

Agenda: SPAN Webinar, SRP Annual Meeting, and Wetterhahn Application Tips.

Tuesday, June 14, 2022, from 1:00 – 2:15 PM ET

Attendees:

James Ankrum (University of Iowa)	Christian Rude (OSU)
Liana Bacongus (LSU)	Lura Slowinski (Northeastern)
Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford (TAMU)	Meichen Wang (TAMU)
Virginia Casey (Northeastern)	Brian Westra (University of Iowa)
Rocio Estrella (Arizona)	
Natalie Gold (Northeastern)	Sara Amolegbe (NIEHS)
Angela Gutierrez (UKY)	Danielle Carlin (NIEHS)
Eliane El Hayek (UNM)	Michelle Heacock (NIEHS)
David Hein (Louisville)	Heather Henry (NIEHS)
J. Zach Hilt (UKY)	Anna Kremer (NIEHS)
Susan Korrick (Harvard)	Kirsten Reid (NIEHS)
Craig Marcus (Oregon State)	Brittany Trottier (NIEHS)
Pamela Mellon (UC San Deigo)	
Jennifer Moore (UKY)	Lauren Sprouse (MDB)
Antonio Planchart (NCSU)	Dylan Williams (MDB)
David Purdy (University of Iowa)	Mali Velasco (MDB)

Agenda Items:

I. Annual Meeting Discussion:

Date: December 14-16, 2022 | In-person | Raleigh, North Carolina (Raleigh Convention Center)

Website: <https://bit.ly/3I9upqn>

- Antonio Planchard (NCSU) notified the group that final plans are still being deliberated by RETCC, but there should be more information on trainee sessions in the coming weeks.
 - Reaching out to NCSU and UNC trainees to help guide session topics/discussions.
 - Reaching out to SRP alumni to sit on panels related to environmental justice and career opportunities.
- Trainee session is tentatively planned for **Dec. 14th from 1 to 3 PM.**
 - There will also be a poster session and competition.
- NIEHS is interested in having trainees produce 3-minute, short-form videos (similar to those on TikTok) that would allow trainees to share additional insight on research similar to a lightning talk.
 - Ideally, it would serve as a vehicle to share research in a creative format that would test trainees' translational science capabilities while also producing a fun mixed-media product.

- David Hein shared that the Ohio Valley Society of Toxicology has produced three-minute presentations that are well-received and imagines NIEHS would have the same reception.
- Additional input on this idea can be sent to SRP team member Kirsten Reid at kirsten.reid@nih.gov.

II. Tips for the Wetterhahn Award

Nominations open **July 1st** and close **August 3rd**.

Application Guidelines: <https://bit.ly/3yAO3IF>

Following the June 13th meeting, a PowerPoint was sent out with application guidance that add more details to the information listed below.

- **Background:**
 - The Wetterhahn award is named in honor of Karen Wetterhahn, leader of the Dartmouth Superfund Center (1995-1997) who died as a result of dimethylmercury poisoning following an accidental spill.
 - Karen Wetterhahn article in Chemical and Engineering News: <https://bit.ly/3yzFk9s>
- **Eligibility:**
 - A graduate student or postdoctoral researcher supported by a Superfund Research Program Grant (P42, R01) **for at least one (1) year** (support is defined as either directly supported by the grant (e.g., stipend) or conducting research **within scope** of the grant)
 - **New Centers/R01s may not be eligible (i.e., have not been a part of SRP for 1 year)**
 - **The applicant's project/activity must be clearly within scope of the P42 or R01 (no guessing for me or the reviewers)**
 - Currently supported by the SRP **during the application submission and review**
 - **This means applicant has not graduated or taken on a permanent position at the time of submission or review (generally takes place about 1 month after applications are received)**
 - Conducting SRP research in any discipline
 - Biomedical, Environmental Science and Engineering, Community Engagement, Research Translation, Data Management and Analysis, Research Support (if applicable to Center's research)
- **Nominations:**
 - Superfund Center Directors, Project Leaders, Core Leaders, and Principal Investigators can nominate students and post-doctoral researchers
 - **If P42 Project/Core Leader makes a nomination, the Center Director must be copied to the email submission**
 - **Nominations will not be accepted from External Advisory Board Committee Members**
 - **Students and Post-Docs may not submit their own applications**
- **Application Contents:**
 - A brief description, **prepared by the nominee**, of the research nominee is conducting

- Should include how the research is relevant to Superfund or the cleanup of hazardous waste sites
 - Information on how the nominee best demonstrates the **qualities of scientific excellence** exhibited by Dr. Wetterhahn (two page maximum).
 - **It should be clear what portion of the research project/activity is being conducted by the trainee**
 - **Please don't copy and paste from grant application**
 - A statement from the nominee indicating her or his **future aspirations** in either research or in hazardous waste management issues (one page maximum)
 - **Be clear on future aspirations; if unknown at the time, then be transparent about it**
 - **Please do not create your own sections (i.e., stick to the sections in the instructions); creating your own sections may lead to unresponsiveness, and also does not allow clear comparison between applicants**
 - **Pictures/figures, if included, should be used judiciously**
 - An NIH biographical sketch for the nominee. **This should include the applicant's email address and mailing address for correspondence with SRP staff.** For more information about the NIH Biosketch, please see: [Biosketch Format Pages](#)
 - An **unofficial transcript** from the nominee's current program (for graduate students) or from the nominee's previous graduate program (for postdoctoral researchers)
 - **Listing of three meetings** (U.S. meetings only; in priority order of interest) that the applicant will participate in during the following calendar year (Note: the winner must have an active role in the meeting (e.g., poster or oral presentation))
- **Submission Information:**
 - **All of the above documents should be combined into one PDF** and should be submitted by the Center Director (P42 grants) or Principal Investigator (SRP R01 grants).
 - **Please do not send sections separately. Applications sent with separate sections will be returned.**
 - How many students can each SRP Center or R01 grantee nominate?
 - **SRP Centers are limited to two nominations; R01 grantees are limited to one nomination.**
 - When is the nomination submittal period?
 - Nominations will be accepted from **July 1st until August 3rd (often by 5 pm eastern time)**.
 - Late applications will not be accepted. Only under exceptional circumstances will be late applications be accepted.
- **Awardee Selection:**
 - Bring together a small ad hoc group of NIEHS staff to critically evaluate the nominations put forth
 - It is important that the nominee present material in a **manner readily understood** by scientifically literate NIEHS staff
 - Nominees **should not assume** that all reviewers are experts in their area of research
 - **Review Criteria:**
 - Cutting edge, scientifically relevant research.

- Scientific merit of research being conducted in areas supported by SRP.
 - Ability to present work in a clear, concise, and readily understandable format.
 - Potential of the nominee to contribute to their field of research.
 - **How does the project/activity fit within the larger scheme of the nominee's research field?**
 - Leadership and extracurricular activities outside of the SRP community (e.g. mentoring of new and early-career scientists, participating in University organizations or committees, volunteer work)
- **Award Benefits:**
 - Support from the SRP for travel to the SRP Annual Meeting
 - The honor of presenting their research at a plenary session of the Annual Meeting
 - Support for travel to NIEHS to present their research, meet with staff, and learn about the institute (preferably within one year of award)
 - Support for travel to one major national scientific conference (within the U.S. only, preferably within one year of award)
 - When will the Award Announcement be made?
 - The announcement of the Wetterhahn Award recipient will be made at the Annual Meeting; however, the recipient will be notified approximately one month prior to the Annual Meeting
- **Other Information:**
 - Application should be clearly written by the nominee
 - Should be clear which portion of the research/activity is being conducted by the trainee
 - Personal stories are always helpful and will help reviewers remember the nominee
 - Have nominee's peers/colleagues (inside and outside of your Center/R01) review and critique your application before submission
 - Carefully present your future aspirations; if you are not sure what you want to be after you graduate or leave Center/R01, be clear in your intention – don't make the reviewers guess
 - Application should include a balance nominee's mentorship of others, leadership, and scientific expertise
 - Don't forget to **include email address of the nominee** in the biosketch
 - Trainee should be in CareerTrac: <https://careertrac.niehs.nih.gov/public/home>
 - If not selected, nominee can contact Danielle (danielle.carlin@nih.gov) to discuss their application
- **Questions/Discussion:**
 - *Should the biosketch for the applicant be a standard biosketch or fellowship biosketch?*
 - The application should include the standard biosketch.
 - *Are trainees that work solely with the Community Engagement Core eligible?*
 - Yes, they are.
 - *Are trainees slated to leave January 1st still eligible to apply?*
 - Yes, they are.
 - *Historically, the Wetterhahn has been understood as a prize regularly awarded to female trainees but that is no longer the case, correct?*

- The award is **not gender specific**. It is anyone that you think is eligible for the award.
- *Is there any restriction in terms of education level for a center should they nominate two trainees (e.g., post-doc, graduate student, etc.)?*
 - No, there is no restriction.
- Danielle also clarified that any trainee that performs significant amounts of work on the Superfund grant, even if paid through the T32, are still eligible to apply.

III. Trainee Opportunities

Proposed are two networking opportunities for trainees in the DMAC. If there is an interest, or ideas on what to do for these networking events/tools, you can reach out to SRP team member Anna Kramer at anna.kremer@nih.gov.

- **DMAC Virtual Networking Event**
 - Following DMAC lead suggestions, NIEHS is proposing a virtual networking event for DMAC trainees sometime over the summer of 2022. Allow trainees to meet one another and exchange research.
- **MURAL as Networking Platform**
 - Virtual hub to post pictures, videos, and tools to interactive dashboard that could be shared broadly with trainee community.

IV. *Where are our winners now?*

NIEHS may be reaching out for updates on previous winners of the Wetterhahn and K.C. Donnelly Awards. NIEHS support interns may be reaching out in the coming months should they have supplemental questions on a winners current status.

V. Training Core Activities & Round-Robin'

Danielle highlighted two opportunities submitted via the Data Collection Tool.

- **MIT SRP Workshop, "Navigating Bias in the Job Search"**
- **UNM and UA Superfund Research trainee partnerships**
 - UNM representative shared on the joint effort between UNM and UA to offer trainees flash talks over two sessions.
 - Topics included: microplastics, metals in plants, remediation strategies, bioaccumulation.
 - Trainees were very excited about the opportunity to meet with one another and share research. This initiative is planned to continue.

NIEHS would like to hear about any other regional partnerships by submitting them to the Data Collection Tool (<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/rtc/index.cfm>).

Additional Information:

- I. **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, videos, 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!

- II. **Reminder to update CareerTrac** (<https://careertrac.niehs.nih.gov/public/home>)
- III. **Wetterhahn Award**
 - Congratulations to Molly Frazar, the 24th recipient of the Karen Wetterhahn Award. For more information on Molly's work, 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**.
- IV. **K.C. Donnelly Externship Award**
 - Applications closed on February 28, 2022. Thank you to those that applied.
 - Winners will be announced later this year.
- V. **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.
- VI. **SRP Website – for SPAN/Training**
 - <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/index.cfm>
 - Notes from all previous SPAN Zoom Discussions are posted here.
- VII. **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.
- VIII. **SRP/NIEHS on LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8565066>
Note: this is for SRP Trainees only