



Communication Research in Environmental Health Sciences: Environmental Health Literacy

September 22-24, 2014

NIEHS Building 101, Rodbell Auditorium • Research Triangle Park

Speaker Bios

Session 1: Setting the Stage for the Meeting

Moderator: Claudia Thompson, NIEHS

Claudia Thompson, Ph.D., is the branch chief for the Susceptibility and Population Health Branch (SPHB). She joined the Division of Extramural Research and Training in 1994 as a program administrator for the Superfund Research Program (SRP) and was also responsible for building the grant portfolio in the scientific areas of biomarker (exposure, effect, and susceptibility) development, metabolic toxicology, chemical mixtures research and molecular mechanisms of metal toxicity and carcinogenicity. In addition to her branch chief responsibilities, Thompson is a senior advisor to the SRP and is providing leadership to the Deepwater Horizon Disaster Academic-Community Research Consortium.

Thompson received her B.S. in biology from Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., and her Ph.D. in biochemistry and nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to joining DERT in 1994, Claudia was a research scientist for 10 years in the Laboratory of Biochemical Risk Analysis in the Division of Intramural Research at NIEHS.

Linda Birnbaum, NIEHS

Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S., is the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Director of the National Toxicology Program.

A board certified toxicologist, Birnbaum has served as a federal scientist for over 34 years. Dr. Birnbaum has received many awards and recognitions, including the Women in Toxicology Elsevier Mentoring Award, the Society of Toxicology Public Communications Award, EPA's Health Science Achievement Award and Diversity Leadership Award, the National Center for Women's 2012 Health Policy Hero Award, Breast Cancer Fund Heroes Award, and 14 Science and Technology Achievement Awards, which reflect the recommendations of EPA's external Science Advisory Board, for specific publications. Dr. Birnbaum was also elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, and received an honorary degree from Ben-Gurion University in Israel.

Dr. Birnbaum is a former president of the Society of Toxicology, the largest professional organization of toxicologists in the world; former chair of the Division of Toxicology at the American Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics; and former vice president of the American Aging Association. She is the

author of more than 700 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and reports. She is also an adjunct professor at several universities, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University.

A native of New Jersey, Dr. Birnbaum received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Liam O'Fallon, NIEHS

Mr. O'Fallon joined the Division of Extramural Research and Training in 1999, he has been actively involved in research programs at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences that involve community participation. Mr. O'Fallon leads the Partnerships for Environmental Public Health program at NIEHS, which integrates new and existing initiatives that involve communities and scientists working together on contemporary issues in environmental public health research. He directs the Community Outreach and Engagement Cores (COECs) that are a part of the network of Environmental Health Science Core Centers across the country, as well as the Community Outreach and Translation Cores (COTCs) that are a part of the Centers for Children's Environmental Health Program. He is a member of the HHS Environmental Justice working group. Before coming to NIEHS, Mr. O'Fallon worked at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in the Office of International and Refugee Health where he coordinated an interagency, binational working group addressing environmental health issues along the U.S.-Mexico Border.

Mr. O'Fallon received his Master's degree in Latin American Studies, specializing in medical anthropology and international health, from Tulane University in 1997.

Bill Elwood, NIH-Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

Dr. Bill Elwood administrates NIH's Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet), the trans-NIH initiative that funds basic research mechanisms of behavior and social processes. In October 2011, Dr. Elwood received a NIH Director's Honor award for coordinating this initiative. Bill also manages a research agenda on ways to measure the influence of cultural attitudes, beliefs, and values on human health and wellbeing. Concurrently, he serves as OBSSR's expert for global health and for the agency's Clinical and Translational Science Awards Community Engagement network and the NIH Global Household Air Pollution Reduction Steering Committee. Additionally, Bill co-chairs the NIH Health Literacy Workgroup, unique among most NIH workgroups as it includes both health scientists and communications and public liaison staff members.

Prior to joining NIH, Dr. Elwood conducted community-based research throughout the U.S. and Mexico on substance abuse prevention and treatment, drug use epidemiology, public housing-based health initiatives, STD/HIV-intervention efficacy studies, and economic self-sufficiency programs. NIH, SAMHSA, WHO, and private foundations supported his research. Bill's publications concentrated on attitudes and beliefs of hard-to-reach populations and the influences that cultural and personal values and community settings have on mental health, health-related behaviors, and participation in civic life.

Symma Finn, *NIEHS*

Symma Finn, Ph.D., received her Ph.D. in medical anthropology from the University of Florida (UF) in 2008 for her work on quantifying empowerment in a rare genetic disease community. She has a M.A. from the University of Miami in environmental anthropology for her work on the anthropological aspects of ecosystem management, and an undergraduate degree in communications from Adelphi University.

Symma has conducted research on physician-nurse-patient communication and shared decision making as a postdoctoral fellow at UF, has served as director of research and grants for the Alpha-1 Foundation, a rare genetic disease organization, and as administrative assistant to the dean of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. She joined DERT in December 2011 after concluding an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Policy Fellowship in the NIH Office of Science Policy/Office of Biotechnology Activities. Symma administers social and behavioral research and develops new areas of interest in communications and environmental health literacy. She is overseeing communication and outreach and community resilience activities for the Deepwater Horizon Research Consortium, and is involved in the Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program, Partnerships for Environmental Public Health, and in other programs that deal with health disparities, environmental justice, and communications. A particular area of interest is addressing environmental health disparities on tribal lands, in inner city and rural low socio-economic status communities and among underserved communities.

Marti Lindsey, *University of Arizona*

Since 2001, Marti Lindsey has been an environmental health outreach professional at the University of Arizona. Marti collaborates with basic and clinical scientists, integrating public health outreach and translational opportunities with environmental health sciences research.

For over twenty years she has built bridges between groups and cultures, in one form or another. Prior to her current position, Lindsey worked and lived on the Navajo Reservation. She draws upon her experiences as a social worker and librarian to share environmental health information with adolescents, their teachers, the general public, and members of American Indian communities, using an environmental health literacy perspective.

In 2002, Lindsey's environmental health literacy research began in collaboration with Tucson Water, which continues to support her work. They found materials given at health fairs in the trash and began to develop new materials. Her interest in outreach based on health literacy principles was born. Anecdotally, the new materials were not found in the trash.

In an assessment of environmental health literacy for the best reading level to target for disseminating information to the general public Lindsey discovered that participants with an average reading level of 8th or 9th grade were able to comprehend complex environmental health information about arsenic and ultraviolet light exposure however, given the choice they preferred materials written at a lower simpler level.

Katherine Rowan, George Mason University

Katherine E. Rowan is a professor of communication at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Her research concerns the challenges of earning trust and explaining complexities in risk and crisis communication contexts, especially those involving interaction with media. At George Mason, she teaches courses in public relations, science communication, risk communication, and crisis communication for the university's bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs. She has authored or edited over 70 scholarly and governmental publications. A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, she has worked on research grants concerning effective science communication for the National Science Foundation and Virginia Sea Grant. Professor Rowan is a frequent speaker who has given presentations on risk and science communication for organizations such as the U.S. National Library of Medicine, Agricultural Communicators in Education, the Garden Writers of America, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the U. S. National Academy of Science, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. Currently, she directs Mason's graduate program in science communication.

Jamie Donatuto, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Dr. Jamie Donatuto is an Environmental Health Analyst with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, a federally recognized Tribe whose homeland is located in the Salish Sea, part of the Pacific Northwest United States. She and her colleague Larry Campbell focus their work on developing culturally-meaningful and appropriate community-based indicators of indigenous health with Coast Salish Tribes and Canadian First Nations. She also works on toxics trends monitoring, Superfund cleanup challenges, and climate change impacts and adaptation measures.

Larry Campbell, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Larry is the Tribal Historical Preservation Officer for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in the Cultural Resource Office. This work entails being involved in the regulatory aspects of cultural and archaeological resources in the usual and accustomed areas of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. Other duties and job descriptions include: Intergovernmental Relations/Cultural Resource Planner in the Office of Community Planning and Economic Development. He has been involved for over 30 years in Swinomish Indian Tribal Community governmental committees, intergovernmental affairs, public relations, community development, spiritual traditions and cultural activities. For the past 20 years, the greater part of Larry's work has involved the interrelationships between tribal, local, regional, national, and international governmental programs. He has presented numerous times on inter-governmental relations, cultural, spiritual and historical issues.

Group Discussion Facilitator: Dottie Castille, National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities

Dorothy Castille, Ph.D. is an anthropologist with expertise in psychological and medical anthropology, psychiatric epidemiology, and public health services research. She received her doctoral anthropology training at the University of California at Berkeley (1996) and post-doctoral psychiatric epidemiology training at Columbia University in New York. She has conducted research on indigenous perceptions of mental illness among the Maya of Highland Chiapas, Mexico, patient reported outcomes of court-ordered outpatient treatment for persons with serious mental illness in New York City, the influence of childhood trauma on

adult psychiatric symptoms, and the adaptation of a family psycho-education intervention for use in Hispanic, African American, and Chinese families of persons with severe mental illness. Her experience includes research in academic, state and federal government, and private industry settings in the U.S. and Mexico. Dr. Castille currently administers the Loan Repayment Programs and the P60 Comprehensive Centers of Excellence among other programs at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Session 2: Environmental Health Literacy and the Needs of Diverse Audiences

Moderator: Sharon Beard, NIEHS

Sharon Beard is currently an Industrial Hygienist in the Worker Education and Training Program of the Division of Extramural Research and Training (DERT) at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institute of Health (NIH) in Research Triangle Park, NC. As an industrial hygienist, Beard is primarily responsible for coordinating, evaluating, and improving the nation-wide worker education and training program especially in the area of the Minority Worker Training Program (MWTP) initiative. She uses her background in industrial hygiene to provide expert review, guidance, and leadership in managing a multi-million portfolio of worker training grants in the area of hazardous waste, emergency response, and nuclear weapons/radiation reaching communities all over the US. She has also worked within in DERT assisting with efforts to facilitate and coordinate translational research through the Partnership for Environmental Public Health (PEPH) Program. The PEPH program is an umbrella program that brings together scientists, community members, educators, health care providers, public health officials, and policy makers in the shared goal of advancing the impact of environmental public health research at local, regional, and national levels.

Building on her environmental and occupational health experience acquired while working in the Environmental Restoration and Industrial Hygiene & Safety Departments at Westinghouse Savannah River Company in SC, she is currently a member of the NIEHS Science Advisory Committee, HHS Environmental Justice Working Group and the Brownfields Federal Partnership Interagency Working Group. She is also a member of the American Public Health Association and ACGIH. Beard holds a Master of Science in Environmental Science and Management from Tufts University, Medford, MA where she received the prestigious Environmental Science and Management Fellowship from the National Urban Fellows, Inc. She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with minor in Business from Western Carolina University, NC.

Mark Miller, University of California San Francisco Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit

Dr. Mark Miller is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the University of California San Francisco. He has served as the director of the

University of California San Francisco - Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) since 2002. He is the director of the Children's Environmental Health Program for the California EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. He also works with the Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Leukemia and the Environment at UC Berkeley. He completed his MD degree and pediatric residency from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and an MPH in environmental health sciences from the School of Public Health at U.C. Berkeley. He completed a residency in preventive medicine with the California Department of Health Services. Dr. Miller spent 13 years as a pediatrician in private practice in Chico, California.

Neasha Graves, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill

Neasha Graves is the Manager for the Community Outreach and Engagement Core in the UNC Chapel Hill Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility. In her current position, she coordinates environmental health outreach initiatives aimed at sharing the Center's research on pulmonary disease, environmental cancers, obesity and other environmental health issues with various audiences. Her areas of expertise include teaching and administering programs for youth and adults in the public school, state government, nonprofit and university sectors. Her work also entails coordinating the outreach activities of the UNC Breast Cancer and Environment Research Program, collaborating with researchers and community partners to develop educational materials for premenopausal African American women and health professionals about risk factors of basal-like breast cancer. Prior to her position at UNC Chapel Hill, she was the public health program consultant for the NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in the NC Children's Environmental Health Branch. She also has experience working in community outreach for the NC Office of Environmental Education and as a high school social studies teacher. Mrs. Graves earned her BA degree in History from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC and her Master's degree in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC.

Mitchel Rosen, Rutgers University

Mitchel Rosen is Director of the Office of Public Health Practice and Assistant Professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health, Health Education and Behavioral Sciences Department. He received his Masters in Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in Public Health Education, and PhD at Rutgers University in Public Policy.

Dr. Rosen's interests include workforce development issues for public health professionals, specifically in the concentrations of occupational health and safety, public health capacity development, and emergency preparedness. Dr. Rosen focuses his research on impact of training on workplace practice.

Dr. Rosen, as Director of the Office of Public Health Practice, is responsible for providing training to public health professionals in New Jersey. Since 1988, he has managed the training of over 400,000 workers in occupational safety and health, environmental health, and public health education. He provides short courses, seminars and conferences to meet the training needs identified in our region. Dr. Rosen is the Principal Investigator of several programs, including the NJ/NY Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center (funded by NIEHS), the Continuing and Outreach Education Program for the NY/NJ Education and Research Center (funded by NIOSH), the NJ Public Health Training Center (funded by HRSA). Dr. Rosen was the Co-

Director of the New Jersey Center for Public Health Preparedness (funded by ASPH) and Principal Investigator for the development of a terrorism preparedness training program (funded by NJ Department of Health and Senior Services). Additionally, Dr. Rosen has been Principal Investigator on several projects funded by the NJDHSS, including Cancer and Aging, Cancer Clusters Risk Assessment, the Assessment Protocol for Excellence in Public Health, and Disaster Response Training after Hurricane Sandy.

Group Discussion Facilitator: Francisco Javier Saracho Manzanedo, *Universidad Metropolitana*

Mr. Francisco Javier Saracho Manzanedo is the director of Universidad Metropolitana's Institute of Environmental Education in Puerto Rico since 1996. In 2004, he was awarded the EPA Region II Environmental Quality Award for his environmental education radio program (1999-2010). He has been associated with RUTGERS School of Public Health since 1999, running the Hazardous Waste Worker Training (1999) and the Hazardous Disaster Preparedness Training (2005) programs. He is the Director of the Atlantic OSHA Training Ed. Center in Puerto Rico in consortium with the Universities of Rutgers and Buffalo. He is from Madrid, but has lived most of his adult life in Chicago, México, and Puerto Rico. While in Chicago, he was the director of a CBO named Universidad Popular (People's University) where he created and run various adult education programs, among them, a literacy program for Hispanic adults assisted by volunteers from various universities that he trained as literacy workers. And in 1985 The Chicago Community Trust awarded him for this work its Fellowship for Community Services. He is a founding member of the Illinois Literacy Council. He studied Philosophy at the Catholic Universities of Comillas and Salamanca in Spain, and earned his BA at DePaul University in Chicago, and his MS Ed. at NIU, in DeKalb, Illinois.

Session 3: Tools and Technologies- Methods for Raising EHL

Moderator: Michelle Heacock, *NIEHS*

Michelle Heacock, Ph.D., received her doctorate from Texas A & M University in College Station, Texas for her work on the interplay between DNA repair proteins and telomeres. Her postdoctoral work was conducted at NIEHS where she studied the DNA repair pathway, base excision repair. Her research focused on understanding the causes of cellular toxicity caused by DNA damaging agents.

Michelle is currently working in the Hazardous Substances Research Branch where she is actively involved with the Superfund Research Program.

Paul English, *California Department of Public Health*

Paul English is currently State Environmental Epidemiologist and Science Advisor for the Environmental Health Investigations Branch at the California Department of Public Health. He has directed multiple government and foundation research grants in environmental health, including effects of the environment on reproductive outcomes, asthma, cancer and health effects of climate change. Dr. English is Principal Investigator of the California Environmental Health Tracking Program, which conducts surveillance on environmental health hazards and health effects and aims to communicate and disseminate actionable data

for communities. Dr. English received his Masters in public health and Doctorate degree in Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. He has over 18 years of experience working in environmental public health for the California Department of Public Health and has published extensively in the peer-reviewed literature.

Sara Wylie, Northeastern University

Dr. Wylie joined Northeastern University in 2012 as the first faculty hire in the Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute led by Dr. Phil Brown. She received her Ph.D. from MIT's History, Anthropology and Science, Technology and Society (HASTS) Program in 2011. Her dissertation studied of the role science based NGOs played in the emergence of public concerns about the human and environmental health impacts of chemicals used in natural gas extraction, particularly hydraulic fracturing. Investigating new methods for practicing Science and Technology Studies research, her dissertation developed and implemented web-based tools to help communities and experts co-ordinate to study this extractive industry's social and environmental health impacts. Dr. Wylie develops new modes of studying and intervening in large-scale environmental health issues through a fusion of social scientific, scientific and art/design practices. She taught in Digital+Media at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) for three years before moving to Northeastern. She has worked extensively with Theo Colborn, lead author of *Our Stolen Future*. In 2011 Dr. Wylie received the Mullins Prize from the Society for the Social Study of Science for her paper on the history of endocrine disrupting pesticides entitled "Hormone Mimics and their Promise of Significant Otherness." Dr. Wylie is also a cofounder of Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science (publiclab.org), a non-profit that develops open source, Do It Yourself tools for community based environmental research. In 2011 Public Lab won a Knight Foundation News Challenge Award. As Public Lab's Director of Toxics and Health Research she organized and initiated open source research projects on low cost thermal imaging, detection of indoor air hazards, and community-based methods for detecting hydrogen sulfide.

Deborah Thomas, Shale Test

Deb is a 4th generation Red Lodge, Montana, native. She and her husband Dick Bilodeau raised their family in Clark, Wyoming, on the Eastern side of Yellowstone Park, along the Beartooth Front of the Rocky Mountains.

Deb began working on oil and gas issues in 1999 when a drill rig began operations 600 yards from her home. She organized the Clark Resource Council (CRC) and the Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens (PACC); both effective affiliates of Powder River Basin Resource Council. She has raised the awareness of local, state and federal elected and appointed government officials and developed strong working relationships with impacted residents, Tribal members and other stakeholders affected by fossil fuels development.

Deb now works as Director for ShaleTest.org.

Alexandra Anderson, Zero Breast Cancer

As Community Outreach & Translation Core Coordinator for Zero Breast Cancer, Alexandra leads the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) of The Cohort of Young Girls' Nutrition, Environment, and Transitions (CYGNET) Study,

a project funded by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to study how factors in the environment, lifestyle, and genes affect when girls start puberty. The YAB was created to provide study staff with youth's perspectives on study materials and activities as well as to teach members about advocacy and the research process. Alexandra received her Master in Public Health with an emphasis in Global Health and Health Policy from the University of Southern California, where she was a USC Institute for Global Health Student Fellow as well as a Clinton Global Initiative University Commitment to Action Award Winner. Alexandra has an extensive background in quantitative and qualitative research from her work with BCERP and the CYGNET Study as well as with the USC Institute for Global Health and SOLVE-IT research lab. She also has spent many years working with adolescents, serving as a youth mentor and tutor for victims of domestic violence with The Violence Intervention Program as well as Curriculum Director for the Obesity Prevention in Neglected Neighborhoods (OPT-INN) program, which served low-income, minority adolescents living in South Central Los Angeles.

Group Discussion Facilitator: Meredith Golden, *Columbia University*

Meredith Golden is a Senior Research Associate in the Science Applications Division at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), part of the Columbia University Earth Institute. She serves as the Co-PI for the Columbia Superfund Research Program Research Translation Core. Ms. Golden received her undergraduate degree from Yale University and a Masters of Science in Economics: Urban and Regional Planning from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She first starting working on issues related to exposures and health effects from hazardous waste sites as an environmental and economic analyst with the Conservation Foundation's Toxic Substances Control Program in 1979. While in Washington, DC, she helped organize and facilitate "dialogue groups", consisting of stakeholders from private industry, non-profit environmental groups, and government agencies who together discussed how best to interpret and implement legislation related to hazardous chemicals. Ms. Golden also participated in EPA meetings concerning the passage of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund, in December 1980.

As a doctoral student in Medical Geography and MSPH candidate in Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Ms. Golden focused on exposures from hazardous waste sites and potential reproductive health outcomes. She also interned with the National Academy of Engineering, researching the impacts of technological hazards and related equity issues. Her extensive background in geography, demography, planning, economics, and epidemiology provides a broad interdisciplinary perspective to issues related to the design, implementation, and impact of Superfund sites on public health. As co-PI for the Columbia SRP Research Translation Core "Collaborating with Government & the Public: As & Mn Exposure via Groundwater", Ms. Golden continues to explore best practices for sustained dialogue among the SRP research projects, cores, government agencies, and other stakeholders. To help facilitate these discussions, Ms. Golden, along with her Columbia RTC geospatial team, developed and implemented the NPL Superfund Footprint: Site, Population, and Environmental Characteristics Mapper. This mapping tool enables users to visualize potential environmental exposures as well as key demographic information for vulnerable populations living within one and four miles of the actual "footprints" of Superfund sites.

Session 4: Future Directions for EHL/CREHS

Kami Silk, Michigan State University

Kami Silk (Ph.D., University of Georgia) is a jointly appointed Professor in the Department of Communication and AgBioResearch, Michigan State University, where she also serves as the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences. She has expertise in the area of health communication, including community-based research strategies, working with diverse populations, developing effective health messages for the lay public sensitive to health literacy issues, and both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques. Her primary research interests focus on how to communicate effectively with health messages to promote positive health outcomes among the lay public. She is a co-investigator for an NCI and NIEHS funded grant that investigates links between the environment and breast cancer, with an emphasis on adolescent lifestyle factors [nutrition and exercise] as a strategy for risk reduction. And she is a co-PI on another NIH funded grant to promote healthy infant feeding practices among low-income teen mothers. She has published more than sixty research articles and chapters related to health communication.

Gwen Collman, NIEHS

Gwen Collman is director of the NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training where she leads approximately 60 professional staff in areas of scientific program administration, peer review, and the management and administration of about 1,500 active grants each year. She directs scientific activities across the field of environmental health sciences including basic sciences (i.e., DNA repair, epigenetics, environmental genomics), organ-specific toxicology (i.e., reproductive, neurotoxicology, respiratory), public health related programs (i.e., environmental epidemiology, environmental public health), and training and career development. She also oversees the implementation of the Superfund Research Program and the Worker Education and Training Program.

Prior to her current role, Collman served in program development and management, beginning in 1992 as a member, then as Chief of the Susceptibility and Population Health Branch. During this time, she directed research on the role of genetic and environmental factors on the development of human disease, from animal models of genetic susceptibility to population studies focusing on etiology and intervention. She was responsible for building the NIEHS grant portfolio in environmental and molecular epidemiology, and developed several complex multidisciplinary research programs. These include the NIEHS Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Centers Program, the NIEHS/EPA Centers for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention, and the Genes, Environment and Health Initiative. Also, under her guidance, a team created a vision for the Partnerships for Environmental Public Health programs for the next decade.

In recognition of her achievements, she is the recipient of numerous NIEHS Merit Awards, two NIH Director's Awards, and the DHHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. Collman received a Ph.D. in Environmental Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health where she was awarded the 2009 H.A. Tyroler Distinguished Alumni Award.