

SRP SPAN Leadership Committee Meeting

Agenda: Agents of Change Presentation and Round-Robin Updates.

Wednesday, February 9th from 1 – 2 PM ET

Attendees:

Alma Anides Morales (Arizona)

James Ankrum (Iowa)

Ricardo Berrios-Perez (Univ. of Puerto Rico)

Daniel Conklin (Louisville)

Mona Dai (Harvard)

Tammy Dugas (LSU)

Eliane El Hayek (UNM)

Rocio Estrella (Arizona)

Molly Frazer (UKY)

Angela Gutierrez (UKY)

Farhana Hasan (LSU)

Lisa Hayward (UW)

David Hein (Louisville)

Kristin Hicks (Northeastern)

J. Zach Hilt (UKY)

Susan Korrick (Harvard)

Makenna Lorange (Northeastern)

Gabriele Ludewig (Iowa)

Raina Maier (Arizona)

Craig Marcus (Oregon State)

Martine Mathieu (NSCU)

Samantha McFall (Louisville)

Isabel Meza (UNM)

Jennifer Moore (UKY)

David Purdy (Iowa)

Holly Rudel (Yale)

Thomas Sheahan (Northeastern)

Savannah Sturla (University of Michigan)

Breandon Taylor (Louisville)

Lindsay Volk (UNM)

Hui Wang (Iowa)

Jamie Young (Louisville)

Danielle Carlin (NIEHS)

Michelle Heacock (NIEHS)

Bill Suk (NIEHS)

Brittany Trottier (NIEHS)

Max Aung (Agents of Change)

Jamaji Nwanaji-Enwerem (Agents of Change)

Yoshira Ornelas Van Horne (Agents of Change)

Julie Leibach (MDB)

William McLean (MDB)

Mali Velasco (MDB)

Dylan Williams (MDB)

Agenda Items:

- **Agents of Change Presentations**

Yoshira Ornelas Van Horne, Ph.D., Max Aung, Ph.D., M.P.H., and Jamaji Nwanaji-Enwerem, M.D., Ph.D.

- Mission:
 - <https://agentsofchangeinej.org/>
 - Agents of Change in Environmental Justice is a fellowship program aimed at empowering environmental health leaders who come from historically underrepresented backgrounds in science and academia.
 - Assist doctoral students, postdocs, and early-career scientists with the tools to share their research through different multi-media and deliverables.
- Overview:
 - 31 total fellows across 3 cohorts.
 - 9-month fellowship
 - Co-led by Ami Zota (George Washington University SPH) and Brian Mailman (Environmental Health News)—a joint venture between the two institutions.
 - Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health will replace Milken come June 2022.
- Fellowship requirements:
 - Write a first-person narrative essay,
 - Participate in the Agents of Change podcast, and attend monthly virtual meetings,
 - Produce an episode of the Agents of Change podcast in collaboration with another fellow,
 - Develop a science translation product focused on educating community groups or policymakers on a particular issue, in collaboration with other fellows.
- Fellowship eligibility:
 - Pursuing scientific work that advances environmental public health, environmental justice, or ecosystem/climate health and justice.
 - Early career scientist is defined as a current doctoral student, medical student, or postdoctoral scientist, or an early career practitioner defined as someone working in advocacy, government, research, or private sector for < 5 years since terminal degree.
 - From marginalized backgrounds and/or populations underrepresented in science and academia.
 - Based in the United States; applicants do not need to be US citizens.
 - More details are found here: <https://agentsofchangeinej.org/application/>
- Max and Jamaji shared their research experience and the opportunities available to them via Agents of Change. More information on their work can be found below:
 - Max: <https://agentsofchangeinej.org/fellows/max-aung/>
 - Jamaji: <https://agentsofchangeinej.org/fellows/jamaji-nwanaji-enwerem-phd/>

Questions:

1. Does a prospective applicant have to have a U.S. green card to apply?

As long as an applicant is affiliated with a U.S. institution, they are eligible and encouraged to apply.

2. How can SRP Centers give their own trainees experiences and opportunities related to environmental justice?

SRP Centers may consider integrating training opportunities outside of the traditional research project—for example, offering externships with NGO partners—or bringing trainees into SRP research communities and interfacing with the public. SRP Centers may also benefit from engaging with research projects outside of their institutions to support smaller, less-resourced groups. Jamaji shared his experience partnering with ISES and ISEE to organize the Vibrations: African Environment Photo Essay Contest (<https://www.elnd.org/projects>).

3. How did you develop your skills and comfortability with research translation and of those lessons, what can be shared with SRP trainees?

Integrating opportunities to go out and engage with communities through the Community Engagement or Research Translation cores to answer the question in 5 minutes of, “Why should my grandma care about this?” Agents of Change also emphasizes a peer support model whereby fellows independently correspond to refine and reflect on one another’s work.

4. Could you provide clarification on whether an early career scientist can apply to this amazing program?

Early career scientist working in government and nonprofits with a terminal degree received <5 years are eligible to apply.

- **Society of Toxicology**

61st Annual Meeting and ToxExpo | San Diego, CA | March 27-31, 2022

- <https://www.toxicology.org/events/am/AM2022/index.asp>
- Oregon State, in cooperation with UNM SRP, will host a reception on Monday, March 28th from 8 – 10 PM PST with food, beverages, dessert, and networking opportunities for SRP colleagues at the Water Grill. Invitation to follow.
- If you are presenting at the meeting, please submit details to SRP Data Collection Tool (<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/rtc/index.cfm>) or to the SRP-info email address (srpinfo@mail.nih.gov).

- **K.C. Donnelly Externship**

K.C. Donnelly Externship Award applications are due **February 28th**.

- (<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/centers/srp/training/donnelly/externshipguide/lines/index.cfm>)

- **Training Core Activities and Round-robin:**

Harvard University

(Susan Korrick)

- Monthly Works-in-Progress Seminar Series:
 - Trainees present progress with their research, refining communication and presentation skills across Center projects and cores.

- Career Hour:
 - Quarterly event
 - At the request of trainees, investigators/scientists are invited to present and give professional development advice. Invitees change every quarter and emphasis is put on bringing in diverse perspectives across academia, public, and private sector.
- Center Retreat:
 - Flash talks from each project and core to inform other trainees.
 - Discussions at retreat informed communications & integration planning with input from trainees.
- Social Media for Environmental Scientists:
 - Science Communications Network training.
- Franklin Park Zoo
 - Zoo in Boston, MA
 - Trainees tabled at the zoo and shared outreach materials on metal exposure risks.
- Talking About Tox: In Their Own Words
 - Podcast where trainees are interviewed.
- Trainee Highlights:
 - Srishti Gupta, Ph.D. candidate at Arizona State
 - Holly Rudel, Ph.D. Candidate at Yale

Northeastern University

(Tom Sheahan)

- PROTECT Orientation
 - Every fall, an opportunity to welcome new trainees and hear about how each project is doing.
- Enrichment Core (RETCC, CEC, Admin, DMAC) planning meetings
- Webinars
 - 2-3 per year
- Trainee Individual Development Plan presentations
 - Instead of submitting a form, trainees give a presentation.
 - Presentations by project/core with feedback by RETCC/investigators.
- Professional development opportunities:
 - Science writing workshop
 - Short course (5-week) in community outreach and engagement resulting in a professional badging opportunity.
 - Desafio Project Presentations
 - IDP Completion Awards

Oregon State University

(Craig Mancus)

- New faculty: Water Quality Toxicologist – Dr. Manuel Garcia-Jaramillo
 - Received pilot project funding for: "Evaluation of health effects and toxicity mechanisms of two water contaminants derived from road runoff in salmon species."
- Weekly hybrid (virtual and in-person) seminar series.

- All departmental/SRP students and faculty present updates of current research activities on a rotating, recurring schedule.
- New Graduate School sponsored course in 'Research Data Management' available to trainees beginning Winter 2022.
- RETCC Trainee Association (TEAM TOX) awarded:
 - New Professional Development Awards.
 - TEAM Tox Inclusivity and Diversity Professional Development Award.
- RETCC Trainees activities:
 - Workshop for ~50 minority undergraduate first-year and transfer students.
 - Science education activity consisting of hands-on DNA extraction for ~15 high school students.
 - Designed and distributed 26 classroom kits for a hands-on radish seed dose-response toxicity experiment.
- CEC collaborated with the First Foods Program and Oregon Natural Resource Department to sponsor a Sense of Place event.
- OSU was awarded a supplement to OSU EHS T32 Training grant to develop online, asynchronous training modules for making data compliant with FAIR standards and compatible with Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence software. These materials will be available for all SRP trainees and PIs.
- Trainee/Post-Doc Highlights:
 - Subham Dasgupta (RETCC) served as Co-chair of FASEB Recruitment subcommittee
 - Brianna Rivera completed a 3-month externship at Integral Consulting, participating in a research project investigating "the next emerging contaminant."
 - Christine Ghetu completed her Ph.D. and is currently participating in a one-year ORISE Fellowship at the EPA Office of Water and Watersheds.
 - Predoctoral trainees co-author manuscript: Poutasse, C.M., Haddock, C.K., Poston, W.S., Jahnke, S.A., Tidwell, L.G., Bonner, E.M., Hoffman, P.D., and Anderson, K.A., 2022. "Firefighter exposures to potential endocrine-disrupting chemicals measured by military-style silicone dog tags." *Environment International*, 158, p.106914 (2022).
- OSU has available several post-doctoral fellowships funded by the OSU EHS T32 training grant. Many of the training mentors are also SRP investigators. Interested candidates should inquire via email.

University of Arizona

(Raina Maier)

- Raina Maier and Monica Ramirez-Androetta meet with trainees weekly.
- Commissioned by the Center for Applied Environmental Law and Policy (CAELP) to respond to the Biden Administration EPA ruling on regulation of emissions from coal-fired power plants alongside UNM.
 - Trainees Priyanka Kushwaha (UA) and Thomas DePree (UNM) had a large role in writing this toxicity review.
 - A final draft will be released soon.
- Trainee Highlights:

- UA and UNM SRP Center trainees are organizing an informal zoom gathering to discuss their research projects via elevator pitches.
 - Presentations will be voted on and presenters will have the opportunity to win prizes such as Starbuck's gift cards.
- Trainees have been working on visual abstracts to supplement their written abstracts.

University of Iowa

(James Ankrum)

- Gabriele Ludewig is in the process of phased retirement.
- IDP Supplement for ISRP Trainees:
 - Encourage trainees to participate in supplemental activities within ISRP including attendance at ISRP monthly meetings, presenting research to the ISRP, participating in cross-disciplinary training, and participating in a community engagement/research translation activity.
- ISRP Teams Resource Wiki:
 - Created a Teams Wiki page to assist trainees with professional development, writing and communication, research methods, data management, statistics, and research translation/community engagement resources. All trainees, project and core leaders, and staff can add items to the page.
- PCB Course:
 - Offering a PCB course in Fall of 2022.
 - Trainees and Project Leaders suggested modules for the course.
 - The course will use ISRP papers as vehicles to teach trainees and will encourage students to present on their publications.

University of Kentucky

(Zach Hilt)

- Hosted H. Adam Steinberg for a Science Visualization Workshop in December 2021
 - Trainees participated in a one-day workshop on how to implement the “storyform method” for research and data visualization. Participants reframed research through storyboards which were presented to workshop attendees.
 - Organized by UK SRC’s Erin Molly Frazar (Project 3) and Jennifer Moore (Admin Core).
 - Plans to have a second session in the future in partnership with the UofL.
 - Will be sharing storyboards at upcoming monthly trainee meetings for additional feedback.
 - Zach recommended other centers investigate inviting Adam Steinberg to lead a workshop for their own trainees to help with research translation; also as a potential activity for the SRP annual meeting.

University of Louisville

(David Hein, Jamie Young, Breandon Taylor)

- Looking forward to a future event with the University of Kentucky
- Trainees contributed to over 25 abstracts, presentations, and publications. Collectively they have also won over 15 awards.

- Trainee highlights:
 - Jamie Young
 - SOT Graduate Student Leadership Award as a doctoral candidate.
 - Awarded the Guy Stevenson Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies upon completion of her Ph.D.
 - Selected by UofL to apply for NIH Director's Early Independence Award (DP5) and the Diversity Supplement as Career Development Awardee (P30)
 - Will be joining UofL as an assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology.
 - Lindsey Wood
 - Art & Literature showcase calling on children grades K-12 to contribute art and writing that speaks to their experiences, "living green."
 - Jennifer Toyoda
 - UofL's Spring 2021 3MT Competition Award Winner.
 - Won eight 1st place awards for her science translation presentations.
 - Breandon Taylor
 - SPAN committee representative and 2021 K.C. Donnelly Externship award winner.
 - Traveled to LSU to learn a new technique for in-vitro exposures, exposing cells at the air-liquid interface.
 - He will present his current research at the 2022 SRP Annual Meeting.
 - Katlyn McGraw
 - Former UofL trainee who went on to Columbia for her K.C. Donnelly Externship is now a post-doc at Columbia.

University of New Mexico

(Isabel Meza)

- 4 presentations at the Navajo Nation IRB conference:
 - Update on Thinking Zinc Intervention, Immune changes associated with metals in the NBCS, Arsenic and birth outcomes in 3 U.S. cohorts, Healthy Places-Healthy People: A Toolkit for Promoting Active Living in Navajo
- Represented at the METALS and Navajo EPA joint briefing
 - Navajo Nation EPA, Superfund Program requested two half-day briefings by UNM research programs to help inform "regulatory risk assessment."
- Continuing SRP Indigenous Cultural Training
 - UNM SRP screened a lecture by Dr. Leroy Little Bear and hosted a hybrid interactive discussion by Drs. Nancy Maryboy and David Begay on environmental research on tribal lands, called, "A Sense of Place: Indigenous Perspectives on Earth, Water and Sky."
- UA and UNM Virtual Mini-conference
 - Possible March 3rd date
 - Research presentations and networking opportunities.
- Trainee highlights:
 - Savannah LaRosa-LoPresti defended her Master's thesis work in Earth and Planetary Sciences Department, titled, "Windblown Transport of Toxic Metals in Airborne

Particulate Matter Near the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine on Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico.”

University of Washington

(Lisa Hayward)

- Project 2: Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Cadmium Neurotoxicity
 - Trainee Megumi Matsuhita is working with Lisa Hayward and Joe Lim to develop a science communication training program and podcast series for graduate students in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (DEOHS).
- Community-Engagement Communication
 - BJ Cummings and Lisa Hayward are working with Esther Min and Marissa Baker in DEOHS to create a year-long fellowship to train graduate students in community-engaged communication.
 - The initiative will partner students with local community organizations and the students will be charged with building communication deliverables to help support the community organizations’ mission.
- ENV H 521: Communication for Environmental Health Sciences
 - Third offering, 2-credit graduate-level course in DEOHS
 - Goals: Using accessible language; Identifying and emphasizing key messages; How to write for a general audience; etc.

TAMU

(Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, *in chat*)

- Offering training in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) May 2022.
 - HAZWOPER training is required for any workers who perform cleanup, emergency response, or corrective actions that involve the uncontrolled release of hazardous substances (OSHA standard 29 CFR Part 1910.120).
 - This training is held every year for TAMU SRP trainees, but this year it will be available for all SRP Centers.
 - Please contact Arlean Rohde at arohde@cvm.tamu.edu or tamusuperfund@cvm.tamu.edu for more information.

Additional Information:

- **Reminder to use the SRP Data Collection Tool (DCT) to submit Trainee Highlights!**
 - Please work with your RT Coordinator to submit entries on awards, publications, honors, and 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! Submitting highlights helps you with the Annual Update Process!
 - <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/rtc/index.cfm>
- **Reminder to update CareerTrac**
- **Wetterhahn Award**
 - Congratulations to Molly Frazar, the 24th recipient of the Karen Wetterhahn Award!

- For more information on Molly's work at the University of Kentucky, please look at her award page on the NIEHS website:
<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/centers/srp/training/wetterhahn/frazar/index.cfm>
- Nominations for the 2022 Wetterhahn Award will open on **July 1, 2022**.
- **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.
- **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.
- **SRP e-Posted: Trainee Highlights**
 - Training Core Leaders, please send Dylan Williams (dylan.williams@nih.gov) or Mali Velasco (mali.velascodelgado@nih.gov) any news items of interest to trainees (e.g., trainee success stories, pictures, job announcements).
 - Highlighting trainee videos in the [e-Posted](#) via SPAN
- **SRP/NIEHS on Linked In:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8565066>
 - Note: this is for SRP Trainees only