

Staff Activities

Fred Tyson, COSPB, participated as co-organizer and session chair at the NIH Roadmap supported Surrogate Tissue Workshop in Bethesda, MD on August 28. Several presenters at this workshop are NIEHS grantees (Drs. Andrea Baccarelli, Dana Dolinoy, Danielle Fallin, and Nina Holland), giving the workshop a decided ES/exposure focus. Recommendations from this workshop will be used to help craft the TaRGET II RFA. Drs. Chadwick, McAllister and Worth also served as co-organizers and had key roles in the development and convening of this workshop.

On August 8, 2012, William Jackson, PAB Summer Intern, presented a review of the literature on environmental health economic analyses. This literature review will help inform DERT's implementation of activities designed to address Goal 10 of the NIEHS Strategic Plan – Evaluating the Economic Impact of Environmental Health Research. Will also produced a draft technical report and a detailed database of his findings. These are being edited for wider distribution within the Institute.

The Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program working with an outside contractor, supported with ARRA funding developed a series of toolkits to be used by parents, physicians, and advocacy organizations that present key messages arising from the BCERP research. The Parents toolkit is currently going through NIH Clearance. Symma Finn is the point of contact for this effort.

Christie Drew and Kristi Pettibone, PAB, conducted a PEPH Evaluation Metrics Manual Training at NIEHS on August 9, 2012. The session was videotaped to provide clips for online training materials that will be placed on the PEPH Website. Participants included local grantees, evaluation professionals and NIEHS postdocs and employees. Feedback was positive. Additional hard copies of the PEPH evaluation metrics manual are now available and are being distributed upon request. Dr. Gwen Collman videotaped a welcome segment for the training series.

Kimberly Gray, SPHB, along with Rich Callan of EPA were invited to present during the Children's Environmental Health Research Webinar session on August 9, which is part of the "Improving Children's Health Through Federal Collaboration" webinar series organized by Region VIII HRSA and Region 8 EPA in collaboration with other Federal Partners. The target audience for the series is providers and other professionals working with families and the general public. Kimberly provided an overview of the NIEHS/EPA Children's Center Program and Dr. Schwartz and colleagues provided highlights of their Denver Childhood Environmental Health Center and the Science of Epigenetics.

The Worker Education and Training Program's (WETP) fall awardee meeting and workshop was held on October 10-12, 2012. The workshop, ***Prove It Makes a Difference: Evaluation Best Practices for Health and Safety Training*** brought together WETP awardees and others interested in evaluation of worker safety and health training. The workshop explored the types of evaluation tools being used by WETP awardees in their training programs, and looked at metrics used by other federal agencies to evaluate training. Participants discussed what defines effective safety & health training, and the impact that safety & health training can have. Participants also explored various evaluation approaches for e-learning and for training provided to underserved populations.

The CareerTrac development team (members of PAB and Open Intelligence) completed a pilot project to import over 600 trainees reporting to over 50 Intramural and DNTP Principal Investigators. A separate "tenant" was created for the Intramural/DNTP trainees. The basic architecture and data structure of the system remains the same as for other tenants in the system (NIEHS-T32s, NIEHS-Superfund, FIC, and

NLM). Data were initially extracted from NED, but many errors were encountered. We vetted the trainee names and appointment dates with PIs, and uploaded as much data as was submitted by August 31. Additional submissions will be possible during future rounds of development. The system can now be used to add new trainees, and to add in-training and accomplishment details to the trainee records. A summary report of data gaps in NED was also delivered. Discussions regarding communication and roll-out plans as well as potential tasks for a second phase of development are expected to begin soon. Lisa Chadwick, COSPB, along with Mike Pazin (NHGRI) representing ENCODE, held an outreach workshop entitled "ENCODE and Roadmap Epigenomics Tutorial" at the American Society of Human Genetics meeting in San Francisco, CA on November 8, 2012. This workshop, geared towards human genetics researchers, featured descriptions of the data available from the Roadmap Epigenomics Program and from ENCODE, information about where the data can be accessed and the tools available for data viewing and analysis, as well as several talks from researchers illustrating how they had used this publicly accessible data in their own research.

Sharon D. Beard, WETP, organized the roundtable session with several NIEHS WETP Awardees entitled "3362.0 Training of Environmental Remediation Workers" at the 140th APHA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA on October 29, 2012, and specifically presented on the topic of "Meeting the needs of low literacy workers in the construction and environmental remediation workforce: Best practices from the field.

Thad Schug and Jerry Heindel, COSPB, attended and participate in the Green Chemistry and Environmental Health Sciences meeting "Building the Path Forward for the Next Generation of Sustainable Chemicals," October 15-17, 2012. The meeting was held at the Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in Tarrytown, NY. The meeting was designed to follow up on a protocol and a paper that will be published in the Green Chemistry Journal in December titled, "Designing Endocrine Disruption Out of the Next Generation of Chemicals". Kristine Thayer (Kris) and Ray Tice from DNTP also attended the meeting. Thad, Jerry and Kris attended a pre-meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board on October 15. The Board discussed methods to disseminate the TiPED protocol and future directions of the project.

The initial grant awards of the Human Heredity and Health in Africa Consortium (H3Africa) were announced at the Inaugural H3Africa Consortium meeting held on October 8-10, 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The overall mission of the H3Africa project, which is funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Wellcome Trust, is to improve the health of Africans through the study of genomic and environmental determinants of common complex disease phenotypes. African scientists spanning over 20 African countries have been awarded genomic research grants focusing on kidney disease, type 2 diabetes, genetic and environmental factors for cardio-metabolic and rheumatic heart disease, obesity, tuberculosis, and African sleeping sickness. Grants were also awarded for the development of an African bioinformatics network and two pilot biorepositories. This initiative will focus initially on enhancing the infrastructure for genomics research in Africa and contributing to the training of the next generation of African researchers in the use of state-of-the-art genomic approaches for biomedical research. Kim McAllister is on the executive committee composed of the NIH staff who will oversee H3Africa grants scientifically and programmatically.

Symma Finn, SPHB, attended the 2012 NIH BSSR Retreat on October 22, 2012, presented a poster on the NIEHS investment in social and behavioral research from 2008-2012 and co-moderated a session with Vivian Faden, Director, Office of Science Policy and Communications, NIAAA on Policy Impact. Both Vivian and Symma presented at the breakout session on policy implications from an institute

perspective. The retreat was widely attended and approximately 100 people attended the breakout. The retreat was a good opportunity to network with other social and behavioral scientists at NIH and to explore possible future collaborations on program announcements and topics of mutual interest.

Christie Drew, PAB, hosted a webinar for all Institutional Training Grant (T32) grantees to officially roll out the CareerTrac system. Christie presented preliminary data analysis from 19 grantees that participated in a pilot test of the system and provided a live demonstration of the system. Grantees who participated in the pilot test were provided with IDs and passwords for the system and are able to use the system. Grantees who did not participate in the pilot test will be folded into the system this spring and summer.

Kimberly Gray, SPHB, moderated the PEPH webinar on Children's Environmental Health that was held October 24. Sheela Sathyanarayana, MD, University of Washington, spoke on "EDCs: Translation from Research to Translation." She provided an overview of research surrounding phthalates and Bisphenol A and presented future directions in developing interventions to reduce exposures in the general population. Toby Lewis, MD, and Stuart Batterman, University of Michigan, spoke on "Community-based Childhood Asthma Studies in Detroit." They described the work of Community Action Against Asthma (CAAA), a community-based participatory research partnership in Detroit and Dearborn, Mich., focused on identifying environmental factors contributing to asthma health disparities, designing and testing interventions to reduce these disparities, and translating findings into policy and action. They highlighted CAAA's work characterizing home and indoor environmental exposures of children with asthma and developing multi-component environmental interventions to reduce exposure to asthma triggers.

Christie Drew and Kristi Pettibone, PAB, attended the American Evaluation Association's annual conference from Wednesday, October 24 through Saturday, October 27 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Christie Drew organized a panel session titled "From outputs to impacts: emerging approaches to track scientific research impacts" and presented on the NIEHS High Impacts Tracking System (HITS). Kristi Pettibone organized a panel session titled "Evaluating NIH Research – Emerging Strategies and Findings from Evaluation of Research Portfolios" and presented findings from the neurodegeneration research portfolio evaluation. Christie also attended a workshop on data dashboard design, which should be helpful for HITS and CareerTrac development. Kristi attended a workshop on utilization focused evaluation with well-known qualitative evaluator, Michael Quinn Patton.

A development cycle of the PEPH Resource Center was completed in November, with the following enhancements: 1) Implementation of iTrust, which is the first of three large steps needed to implement single sign-on for the grantee community. Single sign-on will greatly simplify the ease of use/login for the system. 2) A simple search for materials, institution, and community organization is now available. 3) We now have a user profile page, where our grantees can input information about themselves for networking use with other grantees. 4) "Most liked" materials and "trending materials" are now listed. 5) Owners are notified when a user comments or "likes" material. 5) Daily notices about downloads are now delivered as a weekly digest. (PEPH Resource Center Development Team: Elizabeth Ruben, PAB; Liam O'Fallon, SPHB; Lynn Albert, Justin Crane, MDB; Mark Rogers, Tyler Wright, SRA).

The Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program (BCERP) conducted its 9th Annual Meeting on Extended Environmental Exposures November 13 - 16, 2012 in San Francisco. Drs. Les Reinlib, Caroline Dilworth, and Symma Finn, , SPHB, along with NCI colleagues, Gary Ellison and Neeraja Sathyamoorthy, were members of the organizing committees and oversaw many of the meeting activities, including the

internal Business Meetings. Among their many duties at the meetings, Caroline Dilworth led discussions concerning the Puberty Epidemiological Study, Symma Finn and Liam O'Fallon worked with Community Engagement and Communication / Community Partners (COTC/CP) teams, and Les Reinlib worked with the Windows of Susceptibility Program. Claudia Thompson provided many thoughtful insights into NIEHS goals and potential strategies. Christie Drew attending the meeting as well.

Bill Suk and Gwen Collman traveled to Bangkok, Thailand to participate in the 7th Princess Chulabhorn International Scientific Congress. This symposium is an international forum that will focus on identification of solutions to cancer etiology, intervention and prevention, which will be considered in a global context. Bill served on the organizing committee of this Congress. He will be giving a plenary lecture entitled, "Understanding Early Life Exposures in Childhood and Adult Cancers" and will chair two scientific sessions, the Fetal Origins of Cancer and Complex Environmental Contaminant Linked to Cancer and Other Chronic Diseases sessions. Gwen was invited to give a talk on "Windows of Susceptibility: Breast Cancer and the Environment" as part of the Emerging Environmental Exposures and Cancer symposium at the conference.

Awards

Bill Suk has been selected to receive the 2013 Society of Toxicology Founders Award. This award is given to a Society member who has "demonstrated leadership in fostering the role of toxicological sciences in safety decision-making through development and/or application of state-of-the art approaches that elucidate, with a high degree of confidence, the distinctions for humans between safe and unsafe levels of exposure to chemical and physical agents". Bill will receive this prestigious award on March 10th, 2013 during the Awards ceremony at the SOT Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Professor R. Thomas Zoeller, of the Department of Biology will be presenting the Distinguished Faculty Lecture February 25th. His talk is entitled, "The Brain on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals". Professor Zoeller's research laboratory has pioneered the study of the role of thyroid hormone in brain development of the fetus. These studies have led to a better understanding of the importance of thyroid function in pregnant women and have led to concern about the industrial chemicals to which all of us are exposed. Professor Zoeller will discuss how his findings have clear implications for public health protection. Professor Zoeller will be presented with the Chancellor's Medal, the highest recognition bestowed to faculty by the campus, at the conclusion of the lecture

Staff Changes

All members of the support staff for DERT, who were previously administratively housed in the Division of Extramural Administrative Support, were formally converted to NIEHS/DERT positions. Each extramural support assistant will work directly with a DERT branch. With the assistance of OD/DEAS, OHR and AMB the transition went smoothly.

Staff Activities

Fred Tyson, COSPB, participated as co-organizer and session chair at the NIH Roadmap supported Surrogate Tissue Workshop in Bethesda, MD on August 28. Several presenters at this workshop are NIEHS grantees (Drs. Andrea Baccarelli, Dana Dolinoy, Danielle Fallin, and Nina Holland), giving the workshop a decided ES/exposure focus. Recommendations from this workshop will be used to help craft the TaRGET II RFA. Drs. Chadwick, McAllister and Worth also served as co-organizers and had key roles in the development and convening of this workshop.

On August 8, 2012, William Jackson, PAB Summer Intern, presented a review of the literature on environmental health economic analyses. This literature review will help inform DERT's implementation of activities designed to address Goal 10 of the NIEHS Strategic Plan – Evaluating the Economic Impact of Environmental Health Research. Will also produced a draft technical report and a detailed database of his findings. These are being edited for wider distribution within the Institute.

The Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program working with an outside contractor, supported with ARRA funding developed a series of toolkits to be used by parents, physicians, and advocacy organizations that present key messages arising from the BCERP research. The Parents toolkit is currently going through NIH Clearance. Symma Finn is the point of contact for this effort.

Christie Drew and Kristi Pettibone, PAB, conducted a PEPH Evaluation Metrics Manual Training at NIEHS on August 9, 2012. The session was videotaped to provide clips for online training materials that will be placed on the PEPH Website. Participants included local grantees, evaluation professionals and NIEHS postdocs and employees. Feedback was positive. Additional hard copies of the PEPH evaluation metrics manual are now available and are being distributed upon request. Dr. Gwen Collman videotaped a welcome segment for the training series.

Kimberly Gray, SPHB, along with Rich Callan of EPA were invited to present during the Children's Environmental Health Research Webinar session on August 9, which is part of the "Improving Children's Health Through Federal Collaboration" webinar series organized by Region VIII HRSA and Region 8 EPA in collaboration with other Federal Partners. The target audience for the series is providers and other professionals working with families and the general public. Kimberly provided an overview of the NIEHS/EPA Children's Center Program and Dr. Schwartz and colleagues provided highlights of their Denver Childhood Environmental Health Center and the Science of Epigenetics.

The Worker Education and Training Program's (WETP) fall awardee meeting and workshop was held on October 10-12, 2012. The workshop, ***Prove It Makes a Difference: Evaluation Best Practices for Health and Safety Training*** brought together WETP awardees and others interested in evaluation of worker safety and health training. The workshop explored the types of evaluation tools being used by WETP awardees in their training programs, and looked at metrics used by other federal agencies to evaluate training. Participants discussed what defines effective safety & health training, and the impact that safety & health training can have. Participants also explored various evaluation approaches for e-learning and for training provided to underserved populations.

The CareerTrac development team (members of PAB and Open Intelligence) completed a pilot project to import over 600 trainees reporting to over 50 Intramural and DNTP Principal Investigators. A separate "tenant" was created for the Intramural/DNTP trainees. The basic architecture and data structure of the system remains the same as for other tenants in the system (NIEHS-T32s, NIEHS-Superfund, FIC, and

NLM). Data were initially extracted from NED, but many errors were encountered. We vetted the trainee names and appointment dates with PIs, and uploaded as much data as was submitted by August 31. Additional submissions will be possible during future rounds of development. The system can now be used to add new trainees, and to add in-training and accomplishment details to the trainee records. A summary report of data gaps in NED was also delivered. Discussions regarding communication and roll-out plans as well as potential tasks for a second phase of development are expected to begin soon.

Lisa Chadwick, COSPB, along with Mike Pazin (NHGRI) representing ENCODE, held an outreach workshop entitled "ENCODE and Roadmap Epigenomics Tutorial" at the American Society of Human Genetics meeting in San Francisco, CA on November 8, 2012. This workshop, geared towards human genetics researchers, featured descriptions of the data available from the Roadmap Epigenomics Program and from ENCODE, information about where the data can be accessed and the tools available for data viewing and analysis, as well as several talks from researchers illustrating how they had used this publicly accessible data in their own research.

Sharon D. Beard, WETP, organized the roundtable session with several NIEHS WETP Awardees entitled "3362.0 Training of Environmental Remediation Workers" at the 140th APHA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA on October 29, 2012, and specifically presented on the topic of "Meeting the needs of low literacy workers in the construction and environmental remediation workforce: Best practices from the field.

Thad Schug and Jerry Heindel, COSPB, attended and participate in the Green Chemistry and Environmental Health Sciences meeting "Building the Path Forward for the Next Generation of Sustainable Chemicals," October 15-17, 2012. The meeting was held at the Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in Tarrytown, NY. The meeting was designed to follow up on a protocol and a paper that will be published in the Green Chemistry Journal in December titled, "Designing Endocrine Disruption Out of the Next Generation of Chemicals". Kristine Thayer (Kris) and Ray Tice from DNTP also attended the meeting. Thad, Jerry and Kris attended a pre-meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board on October 15. The Board discussed methods to disseminate the TiPED protocol and future directions of the project.

The initial grant awards of the Human Heredity and Health in Africa Consortium (H3Africa) were announced at the Inaugural H3Africa Consortium meeting held on October 8-10, 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The overall mission of the H3Africa project, which is funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Wellcome Trust, is to improve the health of Africans through the study of genomic and environmental determinants of common complex disease phenotypes. African scientists spanning over 20 African countries have been awarded genomic research grants focusing on kidney disease, type 2 diabetes, genetic and environmental factors for cardio-metabolic and rheumatic heart disease, obesity, tuberculosis, and African sleeping sickness. Grants were also awarded for the development of an African bioinformatics network and two pilot biorepositories. This initiative will focus initially on enhancing the infrastructure for genomics research in Africa and contributing to the training of the next generation of African researchers in the use of state-of-the-art genomic approaches for biomedical research. Kim McAllister is on the executive committee composed of the NIH staff who will oversee H3Africa grants scientifically and programmatically.

Symma Finn, SPHB, attended the 2012 NIH BSSR Retreat on October 22, 2012, presented a poster on the NIEHS investment in social and behavioral research from 2008-2012 and co-moderated a session with Vivian Faden, Director, Office of Science Policy and Communications, NIAAA on Policy Impact. Both

Vivian and Symma presented at the breakout session on policy implications from an institute perspective. The retreat was widely attended and approximately 100 people attended the breakout. The retreat was a good opportunity to network with other social and behavioral scientists at NIH and to explore possible future collaborations on program announcements and topics of mutual interest.

Christie Drew, PAB, hosted a webinar for all Institutional Training Grant (T32) grantees to officially roll out the CareerTrac system. Christie presented preliminary data analysis from 19 grantees that participated in a pilot test of the system and provided a live demonstration of the system. Grantees who participated in the pilot test were provided with IDs and passwords for the system and are able to use the system. Grantees who did not participate in the pilot test will be folded into the system this spring and summer.

Kimberly Gray, SPHB, moderated the PEPH webinar on Children's Environmental Health that was held October 24. Sheela Sathyanarayana, MD, University of Washington, spoke on "EDCs: Translation from Research to Translation." She provided an overview of research surrounding phthalates and Bisphenol A and presented future directions in developing interventions to reduce exposures in the general population. Toby Lewis, MD, and Stuart Batterman, University of Michigan, spoke on "Community-based Childhood Asthma Studies in Detroit." They described the work of Community Action Against Asthma (CAAA), a community-based participatory research partnership in Detroit and Dearborn, Mich., focused on identifying environmental factors contributing to asthma health disparities, designing and testing interventions to reduce these disparities, and translating findings into policy and action. They highlighted CAAA's work characterizing home and indoor environmental exposures of children with asthma and developing multi-component environmental interventions to reduce exposure to asthma triggers.

Christie Drew and Kristi Pettibone, PAB, attended the American Evaluation Association's annual conference from Wednesday, October 24 through Saturday, October 27 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Christie Drew organized a panel session titled "From outputs to impacts: emerging approaches to track scientific research impacts" and presented on the NIEHS High Impacts Tracking System (HITS). Kristi Pettibone organized a panel session titled "Evaluating NIH Research – Emerging Strategies and Findings from Evaluation of Research Portfolios" and presented findings from the neurodegeneration research portfolio evaluation. Christie also attended a workshop on data dashboard design, which should be helpful for HITS and CareerTrac development. Kristi attended a workshop on utilization focused evaluation with well-known qualitative evaluator, Michael Quinn Patton.

A development cycle of the PEPH Resource Center was completed in November, with the following enhancements: 1) Implementation of iTrust, which is the first of three large steps needed to implement single sign-on for the grantee community. Single sign-on will greatly simplify the ease of use/login for the system. 2) A simple search for materials, institution, and community organization is now available. 3) We now have a user profile page, where our grantees can input information about themselves for networking use with other grantees. 4) "Most liked" materials and "trending materials" are now listed. 5) Owners are notified when a user comments or "likes" material. 5) Daily notices about downloads are now delivered as a weekly digest. (PEPH Resource Center Development Team: Elizabeth Ruben, PAB; Liam O'Fallon, SPHB; Lynn Albert, Justin Crane, MDB; Mark Rogers, Tyler Wright, SRA).

The Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program (BCERP) conducted its 9th Annual Meeting on Extended Environmental Exposures November 13 - 16, 2012 in San Francisco. Drs. Les Reinlib, Caroline Dilworth, and Symma Finn, , SPHB, along with NCI colleagues, Gary Ellison and Neeraja Sathyamoorthy,

were members of the organizing committees and oversaw many of the meeting activities, including the internal Business Meetings. Among their many duties at the meetings, Caroline Dilworth led discussions concerning the Puberty Epidemiological Study, Symma Finn and Liam O'Fallon worked with Community Engagement and Communication / Community Partners (COTC/CP) teams, and Les Reinlib worked with the Windows of Susceptibility Program. Claudia Thompson provided many thoughtful insights into NIEHS goals and potential strategies. Christie Drew attending the meeting as well.

Bill Suk and Gwen Collman traveled to Bangkok, Thailand to participate in the 7th Princess Chulabhorn International Scientific Congress. This symposium is an international forum that will focus on identification of solutions to cancer etiology, intervention and prevention, which will be considered in a global context. Bill served on the organizing committee of this Congress. He will be giving a plenary lecture entitled, "Understanding Early Life Exposures in Childhood and Adult Cancers" and will chair two scientific sessions, the Fetal Origins of Cancer and Complex Environmental Contaminant Linked to Cancer and Other Chronic Diseases sessions. Gwen was invited to give a talk on "Windows of Susceptibility: Breast Cancer and the Environment" as part of the Emerging Environmental Exposures and Cancer symposium at the conference.

Awards

Bill Suk has been selected to receive the 2013 Society of Toxicology Founders Award. This award is given to a Society member who has "demonstrated leadership in fostering the role of toxicological sciences in safety decision-making through development and/or application of state-of-the art approaches that elucidate, with a high degree of confidence, the distinctions for humans between safe and unsafe levels of exposure to chemical and physical agents". Bill will receive this prestigious award on March 10th, 2013 during the Awards ceremony at the SOT Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Professor R. Thomas Zoeller, of the Department of Biology will be presenting the Distinguished Faculty Lecture February 25th. His talk is entitled, "The Brain on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals". Professor Zoeller's research laboratory has pioneered the study of the role of thyroid hormone in brain development of the fetus. These studies have led to a better understanding of the importance of thyroid function in pregnant women and have led to concern about the industrial chemicals to which all of us are exposed. Professor Zoeller will discuss how his findings have clear implications for public health protection. Professor Zoeller will be presented with the Chancellor's Medal, the highest recognition bestowed to faculty by the campus, at the conclusion of the lecture

Staff Changes

All members of the support staff for DERT, who were previously administratively housed in the Division of Extramural Administrative Support, were formally converted to NIEHS/DERT positions. Each extramural support assistant will work directly with a DERT branch. With the assistance of OD/DEAS, OHR and AMB the transition went smoothly.