, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Title: *Ferroptotic Differentiation and Death in Asthmatic Epithelium*

Speaker(s): Sally E. Wenzel, MD, Chair, Dept of Environmental and Occupational Health and Director, U Pitt Asthma and Environmental Lung Health Institute, School of Public Health

Description: Dr. Wenzel will discuss ferroptotic differentiation and death in asthmatic epithelium.

Location: Building 1, Room 1302

Tuesday, September 26, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Title: *Health Impacts of Wildfire Smoke*

Speaker(s): Mary M. Johnson, MD, PhD, Principal Research Scientist, MIPS, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Description: Dr. Johnson will discuss the health impacts of wildfire smoke.

Location: Building 1, Room 1302

Thursday, September 28, 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Title: *Putting Health at the Heart of Climate Conversations*

Speaker(s): Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, Chief Scientist for the Nature Conservatory

Description: Climate change puts everyone at risk; yet many remain unaware of its immediate effects on their lives and how they can contribute to climate action. Clearly communicating the health implications of climate change offers a unique opportunity to bridge the psychological distance that often disconnects people from this global crisis. At the same time, however, it is essential to pair information about risks with actionable solutions, addressing the lack of efficacy that leads many of those worried about climate change to feel helpless and disempowered. Join Katharine Hayhoe as she discusses the pivotal role of health-related climate impacts in engaging and activating people to advocate for a better future for us all.

Location: Kresge 502

Friday, September 29, 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Event: Whittenberger Lecturers

Title: *Steps and Scales: Transforming the US Health Sector for Climate Change and Health Equity*

Speaker(s): Dr. John Balbus, Acting Director of HHS Office of Climate Change

Description: Details coming soon.

Location: Kresge 200

Friday, September 29, 2:00 PM

Event: President Claudine Gay Inauguration Viewing Party

Description: Come to the Environmental Health Department office to watch the livestream of President Claudine Gay's inauguration. Refreshments will be provided.

Location: SPH1, 1302

More information: Details regarding inauguration festivities and the livestream will be found on the Marshal's Office website [here](#).

Friday, September 29, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Event: Whittenberger Lectures

Topic: *Climate Change and Health in the Media*

Speaker(s): Somini Sengupta, International Climate Reporter for The New York Times

Description: Details coming soon.

Location: Kresge 202

Thursday, November 2, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Title: *Cultivating Connections: A Networking Evening in Support of Women*

Speaker(s): Carole Simpson, Diane Darling, Kate Zernike, Dr. Alexis Stokes

Description: Wondering how to build helpful connections across the university? Join us in November for this Harvard-wide event. Four dynamic speakers will share their expertise and experiences on the power of networking and the how-to of building strong networks. A lively panel discussion and audience questions will be followed by structured activities for easy, enjoyable networking. We encourage Harvard faculty, staff, students from Cambridge and affiliated institutions to join us on the Longwood Medical Campus for this energizing event.

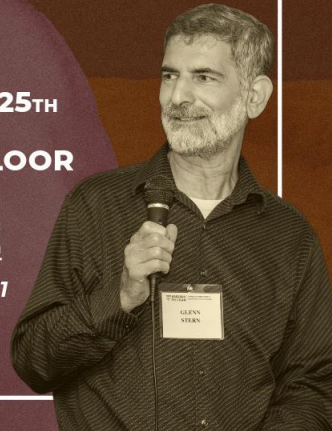
Location: Harvard Medical School

RETIREMENT PARTY

FOR OUR FRIEND & COLLEAGUE
GLENN STERN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25TH
2 - 4 PM
BUILDING 1, 13TH FLOOR

RSVP HERE
BY MONDAY, AUGUST 21



ENVIRONMENTAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LECTURE SERIES

The Spirit of Science

Lecture by: Dr. Sunhee Choi

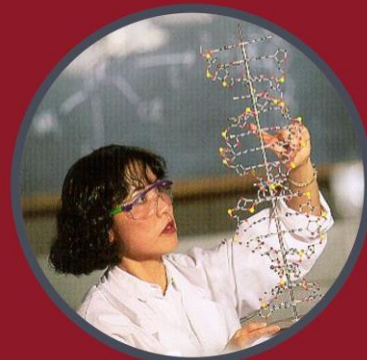
The John D. McCullough Professor of Chemistry at Middlebury College

Date: Wednesday, August 30th 2023

Time: 4:00-5:00pm EST

Location: In person, FXB G03 or virtually via Zoom:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/93201561437>





**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
1:00PM - 1:50PM IN KRESGE 502**





SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Environmental Health

STEPS AND SCALES: TRANSFORMING THE US HEALTH SECTOR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH EQUITY

JOHN BALBUS

ACTING DIRECTOR OF HHS OFFICE OF
CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH EQUITY



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

1:00PM - 1:50PM IN KRESGE 200

WHITTENBERGER LECTURES

WHITTENBERGER LECTURES

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH IN THE MEDIA



WITH
SOMINI SENGUPTA

INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE REPORTER
FOR THE NEW YORK
TIMES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

4:00PM - 5:00PM IN KRESGE 202



HARVARD
T.H. CHAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Environmental Health