

Agenda: Harvard and LSU community outreach in the time of COVID-19/SRP Annual Meeting

Tuesday October 27th from 3 – 4 pm ET

Attendees:

Linda Abriola, Brown University
Sara Amolegbe, NIEHS
Emmanuel Ampiah, Louisiana State University
Alma Anides Morales, University of Arizona
Andrew Buermeyer, Oregon State University
Krisa Camargo, Texas A&M University
Danielle Carlin, NIEHS
Daniel Conklin, University of Louisville
Tammy Dugas, Louisiana State University
Eliane El Hayek, University of New Mexico
Molly Frazar, University of Kentucky
Angela Gutierrez, University of Kentucky
Farhana Hasan, Louisiana State University
Lisa Hayward, University of Washington
Michelle Heacock, NIEHS
David Hein, University of Louisville
Bernhard Hennig, University of Kentucky
Heather Henry, NIEHS
Kristin Hicks, Northeastern University, PROTECT
Shayan 'Hojabri, Northeastern University, PROTECT
Pratiti Home 'Chowdhury, Louisiana State University
Katherine James, University of Colorado
Agnes Kane, Brown University
Susan Korrick, Harvard University
Priyanka Kushwaha, University of Arizona
Gabriele Ludewig, University of Iowa
Raina Maier, University of Arizona
Pamela Mellon, UC San Diego
Maria MEZA, University of New Mexico
Jennifer Moore, University of Kentucky
Ian Moran, Oregon State University
Matilda Odera, NC State University
Emily Patridge, University of Washington
David Purdy, University of Iowa
Margaret Reams, Louisiana State University
Jennifer Richmond-Bryant, NC State University
Natalie Rodriguez, MDB, Inc.
Arlean Rohde, Texas A&M University
Brittany Trottier, NIEHS

Mali Velasco, MDB, Inc.
J. Zach Hilt, University of Kentucky
Luoping Zhang, UC Berkeley
Yuwei Zhao, Northeastern University

Agenda Items:

- **COVID-19 Community Outreach**

Margaret Reams (LSU)

Environmentally persistent Free Radicals: Hazardous Waste Thermal Treatment

- LaCARES (Louisiana Clean Air)
 - Goal is to partner with communities to support collective and individual actions to reduce exposure
 - Working in Colfax, LA to treat hazardous waste, goal is to monitor air, share knowledge about risks, and codevelop actions to reduce exposure risk (all collective action and household level)
- CEC Coordination between community members and research team:
 - Hold weekly meeting to bring together team and community members. Through these connections between researchers and community members can be established to gather data
- Community engagement objectives:
 - Involve the community in study design
 - Goal is to apply their model in community to involve community in study design so they can keep their efforts in actions.
 - Context is very important: 1) must know the community, trust/mistrust 2) Process: partnership dynamic, 3) Policy making, have a role to play to increase public awareness, 4) Outcomes: better health
- Consideration 1: History
 - The 1873 Colfax massacre: set the stage for the Jim Crow segregation laws that still burden the area, profound historic damage.
 - Now in 21st century:
 - See hazardous facilities burning in the area
 - 2012: in Camp Minden big explosion.
 - Clean Harbor LLC operates and open burn/detonation facility. Thermally treat reactive energetics and explosive waste (only commercial in the use doing this)
- Consideration 2: Informing Partnership Dynamics
 - Monitoring Work in Project 3
 - New phone app to be used by residents
 - Guidebook for residents
 - Pivot plan: because of COVID it had to be changed, and replaced with:
 - A review of public comments that shows spatial distribution, oral history interviews, surveys (plan to be mailed)
 - Role of Evidence: Project 3- Sampling Design

- Proposal for sampler positions will be developed and mapped
 - Evaluation of community engagement (i.e. voter records, trends of complaints to DEG)
- Consideration 3: Community Engagement Role
 - Roles we play: clarify to what extent is this activity really hurting people's health, enhance public awareness, enhance the residents capacity for collective decisions
- Consideration 4: Outcomes
 - Policy changes through a) political actions, b) policies, c) policy landscape
 - Health outcomes, citizen engagement in the collective decision process is integral to improve health outcomes
- Reflections:
 - Realized COVID caused serious interruption to study plans
 - Continued to make progress, work closely to make sure the participants rights are maintained
- Offer: share details of methodologies with respect to recruiting, consent, interviews, surveys, limitations
- Ask: others to share how they adapt to COVID, consider joint paper or special issues to share methodologies for modifying plans and protocols around COVI 19

Question from Danielle: Do you think community member reach out to other to spread the knowledge they are learning from the community engagement? Has COVID affected this?

Margaret: *Colfax one community partner is sending hard copies of a weekly summary of the open burn facility. This partner has really kept the momentum going. We also still touch base (now every other week).*

Kathy James (Harvard SRP)

MEMCARE (Metals and Metals Mixtures: Cognitive Aging, Remediations, and Exposure Sources:

- 3 Objectives:
 - To 1) identify community concerns around metal exposures among pregnant women and children, 2) conduct citizen science to assess exposures to multiple metal exposure; and 3) engage the community in an intervention to reduce metal exposure to improve maternal-child health outcomes
- Objective 1: community activities – online presence
 - Inform the community where exactly metals are, what are the relevant levels (what does this mean for health, who is vulnerable?). Community members want to know what is the balance: how do we continue our economic development but preserve our health?
 - Work with community member and stakeholder to community via social media, website advertising, YouTube videos (fun, lively, in English and Spanish) , set up online focus groups (especially targeting pregnant women to protect their child from exposure during pregnancy)
 - Engage with graduate students who are interested in this work
- Objective 2:
 - Recruit pregnant women and children through major health clinics in the community

- Have gone through training and approval to contact participants by phone (5 step process for approval if engaging with communities – almost done with final step)
- Will collect demographic and exposure survey data (online), citizen science (water, urine, soil sample collection kit -mailed to participant-), materials will be picked up non-contact, participants receive grocery electronic gift card
- Objective 3:
 - After identifying houses with high level of metal, will install water filter technology to prevent exposure
 - Will follow mother and child for three more visits to determine if exposure has decreased
 - Will work with community to build on environmental literacy -> working with local school to develop a curriculum to teach K12 children on how to reduce exposure, what exposure means to their health long term. Also establish a STEM camp for local kids, they can collect samples and develop their science understating
- Additional support for community:
 - Working on a large dataset: Aggregate historical water and soil quality data and providing to community in a format available for potential users
 - Help community develop their eco-tourism
 - Provide real time data available to anyone
- Ask: opportunities to share ideas, what are other doing in communities with low resources and dealing with COVID who are disproportionately affected
- Offer: collaborate and expand, training opportunities and anyone is welcome to join

Attendee question: What is the difference between citizen and participant science?

Kathy: the key distinction is that from citizens we are collecting strictly environmental data, this community relies heavily in aquifer, so they are very protective over it. Many citizens already have data from their work, actively group collecting. Participant data: water and soil data at their residence, as well as urine and toenail from newborn, and urine from mom.

- **Virtual Coffee Hours for SRP Trainees**
 - Thank you everyone who came to the virtual coffee hours
 - If you ever have virtual coffee hour and would like to invite SRP Staff please let Danielle Carlin know!
- **2020 SRP Annual Meeting Update**
 - SRP Annual Meeting, December 14-16, 2020
 - October 30, 2020: Final agenda posted
 - More information will be provided on the SRP annual meeting website (<https://srp2020.org/>) as it becomes available.
 - There will keynote speaker from TEJAS (environmental advocacy group) will talk about multidisciplinary engagement and supporting communities
 - Poster session and competition, will be divided in group
 - There will not be a research translation section but if you have developed anything you would like to help, reach out to Arlean Rohde

- Submission for abstracts ended October 12, but registration site is still opened, you can use the link available online
- **Two events on December 16, 2020:**
 - Data Science and Sharing Mini Workshops
 - If you are involved in SRP data supplement or data management we encourage you to save the date
 - Virtual Technology Fair
- **Training Core Activities and Round-robin/sharing of highlights from all of you** (i.e., the Superfund Centers and R01 grantees)
 - Reminder:** If you'd like your activities included, please send them to Danielle Carlin (danielle.carlin@nih.gov) and Natalie Rodriguez (nrodriguez@michaeldbaker.com) at least 2 weeks before the next scheduled SPAN WebEx.
- TAMU:
 - Trainees have been giving oral and presentation virtually, have received 5 awards.
 - Trainees in the news:
 - Siyu Yu, former trainee, accepted TAMU faculty position
 - Meichen Wang: won campus wide post doc Symposium poster award
 - Rui Zhu: ASLA Honor award in Research
 - Alexandra Cordova: SETAC student rep
 - Alina Roman-Hubers: SETAC student rep and won SETAC YES travel award
 - Sara Hearon: received George Edds Award
- UC Berkeley:
 - Berkeley says farewell to trainees who have completed their degree.
 - SRP trainee highlights:
 - Helen Guo just received MPH, published a COVID19 Biomarker paper in August 2020. She will be doing a summer internship with United Bay in San Francisco area to use data science to understand the disproportionate impact of covid19 to disadvantaged communities. She is also working doing outreach in San Mateo Co, where Berkeley is located.
 - This past week trainee Yun Zhao published a paper titled Applying Genome-wide CRISPR to Identify Known and Novel Genes and Pathways that Modulate Formaldehyde
- LSU:
 - Collab with NCSU: Jennifer Richmond and trainees are working in project 3 doing oral history interviews. Their goal is to partner with communities to support collective and individual actions to reduce exposure. Focusing on Colfax, LA. They are working with community participants to conduct interviews. Some insights they have received:
 - Participants report they can see smoke miles away
 - Many described health issues
 - Population and economy of town dwindling

-Advantage of transitioning to oral interviews: scope out more participants, have longer interviews and receiving more information. Limitation: not the same as one-on-one interviews

- Partnering with the community to battle covid-19: Started their own testing and develop own testing kits. Helped local hospitals by distributing kits. Currently working on an alternative to nasal swab and developed a saliva test which is being distributed in local schools

- **Reminder to use the SRP Data Collection Tool (DCT) to submit Trainee Highlights!**
 - Awards, publications, honors
 - Photos of activities
 - SRP uses these entries to learn about what trainees are doing and to select trainees to highlight in the E-Posted! We also consider submitted photos for the E-Posted Photo of the Month!
 - Helps you with the Annual Update Process!

- **Reminder to update CareerTrac**

- **Cross-talk between RTC/CEC leaders and Training Core Leaders**

- **KC Donnelly Externship**
 - The 2020 KC Donnelly Winners were announced this spring. Congratulations to:
 - Ahlam Abuawad (Columbia University SRP Center)
 - Juliana Agudelo (University of Rhode Island SRP Center)
 - Jogen Atone (University of California, Davis SRP Center)
 - Jessica Ewald (University of Iowa SRP Center)
 - Jamie Kelly (Massachusetts Institute of Technology SRP Center)
 - Katlyn McGraw (University of Louisville SRP Center)
 - Yvonne Rericha (Oregon State University SRP Center)
 - Anna Robuck (University of Rhode Island SRP Center)
 - Maya Spaur (Columbia University SRP Center)
 - Paige Varner (Duke University SRP Center)
 - Hao Wang (University of Washington SRP Center)
 - Time to start thinking about opportunities!
 - Letters of intent are due by **December 22**.
 - Applications will be accepted between **January 1** and **January 31** of each year.
 - Brittany Trottier is the contact for the KC Donnelly Externship)
 - <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/centers/srp/training/donnelly/index.cfm>

 - Reminder for program officer to help your trainees find connection and opportunities to work with other center and have access to new opportunities. NIEHS-SRP website and SRP staff are great resources as well! (if you are emailing SRP Staff please copy your program officer)

- **Wetterhahn Award**
 - Wetterhahn Award applications for 2020 were due August 1, 2020.

- This year's winner will be announced at the SRP Annual Meeting in December.
- <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/centers/srp/training/wetterhahn/index.cfm>

- **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)
- Please email your nominations to danielle.carlin@nih.gov 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.

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 (adeline.lopez@nih.gov) any news items of interest to trainees (e.g., trainee success stories, pictures, job announcements).
- SRP e-posted: Trainee Highlights

- **SRP/NIEHS on Linked In:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8565066>