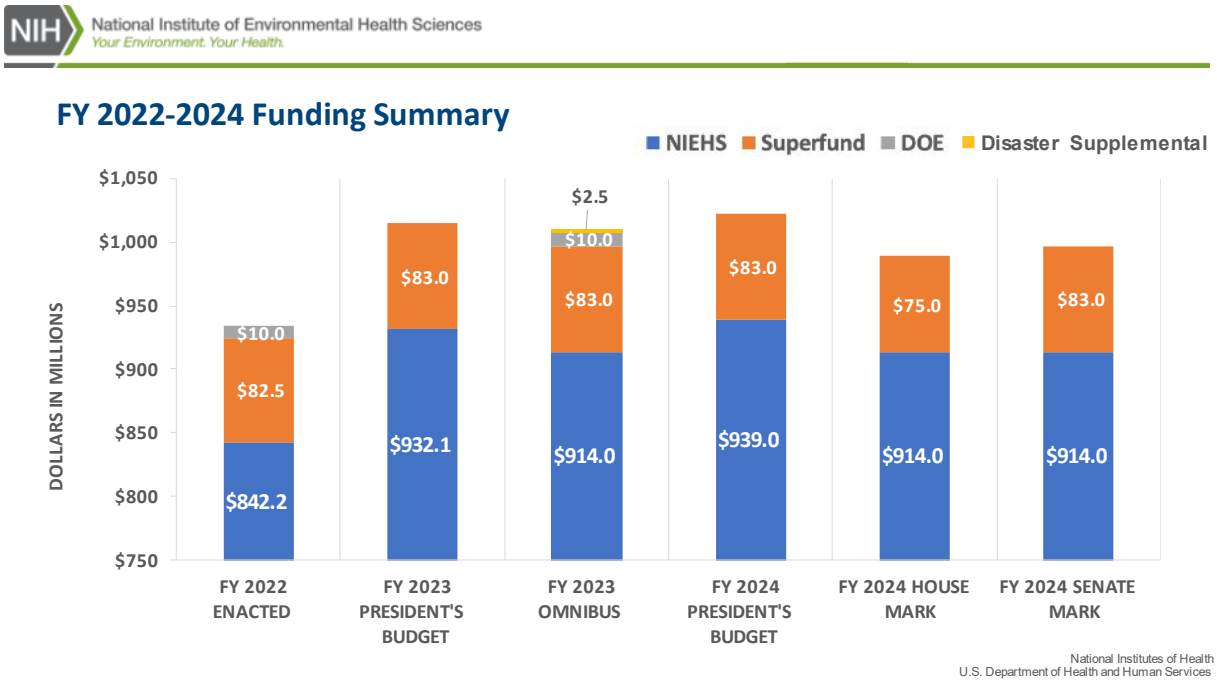
Report to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council
Director, NIEHS and NTP
February 12-13, 2024

Appropriations Update



Legislative Report

118th CONGRESS (2023-2024):

- FY2024 Appropriations

  - **First CR of FY 2024**

    On September 30, 2023, the House voted 335-91 and the Senate voted 88-9 to pass a "clean" short-term Continuing Resolution (H.R. 5860) through Nov. 17, 2023 for all 12 appropriations bills and avert a shutdown. The President signed the bill into law before the funding deadline. The CR funded the government at FY23 levels and included an additional $16M in disaster funding, but no funding for Ukraine.

- **Second CR of FY2024**

  On Nov. 14, 2023, the House passed a two-step or "laddered" Continuing Resolution (H.R. 6363) with a vote of 336-95. On Nov. 16, 2023, the Senate passed the CR by a vote of 87-11, and the President signed the bill into law on Nov. 17, 2023. The CR extended FY23 funding levels for programs and activities funded in 4 bills (Ag-FDA; Energy & Water; MilCon-VA; and Transportation-HUD) through January 19, 2024 and extend FY23 funding levels for NIH programs and activities (along with funding for most other agencies including Defense) through February 2, 2024.

- **Third CR of FY2024**

  On January 18, 2024, the Senate passed H.R. 2872, the third CR, by a vote of 77-18 and the House passed the bill shortly after by a vote of 314-108. The President signed the bill into law on January 19, 2024. This third CR gives Congress extra time to complete their work on the final FY24 appropriations bills.

  This Continuing Resolution is also a "laddered" or two-step bill providing funding through March 1st for 4 of the appropriations bills and through March 8th for NIH's programs and activities (both I&E and Labor-HHS for us) and the remaining bills. Specifically, the bill:

  - Extended the Jan. 19th deadline for 4 appropriations bills (Agriculture-FDA, Energy-Water, Military Construction-VA and Transportation-HUD) to March 1st.
  - Extended the Feb. 2nd deadline for the remaining 8 appropriations bills (Commerce-Justice-Science, Defense, Financial Services, Homeland, **Interior and Environment, Labor-HHS**, Leg Branch, and State-Foreign Ops) **until March 8th.**
  - Extends the authorization for NIH's Special Diabetes Program through March 8th (section 102).

- **Update on Full FY2024 Appropriations**

  House Leadership, Senate Leadership and the White House do have an agreement on topline numbers for FY24 with a cap of $772.7 billion for non-defense discretionary funding. The hope is that with this cap (the same cap that was agreed upon during the Debt limit agreement) most non-defense agencies will stay *about flat at FY23 enacted funding levels.* The levels could change depending on top line allocations for each of the 12 bills though, which as of this writing have not officially been released. Currently, Appropriations Staff are moving forward and working to finalize the FY24 appropriations bills.

- **LEGISLATION**
  - **H.R. 2365 National Plan to End Parkinson's Act**: On December 14, 2023, H.R. 2365, the "Dr. Emmanuel Bilirakis and Honorable Jennifer Wexton National Plan to End Parkinson's Act" (introduced by Congressman Bilirakis (R-FL-12)) passed the House by a vote of 407-9. The bill directs the Secretary of HHS to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's. Additionally, the bill establishes an Advisory Council on Parkinson's Research Care, and Services, which would include the NIH along with other Federal and Non-Federal Members. It requires that there be an Advisory Council meeting on Parkinson's research once every quarter for the first 2 years and at the Secretary's discretion after. The bill also requires an annual research

meeting to be conducted within 24 months following enactment. Furthermore, the bill requires an annual report that includes all federal funded efforts in Parkinson's research, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, clinical care, and institutional-, home-, and community-based programs and the outcomes of efforts.

- **H.R. 2670, FY24 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):** On December 13, 2023, the Senate passed by a vote of 87-13 and on December 14, 2023, the House passed by a vote of 310-118 the conference report of the NDAA. On December 22, 2023, the FY24 NDAA was signed into law by President Biden. There were not any provisions in the final version that impact NIEHS, but there are some sections that are of interest on PFAS. Here are the summaries of the sections on PFAS:

Section #	Title
333	Increase of transfer authority for funding of study and assessment on health implications of perfluoroaklyl substances and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination in drinking water by Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
334	Prizes for development of technology for thermal destruction of perfluoroalkyl substances or polyfluoroalkyl substances.
335	Treatment of certain materials contaminated with perfluoroalkyl substances or polyfluoroalkyl substances

BRIEFING:

- **Briefing to Senator Vance and Senator Brown Staffs**: On January 31, 2024, Dr. Woychik, Dr. Collman and Dr. Balshaw met with Senator Vance and Brown's staffs to give an update of NIEHS/NIH activities relating to the E. Palestine Train Derailment.

  Congressional Staff: Robert Orr (Vance), James Braid (Vance), Abby Duggan (Brown), Jeremy Hekhuis (Brown), and Kimberly Lattimore (Brown); NIEHS Briefers: Dr. Woychik, Dr. Collman and Dr. Balshaw; NIH Staff: April Bennett (NIEHS), Lauren Citron (NIH/OLPA), HHS Staff: Lauren Mullman (HHS/ASL); WH: Elizabeth Darnall and Ali Nouri; OMB: Matt Pastore, Topher Spiro, Nancy Makale, and Laurel Fuller.

NIEHS 2025-2029 Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Planning team has analyzed input from a variety of sources, including the online survey, Virtual Stakeholder Community Open Space Workshop, recommendations from the advisory council, and recommendations generated from various workshops supported by NIEHS, to create an initial draft of the new Strategic Plan. This draft will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Committee, and once revisions are made, the goals will be circulated to the NAEHS Council for review and comment. Upon completion of the Council review, a draft will be posted for a 45-day public comment period. The revised plan will go to Council for review and approval.

Environmental Justice and Health Disparities Updates

Cross-NIH Environmental Justice Strategic Actions
The environmental health disparities centers plan to grow the program with additional ICO co-funding support. The next generation of centers will place an emphasis on:

- Developing multi-level and structural-level interventions.
- Implementation research to develop and test strategies to promote uptake, scale-up and spread of evidence-based interventions.
- Models to evaluate the interaction or cumulative risks of chemical, physical, and/or biological stressors with different SDOH on chronic diseases.

A new environmental justice scholars' program has been proposed and plans to match the climate and health scholar's layout, with an estimated cost of $530,000 to support up to 10 scholars. An Environmental Justice Training Program has been proposed for communities, workers, researchers, health care and public health professionals, and policy makers.

Environmental Justice Action Forum
NIEHS coordinated an Environmental Justice Action Forum in Mebane, NC on November 30th, 2023. The meeting brought together community members, federal, state, and local government with the goal of identifying environmental justice issues regarding the Western Electric Tarheel Army Missile Plant. Future actions were identified for each participating party. For NIEHS, the meeting acted as a model for an all of government approach on how this could be done for other environmental justice communities.

Public Health Research and Surveillance Priorities from the East Palestine, Ohio Train Derailment: *A Virtual Workshop*

To advance understanding and facilitate the recovery and wellbeing of those impacted, a planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine c a two-day virtual convened a public workshop to explore potential health research and surveillance priorities arising from the train derailment and material hazards spill that occurred in East Palestine, Ohio on February 3, 2023. The workshop brought together participants and subject matter experts from government, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations, and affected communities to discuss short and long-term human health impacts from the train derailment incident and similar incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials.

The workshop focused primarily on research questions of specific concern to affected and potentially affected communities in East Palestine and surrounding areas. Specific topics addressed in this workshop included available information, knowledge gaps, and potential research needs and priorities within exposures associated with the train derailment; physical, mental, social, and behavioral health impacts; acute and long-term health effects of exposure, including formation of new exposures associated with burning rail cars, as well as complex, mixed exposures and cumulative risks; surveillance regarding health risks, including, for example, specific health endpoints, populations to be followed, and duration of surveillance; and lessons learned from prior disasters that can inform health care measures and public health interventions in the current context.

The workshop proceedings are now available online through the National Academies Press: https://doi.org/10.17226/27441.

Exposomics Updates

Integrating Exposomics into the Biomedical Enterprise
Integrating Exposomics into the Biomedical Enterprise was held at the Cold Spring Harbor Banbury Center December 3-6, 2023. The meeting brought together twenty-three experts on the exposome from the United States and the European Union to draft consensus definitions related to the exposome. These **draft** definitions include:

- **The Exposome:** the integrated compilation of all physical, chemical, biological, and (psycho)social influences that impact biology
- **Exposomics (Common Definition):** a transdisciplinary field aimed at a discovery-based understanding of how the exposome influences biology and health.
- **Exposomics (Operational Definition):** a field that studies the comprehensive and cumulative effect of physical, chemical, biological, and (psycho)social mediators that impact biological systems by integrating data from a variety of interdisciplinary methodologies and streams to enable discovery-based analyses of environmental influences on health.
    - Not a single implementation, adapted to the specific system and questions being asked.
    - Specifically contrasted to 'environmental health' studies focused on a specific environmental factor and health endpoint at a given point in time.

Center for Exposome Research Coordination
The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) solicited applications for establishing a Center for Exposome Research Coordination (CERC) that will serve the biomedical research community by coordinating and advancing exposome research to accelerate precision environmental health. The overall goals of the CERC are to develop a conceptual framework to address exposomics; promote technologies/methods and data sharing; build a global exposome research community that fosters national and international collaborations; and utilize existing exposome research initiatives, infrastructures, and resources. Participants in this NIEHS-led effort include the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS); the National Institute on Aging (NIA); the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS); the National Cancer Institute (NCI); the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH), and the Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) program. The award is expected to be announced in late summer 2024.

Global Coordination of Exposome Research
Major Activities Include:

- A fundamental shift in looking at health, by moving research away from *'one exposure, one disease'* understanding to a more complex picture to build solid, cost-effective preventive actions and policies.
- A common agreed conceptual framework for the exposome
- A global governance structure for a Global Human Exposome Network
- Agreed technologies needed to decipher the exposome.
- A roadmap for international cooperation in exposomics research and innovation, including, exchange of knowledge and data, policy uptake, technological and conceptual approaches, interoperability and harmonization between data.

Climate Change and Health Initiative Updates

The Climate Change and Health Research Coordinating Center (CAFÉ) – Boston University School of Public Health and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health – hosted its first annual virtual conference on climate change and health on February 5-7, 2024. The conference featured panels on funding, community-engaged research, and data needs. There were also roundtable discussions and networking opportunities as well as training in data management, climate communications, and research methods. The conference fostered conversations within and between academia, government and non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, potential funders, and industry/private sector.

Intramural Targeted Climate Change and Health (ITCCH) Program Update
The Intramural Targeted Climate Change and Health (ITCCH) Program is a collaboration between NIEHS and the NIH Office of Intramural Research. The two-year awards provide up to $200,000 annually to support research activities for NIH intramural investigators focused on basic and applied research on the health effects of climate change. Over 30 proposals from across the NIH have been received in the first two rounds of the program. Funding for a third round is being requested in order to capitalize on the enthusiasm for the program and to continue to build a group of NIH intramural research program investigators interested in climate change and health research.

Intramural Center for Climate Change and Health Research

The NIEHS Division of Intramural Research (DIR) is establishing a new center within the Intramural Research Program dedicated to investigating the health impacts of climate change. This center will:

- Facilitate research on the health impacts of climate change in the IRP.
- Build a cadre of IRP scientists interested in CCH research and foster cross-cutting and convergent research partnerships.
- Support the research and career development of both junior and experienced scientists interested in CCH research.

The Center is currently recruiting an established mid-career scientist to serve as the Center Director. A revised announcement will be released soon.

Climate and Health Scholars
Seven scholars were selected to share their specialized knowledge with National Institutes of Health (NIH) researchers as part of the NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative. The initiative is a cross-cutting, NIH-wide effort to reduce health threats from climate change across the lifespan and build health resilience in individuals, communities, and nations around the world, especially among those at highest risk. The visiting scholars program helps to build capacity within NIH as these scholars share their methodologies and research approaches directly with staff across NIH. Harvard epidemiologist, Stefania Papatheodorou, M.D., Ph.D., will be hosted by NIEHS.

Along with Papatheodorou, six other scientists were selected to work with NIH staff through September 2024. Each scholar is currently employed at a major university or with a research-based organization but is hosted by an NIH Institute or Center for approximately eight months. They will work with staff across

NIH to share knowledge and help build capacity for conducting climate-related and health research. Detailed biographies for each scholar can be found at the Climate Change and Health Initiative website.

- **Laura Geer, Ph.D.**
  Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, the State University of New York Downstate School of Public Health.
  Host: *All of Us* Research Program.
- **Arnab Ghosh, Ph.D.**
  Assistant Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University.
  Host: National Institute on Aging.
- **Julie Postma, Ph.D.**
  Professor, Department of Nursing and Systems Science and Associate Dean for Research, Washington State University College of Nursing.
  Host: National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities.
- **Samendra Sherchan, Ph.D.**
  Associate Professor and Director, Center for Climate Change and Health, Morgan State University.
  Host: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
- **Ricardo Wray, Ph.D.**
  Professor of Health Communication, Department of Behavioral Science and Health Equity, Saint Louis University College for Public Health and Social Justice.
  Host: National Cancer Institute.
- **Caradee Wright, Ph.D.**
  Chief Specialist Scientist, Environment and Health Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council.
  Host: Fogarty International Center.

Complement Animal Research in Experimentation (Complement-ARIE) Program

On January 25, 2024, The NIH Council of Councils approved the concept of the new NIH Common Fund's Complement Animal Research in Experimentation (Complement-ARIE) Program. Complement-ARIE hopes to speed the development, standardization, validation, and use of human-based New Approach Methodologies (NAMs). NAMS are lab or computer-based research approaches used to model human biology and complement or replace traditional animal research models. Complement-ARIE will pursue the following efforts:

- Technology development projects/centers that will develop NAMs to fill in areas of greatest need. Projects will emphasize biological complexity, high throughput techniques, combining approaches, and data sharing.
- A data & NAM resource coordinating center that will create integrated data structures and a searchable NAMs repository.
- A validation network that will accelerate deployment and regulatory approval of NAMs for biomedical research.
- Community engagement and training that will promote the development of an inclusive, diverse, biomedical research workforce with the skills to build and use new NAMs.
- Strategic engagement with key partners that will advance emerging opportunities in development and use of NAMs in basic, translational, and clinical research.

The program is overseen by a trans-NIH Working Group co-chaired by Joni Rutter, Ph.D., director of NCATS, and Rick Woychik, Ph.D., director of NIEHS. Nicole Kleinstreuer, Ph.D., director of NICEATM serves as the strategic vision and subject matter expert. A complete list of Working Group members can be found at https://commonfund.nih.gov/complementarie/members. More information on the Complement-ARIE program can be found at https://commonfund.nih.gov/complementarie.

NIEHS 2023 Papers of the Year

Of nearly 3,400 publications by NIEHS scientists and grant recipients, 30 were selected as **2023 Papers of the Year**. Explore reader-friendly summaries of each paper in the January issue of Environmental Factor.

Awards and Recognition

Kenneth Olden, Ph.D., director emeritus of NIEHS was awarded the Adam Yarmolinsky Medal by the National Academy of Medicine. The medal is awarded to a member from fields such as social and behavioral sciences, law, public policy, and administration for distinguished service over a significant period of time. Dr. Olden was elected to the Academy in 1994.

M. Daniele Fallin, Ph.D., James W. Curran Dean of Public Health at Emory University and NIEHS grant recipient, was one of 100 new members elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Fallin's election to the academy is one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. New members are elected by current members based on their significant contributions to the medical sciences, health care, and public health. Fallin was chosen based on her international leadership in elucidating genetic, epigenetic, and environmental mechanisms for neuropsychiatric and developmental disorders, particularly autism, Alzheimer's disease, and schizophrenia.

Society of Toxicology (SOT) Honors and Award Recipients

- **Scott S. Auerbach, PhD, DABT, lead of the Toxicoinformatics Group** within the Predictive Toxicology Branch of the Division of Translational Toxicology, was awarded the Arnold J. Lehman Award. This award recognizes an SOT member who has made a major contribution to risk assessment and/or the regulation of chemical agents, including pharmaceuticals. The contribution may have resulted from the application of sound scientific principles to regulation and/or from research activities that have significantly influenced the regulatory process.
- **Ilona Jaspers, PhD, professor at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill,** was awarded the Education Award. The Education Award is presented to an individual who is distinguished by the teaching and training of toxicologists and who has made significant contributions to education in the broad field of toxicology.
- **Donna D. Zhang, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Arizona**, was awarded the Leading Edge in Basic Science Award. This award recognizes a scientist who, based on research, has made a recent (within the last five years), seminal scientific contribution/advance to understanding fundamental mechanisms of toxicity.
- **David L. Eaton, PhD, ATS, DABT, professor Emeritus at** the University of Washington, was recognized with the 2024 SOT Merit Award. This award recognizes an SOT member who has made distinguished contributions to toxicology throughout an entire career in areas such as research, teaching, regulatory activities, consulting, and service to the Society.
- **Barbara L. F. Kaplan, PhD, associate professor at Mississippi State University,** was awarded the Public Communications Award. The SOT Public Communications Award is presented to

recognize an individual who has made a major contribution to broadening the general public's awareness of toxicological issues, including public understanding of the role and importance of experimental animals in toxicological science, through any aspect of public communications, over a significant period of time.

- **Hollie I. Swanson, PhD, professor at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine**, received the Undergraduate Educator Award. This award, sponsored by the SOT Endowment, recognizes an SOT member who is distinguished by outstanding contributions to the teaching of undergraduate students in toxicology and toxicology-related areas and whose efforts support the Society's strategic efforts to "build for the future of toxicology."

NIEHS Individual Merit Awards

- **Donna Baird**, for pioneering research on uterine fibroid onset and growth supporting the development of prevention and treatment strategies.
- **Jackson Hoffman**, for exemplary scientific leadership, mentoring of trainees, and contributions to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives.
- **Alan Jarmusch**, for advancing critical scientific capability through the development of a unique core facility promising to make intramural metabolomics a leader in the field.
- **Christine Johnson**, for increased efficiency and improved study completion in Environmental Autoimmunity Group Studies.
- **Anne Marie Jukic**, for exceptional mentoring, which builds trust and a learning environment for all staff.
- **Nicole Kleinstreuer**, for exemplary leadership, exceptional mentorship, and guidance to mentees.
- **Denise Lasko**, for outstanding logistical planning of two trans-NIEHS Environmental Health Disparities and Environmental Justice faculty-sponsored workshops.
- **Kaitlyn Lawrence**, for outstanding leadership in bringing geospatial and climate change research to the NIEHS Epidemiology Branch.
- **Robin Mackar**, for unsurpassed dedication and success as senior science writer and media relations manager for NIEHS.
- **Kamel Mansouri**, for outstanding collaboration and leadership in the field of computational chemistry in support of translational toxicology and open science.
- **Alison Motsinger-Reif**, for expanding and modernizing biostatistical and computational sciences infrastructure.
- **Hideki Nakano**, for leadership, collaboration, and mentoring within the Immunity, Inflammation, and Disease Laboratory, NIEHS, and beyond.
- **Vickie Walker**, for significant contributions to multiple projects in which she has demonstrated exemplary promise as a future leader.
- **Alexandra White**, for innovative research of public health importance on breast and reproductive cancers risk related to the use of chemical hair products.

NIEHS Group Merit Awards

- **Acquisitions Strategy Group**, for exemplary leadership and coordination of an agency Acquisition Strategy — Melissa Gentry, Michelle Hooth, Georgia Roberts, Bernie Salter, Matthew Stout.
- **Action Team Group**, for excellence in leading NIEHS in meeting the requirements of the 2023 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Management and Sharing policy — Milene Brownlow,

Adam Burkholder, Chris Duncan, Jennifer Fostel, Nidhi Geri, Michelle Heacock, Stephanie Holmgren, Maria Shatz.

- **Clustering Classification Group**, for outstanding effort in advancing methods for identifying and applying approaches to infer hazards across substance classes — Scott Auerbach, Stephen Ferguson, Rachel Frawley, Jui-Hua Hsieh, Gloria Jahnke, Nicole Kleinstreuer, Kamel Mansouri, Suril Mehta, Fred Parham, Cynthia Rider, Andrew Rooney, Vicki Sutherland, Kyla Taylor, Amy Wang.
- **Complex Mixtures in Breast Cancer Workshop Group (Cross-NIH)**, for leadership in research on the role of environmental exposure mixtures in breast cancer — Abee Boyles, Danielle Carlin, Curt Dellavalle, Gary Ellison, Suzanne Fenton, Tram Lam, Cynthia Rider, Brittany Trottier, Alexandra White.
- **COVID-19 Worker Training Program Group**, for exemplary work in developing the Worker Training Program (WTP) COVID-19 Preparedness, Response, and Training Program — Kathy Ahlmark, Sharon Beard, Lisa Edwards, Kenda Freeman, Jenny Greer, Chip Hughes, Joy Lee, Katherine McGinnis, Amber Mitchell, Eric Persuad, James Remington, Jonathan Rosen, Kerry Voelker, Deborah Weinstock, James Williams, Demia Wright.
- **DEIA Program Support Group**, for managing administrative and programmatic tasks to support DEIA improvement efforts at NIEHS — Allison Eason, Charletta Fowler, Mary Jacobson, Beth Perry, Ericka Reid, Cyrena Silvera.
- **DERT DEIA Change Agents Group**, for outstanding leadership in formulating a DEIA Action Plan for the DERT Leadership Committee — Sharon Beard, Laurie Johnson, Janis Mullaney, Nicole Popovich, Angela Sanders.
- **Division of Translational Toxicology (DTT) Contracting Officer's Representatives (COR) Group**, for exemplary management of the Research and Development contract portfolio — Danica Andrews, Mark Cesta, Brad Collins, Helen Cunny, Julie Foley, Jennifer Fostel, Dori Germolec, Veronica Godfrey, Ron Herbert, Michelle Hooth, Shawn Jeter, Angela King Herbert, Beth Lubeck, Alex Merrick, Georgia Roberts, Kelly Shipkowski, Keith Shockley, Stephanie Smith-Roe, Jason Stanko, Matthew Stout, Suramya Waidyanatha, Pei Li Yao.
- **DTT Office of Workforce Development and Operations Group**, for exemplary customer service by the Workforce Operations Team, working collaboratively and proactively to support DTT — Tracy Briscoe, Robbin Guy, Debbie Higgins, Virginia Matthews, Anna Lee Mosley, Sara Page, Tracie Pearsall, Amanda Russell, Patty Spining, Penelope Williams, Lisa Wolf.
- **DTT Report Series Group**, for outstanding collaboration in establishing a new report series for DTT — David Burch, Jennifer Fostel, Tara Hamilton, Shawn Jeter, Kevin O'Donovan, Georgia Roberts, Kelly Shipkowski, Jon Strouse, Cheryl Thompson, Jessica Wignall, Mary Wolfe.
- **Electronic Notebook Working Group**, for comprehensive evaluation of electronic laboratory notebooks to align NIEHS and NIH scientific, data management, and compliance goals — Georgia Alexander, Matthew Burr, Jennifer Fostel, John Grovenstein, Toni Harris, Guang Hu, Heather Jensen, Matt Jordan, Paula Juras, David Kurtz, Huei Chen Lee, Leping Li, Julie Meacham, Geoffrey Mueller, Rob Neiberger, Joseph Rodriguez, Elizabeth Ruben, Charles Schmitt, Maria Shatz, Skand Skekhar, Erik Tokar, Penelope Williams, Humphrey Yao.
- **Emergency Management Tabletop Group**, for recognition of the planning team for five major emergency management table-top exercises executed in 2022, helping NIEHS be better prepared for emergency situations — Gordon Caviness, Dondrae Coble, Debra Del Corral, Joseph Engels, Debbie Gaffney, Lee Howell, Paul Johnson, Julie Nixon, Chris Roose, Carranza Smith, Bill Steinmetz, Greg Westmoreland.

- **Gene Editing Mouse Models Core Group**, for exceptional effort in incorporating novel technologies and expanding services to NIEHS investigators — Artion Gruzdev, Thomas Hagler, Manas Ray, Greg Scott.
- **Genetic Toxicity of Glyphosate Formulations Group**, for excellence in the conduct, reporting and communications for the Toxicity of Glyphosate Formulations project — Xiaoqing Chang, Brad Collins, Jennifer Fostel, Shawn Harris, Shawn Jeter, Gary Larson, Robin Mackar, Keith Shockley, Stephanie Smith-Roe, Jason Stanko, Carol Swartz, Kristine Witt, Pei Li Yao.
- **Hoteling Initiative Group**, for implementing hoteling at NIEHS to support remote workers when they returned to the site to work — Rhonda Carroll, Debra Del Corral, Bryan Duran, Allison Eason, Joseph Engels, Edward Kang, Katherine McGinnis, Steve Novak, Alexander Santago, Michael Spencer, Amanda Thompson, Lisa Wolf.
- **Mass Spectrometry Research and Support Group**, for leadership in advancing new mass spectrometric analyses — Andrea Adams, Leesa Deterding, Katina Johnson, Jeffrey Kuhn, Olivier Lardinois, Fred Lih, Jason Williams.
- **ORBIT Development Group**, for leadership in building the Organizational Resource and Business Information Tool (ORBIT) to improve management, planning, communication, and collaboration in DTT — Danica Andrews, Pamela Bayles, Brad Collins, Jennifer Fostel, Mike Mason, Dan Rich, Georgia Roberts, Elizabeth Ruben, Luis Salas.
- **PFAS Health Effects and Remediation Group**, for excellence in leading an interagency committee that reported the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Report to Congress — Brian Berridge, Suzanne Fenton, Heather Henry, Scott Masten.
- **REEP Initiative Group**, for extraordinary initiative in creating the initial NIEHS Racial and Ethnic Equity Plan (REEP) — Trevor Archer, Linda Bass, Allison Eason, Veronica Godfrey, La Vern James, Mark Miller, Joan Packenham, Beth Perry, Nicole Popovich, Ericka Reid, Carranza Smith, Steven Tuyishime.
- **Scientific Review Branch**, for exemplary dedication in the conduct of scientific peer review for the NIEHS and the NIH — Linda Bass, Lorna Daniel, Beverly Duncan, Deborah Jones, Qingdi Li, Kindra Morrison, Sharmice Outen, Varsha Shukla, Leroy Worth.
- **Sodium Thiosulfate in Calcinosis (STIC) Group**, for outstanding care of patients and protocol execution for the Intravenous Sodium Thiosulfate Trial — Rachel Adam, Julia Agafanova, Cynthia Arizona, Stephanie Burrison, Rachel Gafni, Olivia Jordan, Thomas Reed, Adam Schiffenbauer, Beverly Sellers Robinson, Rita Volochayev, Leslie Wehrlen.
- **Wireless Improvement Project Group**, for executing the Wireless Access Point upgrade project to improve the network at NIEHS — Kelvin Heggins, Reynaldo Heyliger, Alison Karver.

NIEHS Peer Awards

- **Jennifer Baker**, for improvement of multiple administrative processes within DERT.
- **Deborah Jones**, for thoughtful support of staff within the Scientific Review Branch and beyond.
- **Justin Kosak**, for his infectious positivity in providing guidance and support to fellow co-workers.
- **Virginia Matthews**, for outstanding travel support to DTT.
- **Ginger Muse**, for exemplary research, collaboration, and coordination within the Epigenetics and Stem Cell Biology Laboratory and the Chromatin and Gene Expression Group.
- **Cynthia Rider**, for exemplary performance in balancing her role as a national leader in toxicology with her efforts within DTT to move science forward through mentoring, team-building, and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- **Veronica Robinson**, for exemplary volunteer service within NIEHS and beyond.

- **Gitanjali Taneja**, for teamwork as a COR for the Support Services Contract, providing clear guidance on complex situations.

NIEHS Years of Service Awards

- **10 Years:** Diana Burks-Robinson, Cathy Davis, Stephen Ferguson, Artiom Gruzdev, Michelle Heacock, Amanda Matthews, Amanda Russell, Stephanie Smith-Roe, Lakeisha Wade, Hui Shan "Amy" Wang.
- **20 Years:** Floyd Adsit, Sukhdev Brar, Michelle Campbell, Lysandra Castro, Henry Daniels, Laura Miller Degraff, Christopher Fisher, Reynaldo Heyliger, Debra Higgins, Katina Johnson, Huiling Li, Shyamal Peddada, Robert Petrovich, Nicole Reeves, Christian Roose, Erica Scappini, Beverly Sellers Robinson, Michael Spencer, Marva Wood, Vivian Young.
- **30 Years:** Elizabeth Padilla Banks, Aisha Ford, Bill Jirles, Nathalie Kean, Elizabeth McMillan, Tonya McMillan, Kathy Mesner, Jerrel Yakel.
- **40 Years:** Clarice Weinberg.
- **50 Years:** Carol Shreffler.

NIH Individual and Group Awards

- **For exemplary leadership, skill, and ability in serving as a mentor**, Carmen Williams.
- **For outstanding work to develop the NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative**, the NIH-wide group includes Alicia Abdelmasih, Linda Bass, April Bennett, Abee Boyles, Trisha Castranio, Jennifer Chatman, Gwen Collman, Francesco Demayo, Christina Drew, Christine Flowers, Betsy Galluzzo, Jenny Greer, Alfonso Latoni, Ann Liu, Robin Mackar, Lindsey Martin, Aubrey Miller, Kindra Morrison, Lingamanaidu Ravichandran, Daniel Shaughnessy, Kimberly Thigpen Tart, Claudia Thompson, Steven Tuyishime, Stasia Widerynski, Darryl Zeldin.
- **For outstanding collaboration leading to successful briefings to educate Congressional members and staffers on the NIH-wide Climate Change and Health Initiative**, the NIH-wide group includes April Bennett, Gwen Collman, Christine Flowers, Robin Mackar, Sheila Newton.
- **For outstanding efforts to launch Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society (ComPASS)**, a new community-led multisectoral structural intervention research model across NIH, the NIH-wide group includes Melissa Smarr and Frederick Tyson.
- **For outstanding leadership of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases**, an international coalition to address chronic diseases in vulnerable populations in the U.S. and globally, the NIH-wide group includes Lindsey Martin.
- **In recognition of exemplary scientific contributions, teamwork, leadership, and support**, the NIH-wide Phenx Social Determinants of Health Working Group includes Lindsey Martin.
- **In recognition of outstanding contributions to advance the NIH mission through development of the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for DEIA**, the NIH-wide group includes Trevor Archer.
- **For establishing the first Vascular Diagnostics Center of its kind at the NIH**, the NIH-wide group includes Adam Schiffenbauer.

George Lucier, Ph.D., who directed the NIEHS Environmental Toxicology Program and co-edited the institute's Environmental Health Perspectives journal, received the **Order of the Long Leaf Pine**. The Order, which is the highest civilian award North Carolina's governor can make, was presented in recognition of Lucier's many years of outstanding public service. Lucier retired from NIEHS in 2000 after a 28-year career at the institute, and he went on to serve in a number of local and state government positions related to environmental health and other topics.

The NIEHS Superfund Research Program (SRP) selected **Rollie Mills**, from the University of Kentucky (UK) SRP Center, as the 26th recipient of the Karen Wetterhahn Memorial Award. This award recognizes an outstanding graduate student or postdoctoral researcher who exhibits scientific excellence and service to the community. The SRP selected Mills for his work developing filtration membranes to protect communities exposed to harmful contaminants in water, and his commitment to igniting rural youth's interest in science.

20th Science Day Award Ceremony:

- Mentor of the Year: **Carmen Williams, M.D., Ph.D.**, **Deputy Chief and Senior Investigator**, Reproductive Medicine Group, RDBL
- Fellow of the Year: **Virginia Savy, Ph.D.**, **Postdoc**, Reproductive Medicine Group, RDBL
- Best Oral Presentation: **Virginia Savy, Ph.D.**, **Postdoc**, Reproductive Medicine Group, RDBL
- Best Poster Presentations:
    - **Taylor Cosey, Postbac,** NMR Group, GISBL
    - **Ciro Amato, Postdoc,** Reproductive Developmental Biology Group, RDBL
    - **Alicia Ru-Pin Chi, Postdoc,** Male Reproduction & RNA Biology Group, RDBL
    - **Joe Breeyear, Postdoc,** Statistical Omics Group, BCBB
    - **Yu-Ying Chen, Postdoc,** Reproductive Developmental Biology Group, RDBL
    - **Mert Icyuz, Postdoc,** Pediatric Neuroendocrinology Group, CRB
    - **Zoe Wright, Postdoc,** Nucleolar Integrity Group, STL

Adriana Alexander, Ph.D., an Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) postdoctoral fellow in the Reproductive Developmental Biology Group led by Humphrey Yao, Ph.D., was named a National Institute of General Medical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program Fellow

Mandy Goldberg, Ph.D., formerly an IRTA postdoctoral fellow, was selected to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Independent Research Scholars Program and now leads the Puberty and Cancer Epidemiology Group. She was also awarded a NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99-R00).

Virginia Savy, Ph.D., a visiting fellow in the Reproductive Medicine Group led by Carmen Williams, M.D., Ph.D., was awarded a NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99-R00).

Emily Werder, Ph.D., an IRTA postdoctoral fellow in the Chronic Disease Epidemiology Group led by Dale Sandler, Ph.D., was awarded a NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99-R00).

Staff Updates

Ms. Carolyne St. Louis was named the NIEHS Deputy Ethics Counselor (DEC) and Ethics Office Director. Ms. St. Louis has more than 16 years of ethics leadership and management experience, particularly at NIH and HHS. She served as an advisor in the NIH Ethics Office for several years before assuming leadership roles as the DEC in the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians and later as the Director of Ethics and Compliance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She has most recently served as the Assistant Vice President for Conflicts of Interest at the University of Florida. Ms. St. Louis holds a Juris Doctor with a concentration in International and Health Law (University of Florida), a Master of Health Administration (University of Florida College of Public Health), and a Bachelor of Arts in English (University of South Florida).

Heather Patisaul, Ph.D., a neuroendocrinologist, has been selected as the next Scientific Director of the Division of Translational Toxicology (DTT), effective March 24, 2024. Dr. Patisaul is currently the associate dean for research at the North Carolina State University College of Sciences and leads a research lab focused on uncovering the health effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals. Dr. Woychik would like to thank Dr. Robert Sills for his service as the acting DTT SD during the search.