

NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison (OCPL)

June 2021

Public Information and Outreach

Environmental Factor



Rick Woychik launched a newsletter column in January called the Director's Corner. Each month offers a personal viewpoint or discourse on a scientific interest, through which he hopes to confer a deeper appreciation for the work of our in-house researchers and grantees. The May column featured a conversation with Joshua Rosenthal and John Balbus, "[Addressing climate change and its health issues through collaboration.](#)"

For more feature stories, research summaries, and NIEHS news, be sure to read our free, online monthly newsletter, [Environmental Factor](#). If you are not yet a subscriber, you can sign up on the landing page, as shown below:



WELL Health-Safety Rating



OCPL promoted the International WELL Building Institute's Health-Safety Rating awarded to NIEHS, March 30. NIEHS is the **first** federal agency to earn it. The award proclaims the institute's success in and commitment to maintaining high facility standards in several areas, as summarized in our [news release](#).

WELL is the leading tool globally for advancing health and well-being in buildings. You may have seen ads featuring renowned scientists, public health specialists, and celebrities who encourage people to "look for the WELL Health-Safety seal." You'll now find it on our buildings.

Communications about the coronavirus and COVID-19

Christine Flowers, the OCPL director, leads NIEHS communications about COVID-19. Her role involves coordinating with the NIH Office of the Director, various other offices within HHS, and The White House.

OCPL staff assists leadership with internal and external communications. The web team continually updates internal webpages to share information about:

- Testing asymptomatic staff for COVID-19
- Addressing safety measures for staff who are working on campus

- Assisting staff who telework fulltime
- Planning and implementing a vaccination program for staff

OCPL communicates externally about institute activities and discoveries related to COVID-19 through its monthly newsletter. Here's a sample of stories:

[NIEHS earns WELL building rating, first among feds](#) (May 2021)

[COVID-19 resilience and recovery for workers, communities](#) (May 2021)

[Biomarker suggests severity of COVID-19 respiratory distress](#) (May 2021)

[New NIH funding advances COVID-19 testing](#) (May 2021)

[Freezer donations add COVID-19 vaccine storage capacity in North Carolina](#) (April 2021)

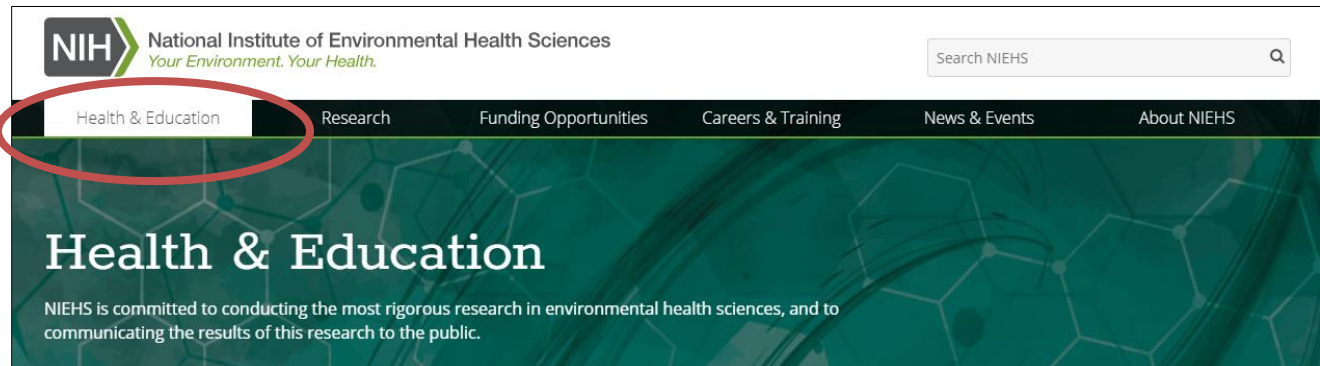
[Fighting misinformation, preventing workplace COVID-19 exposure](#) (March 2021)

[Organs-on-a-chip for COVID-19 research group led by NTP center](#) (March 2021)

[Pandemic vulnerability tool provides county-level snapshots](#) (Feb. 2021)

Online Environmental [Health & Education](#) Information

Find this section of the NIEHS website by clicking on the first tab on the homepage:



OCPL maintains more than [60 health topic webpages](#). These pages are organized into four categories:

- Conditions & Diseases
- Environmental Agents
- Environmental Health Science Basics
- Population Research

Under [Brochures & Fact Sheets](#), you will find more than 60 publications, all downloadable. You may also order print copies through our [online order form](#). Recently updated fact sheets include:

- [Climate Change and Human Health](#)
- [Lead and Your Health](#)

NIEHS Social Media Accounts

NIEHS uses social media to promote environmental health messages. Content is regularly posted through these platforms:

- [Facebook](#) (targets a general audience)
- [Twitter](#) (@NIEHS - targets both a lay audience and science community)
- [LinkedIn](#) (targets people working in the environmental health field)
- [YouTube](#) (targets both a lay audience and science community)

Social Media Growth

Our social media followership continues to steadily increase. From January to May 2021, the NIEHS:

- Twitter feed increased from 20,600 to 21,093 followers
- Facebook page increased from 30,877 to 31,787 followers
- LinkedIn page increased from 5,311 to 5,715 followers

Social Media Highlights

We post content daily to promote people, events, and research, including grant recipients. Here are samples:



NIEHS @NIEHS · 1h
EVENT: Join us June 8 at 11 am ET for the next talk in our 2021 Distinguished Lecture Series!
Join on Zoom: bit.ly/2R4zQRs

2021 Distinguished Lecture Series

Social Justice and Health Equity
Sir Michael Marmot, Ph.D.
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
11:00 a.m. – noon
Join on Zoom: COMING



NIEHS @NIEHS · May 17
ICYMI: On May 3, NIEHS published "Drinking Water Contaminants of Emerging Concern for National Emerging Contaminant Research Initiative," a Request for Information on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. More at factor.niehs.nih.gov/2021/5/science...

NIEHS is working with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to boost knowledge about emerging contamination issues.



NIEHS @NIEHS · May 4
Congratulations to NIEHS Acting Branch Chief Sharon Beard on winning the 2021 Rachel Carson Award from @AIHA! This award honors an environmental health and safety professional who has attained outstanding success in their field. ow.ly/9BqP50EEziQ

2021 AIHA RACHEL CARSON AWARD WINNER
Sharon Beard, M.S.



NIEHS @NIEHS · Apr 23
Read more of NIEHS Director Rick Woychik's discussion with @TexasSouthern professor and noted environmental justice expert Robert Bullard in this month's edition of "Director's Corner." go.usa.gov/xHgUf

"Environmental justice emerged decades ago as frontline communities dealt with man-made health threats such as chemical spills and natural disasters such as hurricanes."

We promote scientific literacy through posts and hashtag #EHWordWednesday on social media. Here are examples:



News Promotion and Coverage

NIEHS News Releases

- May 14, 2021: [Male Hormones Regulate Stomach Inflammation in Mice](#)
- May 5, 2021: [NIH Statement on World Asthma Day 2021](#)
- April 12, 2021: [NIEHS Earns WELL Building Rating Amid Pandemic](#)
- March 11, 2021: [Preterm Birth, Prolonged Labor Influenced by Progesterone Balance](#)
- March 10, 2021: [Study of Mosquito Protein Could Lead to Treatments Against Life-threatening Viruses](#)
- February 1, 2021: [NIH Study Shows Hyaluronan Is Effective in Treating Chronic Lung Disease](#)

Grantee

We like to promote research conducted by our grantees. Help us do that by always mentioning NIEHS in your news releases. Then our media monitoring system will find your news. Noting ES grant numbers related to your research support also helps OCPL spread the word.

Since January, these grantee [news releases](#) were posted on our website:

- May 10, 2021: [Oregon State Researchers Discover New Class of Cancer Fighting Compounds](#)
- April 6, 2021: [Study Links Prenatal Phthalate Exposure to Altered Information Processing in Infants](#)
- February 16, 2021: [Workplace Chemical Exposure Study Leads to Small Business COVID-19 Awareness Campaign](#)

NIEHS in the News

Top stories mentioning NIEHS, Feb. – May 2021, are listed in a table on the following pages.

Date	Headline	People Likely Reached	Outlet	URL
19-May-21	COVID-19 puts spotlight on disparities in research on women's health	24,261,144	ABC News	https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Wellness/covid-19-puts-spotlight-disparities-research-womens-health/story?id=77608870
12-May-21	A low-cost solution to remove arsenic from drinking water	4,752,602	Phys.org	https://phys.org/news/2021-05-low-cost-solution-arsenic.html
4-May-21	Business Booming for COVID Safety Seal	2,705,762	Medpage Today	https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/92408
30-Apr-21	Counties at Highest Risk for COVID Harm Often Have Lowest Vaccination Rates	2,299,231	ProPublica	https://www.propublica.org/article/counties-at-highest-risk-for-covid-harm-often-have-lowest-vaccination-rates
28-Apr-21	Childhood air pollution exposure linked to poor mental health at age 18	6,621,043	Science Daily	https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210428113756.htm
22-Apr-21	3 Major Ways Fighting Climate Change Will Transform Our Health	8,749,897	Prevention	https://www.prevention.com/health/a35903490/climate-change-solutions-for-better-health/
15-Apr-21	The link between structural racism, high blood pressure and Black people's health	19,796,068	SFGate	https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/The-link-between-structural-racism-high-blood-16104567.php
14-Apr-21	DDT's toxic legacy can harm granddaughters of women exposed, study shows	66,401,641	Yahoo news	https://news.yahoo.com/ddts-toxic-legacy-harm-granddaughters-140027596.html
10-Apr-21	Connection Found Between Household Chemicals and Gut Microbiome	2,165,922	SciTech Daily	https://scitechdaily.com/connection-found-between-household-chemicals-and-gut-microbiome/
6-Apr-21	Study links prenatal phthalate exposure to altered information processing in infants	5,990,236	Science Daily	https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210406131944.htm
26-Mar-21	California's Tougher Diesel Emissions Rules Cut Related Deaths in Half: Study	37,649,436	US News & World Report	https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2021-03-26/californias-tougher-diesel-emissions-rules-cut-related-deaths-in-half-study
18-Mar-21	The 10 U.S. Counties With the Worst Air Pollution	20,858,892	Newsweek	https://www.newsweek.com/10-us-counties-worst-air-pollution-1577136
17-Mar-21	AHA News: How to Get Better Sleep Amid the Pandemic – And Why You Should	37,649,436	US News & World Report	https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2021-03-17/aha-news-how-to-get-better-sleep-amid-the-pandemic-and-why-you-should

9-Mar-21	Headaches & Diarrhea Are More Common Period Symptoms Than You'd Think	20,627,803	Bustle	https://www.bustle.com/wellness/apple-womens-health-study-data-period-symptoms
4-Mar-21	NIEHS-Funded Study Finds Graphene Nanochannel Filters Hold Promise for Contaminant Clean-Up	1,179,324	The National Law Review	https://www.natlawreview.com/article/niehs-funded-study-finds-graphene-nanochannel-filters-hold-promise-contaminant-clean
3-Mar-21	Could Rising Temperatures Send More People with MS to the Hospital?	35,932,709	Associated Press	https://apnews.com/press-release/pr-newswire/multiple-sclerosis-health-weather-diseases-and-conditions-medical-research-3f6a8cd55cb8423d40d8ea95e60c6fd
2-Mar-21	Heavier Girls Hit Hormonal Puberty Earlier, Develop Breasts Later	13,623,089	Medscape	https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/946702
2-Mar-21	Scientist: Chemicals cut into sperm count	2,486,000	USA TODAY	http://usatoday.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=24c8066a-eca8-47ef-95bd-edc7afea1bc4
23-Feb-21	AHA News: Black, Hispanic Families Hit Hardest by Dementia	42,018,463	US News & World Report	https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2021-02-23/aha-news-black-hispanic-families-hit-hardest-by-dementia
22-Feb-21	Even Low Levels of Air Pollution Harm Heart, Lungs	42,018,463	US News & World Report	https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2021-02-22/even-low-levels-of-air-pollution-harm-heart-lungs
22-Feb-21	Impact of Environmental Toxin Exposure on Male Fertility	13,623,089	Medscape	https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/944072
20-Feb-21	Chemicals in plastics damage babies' brains and must be banned, expert group says	227,902,768	CNN.com	https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/20/health/baby-brain-damage-plastic-phthalates-wellness/index.html
16-Feb-21	According to Fluoride Action Network, the NAS strengthens findings on fluoride's neurotoxicity	10,037,290	Markets Insider-Business Insider	https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/according-to-fluoride-action-network-the-nas-strengthens-findings-on-fluoride-s-neurotoxicity-1030086837
11-Feb-21	National Academies rejects the NTP draft report about fluoride	35,932,709	Associated Press	https://apnews.com/press-release/pr-newswire/science-business-public-health-alaska-products-and-services-5723a1238ccfc9fedfc0239f80e693bf