

Agenda: SPAN Webinar, KC Donnelly Externship Presentations, Center Updates

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, from 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Attendees:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| James Ankrum (Iowa) | David Purdy (Iowa) |
| Christian Bako (Iowa, <i>Alumni</i>) | Christian Rude (Oregon State) |
| Victoria Colvin (Oregon State) | Lura Slowinski (Northeastern) |
| Daniel Conklin (Louisville) | Lindsey St. Mary (Oregon State) |
| Mona Dai (Harvard) | Breandon Taylor (Louisville) |
| David Hein (Louisville) | Banrida Wahlang (Louisville) |
| Angela Gutierrez Echeverri (Kentucky) | Hui Wang (Iowa) |
| Rocio Estrella (Arizona) | Brian Westra (Iowa) |
| Eliane El Hayek (UNM) | |
| Maria Victoria Klaus (Kentucky) | Danielle Carlin (NIEHS) |
| Susan Korrick (Harvard) | Michelle Heacock (NIEHS) |
| Craig Marcus (Oregon State) | Heather Henry (NIEHS) |
| Katlyn McGraw (Louisville) | Bill Suk (NIEHS) |
| Cliona McHale (UC-Berkeley) | Brittany Trottier (NIEHS) |
| Pamela Mellon (UC-San Diego) | |
| Misty Miles (TAMU) | Lauren Sprouse (MDB) |
| Kevin Pearson (Kentucky) | Mali Velasco (MDB) |
| | Dylan Williams (MDB) |

Agenda Items:

I. Annual Meeting

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

- SRP Director Bill Suk announced his retirement at the end of 2022.
- Agenda for the trainee session is [available online](#), though the schedule is tentative to change as logistics are being finalized.
- There will be two sessions focused on training:
 - Training and RT/CE cores will be co-hosting an environmental justice panel.
 - Training core and DMAC will also have a joint session.
- Registration is now closed as all slots have been filled.
 - You can join the [waitlist online](#) in the event spots open up.

II. KC Donnelly Externship Application

Application Guidelines available [online](#).

Applications Accepted: February 1 – 28, 2023

- Brittany Trottier introduced the KC Donnelly (KCD) Externship award:

- The award is a supplement to promote transdisciplinary and translational research among early investigators (graduate students/postdoctoral researchers).
- Allows for opportunities and experiences within other SRP-funded grants, government laboratories, or other federal/state agencies.
- New skill development in an area outside of the student's typical realm to become a more well-rounded scientist.
- Eligibility:
 - Graduate student (Master's or Ph.D.) or a postdoctoral researcher.
 - Conducting research/activities in any SRP R01 grant or project/core within an SRP Center.
 - Externship must be with another current SRP-funded grantee, government lab (EPA, ATSDR, NIEHS, etc.), or government agency (state, local, tribal).
 - **Note:** Students from Centers in a no-cost extension are not eligible to apply.
- Other Externship information:
 - Includes support for up to 3 months consisting of supplies, travel, and housing costs for the duration of the externship (cannot exceed \$10,000 in direct costs).
 - Travel funds should be included in application to attend the subsequent SRP Annual Meeting to present externship research (e.g., an externship completed in 2022 will present at 2023 Annual Meeting).
- Application information:
 - Letter of intent due: **January 28, 2023.**
 - P42 Centers **limited** to 2 applications per year, R01s limited to 1 application.
 - Applications evaluated via review panel.
 - 8-10 applications expected to be awarded each year.
- Helpful hints:
 - Use R&R budget form and include a detailed budget justification.
 - Use NIH [biosketch template](#).
 - Include [PHS 398 cover page and PHS 398 research plan](#).
 - Research strategy section:
 - Summary of current research: *Write this part as if a scientist that is not an expert in your field is going to read it.*
 - Include a description of how KCD project fits within scope of your Center's parent grant
 - Be clear and concise about mentoring plan.
- For questions, reach out to:
 - Danielle Carlin, danielle.carlin@nih.gov
 - Heather Henry, henryh@niehs.nih.gov
 - Michelle Heacock, heacockm@niehs.nih.gov
 - Brittany Trottier, brittany.trottier@nih.gov

III. Presentation: Christian Bako, University of Iowa ('21), Former trainee and 2021 KC Donnelly Externship Award winner

Bio: Christian Bako, Ph.D., is a former trainee from the University of Iowa's Superfund Research Program where he was under the mentorship of Jerry Schnoor, Ph.D., and Tim Mattes, Ph.D. While

training at the Iowa SRP, Christian studied plant-assisted bioremediation of aquatic sediments contaminated with PCBs. Christian was awarded the K.C. Donnelly externship in 2021 and went on to work with the EPA's Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment in support of a project using systematic evidence mapping to evaluate the physical and chemical properties of PFAS. Currently, he is a project manager for the Great Lakes National Program Office in EPA's Region 5—focused on contaminated sediment remediation projects within Great Lakes 'Areas of Concern' that are funded by the Great Lakes Legacy Act.

- Completed externship with EPA Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA) Chemical and Pollutant Assessment Division (CPAD)
- KCD application tips:
 - Opportunity to familiarize yourself with NIH grant application process.
 - Project objectives split into specific aims and anticipated outcomes.
 - Important to communicate with potential mentors, discuss expectations and what you are planning to work on.
 - Identify and contact the person within your institution whose job it is to submit the application.
- While with CPAD, Bako supported Systematic Evidence Maps (SEM):
 - High level summaries of available literature on chemicals such as PFAS.
 - Uses systematic review methods to categorize references as potentially relevant to human health risk assessment.
 - Identify data gaps and inform where scientific effort should be applied.
 - Structured like research papers:
 - Easily updated template format.
 - Minimize narrative content, heavily visual.
 - Screened titles and abstracts based on Population, Exposure, Comparator, and Outcomes (PECO).
 - If study meets PECO criteria, identify as either epidemiological or toxicological study.
- Originally set to screen studies for 9,000 PFAS compounds.
 - Trained using pilot screening: screened a set of titles and abstracts and included/excluded studies based on PECO criteria. Answers had to match a key developed by a senior toxicologist by at least 90%.
- Valuable experience to learn about SEMs used to support critical information about chemicals that EPA is concerned about in terms of both human and environmental health.
- Now working for Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO).
 - Established in 1978 to oversee U.S. efforts to implement Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with Canada.
 - GLNPO monitors health of the Great Lakes, provides grants for innovative projects, and conducts contaminated sediment remediation projects.
- Great Lakes Legacy Act
 - **Goal:** Accelerate the pace of sediment remediation at areas of concern.
 - **Mechanism:** Use partnerships as an innovative approach to conducting sediment remediation.
 - Approach: Remediation → Restoration → Revitalization

- **Question & Answer**

- **Q:** Did the externship help with your current position?
 - **A:** Working with EPA probably helped me get into current position. Within the scope of my current work, I think about exposures to chemicals before, during, and after remediation, which is not fully considered when implementing a project. My externship put that into greater context and gave me a perspective on how chemicals are assessed.
- **Q:** Are there any links where folks can find completed systematic reviews/any websites of interest?
 - SEMs: <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP10343>
 - Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Values: <https://www.epa.gov/pprtv>
 - GLNPO: <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs>
- Christian also responded to a comment regarding his externship during the time of COVID, so he had to figure out how to navigate virtual externships.
 - **A:** It was a broadening experience that fit within the limitations that COVID imposed on the externship program. Was challenging and rewarding to learn how to screen literature outside of my discipline. Perhaps my experience was not within the true spirit of KC Donnelly externships because I did not get fully integrated into another lab group/learn another laboratory technique, but it was still a very valuable experience.

IV. Training Core Activities and Round Robin Updates

Oregon State University

(Christian Rude, Victoria Colven)

- Pacific Northwest Association of Toxicologists Annual Meeting: SRP trainee attendees and presentations
 - Victoria Colvin, Graduate Student, Platform (3rd Place Graduate Student Presentation)
 - Christian Rude, Graduate Student, Poster
 - Lindsay Wilson, Graduate Student, Poster (3rd Place Graduate Student Poster)
 - Mackenzie Morshead, Graduate Student, Poster
 - Dante Perone, Graduate Student, Poster
 - Anna DePaepe, Graduate Student, Poster
 - Annika Gehl, Graduate Student
 - Teresa Valdez, Graduate Student, Poster
 - Dr. Lindsey St. Mary, Postdoctoral Fellow, Talk (3rd Place Postdoctoral Presentation)
- Trainee achievements:
 - 11 conferences attended, 12 conference presentations
 - Awards:
 - Oregon Lottery Scholarship: Mackenzie Morshead
 - SETAC travel award: Ian Moran
 - 3 PANWAT presentation awards: Victoria Colvin; Lindsay Wilson; Lindsey St Mary
 - 3 new publications:

- Emily Bonner submitted a paper on passive sampling.
- Lindsay Wilson: “Concentration-response gene expression analysis in zebrafish reveals phenotypically-anchored transcriptional responses to retene.”
- Annika Gehl paper accepted for special journal edition.
- Going forward, trainees are pitching pilot projects for funding and getting started on KCD externship applications.

University of Louisville

(Breandon Taylor)

- Recent trainee event:
 - Valley of the Drums: Unregulated industrial chemical waste disposal site in Brooks, Kentucky.
 - Trainees hiked to the site and learned about the community’s history and current contamination status.

University of Kentucky

(Angela Gutierrez Echeverri)

- Annual “Welcome to UK SRP Center”
 - New and existing trainees met with the RETCC leadership PIs to go over our trainee handbook and then met with other center PIs for a fun social hour.
- PFAS reading group to start 11/7
 - A small group of invited UK SRP staff & trainees representing their Projects & Cores to read portions of the National Academies Report (Guidance on PFAS Testing and Health Outcomes) and report back to the group.
- ‘UK at the Half’ highlights P3’s research – [Antiviral face masks](#)
- DIOXIN 2022 Conference
 - Trainees Dr. Nader Razei, Dr. Angela Gutierrez, Ariel Robinson, and Herman Tay attended presented their research at DIOXIN 2022.
- UK Patent Palooza
 - Rollie Mills recognized for participating in the UAccel Fall Cohort for innovators.
- Trainee David Lu won 2nd place at a very competitive poster competition on sustainability.
- Trainees win 2nd overall place on SRP Summer Scientific Short Video Challenge
 - Trainees Ariel Robinson, Victoria Klaus and Jerika Durham rapped their research to the ‘Fresh Prince of Bel Air’ Soundtrack with Pranto Paul behind the camera and won 2nd place overall in the competition with: [A Tale of PFAS](#)

V. Data Collection Tool Submissions, since June 2022

SRP staff would like to encourage more submissions into the Data Collection Tool highlighting trainee activities.

- Data Collection Tool submission form: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/rtc>
- Also, keep CareerTrac (<https://careertrac.niehs.nih.gov/trainingExperience/list>) updated with trainee information!
- **Trainee Highlights Examples**

- Northeastern University: Rebekah Nicholas collected samples from Butler Cave, Virginia for her master's thesis research.
- LSU: Avinash Kumar received second place for the Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award.

VI. Adjourn

- Before closing, Danielle said that she looks forward to seeing members from the group at the Annual Meeting next month.

Additional Information:

- **K.C. Donnelly Externship Award**
 - Congratulations to the batch of [2022 K.C. Donnelly Externship Award winners!](#)
 - Laura Dean, University of Iowa
 - Rebecca Dickman, State University of New York at Buffalo
 - Avinash Kumar, Louisiana State University
 - Francisco Léniz, University of Kentucky
 - Martine Mathieu, North Carolina State University
 - Charlotte Wirth, Harvard University
 - Melissa Woodward, University of Rhode Island
- **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!
- **Reminder to update [CareerTrac](#)**
- **Wetterhahn Award**
 - Applications closed on August 1, 2022. Thank you to those that applied.
 - Winners will be announced later this year.
- **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](#)**
 - Notes from all previous SPAN Zoom 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 [LinkedIn](#)**
 - Note: this is for SRP Trainees only