

Notes from SPAN Leadership Committee/Training Core Leaders Conference Call:

September 13, 2011 (2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EST)

Action Items (repeated below in blue in the notes):

- Training Core Leaders, please send Justin Crane (cranej2@niehs.nih.gov) any news items of interest to trainees (e.g., trainee success stories, job announcements, etc).
- Training Core Leaders and SPAN committee members, please send corrections of SPAN Leadership Committee Spreadsheet by 9/20/11.
- Please join the SRP Facebook and Twitter accounts and distribute Facebook and Twitter addresses to other SRP trainees so they may join.
- Training Core Leaders should send their success stories and pictures of their trainees to Justin Crane (cranej2@niehs.nih.gov).
- Danielle Carlin will send Jennifer Moore an updated handout about SPAN to be placed in everyone's packet of materials.
- We need the Training Core Leaders and SPAN Leadership Committee Members to test the SRP trainee survey, and please send Danielle Carlin (danielle.carlin@nih.gov) your comments. Most importantly, we need to know how long it takes you to complete the survey. Please send Danielle your comments by Wednesday, September 27, 2011. <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/input/survey.cfm?id=0614C80E-EE38-4895-ABEC5377E0FF1769>
- Last year, Dr. Raina Maier said she had slides that she gives to her trainees; SRP staff would like to ask for these slides from Dr. Maier.
- Dr. Sheahan will send Danielle a copy of a survey that he uses to determine the effectiveness of the interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research environment within his Center.
- We need the Training Core Leaders and SPAN Leadership Committee Members to test the SRP trainee survey, and please send Danielle Carlin (danielle.carlin@nih.gov) your comments. Most importantly, we need to know how long it takes you to complete the survey. Please send Danielle your comments by Wednesday, September 27, 2011. <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/input/survey.cfm?id=0614C80E-EE38-4895-ABEC5377E0FF1769>
- Ask Justin Crane, Brad Newsome, or Maggie Murphy if they are available to provide a Facebook tutorial at the SRP Annual Meeting Training Core Lunch.
- For those you that were NOT on the phone call, please let me know if you have any concern about SRP posting your name and e-mail address on the SRP website. All members will send Danielle their picture and small biographies (3-4 sentences) by October 31, 2011.
- SRP will work to finalize the list of RO1 trainees and new RO1 SPAN Leadership Committee Members by the end of the year.
- Kristen Hicks announced the PROTECT (Puerto Rico Testsite for Exploring Contamination Threats) Superfund Research Program (SRP) will be hosting its first Trainee Skill-BUILDER Workshop for the Fall 2011 semester on Friday, September 23rd at 11:00am Eastern Time (<http://www.northeastern.edu/protect/>).
- Kristen will send Danielle more information about the Research and Industrial Conference to be added to these notes.
- Please be aware of the Fall 2011 Symposium Duke University Superfund Center and Duke Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health Program Discovering the Vulnerable Mechanisms Causing Persistent Functional Impairment with Developmental Toxicology, Nov 4, 2011, 8:45-3:00, Washington Duke Conference Center (<http://toxicology.geneimprint.com/news/series.php>)

NOTES FROM TELECONFERENCE

• **Introductions**

- **Attendees:** Marcella Thompson, Megan Creighton (Brown); Edward Levin, Bryan Clark, Laura MacCaulay (Duke); Elisabeta Mitran, Sarah Mahne (LSU); Thomas Sheahan, Kristin Hicks, Naji Kasem (Northeastern); Robert Tanguay, Susan Crowell, Britton Goodale (OSU); Raina Maier, Corin Hammond, Pablo Sanchez-Soria (Univ Arizona); Bill Brockett, Brandon Gaytan, Reuben Thomas (UC Berkeley), Arzu Ulu, Zuzana

Majkova (UC Davis); Gabriele Ludwig, Xin Hu, Xinai Wu (Univ Iowa); Yinan Wei, Jennifer Moore, Katryn Eske, Brad Newsome, Maggie Murphey (Univ Kentucky); Jessica Lundin, Megan Cartwright (Univ Washington); Danielle Carlin (SRP/NIEHS); Justin Crane (Contractor to SRP; MDB, Inc.)

- **SRP Website – for SPAN/Training**
 - (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/index.cfm>)
 - Please take a look at our updated website where we list Training Core activities (e.g. seminars, webinars); list of Training Core leaders (so you can contact one another), all the awards SRP offers, opportunities for trainees (e.g., job announcements), SRP trainee success stories, more info about SPAN, and the new trainee webinar series; **Action Item: Training Core Leaders, please send Justin Crane (cranej2@niehs.nih.gov) any news items of interest to trainees (e.g., trainee success stories, job announcements, etc).**
- **List of SPAN Leadership Committee Members – Excel sheet**
 - We have asked student/post-doc representatives from each SRP funded Center to form the SPAN Leadership Committee. Only those on the committee will be notified (through the listserv) of future SPAN teleconferences.
 - Please look over and make sure your information is correct (see attached spreadsheet sent on 9/13/11); **Action Item: Training Core Leaders and SPAN committee members, please send corrections of SPAN Leadership Committee Spreadsheet by 9/20/11.**
 - We now have a SPAN Leadership Committee Listserv
- **SPAN Facebook Page & Twitter**
 - www.facebook.com/SRPSPAN & @SRP_SPAN
 - Used to find important meeting updates and to connect with other SRP trainees.
 - To view, no need to have a Facebook account, however, to post to the page you will have to create one.
 - Anyone can post something to the Facebook page. Any information that is not deemed suitable will, however, be removed.
 - **Action Item: Please join the SRP Facebook and Twitter accounts and distribute Facebook and Twitter addresses to other SRP trainees so they may join.**
- **KC Donnelly Externship**
 - <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/training7.cfm>
 - SRP staff has developed an externship to provide transdisciplinary/translational experiences for trainees. These are short-term externships with opportunities for graduate students/post-docs to perform research/activities at other SRP-funded institutions or government agencies.
 - 2011 Recipients: Celys Irizarry (University of Puerto Rico/Northeastern); Alvine Mehinto (University of Florida); Xianai Wu (University of Iowa)
 - They will be presenting their externship experiences next year at the 2012 annual meeting.
- **SRP Trainee/Alumni Webinar Series – August 16, 2011**
 - <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/training8.cfm>
 - Steven O'Connell (Oregon State University); Lucía Rodríguez-Freire (University of Arizona).
 - Planning for two alumni to give a webinar at the end of the year (after the annual meeting).
- **Wetterhahn Award Nomination**
 - <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/training6.cfm>
 - Applications were due Aug 22, 2011
 - Please note that Danielle Carlin and Beth Anderson are the new contacts.
 - The next deadline (2012, TBD) will be moved up to accommodate the winner with more time to prepare their presentation for the SRP Annual Meeting.
- **SRP Trainee Highlight (e-posted; e-mailed to you by Beth Anderson (SRP))**

- <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/training5.cfm>
- SRP Staff would like to highlight “success stories” from students, post-docs, and alumni on their website. The highlights would be in addition to the highlights placed on the SRP e-Posted Notes. **Action Item: Training Core Leaders should send their success stories and pictures of their trainees to Justin Crane (cranej2@niehs.nih.gov).**
- Corin Hammond (University of Arizona)
- If you are not receiving the e-posted, please contact Beth to start receiving these.

- **Annual Meeting Update** (Jennifer Moore)
 - **October 23-26, 2011**; Venue: Hilton Downtown, Lexington; Location: Lexington, KY
 - **Website:** <http://www.uky.edu/Research/Superfund/AnnualMeeting2011/index.html>
 - **Registration:** coming soon
 - **Agenda:** draft is on website
 - **Abstract submission**
 - Oral presentations: August 26, 2011
 - Poster presentations: September 1, 2011
 - **Poster sessions and poster guidelines:** on the website (preferred is 4 ft tall x 3 ft wide)
 - **Room reservations for hotel**
 - Block of rooms available at Hilton Downtown, Lexington (Phone: 859-231-9000); Code to reserve room: UKSRPM
 - Hotel room costs will be \$116/night (double or single)
 - Please reserve your room immediately, as they are booking up. If you have any difficulties, contact Geaunita Caylor (gcaylor@engr.uky.edu).
 - If you are interested in sharing a room with someone, please visit the SPAN facebook page to find others that are looking for roommates (www.facebook.com/SRPSPAN; Click on the “Events” tab and select the SRP annual meeting).
 - **Hosting SPAN Leadership Committee Representatives**
 - Brad Newsome, Maggie Murphy, and Katryn Eske will serve as points of contact for other trainees for questions pertaining to the trainee events scheduled at the meeting
 - They will be highlighted in the e-posted notes newsletter.
 - They will be handling updates on SPAN facebook page.
 - Brad, Maggie, and Katryn will be available beginning on Saturday, Oct. 22, and throughout the conference and will have special name badges for recognition.
 - **Trainee Events:**
 - **IceBreaker Event**
 - Evening of October 23rd; the IceBreaker event will follow a discussion panel for trainees; discussion panel will be “Unique Career Opportunities in Environmental Science”
 - **Trainee Social Event:**
 - Trainees (no PIs) can meet at a local restaurant (TBD) to meet, greet, and eat. SPAN Leadership Committee representatives will host dinner
 - **Trainee lunch with PIs**
 - A sign-up list will be provided during registration. An announcement will also be made during the meeting to encourage the PIs to attend.
 - **Name Badges:** will have SPAN Leadership Committee Member on them
 - **SPAN handout**
 - To be placed in meeting packets about SPAN; **Action Item: Danielle Carlin will send Jennifer Moore an updated handout about SPAN to be placed in everyone’s packet of materials.**
 - **SPAN banner**
 - Danielle will put this together; Danielle has received permission from all of those all the phone call to post their names and e-mail addresses on the banner.
 - **Training Core Leader Lunch**
 - With Danielle Carlin and Heather Henry (time, date, and place, TBD)

- This will be a separate lunch from the “Trainee and PI lunch” at the Annual Meeting
- This lunch will be an opportunity for the Training Core Leaders to meet and greet each other, discuss any topics with NIEHS staff
- Items to be discussed
 - “New Trainee Packet of Information” - NIEHS would like to give all the Training Core Leaders materials (a handout/pamphlet) for new trainees – these materials will be made available to the Training Core Leaders at the 2011 SRP Annual Meeting in Kentucky. SRP Staff would appreciate feedback from both Training Core Leaders and SPAN Leadership Committee members about these materials to ensure that they are comprehensive to new trainees entering the program; **Action Item: Last year, Dr. Raina Maier said she had slides that she gives to her trainees; SRP staff would like to ask for these slides from Dr. Maier.**
 - At the last teleconference, Dr. Tom Sheahan told the group about a survey that he gives out to his trainees to gather their perspective before and after working in an interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research environment such an SRP-funded Center. He would like to know if we can incorporate this concept into the “package of materials” that SRP staff will make available to the trainees. **Action Item: Dr. Sheahan will send Danielle a copy of a survey that he uses to determine the effectiveness of the interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research environment within his Center.**
 - Career Trac 3: NIEHS is currently working on an NIH-wide software program called Career Trac 3 which will help SRP to better follow trainees during their experience in a SRP funded program. We will also be following them throughout the transition from academic and post-doctoral work to their professional transitions. This tool will help us better analyze the trainee experience within the SRP, to better analyze the program as a whole, and to find ways of improving the experience for trainees. It will potentially be debuted at the 2012 SRP annual meeting. In the past, the contractor to SRP has been collecting this data in a spreadsheet format; CareerTrac will eventually replace this need to collect trainee data using a spreadsheet format. Until CareerTrac is in place and meets the needs of the SRP, our contractor will continue sending out an excel spreadsheet containing all trainee data to the Center Directors. The Center Directors will then provide updates to this spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is sent to the Center Directors in October every year.
 - SRP Survey of Trainees
 - Until CareerTrac is in place, SRP will be sending out a survey to all trainees to fill out. All of this data will be kept confidential and will be placed into the CareerTrac Database. For now, we will be using this data to analyze this preliminary information of where are trainees are going after their training experience and to find alumni to speak at next year’s annual meeting.
 - **Action Item: We need the Training Core Leaders and SPAN Leadership Committee Members to test the SRP trainee survey, and please send Danielle Carlin (danielle.carlin@nih.gov) your comments. Most importantly, we need to know how long it takes you to complete the survey. Please send Danielle your comments by Wednesday, September 27, 2011.**
<http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/input/survey.cfm?id=0614C80E-EE38-4895-ABEC5377E0FF1769>
 - SPAN Facebook Page tutorial: **Action Item: Ask Justin Crane, Brad Newsome, or Maggie Murphy if they are available to provide a Facebook tutorial at the SRP Annual Meeting Training Core Lunch.**
 - Input about further defining SPAN’s role and how to make SPAN more useful to trainees/alumni.
- **“Kentucky Experience Events” (TBD) will also occur before or after this meeting (e.g., a visit to Keeneland racetrack).**

- **Other items for discussion...**
 - **SRP Website:** SRP would like to post names, e-mail, and brief biographies on the SRP website; Danielle received permission from all of those on the call to post this information; **Action Item: For those you that were NOT on the phone call, please let me know if you have any concern about SRP posting your name and e-mail address on the SRP website. All members will send Danielle their picture and small biographies (3-4 sentences) by October 31, 2011.**
 - **RO1 trainees** will be included on future SPAN teleconferences. **Action Item: SRP will work to finalize the list of RO1 trainees and new RO1 SPAN Leadership Committee Members by the end of the year.**
 - **Future Teleconferences (1.5 hr each)**
 - Updates from two Training Cores for each teleconference (15 min presentations each – may use Go-to-meeting or similar software; these presentations would list the trainees within the Training Core and highlight some of their accomplishments (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov)
 - Other portion of teleconferences will be to discuss presentations and activities within SRP-NIEHS
 - **Other Announcements:**
 - Kristin Hicks (Northeastern) announced a new trainee webinar series; **Action Item: Kristen Hicks announced the PROTECT (Puerto Rico Testsite for Exploring Contamination Threats) Superfund Research Program (SRP) will be hosting its first Trainee Skill-Builder Workshop for the Fall 2011 semester on Friday, September 23rd at 11:00am Eastern Time (<http://www.northeastern.edu/protect/>).**
 - Kristen Hicks (Northeastern) also announced a Research and Industrial Conference to take place on October 13, 2011. **Action Item: Kristen will send Danielle more information about the Research and Industrial Conference to be added to these notes.**
 - Ed Levin (Duke) announced a Semi-Annual Symposium on Developmental Toxicology; location: Washington-Duke hotel. **Action Item: Please be aware of the Fall 2011 Symposium Duke University Superfund Center and Duke Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health Program Discovering the Vulnerable Mechanisms Causing Persistent Functional Impairment with Developmental Toxicology, Nov 4, 2011, 8:45-3:00, Washington Duke Conference Center (<http://toxicology.geneimprint.com/news/series.php>)**