

National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council

Report of the NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison

September 2024

The NIEHS [Office of Communications and Public Liaison](#) (OCPL) is the first source of news and information about the institute. OCPL is part of the NIEHS Office of the Director. As such, the office is concerned with both intramural and extramural research. The communications team has broad expertise and provides a range of services to support the institute's basic and applied research, and to share its discoveries with federal agencies, state and local governments, the media, public health officials, scientific organizations, members of Congress, and communities worldwide.

Christine Flowers, M.A., directs OCPL. This report reflects OCPL highlights since the [June 2024](#) OCPL Council Report.

Contents

I. Events

II. Public Information and Outreach

- Environmental Factor (the institute's digital newsletter)
- Environmental Health Information, Online and Print
- Social Media
- Promotional Materials

III. News Promotion and Coverage

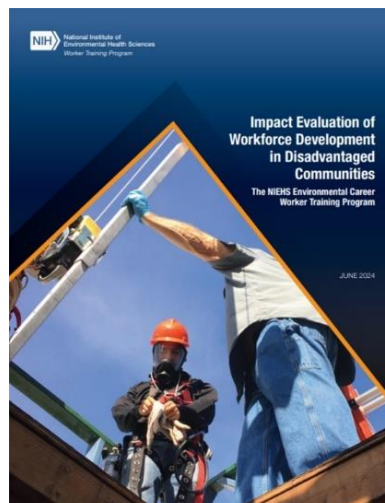
- Press Releases
- News Highlights

I. Events

NIEHS hosted a visit by members of Congress in June. Christine Flowers, OCPL director, took Reps. Valerie Foushee, of Durham, and Deborah Ross, J.D., of Raleigh, on a tour of our campus. Rick Woychik, Ph.D., and other senior leaders, discussed NIEHS research priorities with them.



OCPL provided communications and editorial support for the release of this report: “[Impact Evaluation of Workforce Development in Disadvantaged Communities: The NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program](#).” Read more in the July Environmental Factor: [Environmental Career Worker Training Program improves lives](#).



OCPL set up and staffed the NIEHS exhibit at ENDO2024, the annual meeting of the Endocrine Society, held June 1-4 in Boston.



The NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative, of which the executive committee is chaired by Rick Woychik, is continually supported by OCPL. OCPL develops content for and maintains the [NIH Climate Change and Health](#) webpages.

Recently, OCPL supported the [beta launch of a new website](#) for the Climate and Health Outcomes Research Data Systems (CHORDS). The CHORDS Platform provides researchers with resources to study the effects of environmental exposures on health outcomes. The initial focus is wildfires, although many resources provided are applicable to different scenarios.

Read more in the August Environmental Factor: [Climate and health data website launched \(nih.gov\)](#).

Find an overview of CHORDS here: [Climate and Health Outcomes Research Data Systems](#).

II. Public Information and Outreach

NIEHS Environmental Factor Newsletter

Our online newsletter, [Environmental Factor](#), is produced monthly by OCPL. It has nearly 16,000 subscribers. Find entry to this and other program newsletters on the front of the [NIEHS website](#).



Each month, the Environmental Factor includes a feature called the “NIEHS Director’s Corner.” Rick Woychik speaks with scientists and thought leaders from across NIH, its federal partners, and academia to share ideas and approaches, and find collaborative opportunities.

- **August:** [Wildfire smoke: effects on male fertility, offspring studied by expert](#). Woychik spoke with Colette Miller, Ph.D., about how short-term exposure to wildfire smoke may have lasting effects, including on future generations.
- **July:** [Environmental justice advanced through new NIH-wide initiatives](#). Woychik spoke with NIEHS Deputy Director Trevor Archer, Ph.D., about how scientific collaboration, community partnership will be keys to success.
- **June:** [The microbiome’s influence on human health explored by NIEHS grantee](#). Woychik spoke with Peter Dedon, M.D., Ph.D., about how environmental disruptions to vital microbial communities could lead to disease.



An archive of the NIEHS Director’s Corner posts is available on this webpage: [NIEHS Director](#).

Be sure to [subscribe](#) to the Environmental Factor if you haven’t already.

Environmental [Health & Education](#) Information, Online and Print



OCPL maintains more than [60 environmental health topic webpages](#), organized into four categories:

- Conditions & Diseases
- Environmental Agents
- Environmental Health Science Basics
- Population Research

OCPL continually updates the NIEHS website's health topics webpages. Major webpage updates are undertaken as needed.

Under [Brochures & Fact Sheets](#), you will find nearly 50 publications, all downloadable and available in print upon request. Since May, the following fact sheets were updated or created.

- [Autoimmune Diseases and Your Environment](#)
- [Superfund Research Program](#): Practical Solutions to Protect Human Health and the Environment from Toxic Chemicals
- [Worker Training Program](#)

Social Media

OCPL posts social media content daily to promote people, events, and research. We especially like to promote research conducted by our grantees. **Remember to tag NIEHS in your social media.**

NIEHS OCPL regularly posts content through these platforms:

- [Facebook](#) targets a general audience.
- [LinkedIn](#) targets people working in the environmental health field.
- [YouTube](#) targets both a lay audience and science community.
- [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) (@NIEHS) targets both a lay audience and science community.

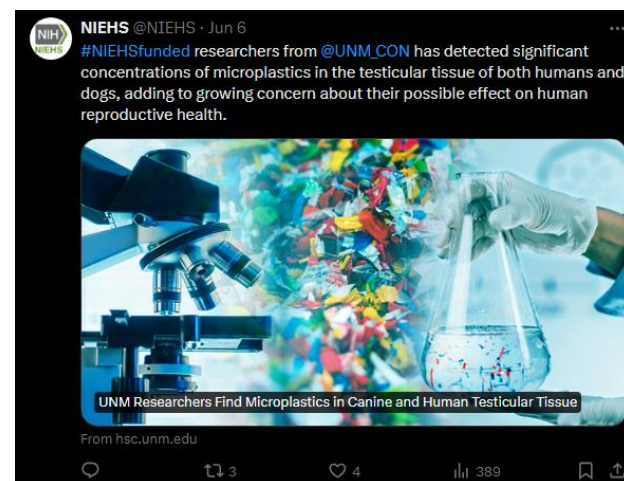
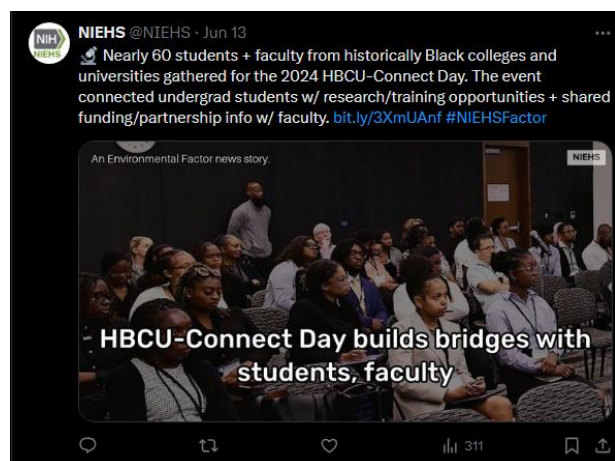
Social Media Growth

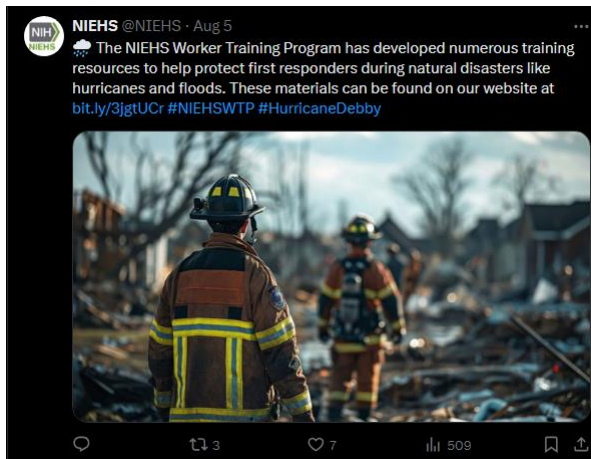
Our followership continues to steadily increase. From June through August, the NIEHS:

- X feed increased from 24,008 to 24,134 followers.
- Facebook page increased from 35,633 to 35,800 followers.
- LinkedIn page increased from 11,861 to 12,630 followers.

Social Media Examples

X (formerly Twitter):





Facebook:



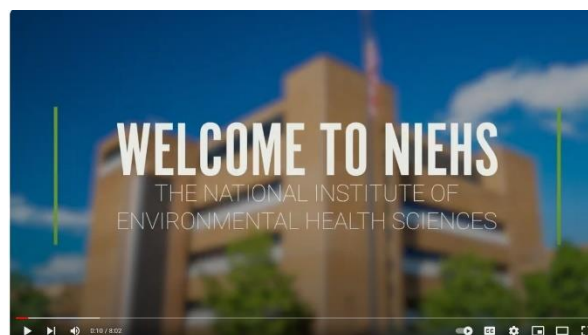
Linked In:



YouTube:

On our channel, [NIEHS - YouTube](#), you'll find our new "[Welcome to NIEHS](#)" video.

It's wonderfully produced by the OCPL team, and we encourage you to watch it!

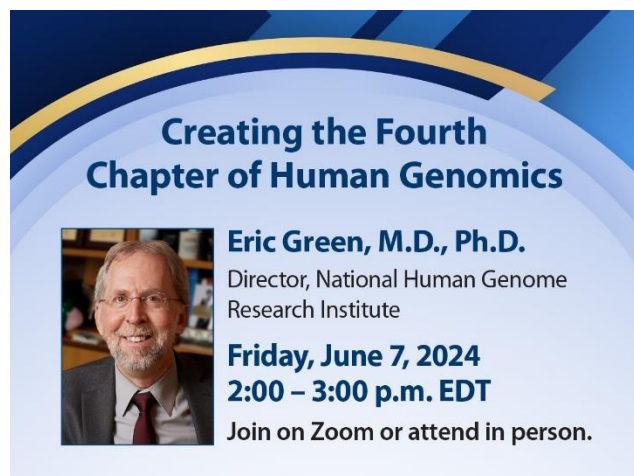


To raise awareness of research capabilities and technologies at NIEHS, and to promote research collaboration with local universities, **OCPL completed seven videos for NIEHS Core Facilities.**

- Bioinformatics
- Flow Cytometry
- Florescence Microscopy and Imaging Center
- Library and Information Services
- Metabolomics
- Neurobehavioral
- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

You can find the play list with these videos here: [NIEHS Core Facilities - YouTube](#).

OCPL also creates graphics and materials to promote programs and events. A few examples from June to August are provided below.



Creating the Fourth Chapter of Human Genomics

Eric Green, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, National Human Genome Research Institute

Friday, June 7, 2024
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT

Join on Zoom or attend in person.



Juneteenth Lecture

Race, Place, and Space in Cancer Disparities

Melissa Davis, Ph.D.
Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Investigator
Founding Director, Institute of Translational Genomic Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine

Tuesday, June 18, 2024
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. EDT



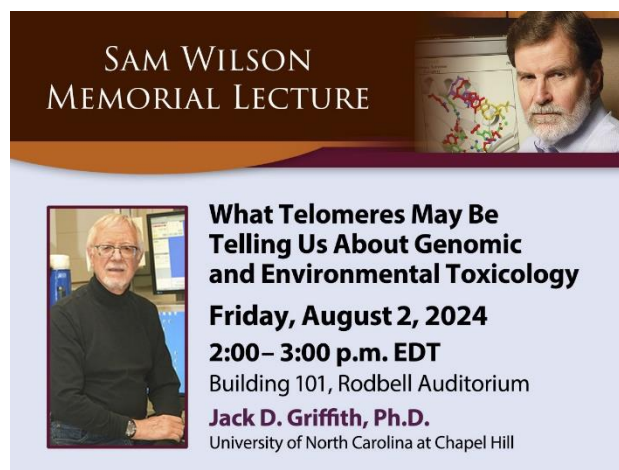
Superfund Research Program Wetterhahn Award Lecture

DNA Repair Modulates Mutational Spectra of N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)

Amanda Armijo, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Clinical and Research Veterinarian
Division of Comparative Medicine
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Friday, August 2, 2024
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. EDT

Host: Danielle Carlin, Ph.D.



SAM WILSON MEMORIAL LECTURE

What Telomeres May Be Telling Us About Genomic and Environmental Toxicology

Friday, August 2, 2024
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT
Building 101, Rodbell Auditorium

Jack D. Griffith, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

OCPL helps develop materials for **clinical study recruitment and information**. Visit [Join a NIEHS Study](#).



Join an **NIEHS Study**

NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

STUDIES OUR TEAM YOUR ROLE IN RESEARCH YOUR PROTECTIONS PHYSICIAN REFERRALS LOCATIONS CONTACT US

Research for a Healthy Future

Your participation in clinical studies at NIEHS helps researchers discover how your environment affects your health. Please help us find new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat illness and disease.

[Find Your Study](#)

III. News Promotion and Coverage

Press Releases

We promote our intramural and extramural research advances in the [NIEHS Newsroom](#). Grant recipients should **always mention NIEHS in news releases** and provide grant numbers so that our media monitoring system will find your news.

Date	NIH/NIEHS Releases and URL
	N/A this period
Date	News Releases from NIEHS-funded Researchers
August 7, 2024	Pesticide Exposure Linked to Stillbirth Risk in New Study
July 31, 2024	With Kids at Risk, Parents Need Better Wildfire Smoke Warnings
July 17, 2024	Microbes Found to Destroy Certain ‘Forever Chemicals’
July 3, 2024	First Study to Measure Toxic Metals in Tampons Shows Arsenic and Lead, Among Other Contaminants
June 28, 2024	New Model Could Help Provide Expectant Mothers a Clearer Path to Safe Fish Consumption
May 23, 2024	Irregular Periods Linked with Increased Risk for Cardiometabolic Conditions

NIEHS in the News

NIEHS programs and staff are often mentioned in a mix of top tier, trade, syndicated, and international news outlets. Examples follow that cover **May-August 2024**.

Date	Headline/URL	Outlet	NIEHS note
8/20	The End of the Lab Rat?	Scientific American	Nicole Kleinstreuer is quoted.

8/9	Intense Heat Is Triggering Toxic Algae. How Harmful Algae Blooms Affect You (or Your Dog's) Health 	Outside	NIEHS "Algal Blooms" webpage used as resource.
7/11	A study found toxic metals in tampons. Here's what to know 	NPR (All Things Considered)	Features grantee research funded by NIEHS.
7/10	Prenatal Exposure to Air Pollution Ups Cerebral Palsy Risk	Medscape	NIEHS mentioned as funder.
7/9	Childhood air pollutant exposures raise odds for adult bronchitic symptoms	Healio	NIEHS mentioned as funder.
7/8	Studies Link Hair Relaxers to Cancer. Many Doctors Question the Data	Forbes	Mentions Sister Study. Alexandra White is quoted.
7/7	How to Minimize Your Exposure to Microplastics 	The New York Times	Research and scientists supported by NIEHS are featured.

7/5	Coffee, eggs and white rice linked to higher levels of PFAS in human body	The Guardian	Describes NIEHS-funded research.
6/27	If Public Health Crisis Raised by Climate Crisis Doesn't Get Your Attention, How About Economic Cost	Daily Kos	Links to NIEHS webpage: Human Health Impacts of Climate Change
6/21	Robust Gut Microbiome Can Help You Fight Infections	U.S. News & World Report	Links to NIEHS "Microbiome" page.
5/20	Could fluoride in pregnancy affect kids' development? A study suggests a link	NBC news	Mentions MADRES, a NIEHS funded study.
5/15	Apple data: Irregular menstrual cycles may predict cardiometabolic risk (healio.com)	Healio	Mentions NIEHS-Apple Women's Health Study.
5/9	Heat stress has damaging impact on older adults' vital organs - Futurity 	Futurity	NIEHS mentioned as research funder.