

Agenda: SPAN Leadership Committee/Training Core Leaders WebEx

Thursday, February 22 from 2 -3 pm ET.

Introductions/Roll Call:

Ian Blair - University of Pennsylvania
Danielle Carlin - SRP
Kate Crawford - Boston University School of Public Health
John Essigmann - MIT
Breanna Ford - UC Berkeley
Britton Goodale - Dartmouth
Angela Gutierrez - University of Kentucky
Elizabeth Guzy - University of Washington
Michelle Heacock - NIEHS
Kristin Hicks - Northeastern /PROTECT
Zach Hilt - University of Kentucky
Amber Kramer - Analytical and Environmental Chemistry
Casey Lindberg - Duke University
Adeline Lopez - MDB
Gabriele Ludewig - University of Iowa
Raina Maier - University of Arizona
Craig Marcus - Oregon State University
Pamela Mellon - UCSD
Denise Moreno Ramírez - University of Arizona
Colleen Murphy - University of Puerto Rico - School of Public Health
Victoria Parker - University of Iowa
Trevor Penning - University of Pennsylvania
Mike Petriello - University of Kentucky
David Purdy - The University of Iowa
Courtney Roper - Oregon State University
Christine Shwed - University of Pennsylvania
Melanie Smith - Northeastern University
Bruce Stanton - Dartmouth
Liwei Weng - University of Pennsylvania

• Highlights from the Training Core breakfast at the 2017 SRP Annual Meeting

- Several great events occurred at the annual meeting.
- Thanks to Northeastern, UPenn, and Dartmouth for coordinating the trainee event!
- The new networking event seemed to go well, so we'll plan to incorporate that in future meetings.
- Several questions and ideas were discussed during the breakfast, including:
 - If individual development plans (IDPs) will be included in the next RFA. This may be included as a future webinar or training session.
 - How to incorporate more RT/CE experiences for the trainees.
 - Helping international trainees identify funding opportunities.

- How to make more time for interactions and networking.
 - If it would be feasible to simplify the annual meeting agenda due to the compressed meeting time.
- **Trainee Webinars:**
 - SRP Annual Meeting Scientific Poster Session Winners:
 - Congratulations to the SRP Annual Meeting Scientific Poster Session winners!
 - Stephanie Kim, Boston University
 - Hongyi Wan, University of Kentucky
 - Kelly Fader, Michigan State University
 - Meichen Wang, Texas A&M University
 - We will be holding a webinar for them to present their work on March 27, 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET, [stay tuned for registration information!](#)
 - We encourage SPAN representatives and training core leaders to promote this at the centers and encourage trainees to attend.
 - Brainstorming for future trainee webinars – What are some topics of interest for trainee professional development?
 - Some previous webinars have been about risk assessment, superfund sites, NSF funding opportunities, fellowship opportunities.
 - Other ideas? If you have any send them to Danielle Carlin (Danielle.carlin@nih.gov) and Addie Lopez (alopez@michaeldbaker.com).
 - One idea from OSU: Diversity inclusion and sensitivity.
- **SOT March 11 – 15 San Antonio, TX**
 - OSU and UNM will be co-hosting an SRP Graduate Student/Post-Doc Informal Networking event at SOT!
 - Monday March 12 from 8 – 10 pm
 - Please RSVP to emt@oregonstate.edu if you plan to attend.
 - There will be dessert, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, etc.
 - It will be a great networking opportunity for the trainees.
 - These events are usually very fun, and SRP staff will be attending as well.
- **Wetterhahn Award**
 - Congratulations to Angela Gutierrez from the University of Kentucky SRP Center for receiving the 2017 Wetterhahn Award!
 - The applications for 2018 will be due August 1st rather than August 31st because the SRP Annual Meeting will take place earlier this year (November 27 – 30, 2018).
 - Danielle will be sending email reminders.
 - Start thinking about your applications sooner rather than later.
 - Danielle is happy to chat with trainees if you have any questions.
- **KC Donnelly Externship**
 - Applications were due January 31, 2018.
 - Applications will undergo review later this month and all applicants will be notified of results by Brittany Trottier in early summer.
 - Feel free to contact Brittany with questions.

- If you're planning to apply for this externship in the future, be sure to talk with your program officer well in advance to make sure your application is within the scope of the SRP Center.
- **SRP/NIEHS now on Linked In:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8565066>
 - Join the LinkedIn group today!
 - It's a great way to communicate with other trainees and find out about job postings and other opportunities.
- **CareerTrac** - looking for SRP Annual Updates and NIH Progress Reports (Type 5s)
 - Brittany Trottier will be following up with SRP Training Core Leaders regarding missing trainees from CareerTrac.
 - CareerTrac has been around for about 7 years. It is how we follow trainee activities.
 - Brittany Trottier gave an overview of CareerTrac to Center Admins at the SRP annual meeting.
 - Brittany will give an overview of CareerTrac during the next SPAN call. We'll add a brief overview and update about CareerTrac to our next SPAN agenda.
 - Eventually we'd like trainees to enter their own information, though this is a few years down the road.
 - We're working to make the system easier to navigate and forms easier to fill out.
 - For example, we're working to make a spreadsheet that makes filling out information simpler and more straight forward.
 - This is a good tool to illustrate training successes and progress over time.
 - SRP published a paper a few months ago describing the training program, but we'd like to get a more complete dataset for more in depth analysis for a follow up publication that highlights successes of the training program.
- **Reminder to send updates to SPAN Leadership Committee**
 - These will be taken September/January of each year (please limit to 1 – 2 graduate students/Post-Docs per Center to keep up with the listserv).
 - Includes members from the Centers and also R01s.
 - Please email your nominations to danielle.carlin@nih.gov and alopez@michaeldbaker.com, and indicate the current status of the new member (e.g., graduate student or Post-Doc).
 - Membership on the SPAN Leadership Committee is a two-year term.
- **Training Core Activities and Round-robin/sharing of highlights** (i.e., the Superfund Centers and R01 grantees)
 - **SRP Annual Meeting Trainee Session Survey:** Melanie Smith (Northeastern University)
 - Northeastern requested feedback from trainees on the trainee program (the talks and panel events, networking session etc.) at the annual meeting.
 - Generally, the feedback received was very positive across the board.
 - The public speaking and scientific writing session had the highest reviews overall.
 - The RTC/CEC panel also had positive feedback but the session was less attended than some others, potentially due to the timing of the session.

- They also asked the students if they enjoyed having shorter sessions covering more topics, and they found that the students liked the format, and did not prefer having longer more focused topics for sessions.
- 99% of respondents felt that they benefited from the training program at the Annual Meeting.
- The survey asked if students would like to see more RTC/CEC sessions incorporated in the future. 80% of respondents said that they would, so perhaps in the future the timing of the session should be shifted to improve attendance.
- The survey asked if it would be useful to include the student's research advisor in the RTC/CE session to help incorporate new ideas/skills in the lab or in presentations for conferences. In responses, the decision was split, but generally students liked the idea of having their own separate session.
- The trainees enjoyed the networking session, particularly meeting other trainees and learning about their research.
- Almost 35 trainees responded.
- Other feedback:
 - Students felt this was a unique offering that is not available at other scientific meetings, and really enjoyed it.
 - Some suggested including new technologies for presenting and using infographics for presentations and papers.
 - Some respondents thought it would be helpful to include work life balance guidance.
 - Others requested more time for the 3 min speed networking session but found the experience very valuable.
- Survey respondents were PhDs and Post-docs, they did not receive any responses from master's students or undergraduates. It is unclear if this is because these students were not in attendance or did not respond to the survey.
- Danielle thanked Northeastern for putting together and administering the survey and asked that they distribute their findings to help inform future annual meeting planning.
- **UC Berkeley Updates:** Breanna Ford
 - Participated and helped host the 2018 Update Meeting at UCB in January.
 - Hosted visiting trainees from OSU including a happy hour, networking event, and poster session
 - Included attendees from EPA, NIEHS, and visiting trainees from OSU.
 - The event created a collaborative environment across disciplines and improved collaboration with the OSU trainees.
 - There was also a collaborative flash-talk that was delivered at the close of the meeting highlighting the work of 10 trainees from 6 labs.
 - Ten different trainees spoke for about two minutes each, creating a cohesive talk.
 - Challenging, team building activity.
 - Highlighted work at different labs across multiple disciplines.
 - Arranged a social event for trainees (CycleBar) to facilitate inter-lab connections and encourage cross-talk between groups. They are planning another event for late spring.
 - Trainee accomplishments:

- Pam Chew and Laura Magaña started an active collaboration with Oregon State University SRP in December 2017, based on KC Donnelly experiences.
 - Phum Tachachartvanich published a first author manuscript on the endocrine disrupting effects of TCE in January 2018.
 - Another trainee published in PNAS about the oxidative effects of chlorinated hydrocarbon.
- **Brown University Updates:**
 - Inspired by Dr. Judith Swan's presentation on scientific writing at the annual SRP meeting, the Brown SRP trainees are independently organizing a monthly Tox Writing Group to facilitate peer evaluation and feedback on abstracts and papers in progress
- **From SRP Data Collection Tool (examples to get the ball rolling):**
- **Columbia Updates:**
 - Trainee Anne Nigra was the lead author on a new paper on arsenic exposure trends in NHANES that was recently published in the Lancet Public Health. The paper has also received a decent amount of press coverage.
- **Dartmouth Updates:**
 - Trainee Todd Warczack shared his research on arsenic in rice at a Brain Buzz Science Café.
 - Trainee videos by Warczack and Kevin Hsu are now live on Trainee page. These videos were also submitted to PEPH Resource Center.
 - Trainee Britton Goodale was featured for the Trainee Spotlight in the SRP July Newsletter based on her work looking at the effects of arsenic on lung epithelial cells.
 - She found that arsenic decreases lysozyme secretion, which is an antimicrobial peptide, which decreases the ability of the cells to kill bacteria and fight infection. These findings support data from epidemiological studies showing that arsenic increases susceptibility to certain infections in the lung.
- **Duke Updates:**
 - Former trainee Tara Raftery Catron won 2017 North Carolina Chapter SOT President's Award for Research Competition (PARC).
- **Michigan State Updates:**
 - The Training core will be holding several virtual laboratory meetings in the spring featuring different projects. Trainees present their work to enhance communication skills.
- **Northeastern Updates:**
 - Retreat planned for week of 2/26 in Atlanta for PROTECT group.
 - 2017 PROTECT Trainee Individual Development Plan Award winners selected!
 - Four winners received a prize to visit a conference or visit another lab.
 - Winners will be completing their projects this year.
 - Application process includes describing the professional development activities they have undertaken over the last year, their goals for the future, and how those activities have helped them to reach some of their goals. They also re-write their resume including proposed ideas, so they can think about how it contributes to their overall career and professional development.
 - Winners are selected by the External Advisory Board.

- At the end, trainees will give a presentation on what they did with their funding.
 - Trainee Nancy Cardona finished her KC Donnelly externship in the fall.
 - Trainees from Ingrid Padilla's lab attended the American Geophysical Union conference and presented their work.
- **Kentucky Updates:**
 - Trainee Derek Wan won 2nd place for his TED-SEP talk at AIChE. He was also a poster winner at the SRP Annual Meeting.
 - A Communication Training Workshop Series gave trainees an opportunity to develop and refine elevator speeches describing their research and its importance to a lay audience.
 - Trainee Erin Jackson received the Advancing Science Conference Grant to present her work at NOBCCChE meeting (National Organization for Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers).
 - Undergraduate trainee Joshua Preston was awarded first place in Biological Sciences for the 2017 Oswald Research and Creativity Competition at UK.
 - A publication in environmental research led by Mike Petriello studied the relationship between TMAO and dioxin like pollutants and cardiovascular disease risk (collaboration with Linda Birnbaum and others).
 - Mike has also been invited to give a talk at NIH at the atherosclerosis workshop, specifically about the interaction of chemical and non-chemical stressors and how diet can worsen or ameliorate toxicity.
- **New Mexico Updates:**
 - Trainees attended Research Day Event at Oregon State University.
 - They attended research presentations, participated in a mini-SRP trainee symposium, toured facilities, and developed collaborative pilot projects with other trainees.
- **Boston:**
 - BU SRP is hosting the Northeastern Superfund Research meeting in March.
 - Open to all trainees.
 - The registration deadline is the 5, and the meeting will be March 26 and 27.
 - There will be 5 scientific sessions. Each session will include an SRP trainee presenter and panel discussant. Sessions include: Biomarkers and the Exposome, Big Data and Environmental Science, Fate and Transport and Remediation, Addressing Community Concerns about Environmental Hazards, and Reporting Epidemiological Results.
 - It will include trainee lunch seminars and will have networking activities. These will provide trainees with opportunities to learn about SRP-related fields in academia and non-academia sectors.
 - There will be a poster session for trainees, and a trainee-advisor workshop for trainees and their advisors to work on IDPs.
 - Trainee Stephanie Kim won a poster award at the SRP Annual Meeting; three other trainees presented at the annual meeting.
 - Several trainees have worked on manuscripts that were recently accepted for publication or are in press, so stay tuned for more on those.
 - Danielle mentioned that these collaborative meetings are great for networking, but also for leveraging resources for inviting speakers, etc.

- **Other updates?**
- **UPenn:**
 - The UPenn SRP is holding an Environmental Sciences Symposium on June 18 on the topic of computational and systems toxicology. This is open to the public. The schedule is being finalized and registration information should be available on their website in April.
 - On June 16, there will be a community forum on lead exposure reduction.
- **OSU**
 - OSU SRP held a Research Day Event in January. They hosted trainees from four other regional centers (Davis, Berkeley, UW, UNM). There was a special session for the trainees where they had a networking event, and had the opportunity to start collaborative pilot projects between centers.
 - All trainees presented lightning talks with judging and awards. There were about 28 talks total.
 - OSU plans to send their trainees to events at these other centers over the next year.
- **U Iowa:**
 - They held a risk assessment workshop last year. Presenters from EPA came to the Center and trained students, staff, and faculty on how to do risk assessment.
 - They also had an External Advisory Committee meeting at the end of 2017. The committee members asked for more time to interact with trainees, so they had an extended lunch where trainees presented their work and had the opportunity to interact and network with the external advisors. It was very beneficial for the trainees to interact with people who are not in academia.
 - They are offering a new course that involves several different PIs and is very interdisciplinary. The course is called PCBs in the Environment. The students will learn analytical chemistry, modeling, remediation, and more related to PCBs in the environment. They will also read a paper by a trainee or former trainee, have discussions, and perform practical laboratory work.

Additional Information:

- **SRP Website – for SPAN/Training**
 - <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/index.cfm>
 - Notes from all previous SPAN Teleconferences/WebEx Discussions are posted here.
 - Training Core Leaders, please send Adeline Lopez (alopez@michaeldbaker.com) any news items of interest to trainees (e.g., trainee success stories, pictures, job announcements, etc).
 - SRP e-posted: Trainee Highlights. Check it out!