

## HEADLINES

### SRP Well Represented at the SOT Meeting

SRP grantees from all over the country gathered in San Diego, CA, for the SOT meeting March 22-26. It was nice to see such strong SRP representation in the poster sessions and SRP staff enjoyed seeing and meeting many of you at the conference!

Brown SRP Center Director Kim Boekelheide was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the SOT Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section. Duke SRP Center scientist Theodore Slotkin was chosen to receive the 2015 SOT Education Award.

Several SRP trainees also received awards during the meeting. MSU SRP Center trainee Kelly Fader was presented with first place 'Student Research Award' from the Molecular & Systems Biology specialty section of the SOT. Iowa SRP Center trainee Fabian Grimm was selected as the recipient of the 2015 SOT Colgate-Palmolive Fellowship Award in *in vitro* toxicology. UC Berkeley SRP trainee Finna Sille received an SOT Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Young Investigator Travel Award. UNC SRP trainee Yongquan Lai received an SOT poster award from the Risk Assessment Specialty Section. Arizona SRP Center trainee Eric Deitzel was a finalist for the SOT Mechanisms Specialty Section Carl C. Smith Award.

Thanks to Laura Macaulay (Duke) for organizing an SRP trainee gathering during the meeting. SRP staff enjoyed getting together with SRP trainees and learning more about their research and SRP activities.

It was great to see so many SRP grantees at the meeting and congrats to all the award winners and presenters!

### Successful SRP Webinar with Partners Highlights Small Business Opportunities

On April 2, SRP co-hosted a webinar designed to help small businesses and academic researchers better understand the various agencies that fund environmental technologies, and the fundamental goals of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. More than 300 participants joined the webinar to learn about the SRP, EPA, and NSF SBIR and STTR programs, funding sources for [eligible U.S. small businesses](#) to develop innovative high technical risk technologies that have potential for substantial commercial or societal benefits. Speakers included Heather Henry, April Richards (EPA), Prakash Balan (NSF), and moderator Kirsten Mease (NIEHS). For resources from the webinar and an archive of the webinar (available mid-April), visit the [CLU-IN website](#).

## IN THE NEWS

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Editor-in-Chief for Environmental Health Perspectives

The NIEHS is searching for the next Editor-in-Chief of the [Environmental Health Perspectives \(EHP\)](#) journal. EHP is a peer-reviewed, open access, monthly science journal that publishes a wide range of topics related to the environment and human health. EHP is published monthly by NIEHS but operates as an independent journal. Applications are open until **Friday, April 17**. For more information, visit the [USAJobs website](#).

### Silent Spring Institute Opportunities

Use your data science expertise to improve environmental health! [Silent Spring Institute](#) is hiring at all levels for projects that involve data management, analysis, and visualization for novel studies of chemical exposures and toxicity. The positions require great versatility and transdisciplinary thinking. Researchers work in teams and are also involved in public communications and proposal development. Visit the [Silent Spring Institute opportunities page](#) for more information.

### Professor of Environmental Health – University of North Carolina

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering is seeking applicants to fill a tenure-track position in Environmental Health at the rank of Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor. The Department seeks to advance its well-established research and educational programs in environmental health sciences. The successful candidate will demonstrate strong potential for interdisciplinary collaboration within the Department, the School of Public Health, the Curriculum in Toxicology, and the scientific community at large. For more information, visit the [UNC jobs page](#).

### Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Brown University

A postdoctoral research fellow position is available to study the **basic mechanisms of disease related to environmental exposure to metals** in the laboratory of Tom Bartnikas, M.D., Ph.D., in the Brown University department of pathology and laboratory medicine. Emphasis will be placed on career development, communication skills, grantsmanship,

## NIEHS SRP News Stories

Take a moment to read about some of our colleagues' latest activities in this month's NIEHS newsletter:

- [Wetterhahn winner uses native plants to stabilize arsenic in mine waste](#)

Visit the SRP News Page for more stories about the Program:

- [UA SRP Forms Collaboration with Bolivian Mining Group](#)
- [Former SRP Grantee Named Provost of Rice University](#)
- [SRP Alumnus Awarded Prestigious NIEHS Grant](#)
- [Dartmouth SRP Citizen Science Project Receives Local Attention](#)
- [SRP Research Shines at Battelle Conference](#)

## Henry and Ranville Visit Region 8, Meet Government Stakeholders

SRP Program Administrator Heather Henry visited the EPA Region 8 office in Denver, Colorado to learn about the needs of EPA and ATSDR staff in Region 8 and to showcase SRP work. Jim Ranville and Jake Williamson, SRP individual research project grantees at the Colorado School of Mines (CSM), were also at the meeting and discussed the work they are doing at the North Fork of the Clear Creek, a Superfund site in Colorado. The EPA visit also gave EPA and ATSDR staff in Region 8 the opportunity to talk about big issues in the region and to discuss SRP researchers who are working on these issues. Ranville and Williamson were in Denver for the American Chemical Society session "Bioavailability and Biogeochemical Interactions Affecting Remediation of Hazardous Substances in the Environment", co-chaired by Henry and Ranville that featured several SRP grantees from P42 Centers and R01 grants.

## Columbia SRP Researchers Initiate Undergraduate Summer Program

Scientists at the Columbia SRP and collaborators have received a five-year award to establish an undergraduate program to promote diversity in environmental health sciences. The two-year program, which begins the summer before junior year, is an opportunity for undergraduate minority students to engage in research. Each student is paired with a Columbia University faculty mentor who will provide guidance on a research project. For the program, they will recruit students primarily from John Jay College, where a former Columbia SRP Ph.D. student (Dr. Lissette Cruz-Delgado) is an Assistant Professor. For more information about the program, visit the [Columbia website](#).

## Brian Jackson Featured in New York Times Well Article

Dartmouth SRP Center researcher Brian Jackson was featured in a recent Ask Well column in the New York Times on arsenic in rice crackers. According to Jackson, "If you are a person who is eating rice every day, and also snacking on rice products, then the five micrograms from rice crackers becomes significant. If once a month, not so much. The idea is to eat a varied diet -- and be aware of how much rice you are eating." See the full article in the [New York Times Well Blog](#).

## Blair Paulik Elected to SETAC Student Council

Oregon State University SRP Center trainee Blair Paulik was elected to be the Vice Chair of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) [North America Student Advisory Council \(NASAC\)](#) for a 3-year term beginning fall 2014. She also received an Externship Award to attend [SETAC Europe 25th Annual Meeting](#), which will be held in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, from May 3-7 2015. She will be one

interdisciplinary research, and implications of basic research for diagnosis and prevention of human disease. The candidate is expected to have a Ph.D. in toxicology, molecular or cell biology, biochemistry or a related field. For more information and to apply, see the [job description](#).

## CURRENT RESEARCH BRIEF

Research Brief 244: [Switchgrass and Bacteria Work Together to Remove PCBs from Soil](#) (Jerald Schnoor and Timothy Mattes, University of Iowa SRP Center) is available online.

Past [Research Briefs](#) are available on the SRP website.

To receive the monthly Research Briefs in your e-mail, please send your e-mail address to [HeacockM@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:HeacockM@niehs.nih.gov).

If you have ideas for future Research Briefs, please submit them to: [HeacockM@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:HeacockM@niehs.nih.gov).

## SRP-SUPPORTED EVENTS

**Ag Innovation Entrepreneurship Academy**  
Co-Sponsored by the University of California, Davis SRP  
April 21 - 23, 2015  
Davis, California  
[Website](#)

**Social Science - Environmental Health Interdisciplinary Collaborations Conference**  
Co-Sponsored by the Northeastern University SRP  
May 21 - 22, 2015  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[Website](#)

**14th International Congress on Combustion By-Products and their Health Effects**  
Co-Sponsored by the Louisiana State University SRP  
June 14-17, 2015  
Umeå, Sweden  
[Website](#)

**Biomedical and Engineering Entrepreneurship Academy**  
Co-Sponsored by the University of California, Davis SRP  
July 7 - 9, 2015  
Davis, California  
[Website](#)

**FLUOROS 2015: An International Symposium on Fluorinated Organics in the Environment**  
July 12-14, 2015  
Golden, Colorado  
[Website](#)

**Statistical Approaches to Epidemiological Studies of Combined Exposures/Mixtures**  
July 13-14, 2015  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina  
[Website](#)

of only a few students from North America to formally represent NASAC and SETAC North America on this global stage.

### SRP Grantees Reach Out to Students

In March, we heard about a number of SRP grantees that have been working with students in their local communities to promote environmental research. For example, Michigan State University (MSU) grantees have worked to initiate a student-led environmental science club at Midland High School. A variety of events and activities were designed, including science lectures, MSU campus/lab visits, and field trip to Dow Chemical. In Louisiana, the Louisiana State University SRP Center was one of the sponsors of the 2015 Louisiana Envirothon, an environmental problem-solving competition for students in grades 6-12, with state environmental and natural resources agencies.

### Brown Holds Emergency Planning Workshop

The Brown University SRP Center in partnership with University of Rhode Island College of Nursing and the Narragansett Tribal government held their third workshop in a series on emergency planning and preparedness for Tribal Elders. Marcella Thompson (Brown SRP Center) discussed the importance of taking precautions for health and safety during the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

### Allan Smith Featured on CBS News

UC Berkeley SRP Center investigator Allan Smith was featured in a story on CBS morning news as an expert on health effects of arsenic. The [story](#) reports on levels of arsenic in top-selling wines. Smith was interviewed because of his expertise on the health effects of arsenic. When asked about 50 parts per billion of arsenic – the highest level found in some wines – Smith said that an estimate of approximately 1 in 100 people who drink water with that level of arsenic during their life will ultimately die from arsenic, mostly due to cancers.

### Columbia SRP Center Webinar Recording Available Online

Interested in the geomicrobiology of arsenic and antimony? If so, check out a recording of the Columbia SRP Center webinar featuring Thomas Kulp, Assistant Professor with the Department of Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies at Binghamton University, SUNY. The Columbia SRP monthly seminar occurred on February 23 and was broadcast to a broad audience, including scientists from EPA, CDC, NIEHS, state and local governments as well as academics and SRP trainees. The presentation is available on [YouTube](#).

## TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

### Sylvia Sanchez – University of California, Berkeley SRP Center

Sylvia Sanchez is a graduate student working with Martyn Smith at the University of California, Berkeley. Her current research aims to identify estrogenic and androgenic receptor activity levels in human serum and plasma samples using a cell-based luciferase assay. As part of her MS project, Sanchez optimized and refined this bioassay.

This project was initially intended to compare hormone receptor activity between two populations living in London to help explain differences in risk of

#### 2015 Community Involvement Training Conference

August 4 - 6, 2015

Atlanta, Georgia

[Website](#)

#### 16th International Conference of the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health

August 10-13, 2015

Depok, Indonesia

[Website](#)

#### 2015 Annual Meeting of the Superfund Research Program

November 18 - 20, 2015

San Juan, Puerto Rico

#### The International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies

December 15 - 20, 2015

Honolulu, Hawaii

[Website](#)

## UPDATES FROM OTHER SRP CENTERS

The e-Posted isn't the only way you can find out about news and events from the SRP Centers. The [SRP Grantee Newsletters and Pages website](#) has links to SRP Center electronic newsletters and Facebook pages. Check it out to see the latest SRP news!

To see the latest SRP grantee publications, visit the [SRP publications page](#).

Visit the [SRP Materials for Grantees page](#) for information intended to assist grantees, such as SRP administrative supplements information, SRP best practices, NIEHS logo use, and the Data Collection Form.

The [SRP Events page](#) contains up-to-date SRP grantee and staff events.

The SRP website also has [Search Tools](#) to help you learn more about projects funded by the Program.

## JOIN THE @SRP\_NIEHS KNOWLEDGE NETWORK ON TWITTER

NIEHS uses Twitter, a popular social media tool, for information sharing. A "microblogging" service, Twitter allows users to distribute substantive content through messages called Tweets. Many SRP Centers also have accounts, and it would be great if all participated! Follow us [@SRP\\_NIEHS](#) to instantly hear news about the Program, noteworthy publications, events, and job opportunities for trainees.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Information on NIEHS SRP Program Contacts can be found here: [NIEHS SRP Program Staff and Contacts](#).

diabetes and cardiovascular disease. However, her work has now expanded to other collaborations centered on breast cancer studies including Harvard's Nurses' Health Study (NHS) and the San Francisco Bay Area Breast Cancer Study (SFBACS). She is particularly interested in understanding the role of estrogen and estrogen mimics in the development of breast cancer and investigating how environmental factors can contribute to progression of this disease.



Sanchez will be finishing up her MS in May and will begin her doctoral studies in August in UC Berkeley's Environmental Health Sciences Division. She recently received the prestigious UC Berkeley Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Study, presented only to Berkeley's top admitted doctoral students.

Sanchez's great work also extends beyond the lab. Last year, she traveled to Honduras for *Global Brigades*, the nation's largest student-run global health and sustainable development organization. Sanchez and another UC Berkeley student organized a successful fundraiser to sponsor the trip designed to help support public health and medical and dental health initiatives in Honduras. She also currently serves as a Graduate Recruitment and Diversity Services Ambassador for the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, running and hiking around the Bay, catching up with shows on Netflix, and traveling to new states. Sanchez, who is of Mexican descent, also loves cooking traditional Mexican dishes.

## HOT PUBLICATION

### River Algae Affects Mercury Pollution at Superfund Site

A new study has shown that periphyton -- a community of algae, bacteria, and other natural material living on submerged surfaces -- is helping to transform mercury from a Superfund site into methylmercury, a more toxic form. The *study*, led by Dartmouth College SRP Center researchers, also found lower than anticipated levels of methylmercury in small fish located downstream from a former chemical plant, despite elevated levels of methylmercury in sediment, water, and periphyton.

Researchers examined the influence of the chlor-alkali Superfund site in Berlin, New Hampshire, which is on the Androscoggin River. The potential for periphyton to produce methylmercury was highest next to the Superfund site. Methylmercury production associated with periphyton, though known in other systems, had not previously been recognized within the Androscoggin River, and may serve as an important entry point for methylmercury into the Androscoggin food web.

The results shed light on the effects of the chlor-alkali Superfund site on mercury dynamics within rivers and their food webs. The researchers say that future studies should investigate the influence of individual site characteristics to explore what is driving the differences in mercury bioaccumulation seen between river reaches in their study as well as in other studies.

## AWARD WINNERS

### Bhattacharyya Receives Water Resource Research Award

Congratulations to University of Kentucky SRP Center investigator Dibakar Bhattacharyya (DB), who has received the William Barfield Award for Outstanding Contributions in Water Resource Research. The award was presented to DB at the annual Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute Symposium. For more about DB's illustrious career, see the *Kentucky Engineering Journal research edition*.

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### FLUOROS 2015: An International Symposium on Fluorinated Organics in the Environment

FLUOROS aims to examine the "state of the science" on fluorinated organic compounds in the environment, bringing together members of industry, academia, and government. The symposium program has been tentatively divided into 6 areas of focus: Environmental Fate and Transport, Analytical Chemistry and Monitoring, Remediation, Toxicology and Human Health Impacts/Epidemiology, Replacement Chemistries, and Risk Assessment and Policy.

Although the abstract deadline was April 1, poster presentations are still currently being accepted on a space-available basis. If you would like to present your work at FLUOROS, please contact Christopher Higgins (chiggins@mines.edu) as soon as possible so they can plan accordingly with respect to poster sessions and space. Visit the *FLUOROS 2015* website for more information.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers (P30) Funding Opportunity

The NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers (EHS CC) Program provides funding for institutional infrastructure to support scientific equipment, facilities, and other resources shared among researchers tackling environmental health questions. The centers foster interactions among researchers to allow them to take advantage of innovations and approaches beyond what individual scientists would be likely to attain. **Applications are due April 22, 2015.** Visit the *funding opportunity* for more information.

### Children's Health Exposure Analysis Resource (CHEAR) Funding Opportunity

NIEHS is establishing an infrastructure, the Children's Health Exposure Analysis Resource (CHEAR), to provide the extramural research community access to laboratory and statistical analyses to add or expand the inclusion of environmental exposures in their research. CHEAR is a multi-unit infrastructure to provide access to comprehensive exposure analysis that can be performed using biological samples collected in studies of children's health. The network has three units, a national exposure assessment laboratory network, an exposure data repository and resource for statistical analysis and methods development, as well as a coordinating center.

CHEAR is being solicited through three funding opportunity announcements: *National Exposure Assessment Laboratory Network (U2C)*, *Data Repository*,

[Analysis and Science Center \(U2C\)](#), and [Coordinating Center \(U24\)](#). **Applications are due April 30, 2015.**

## **2015 Biomedical and Engineering Entrepreneurship Academy Accepting Applications**

Entrepreneurship Academies, offered at the University of California, Davis, are designed for science and engineering graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and university faculty who want to explore the commercial, real-world application of their work. Each academy is a three-day intensive program integrating lecture, exercises, and individual projects. Participants work to identify, design, and validate new business opportunities for their research. Applications are currently being accepted for the [Biomedical and Engineering Entrepreneurship Academy July 7-9](#) (apply by June 12).

**Travel support is available to all national Superfund researchers.** To qualify for support, participants must also fill out the [Travel Support Request Form](#) in addition to the application to the academy.

### **INTERAGENCY NEWS**

#### **EPA Adds Two, Proposes Six Hazardous Waste Sites**

On March 24, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added two hazardous waste sites that pose risks to human health and the environment to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. The two new sites are in Indiana and Michigan. The agency is also proposing to add six additional sites to the list. For more information, visit the [EPA website](#).