

### Chair Chatter July 14, 2023

From the Desk of the Department Chair: Community Newsletter 📢

Hope everyone enjoyed the Fourth of July holiday and the bonus day off. I thought I would try a little different style for the chatter this week. Let me know what you think! We have some exciting updates and events to share with you, so let's get started.

# In the Spotlight:

President Claudine Gay's Sweet Start



From left to right: Sotheany Leap (Research Assistant), Elisabeth Simonin (Postdoc), President Claudine Gay, Nick Vogler (Research Assistant), and Sarah Kirsh (Research Assistant).

President Claudine Gay took office last week and kicked off her tenure by hosting ice cream socials across the University last Tuesday. Pictured above are members

of the EH Department with our new President outside of HSPH and the Countway Library.

### Department Updates:

Save the Date: EH Department Retreat Moved to October 30th

• Mark your calendars! The much-anticipated department retreat has been rescheduled to Monday, October 30th.

Faculty Spotlight: Carmen Messerlian's Research Featured in NIH's Monthly Publication

Congratulations to Carmen Messerlian, whose groundbreaking research of how folate supplements may mitigate the effects of PFAS in women of reproductive age was featured in the latest issue of NIH's monthly publication. Three of Carmen's recent papers, which were part of Yu Zhang's PhD thesis, are highlighted. You can read more about it here. Great work, Carmen and Yu! In addition, check out Carmen's health and fertility podcast that I mentioned in my previous chatter.

Harvard C-Change Youth Summit 2023 is Almost Here!

o The Harvard C-Change Youth Climate Summit 2023 will be kicking off on Saturday, July 22. This event is tailored specifically for high school students who are passionate about tackling climate issues head-on. The summit will feature several of our school's faculty members among other esteemed speakers. Learn more about the summit <a href="here">here</a>.

Heat Toolkit: Helping Doctors and Patients Combat Temperature-Related Health Risks

Stay cool and safe this summer with the help of Harvard Chan's Gaurab Basu and Caleb Dresser. Their groundbreaking heat toolkit provides valuable insights for doctors and patients dealing with temperaturerelated health risks. Learn more about this innovative resource and its potential benefits <u>here</u>. Don't let the heat get you down!

New Resource: Nature Masterclasses

 Nature Masterclasses offers online professional development courses for scientific researchers at all career stages but may be particularly valuable to Harvard Chan students, postdocs, and research staff. Topics include grant writing, finding funding, designing experiments, data analysis, scientific writing, making presentations, and more. Click <a href="here">here</a> to register and refer to the <a href="here">user guide</a> for access details. Harvard's subscription to Nature Masterclasses, purchased by the FAS and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, is for current Harvard affiliates and is valid through 2/27/2024.

## Weekly Policy Snippet:

- Travel Reimbursement: Travel Reimbursement: While the Harvard Travel and Entertainment Card (Corporate Card) is the strongly preferred method of payment for travel expenses, those without access to such a card (students, non-employees, and employees who may travel too infrequently to apply for one) may use cash or a personal credit card to pay for travel expenses. If personal funds were used, the traveler can be reimbursed for these expenses AFTER the trip has occurred and upon presentation of appropriate documentation. Reimbursement request including documentation should be submitted as soon as possible (best practice within 2 weeks) of trip return. Late reimbursements may be paid as taxable or not eligible for payment if submitted after 90 or 183 days.
- Note: Prepaid travel expenses (such as airline tickets and lodging)
  purchased with personal funds will not be reimbursed until after the
  trip or event has taken place. For reference, please see <u>Harvard's</u>
  <u>Travel Policy.</u>

# **11** 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 28.

#### **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

#### Tuesday, July 24, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

**Title:** Ambient Air Pollution, Extreme Temperatures, Heatwaves, and Health in 10 Indian Cities: Insights Into the Impacts of Climate Change

**Speaker:** Jeroen De Bont

**Description:** Jeroen De Bont, a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Karolinska Institute and part of the CHAIR India team, will be visiting BUSPH on July 24th and delivering a seminar where he will delve into the crucial relationship between climate change and health. Join us either in person or online for this thought-provoking talk from 12:30-1:30 PM.

Location: 72 E Concord St, Boston, MA 02118, Room L112

Zoom:

 $\underline{https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/92132837667?pwd=Z0o0VDNrKzAxZDBib1YyenVlW}\\\underline{DIvZz09}$ 

**More information:** <u>See flyer here</u> | For questions, directions, or other help, please reach out to <u>mkhemani@bu.edu</u>.

#### Tuesday, July 18, 1:00 - 1:50 PM

**Title:** Hot Topics Seminar Series: Translating Epidemiologic Evidence in the Clinic for Improved Colorectal Cancer Prevention

Speaker(s): Dr. Mingyang Song

**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, July 26, 3 PM

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

 $\label{lem:Registration and more information: Sign up and learn more $\underline{\text{here}}$.}$ 

Title: Social Media: Getting Started and Being Strategic

**Description:** 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.

#### Wednesday, August 9, 3PM

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 (<a href="mailto:rcohen@burness.com">rcohen@burness.com</a>) with any questions

That's all for this edition of our chair chatter newsletter! Stay tuned for more exciting updates and events in the future. Please continue to send any news and events to <a href="https://example.com/EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu">EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu</a>. Remember, your contributions and enthusiasm make our community thrive.

Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead!

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



Psychological Safty, Feeling Heard and Burnout Among Healthcare Workers

August 1st

Dr. Irini Albanti Leadership Strategies for Humanitarian Organizations 1:00 to 1:50pm Kresge 200 Dessert available!

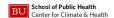
August 8<sup>th</sup>

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

August 15<sup>th</sup>
Dr. Lilian Cheung

Mindful Eating for Our Health & the Health of Our Planet

Sponsored by the Office of Educational Programs





### <u>Ambient Air Pollution, Extreme Temperatures, Heatwaves, and Health in 10 Indian</u> <u>Cities: Insights Into the Impacts of Climate Change</u>



# Jeroen De Bont, PhD Postdoctoral Researcher Institute of Environmental Medicine Karolinska Institute

Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> Time: 12:30 – 1:30 pm Room L112 and Zoom

The upcoming seminar will address the limited evidence of acute effects from air pollution, temperatures, and heatwaves in India, which are increasing due of Climate Change. The session will focus on the main effects of these exposures, including evaluating the number of attributable deaths and employing causal methods to establish a plausible link between these exposures and health outcomes. By exploring these topics, the seminar aims to enhance our understanding of the health implications and provide insights for future research and policy actions in India.

I am a postdoctoral researcher at Karolinska Institutet. I am an environmental scientist and public health specialist by training, and did my PhD in environmental epidemiology at ISGlobal and IDIAP Jordi Gol in Spain. During my PhD I focused on the effects of the urban environment, especially ambient air pollution, on the development of childhood obesity. Nowadays, my main research of interest is evaluating the effect of multiple urban exposures on multiple health outcomes in children and adults across Sweden, Europe and India. I have a special interest in issues related to the environment, public health, urban environment and cardio-metabolic outcomes, especially in lower-middle-income countries and across the different socioeconomic layers. I am currently working in multiple national and international projects including CHAIR-India, EXPANSE, MijöSCAPIS, and CHAMNA.

Jeroen De Bont Email jeroen.de.bont@ki.se



### **☆** Chair Chatter July 21, 2023

From the Desk of the Department Chair: Community Newsletter

We're ending the week with some exciting news! With the 1-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act coming up on August 16<sup>th</sup>, I wanted to take some time to recap some accomplishments made possible by its passing. As you may recall, this landmark legislation was designed to curb the rising costs of living while also advancing environmental justice through the implementation of fiscal, monetary, clean energy, and pollution reduction policies. Some of the key achievements of the past year include:

- A <u>reduction in greenhouse gas emissions</u> and air pollution driven by a methane emissions fee on the oil and gas industry.
- Expanded access to <u>affordable clean energy</u> for low- and middle-income families, rural communities, and Tribal nations.
- Growth in green jobs and innovation stimulated by funding for clean energy research and development.

These are just some of the highlights of the Inflation Reduction Act's impact on our economy and environment. We are excited to witness the positive changes and opportunities that this legislation has created for our society and our planet. Now, let's move on to some department updates and announcements.



#### STEMming the Gap: Inspiring Young Campers

Several students in the department (Marshae Nickelberry, Marissa Chan, Joseph Wilson, and Jahred Liddie) joined the Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center Community Engagement Core to meet with and talk to elementary and middle school campers at the Bethel Institute for Social Justice STEM Youth Summer Camp on Tuesday. Thanks to Gerardo Rodriguez, Azariah Boyd, and Katherine Van Woert for organizing. It was a blast!

### Department Updates:

#### EH In the News

- 'We are inextricably linked to the health of our planet': I'm thrilled to announce that a video I filmed with Healio News on food allergies and planetary health has been released online. They joined me last week during the Global Food Allergy Prevention Summit in Chicago to discuss how climate change, air pollution, and environmental justice affect the prevalence and severity of food allergies. You can watch the video <a href="here">here</a>.
- Beating the Heat and Saving Lives: Please join me in congratulating two of our faculty, Dr. Caleb Dresser and Dr. Guarab Basu, for their excellent work and media outreach. In a recent STAT News article on how doctors are preparing for extreme heat conditions, they share their insights and experiences as physicians and climate health leaders, offering some practical tips on how to cope with heat waves and protect patients and communities. Read more <a href="here">here</a>.

#### New Resource

NIH K Grant Consultations: Planning to apply for an NIH K grant? Don't miss this valuable opportunity to have your Specific Aims page reviewed by Harvard faculty with a track record of success in NIH grant funding. Applications are now open for consultations in October, November and December 2023. Check out the link <a href="here">here</a>.

#### Harvard C-Change Youth Summit 2023!

 $\circ$  The Harvard C-Change Youth Climate Summit 2023 kicks off this Saturday, July  $22^{nd}$ . We'll be hearing from a number of incredible faculty

speakers and are so excited to be hosting the next generation of climate advocates. Learn more here.

#### **New Funding Opportunities**

- I encourage our PhD students and Postdoctoral Research Fellows to check out the new funding opportunities from the NIH titled "Maximizing the Scientific Value of Data Generated by the Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program:"
  - o <u>Dissertation Grant (R36)</u>
  - Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA)
     Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32)
- Harvard's Office of Technology Development and the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability recently launched the <u>Climate and</u> <u>Sustainability Translational Fund</u> to strengthen the University's climate and sustainability research.

#### **Employment Opportunities**

 Check out <u>the EH Department website</u> for both internal and external job postings.



Save the dates for these exciting events...

#### Please note:

- o Kari is not available for office hours on Monday 7/24.
- 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 28.

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**More information:** <u>See flyer here</u> | For questions, directions, or other help, please reach out to <u>mkhemani@bu.edu</u>.

#### Monday, July 24, 1:00 PM

**Title:** AI + Climate Justice Working Group Meeting (The Rights of Young People)

**Speaker(s):** Dr. Ashley Lee and Dr. Professor Benyam Dawit Mezmur **Description:** Climate change threatens young people's rights to health, life, food, water and sanitation, education, housing, culture, and development, among others. Benyam will start off the session with some reflections on his recent work on the UNCRC's General Comment No. 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment. We will then engage in an open-ended discussion.

**Location:** Smith Campus Center

Zoom: https://harvard.zoom.us/j/7776581601

**More Information:** Sign up for the AI + Climate Justice Working Group mailing list.

Title: How do buildings impact cognition?

Speaker: Stefan Flagner

**Description:** Do buildings impact our cognition? Is opening the windows the only way to make sure we perform optimally indoors? What is the role of CO2 in all this? Join the talk by Stefan Flagner to learn more about what indoor air quality and in particular CO2 does to your cognitive performance. Stefan Flagner is a researcher at Maastricht University, The Netherlands, working in an interdisciplinary team of human physiologists and real estate economists to investigate how the indoor environment affects building occupants.

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

Zoom:

 $\frac{https://harvard.zoom.us/j/95426311234?pwd=QU5oZlhiZUtYeVBlVzJNMFN2R}{2R3QT09}$ 

More Information: Contact sdedesko@g.harvard.edu with any questions

#### Tuesday, July 25, 1:00 PM- 1:50 PM

**Title:** Hot Topics Seminar Series: Psychological Safety, Feeling Heard, and Burnout Among Healthcare Workers

Speaker(s): Dr. Michaela Kerrissey

**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

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That's a wrap on this week's chatter! Stay tuned for more exciting news. As always, please continue to send any news and events to <a href="https://example.com/EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu">EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu</a>. Remember, your contributions and enthusiasm keep our community thriving.

Enjoy your weekend!

Best,

Kari Nadeau, MD, PhD

Chair, Department of Environmental Health



the Health of Our Planet

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Jeroen De Bont Email jeroen.de.bont@ki.si



#### **☆** Chair Chatter July 28, 2023

#### From the Desk of the Department Chair: Community Newsletter

Happy Friday! It's been a busy week for the department, with the 2023 C-CHANGE Youth Summit kicking off its programming Monday. I've had a blast connecting with the next generation of climate leaders, and am excited to share some of what we got up to:

- The keynote speech by Dr. Gina McCarthy, the former National Climate Adviser in the Biden-Harris Administration and former Director of Harvard Chan C-CHANGE.
- The panel discussion on climate justice, featuring experts from different fields and backgrounds.
- The student-led workshops on various topics, such as climate communications, environmental justice, global health, and policy and advocacy.

We also have some photos and testimonials from the participants, who came from 25 states and 9 countries to learn about climate, equity, and health issues. Stay tuned for more in-depth coverage next week when we will have access to the professional photos and videos from the event. Keep an eye on the department's socials for more highlights throughout next week. I hope you enjoy reading about this amazing experience as much as I enjoyed being part of it!



As you may have heard, our wonderful colleague Anna Miller, C-CHANGE's Senior Communications Coordinator, is going on maternity leave starting next week. We wish her all the best as she embarks on this new and exciting chapter of her life. Please join me in sending her your warmest congratulations and well wishes. Thank you, Anna, for everything you have done for the EH community. We hope to see you back soon!

Speaking of family additions, Adjunct Professor John Evans and Faculty and Academic Affairs Coordinator Shaun Heller each welcomed a new member to their families last week.

John's granddaughter, Josephine, was born happy and healthy last Thursday. Here is a picture of the proud Grandpa holding her.



Shaun adopted a 14-week-old puppy. Her name is Sage. I hear she isn't doing well sleeping through the night, but she looks adorable! Her breed is unknown at the moment but let us know if you have an idea of what kind dog Sage is by filling out this survey. There is a small prize for the best guess.



**Department Updates:** 

#### EH In the News

• A Call to Action: Liz Willets, Senior Director of Planetary Health Policy, is making waves with a recent publication in The Lancet. The article, written with experts from different disciplines, outlines the urgent need for action to address the health impacts of climate change. Don't miss the opportunity to learn more about her groundbreaking work in an upcoming webinar on September 6th. Register now and join the conversation!

#### o Heat Challenges & Health:

- I am honored to have collaborated with C-CHANGE Student Ambassadors Jinia Sarkar and Leah Martin on a recent article published by The Messenger where we discuss the unexpected connection between heat and allergies. As environmental health leaders, I believe we have the power and the responsibility to speak up for our patients and our planet. Read it here. For more, tune into this video interview with Healio where I discuss the role of allergists as advocates. Watch the video here.
- I am also delighted to have been mentioned in a People's Pharmacy podcast on how heat challenges human health. As we face increasingly extreme heat conditions, it is crucial that we continue to learn and share information on how to cope with heat waves. Tune in here to learn more.
- Please also join me in congratulating research fellow Barrak
   Alahmad for his recent mention in The Star. Barrak works with
   advisor Professor Petros Koutrakis on air quality, climate change
   & health in the Middle East, specifically the adverse impacts of
   dust storms and extreme temperatures. Read more <a href="here">here</a>.
- Another kudos to C-CHANGE fellow Catharina Giudice for her Washington Post interview on how extreme heat and pollution can double heart attack risk. She explains the science behind this alarming finding and gives some tips on how to stay healthy in a warming world. Read her interview here.

- o Caleb's 'Hot' off the Presses: Caleb Dresser's been heating up the news lately! For two weeks in a row, the Director of Healthcare Solutions at C-CHANGE has been featured for his leadership in an innovative pilot program combatting heat injuries in the U.S. With Gizmodo, Dr. Dresser shared his insights on the importance of providing patients with vital information and resources to stay safe during hot weather. Check out the article to learn more about this critical initiative. Not stopping there, Caleb also shares his knowledge with CNN in a recent article where he demonstrates how proactive healthcare can reduce suffering from heat-related illnesses. Read more here.
- o **Climate Optimism:** We can all take inspiration from the work of Marcy Franck, C-CHANGE's Senior Communications Strategist and author of the <u>Climate Optimist Newsletter</u>. In a CNN video, she explains how she finds hope and motivation in the face of the climate crisis. She also shares some practical actions that we can all take to reduce our carbon footprint and make a positive difference. Watch the video <a href="here">here</a>.
- Clean Air Centers in NYC: Let's also acknowledge the expertise of Principal Research Scientist Mary Johnson, who was recently featured in Brooklyn Eagle's article exploring the possibility of establishing clean air centers in NYC. Dr. Johnson stresses the importance of understanding indoor air quality, especially as climate change continues to worsen the problem. Discover more <a href="here">here</a>.
- Health Risks of Black Hair Care Products: Associate Professor
   Tamarra James-Todd was quoted in a BET article this week about the
   health risks associated with long term use of chemical relaxers. Read the
   full article here.
- EARTH Study Receives NIH Funding for New R01: The EARTH Study (PI Hauser) has obtained five years of NIH funding to investigate paternal pesticide exposures in relation to couples' pregnancy outcomes and whether sperm and leukocyte epigenetic mediate the associations. Congratulations to BWH Assistant Professor and EH Visiting Scientist Lidia Mínguez-Alarcón, who is the PI of this new grant!

#### 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 <a href="mailto:eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu">eh-chatter@hsph.harvard.edu</a> inbox will still be open to receive any department news, the survey will enable more streamlined department-wide communications moving forward. Test it out <a href="mailto:here">here</a>.

**Commented [001]:** I'd start cutting out any clips not directly connected to EH since this issue is pretty long

**Commented [BM2R1]:** earth study is based in the eh dept

**Commented** [OO3R1]: I was more referring to the hair care one!! idk why I added the comment down here

#### **New Funding Opportunities**

 The deadline for the ISEE Essay Contest is this Sunday, July 30, 11:59pm CST, USA. The \$1,000 travel award is open to students, post-docs, and early career researchers. See the flyer below and click <a href="here">here</a> for more information on how to apply.

#### **Employment Opportunities**

 Check out the EH Department website for both internal and external job postings.

### Weekly Policy Snippets:

- o **New PI Eligibility Policy:** Effective immediately, the school has implemented a revised PI eligibility policy that may necessitate waivers based on individuals' positions within the institution. For comprehensive details on the policy and potential waiver requirements, we encourage you to visit the <u>ORSD site</u>. Should you have any inquiries concerning your specific situation in light of the updated policy, please do not hesitate to get in touch with <u>pieligibility@hsph.harvard.edu</u>. For further assistance, feel free to contact Cori Chisholm (<u>chisholm@hsph.harvard.edu</u>).
  - **Note:** A friendly reminder to all those planning to submit a proposal, make sure to submit the departmental grant intentions questionnaire at least 6 weeks before the submission date.
- o Commuting Expenses: Commuting expenses: Some expenses, while ordinary and necessary for an employee's work, are considered personal, living or family expenses and thus cannot be paid or reimbursed as business expenses. Common examples are regular commuting expenses, repetitive meals, and costs for professional attire. As such, costs of routine transportation/parking between a person's place of work and their home is not a reimbursable business expense. Addendum to Business Expense Reimbursements Policy for Work-Related Travel to Campus (Business Expense Reimbursements Policy site) includes a commuting expenses chart which provides guidance for specific commuting scenarios.
- New Travel Requirements for EU: If you are planning to travel to Europe in 2024 or later, you may need to apply for ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorization System), a visa waiver program required for citizens of over 60 visa-exempt countries, including the United States,

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Canada, Australia and New Zealand. ETIAS permits entry to most European countries for business, tourism, medical or transit purposes for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Learn more about how to apply <a href="here">here</a>.

 Note: Please note that ETIAS is not in operation yet and no applications are collected at this point. ETIAS is expected to launch by the end of 2023. We will keep you updated on any changes or developments regarding this new travel requirement.

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**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.

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 <a href="https://example.com/EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu">EH-Chatter@hsph.harvard.edu</a>, or feel free to try out the new <a href="mailto:submission survey">submission survey</a>. Remember, your contributions and enthusiasm keep our community thriving.

Enjoy your weekend!

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



