

Superfund Research Program e-Posted Notes

March 3, 2017 (Issue 158)

HEADLINES

SRP Trainee Poster Winner Webinars

You are invited to attend this year's SRP Annual Meeting Poster Winners Webinar Series! These webinars feature outstanding graduate students conducting SRP-funded research in health and environmental sciences and engineering. This is an excellent opportunity for those who were not able to view their posters at the Annual Meeting – as well as for peers, SRP researchers, SRP alumni, and SRP's partners – to hear the winners describe their current research and activities. Please see below for information about each session, and for links to register.

Session I: Environmental Sciences and Engineering Poster Winners

March 6, 2017 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EST

To register, visit the [trainee webinar WebEx page](#).

- Breathable Vapor Toxicant Barriers Based on Multilayer Graphene Oxide, *Ruben Spitz, Brown University*
- Development of a novel passive sampling strategy for methylmercury in sediments and soils, *James Sanders, University of Maryland, Baltimore County*
- The Effect of Metal Speciation in Fly Ash on Environmentally Persistent Free Radical (EPFR) Formation, *Elisabeth Feld-Cook, Louisiana State University*

Session II: Health Sciences Poster Winners

March 27, 2017 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EDT

To register, visit the [trainee webinar WebEx page](#).

- Effects of the Trichloroethylene Metabolite S-(1,2-dichlorovinyl)-L-cysteine on Mitochondrial Function in Human Cytotrophoblasts, *Elana Elkin, University of Michigan*
- Understanding Tributyltin, An Environmental Obesogen, In Its Engagement of Nuclear Receptor Pathways and Molecular Gene Targets Using Transcriptomics, *Stephanie Kim, Boston University*
- Cadmium impairs adult neurogenesis, hippocampus - dependent memory and olfactory memory in mice, *Hao Wang, University of Washington*

For presentation abstracts, please refer to the [SRP Annual](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PRHE Director of Research Translation – UC San Francisco

The Director of Research Translation in the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment (PRHE) is responsible for leading a nationally and internationally recognized academic program on research translation focused on reproductive environmental health at the University of California, San Francisco. The position is within the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences. UC San Francisco seeks candidates whose experience, teaching, research, or community service has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity and excellence.

Applications are due March 9, 2017. For more information, visit the [UCSF recruitment page](#).

Assistant or Associate Professor – Columbia University

The Department of Environmental Health Sciences of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health seeks applicants for 1-2 tenure track faculty positions at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor, beginning July 1, 2017. They seek scholars with a doctorate degree in Toxicology and are particularly, but not exclusively, interested in expertise in

[Meeting Poster Winners Webinar Series webpage.](#)

SRP at the SOT Meeting

If you are headed to the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Meeting March 12-16, 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland, we encourage you to participate in several SRP-related activities:

A Historical Highlights session, NIEHS Superfund Research Program: A History of Cutting-Edge Science and Innovative Technologies, will be held on **Wednesday, March 15 from 12:30-1:50 pm**. SRP Program Administrator Danielle Carlin and UNC SRP Center Director Rebecca Fry are chairing the session, with presentations by SRP Director Bill Suk, Fry, and SRP Center Directors Robert Tanguay (Oregon State SRP), Stephania Cormier (Louisiana State SRP), and Bernhard Hennig (University of Kentucky).

Carlin is also organizing the Research Funding Insights Room where applicants can make appointments to speak with a Program Officer or a Scientific Review Officer from NIEHS or other NIH institutes and outside agencies regarding the grants process. John Hollander of NIEHS has also arranged a session entitled Research Funding 101: Multiple Perspectives on the NIH Grant Process. This session will feature talks by Mike Humble from NIEHS and a successful early stage investigator. The Research Funding Insights session will be held in CC Room 301 on **Monday, March 13, 3:00-4:30 pm**. The Research Funding Insights room, in CC Room 336, will be open all day Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Please see the [SOT Program](#) for more information about these SRP-related sessions.

There will also be an SRP trainee networking event on **Monday, March 13, from 8-10 pm** at Phillips Seafood Baltimore Restaurant. Please RSVP or send regrets to emt@oregonstate.edu no later than March 6. Thank you to Craig Marcus (the Oregon State SRP Center Training Core leader), Michael Petriello (University of Kentucky SRP trainee), and Erin Madeen (Oregon State SRP alumni) for hosting and volunteering to organize this event!

Several NIEHS SRP staff are attending the SOT Annual Meeting and would love to visit your poster or listen to your talk if you have one. Please send an email to srpinfo@list.nih.gov to let SRP staff know about your SOT activities so they can stop by!

SRP at the ACS Meeting

If you are going to the American Chemical Society (ACS) meeting April 2-6 in San Francisco, we encourage you to check out a variety of SRP-related sessions.

SRP Program Administrator Heather Henry is chairing a session with Souhail Al-Abded from the EPA on evaluating innovative remediation and detection technologies on Tuesday, April 4.

A variety of SRP grantees will also be presenting during the

neurotoxicology. They are also interested in scientists working on the microbiome as it relates to environmentally-induced diseases.

Applications are due by March 31, 2017. For more information, see the [position description](#).

NIH Epidemiology Postdoctoral Fellowships at NIEHS

NIEHS is seeking several talented and motivated individuals with a doctoral degree, training, and experience in epidemiology to participate in ongoing research programs within the [Epidemiology Branch](#) at the NIEHS. Located in Research Triangle Park NC, the NIEHS is located near the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, and Duke University with opportunities for interactions and collaborations. The Epidemiology Branch supports several large multi-outcome cohort studies and maintains a large repository with biological and environmental samples from completed and ongoing studies, offering opportunities for add-on studies and analyses to address a wide-range of hypotheses.

Applications will be considered as received. To apply, send a letter describing areas of research interest, a CV with bibliography, copies of 1-2 recent publications, and contact information for three references to epifellowships@niehs.nih.gov.

Assistant Professor in Environmental Sciences – Louisiana State University

A Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Environmental Sciences position is open at Louisiana State University (LSU). Candidates for this position will be expected to establish a rigorous extramurally funded research program and teach courses in the field of health physics in the

meeting. SRP-related sessions include: Accurate Mass/High Resolution Mass Spectrometry for Environmental Monitoring & Remediation (Tom Young, UC Davis); Chemical Principles of Environmental, Cellular & Organismal Nanotoxicology (Chris Vulpe, U Florida); Great Achievements in Environmental Science & Technology: James J. Morgan Award Symposium (David Sedlak, UC Berkeley); Have Great Lakes Restoration Programs Been Successful? The Case of Legacy & Emerging Pollutants (Keri Hornbuckle, Iowa); and a tribute to Jerry Schnoor (Craig Just, Iowa).

If your Center has other researchers or trainees presenting, please contact Heather Henry (henryh@niehs.nih.gov) to let her know!

IN THE NEWS

NIEHS SRP News Stories

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

- [Evans discusses wound healing, liver fibrosis, and Vitamin D](#)
- [Innovative technology provides safe drinking water in California](#)

Visit the SRP news page for more stories about the Program:

- [Dartmouth SRP Project Leaders Featured in Science Magazine News Highlight](#)
- [NIEHS Distinguished Lecture Series Features SRP Grantee](#)
- [UNC Team Meets with WIC Program to Enhance Communication of Fish Advisories to Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [Using Zebrafish for Chemical Screening and Sustainable Chemical Design](#)

New Trainee Videos

Several grantees have recently created videos to introduce and highlight trainees and the excellent research they are conducting. For example, in one [video](#), Duke University SRP Center trainee and Wetterhahn winner Nishad Jayasundara describes his research on the evolution and fitness costs of exposure to PAHs for the Atlantic killifish, and the broader implications of his work at the Duke SRP Center. The UC Berkeley SRP Center also posted several videos on their [website](#) highlighting research by trainees and investigators. You can also check out short trainee profiles from a number of other SRP Centers on the [SRP Trainee Videos page](#).

Schlenk Appointed to EPA Chemical Safety Advisory Committee

Daniel Schlenk, a professor at University of California, Riverside and SRP Individual Research Project grantee, was appointed to

department of Environmental Sciences within the College of the Coast and Environment. Areas of specialization could include medical, environmental or reactor health physics. This position works closely with the Physics department in the College of Science and the Center for Energy Studies.

The position was posted on January 20, 2017 and will remain open until filled. For more information, visit the [LSU jobs website](#).

Faculty Positions – University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Two new faculty positions are available at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences. One position is for a tenure-track or tenured [Assistant/Associate Professor in Exposure Science](#). The other position is for a tenure-track or tenured [Assistant/Associate Professor in Industrial/Occupational Hygiene](#). The candidates for the tenure track positions must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree, and have the ability to develop an independent and sustainable scholarly research program, develop and teach courses, mentor graduate students, demonstrate strong relationship building skills working with individuals from diverse communities and cultures, and participate in outreach and service. Successful applicants will also contribute collaboratively to multidisciplinary efforts as part of their scholarly work. The positions will remain open until filled.

CURRENT RESEARCH BRIEF

Research Brief 267: **Cell-Based Models Reveal Differences in How PAH Mixtures Affect Neurodevelopment** (Theodore

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chemical Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC). The CSAC consists of 10 members with expertise in toxicology, environmental risk assessment, exposure assessment, and related sciences. Established by the EPA in 2015, the CSAC provides independent scientific advice and recommendations to the EPA on the scientific basis for risk assessments, methodologies, and pollution prevention measures and approaches for chemicals regulated by TSCA.

Dartmouth Featured for Work on Arsenic in Rice

Dartmouth SRP Center project leader Mary Lou Guerinot recently organized a session at the AAAS 2017 Annual Meeting that explored arsenic in food. Speakers addressed how arsenic is taken up from soil and water by food crops, patterns of dietary exposure, emerging health outcomes, and the challenges of translating this research into public health policy. Margaret Karagas, a Dartmouth SRP Center project leader who presented during the AAAS session, was also recently featured in [Health magazine](#) on the importance of reducing consumers' exposure to arsenic in food. The Dartmouth SRP Center recently launched a new website, [Arsenic and You](#), to help answer questions about arsenic in food, water, and other sources.

Hahn Quoted in Falmouth Enterprise

Mark Hahn, a researcher at Woods Hole and Boston University SRP Center investigator, was recently quoted in the Falmouth Enterprise, a Cape Cod-based newspaper, for his work using the on the CRISPR-Cas 9 technique to advance his research on specific genes in killifish. The technology allows scientists to edit, remove and replace genes to study their functions. Using CRISPR-Cas 9, Dr. Hahn has been able to knock out the AHR in killifish and better understand its role in the evolved resistance to PCBs and other toxic chemicals. To read the full article, visit the [Falmouth Enterprise website](#).

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

Jonathan Sallach, Michigan State University

Jonathan "Brett" Sallach, Ph.D. is a postdoctoral fellow at Michigan State University (MSU) under the guidance of SRP project leader Stephen Boyd, Ph.D. His current work focuses on evaluating the effects of sorption on the bioavailability of dioxins to both mammals and bacteria.



Collaborating with environmental toxicologists at MSU, Sallach

Slotkin, Ph.D., Duke University) is available on the [SRP Research Briefs website](#).

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.

If you have ideas for future Research Briefs, please submit them to heacockm@niehs.nih.gov.

SRP-SUPPORTED EVENTS

Environmental Sciences and Engineering Poster Winners from the 2016 SRP Annual Meeting

March 6, 2017 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

EST

Webinar

[Website](#)

Health Sciences Poster Winners from the 2016 SRP Annual Meeting

March 27, 2017 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

EDT

Webinar

[Website](#)

2017 Society of Toxicology Meeting

March 12-16, 2017

Baltimore, Maryland

[Website](#)

253rd American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition

April 2 - 6, 2017

San Francisco, California

[Website](#)

Highly Fluorinated Compounds – Social and Scientific Discovery Co-hosted by the Northeastern SRP Center

June 14 - 15, 2017

Boston, Massachusetts

[Website](#)

15th International Congress on Combustion By-Products and Their Health Effects

evaluated how activated carbon amendments, an emerging remediation technology, impacts the bioavailability of 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) in mice using a number of immunoassays. Where other sorbent materials, such as silica and clay, have proven to be ineffective in reducing bioavailability, they have shown that activated carbon has the potential to sequester TCDD in a form that is completely unavailable to the mouse.

TCDD also has the ability to impact the mammalian gut microbiome. Sallach is working on other collaborative efforts to evaluate the effects of activated carbon and TCDD bound activated carbon on the microbial populations and their function within the mammalian digestive system. He is also evaluating how bacterial biodegradation and the use of activated carbon may impact each other as two remediation strategies. This includes investigating the potential toxicity of activated carbon to known dioxin degrading bacteria as well as understanding how sequestration of TCDD by activated carbon may affect their availability to the bacteria.

Sallach was recently awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, which supports promising individual researchers to work abroad. With the fellowship, he will continue his training at the University of York in York, England, where he will be evaluating the toxic effects of emerging contaminants in the agro-ecosystem. The ultimate goal of his project is to develop a tool to help predict regions and soils most at risk for the effects of emerging contaminants.

When he isn't in the lab, Sallach enjoys international travel, photography, spoiling his Australian Shepherd, and being an uncle to his five nieces. He helped create a nonprofit, EC3 Academy, which partnered engineering students with local middle school students to promote STEM learning through tutoring and mentoring. He is also an avid football fan and has coached youth football.

HOT PUBLICATION

Protein Implicated in Newborn Jaundice

In a new [study](#), UC San Diego SRP Center researchers and colleagues have identified a protein that inhibits the bilirubin-breakdown enzyme. Methods that block this inhibitor, and thus restore the enzyme's activity, could provide a new therapeutic approach for preventing or treating severe jaundice. For many newborn babies, an enzyme that breaks down the molecule bilirubin doesn't activate right away. The resulting bilirubin buildup can lead to jaundice, a typically harmless condition that causes a baby's skin to temporarily appear yellow. In some cases, however, bilirubin can accumulate to toxic levels in the brain.

At birth, newborns are suddenly exposed to unprecedented levels of oxygen, resulting in the rapid but temporary destruction of red blood cells and spillage of excess bilirubin in the bloodstream. If

Co-hosted by the Louisiana State University SRP Center

June 27 - 30, 2017
Seoul, South Korea
[Website](#)

13th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant Co-hosted by the Dartmouth SRP Center

July 16 - 21, 2017
Providence, Rhode Island
[Website](#)

SRP Annual Meeting

December 6 – 8, 2017
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
More details to come

GET UPDATES FROM OTHER SRP GRANTEES

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 through Tweets. Many SRP Centers also have accounts, and it would be great if all participated! Follow us at [@SRP_NIEHS](#) to instantly hear news about the Program, noteworthy publications, events, and job opportunities for trainees.

not properly broken down by an enzyme called UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A1 (UGT1A1), bilirubin continues to accumulate. High bilirubin levels in the brain can lead to encephalopathy, seizures, life-long brain damage and even death.

To better understand UGT1A1's role in human newborns, researchers replaced the native UGT1A1 gene in mice with the human version of the gene. While normal mice don't develop jaundice at birth, the researchers found that "humanized" mice developed severe neonatal hyperbilirubinemia and some of the resulting health consequences. They also discovered that the UGT1A1 gene is turned off in liver tissue in newborn humanized mice, as in humans, but also repressed in the gastrointestinal tract. They eventually identified the cause of UGT1A1's inhibition in humanized newborn mice — a repressor protein called nuclear corepressor protein 1 (NCoR1). When the researchers deleted the NCoR1 gene from the mice's intestinal tissue, the UGT1A1 gene was activated. Newly restored UGT1A1 broke down the excess bilirubin, eliminating signs of severe neonatal hyperbilirubinemia in the humanized mice. See the [press release](#) to read more.

AWARD WINNERS

Karin Wins Anthony Dipple Carcinogenesis Award

Michael Karin, a UC San Diego SRP Center project leader, was awarded the 2016 Anthony Dipple Carcinogenesis Award for major contributions to research in the field of carcinogenesis. Dr. Karin has spent his entire academic career investigating stress and inflammation signaling covering the entire gamut of research approaches from basic biochemistry through molecular cell biology to animal pathophysiology. The Karin group has identified some of the fundamental mechanisms through which inflammation and obesity promote tumor development and progression and contribute to type II diabetes. To read more about the award and Karin's work, visit the [Carcinogenesis journal website](#).

Bhattacharyya Awarded NSF-EAGER Research Award

University of Kentucky SRP Center project leader Dibakar Bhattacharyya has been awarded NSF Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) funding for his project using nanoparticles to enhance bacterial degradation of organic waste to hydrogen. The [EAGER](#) funding mechanism can be used to support exploratory work in its early stages on untested, but potentially transformative, research ideas or approaches. This work could be considered especially "high risk-high payoff" in the sense that it, involves radically different approaches, applies new expertise, or engages novel disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspectives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Need to get in touch with an NIEHS SRP staff member? Check out our [Contact Staff](#) page.

WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

Advances in Causal Understanding for Human Health Risk-Based Decision Making

New molecular and bioinformatic approaches have advanced understanding of how molecular pathways are affected by exposure and the molecular networks involved in disease. However, these advances are often not yet deemed sufficient to establish causality for public health risk assessments; regulators still rely primarily on traditional apical endpoints, such as those endpoints observed in animal studies.

Join a workshop on **March 6-7, 2017**, hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) Standing Committee on Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions, to discuss the current thinking surrounding causal models, how novel approaches and tools are relevant for environmental health, and how they can be incorporated into the decision making process. Held in Washington, DC and webcast, this free, 2-day workshop will bring together leading environmental health experts, toxicologists, statisticians, sociologists, epidemiologists, regulators, and experts from other fields that utilize different data streams for establishing causality in complex systems. Speakers include SRP grantees Kim Boekelheide (Brown), Martyn Smith (UC Berkeley), Norb Kaminski (MSU), and Margaret Karagas (Dartmouth).

For more information, and to register, visit the [NAS workshop website](#)

SRP Risk eLearning Webinars: Analytical Tools and Methods

The NIEHS Superfund Research Program (SRP) is hosting a seminar series that highlights innovative analytical tools and methods developed and used by SRP grantees. The presenters will feature the benefits of these new tools and methods compared to conventional methods. They will also include information about how the technology has helped to facilitate ongoing SRP research.

Session I - Field-ready Biosensors to Assess Bioavailability and Toxicity

April 17, 2017 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm ET

To register, visit [EPA's CLU-IN Training & Events Web Page](#).

During the first session of the series, speakers will highlight their field-ready biosensors to assess bioavailability and/or toxicity. This will include information on the benefits of their technologies compared to conventional methods, and how they are used in the field to facilitate ongoing SRP research. Presenters include: **Michael Unger, Ph.D.**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science; **Natalia Vasylieva, Ph.D.**, and **Bogdan Barnych, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis SRP Center; and **April Gu, Ph.D.**, Northeastern University SRP Center.

Session II - Techniques for trace analysis of metals and chemical metabolites

May 22, 2017 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm ET

To register, visit [EPA's CLU-IN Training & Events Web Page](#).

During the second session of the series, speakers will highlight techniques that help measure trace levels of metals and chemical metabolites in order to better understand environmentally relevant chemical exposures. Presenters include **Tracy Punshon, Ph.D.**, Dartmouth College SRP Center, and **Bruce Buchholz, Ph.D.**, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, University of California, Davis SRP Center.

Webinar on Private Wells and Resources for Well Owners

University of Arizona SRP Center investigator Janick Artiola is an invited speaker at a webinar hosted by the Office of Environmental Health on **Tuesday, March 7 at 3 pm EST**. The webinar is for environmental health professionals interested in learning more about private wells and resources available for well owners. There are approximately 90,000 private domestic wells in Arizona. Many of these well owners have questions about how to care for their wells, how to get their water tested, and many more. The webinar will cover guidance on how often to test well water and what should be tested, recommendations for ensuring good water quality, and an overview of Arizona geology and groundwater resources.

If you are interested in hearing more about this work, you can join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone by visiting the [GoToMeeting website](#). You can also dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): 1-866-899-4679, Access Code: 813-852-933.

Short Course: Computational Systems Biology and Dose Response Modeling

The Training Core of the MSU SRP will offer an intensive three-day short course, "Computational Systems Biology and Dose Response Modeling," **May 15-17, 2017**. Short course students will learn dynamic systems modeling techniques for quantitative investigation of how biological systems respond to perturbations at the cellular level.

The course includes lectures and hands-on computer simulation exercises on:

- Common network motifs in signal transduction and gene regulatory networks that underlie systems-level cellular behaviors including homeostasis, adaptation, threshold response, binary and irreversible cell fate decisions, and oscillations.
- How molecular circuits comprising genes and proteins give rise to various dynamic and dose-response behaviors. Examples include cellular stress response, cell

differentiation, and cell cycle and checkpoint control, etc.

- Use of these simulation techniques to develop computational models for understanding and predicting nonlinear dose response behaviors of environmental toxicants and drugs.

Course instructors are Sudin Bhattacharya, MSU, Wan-Yun Cheng, U.S. EPA, Rory B. Connolly, U.S. EPA., and Qiang Zhang, Emory University.

For questions regarding the course, please contact, Dr. Qiang Zhang, qiang.zhang@emory.edu. If you are interested in attending the course, please contact Kasey Baldwin, kbaldwin@msu.edu.

Applied Bioinformatics Course

The Applied Bioinformatics Course 2017 will be held **July 15-20, 2017** at the MDI Biological Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. Applied Bioinformatics is a hands-on course for advanced graduate students, post-doctoral trainees, and researchers at all levels interested in incorporating bioinformatics into their research.

The goal of the Applied Bioinformatics Course is to provide hands-on training on major bioinformatics resources through the analysis of a RNA-Seq data set to find differentially expressed genes and investigate previously described functions of those genes and the pathways in which they are involved.

Topics include web-based gene and protein resources, genome browsers, pathways and gene set enrichment analyses, and RNA-Seq data analysis. RNA-Seq data analysis will be conducted using CLC Genomics Workbench, the web-based Galaxy system, R statistical computing environment and Ingenuity Pathways Analysis. The course will feature several modules that will have examples to demonstrate how to apply the major tools or resources featured in the module. Participants should have a strong background in molecular biology. Prior computer programming skills are not required, but participants need to have a strong interest in learning some programming concepts.

Visit the [MDI Biological Laboratory website](#) for more information on the course and to register.

BD2K Guide to the Fundamentals of Data Science

The NIH Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) program is pleased to announce the spring semester of the BD2K Guide to the Fundamentals of Data Science, a series of online lectures given by experts from across the country covering a range of diverse topics in data science. This course is an introductory overview that assumes no prior knowledge or understanding of data science.

The webinar series, which will run through May, consists of weekly presentations from experts across the country. The first semester of the series in the fall covered the basics of data

management and representation. In the spring, the course will cover computing, data modeling, and overarching topics. The series will have a new lecture **every Friday at 12 - 1 pm ET**.

For up-to-date information about the series, to join the weekly lectures, and to see archived presentations, visit the [BD2K Training Coordinating Center website](#).

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

15th International Congress on Combustion By-Products and Their Health Effects

The 15th International Congress on Combustion By-Products and Their Health Effects (PIC) will be held **June 27-30, 2017 in Seoul, Korea**. The PIC congress is held every two years with the goal to provide an international forum to discuss topics on the origins, fate, and health effects of combustion. The main theme of PIC 2017 is: Coping with expanding regulations: Health and environmental effects of combustion by-products from newly recognized sources of pollution.

The abstract submission deadline has been extended to **March 31, 2017**. For more information, visit the [PIC 2017 website](#).

SRP Global Economic Impact Session at ACS

SRP Administrator Heather Henry and Brown SRP Center researcher Kelly Pennell are organizing a symposium at the 254th American Chemical Society Meeting in Washington, DC **August 20-24, 2017**. The symposium, Global Economic Impact of Environmental Health Research: A Case Study of the NIEHS Superfund Research Program, will highlight SRP research that has led to significant cost and time savings for site remediation and monitoring. It will also touch on the potential global economic impact including benefits for improved public health resulting from innovative technologies.

The deadline to submit abstracts for this session is **March 17, 2017** using the [ACS Meeting Abstracts Programming System](#). Contact Heather Henry (henryh@niehs.nih.gov) if you have questions about the symposium or if you plan to submit an abstract.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Arsenic Sensor Challenge

The EPA and partners has launched an Arsenic Sensor New Technology Challenge competition to help improve arsenic sensing in water. Measuring arsenic in the environment and in drinking water is important for protecting human health. Drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities are subject to arsenic regulations in order to limit human exposure and environmental contamination. While current analytical methods are suitable for ensuring regulatory compliance, there is a need for rapid, low-

cost monitoring of arsenic that would benefit water treatment plant operations, wastewater monitoring, contaminated site remediation, private well owners, scientific research, and other interested parties.

Submissions are due by **12 am ET on March 13, 2017**. For more information about the challenge and submitting entries, visit the [Challenge.gov website](#).

Health Policy Research Scholars – Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Calls for application are open for Health Policy Research Scholars, a national leadership development program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This program is an opportunity to create real change. The scholars selected for this program will be a part of the next generation of researchers and policymakers, creating a more diverse community who will create policies and solutions that are inclusive and relevant to the communities they serve. Applicants must be entering the first or second year of their doctoral program in September of 2017, from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds, interested in interdisciplinary approaches and translating their research into health policy, and eager to use their unique perspective to build a Culture of Health to enable everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives.

Applications are due **March 29, 2017**. For more information about the program, visit the [Health Policy Research Scholars website](#).

2017 Travel Awards for Research Related to Biosensors and Antibodies

Two journals, *Antibodies* and *Biosensors*, are inviting applications for travel awards for postdoctoral researchers and Ph.D. students to attend a conference in 2017. The application for the [Antibodies award](#) to attend an antibodies related conference is due **April 30, 2017**. The [Biosensors award](#) to attend a conference related to biosensors is due **May 31, 2017**.

EPA Grants Available to Improve the Environment and Public Health in New England Communities

EPA is making grant money available for New England communities to reduce environmental risks, protect and improve human health, and improve the quality of life. EPA New England's Healthy Communities Grant Program is currently accepting initial proposals for projects that will benefit one or more New England communities. EPA plans to award a total of approximately 10 cooperative agreements.

Eligible applicants include state and local governments, public nonprofit institutions or organizations, private nonprofit institutions or organizations, quasi-public nonprofit institutions or organizations, Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments, K-12 schools or school districts; and non-profit organizations (e.g.

grassroots and/or community-based organizations). For more information and to apply, visit the [Healthy Communities Grant Program website](#).

INTERAGENCY NEWS

NIH Requests Information on Processes for Database of Genotypes and Phenotypes (dbGaP) Data Submission, Access, and Management

NIH published a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) that seeks public comment on the data submission and access processes for the NIH National Center for Biotechnology (NCBI) database of Genotypes and Phenotypes (dbGaP). The RFI also seeks comment on the management of data in dbGaP in order to consider options to improve and streamline these processes and to maximize the use and utility of dbGaP.

Electronic responses will be accepted through **April 7, 2017**. NIH will consider all public comments before taking next steps. Additional information about the importance of this RFI can be found in an “Under the Poliscopes” [blog](#) published today by Dr. Carrie D. Wolinetz.

The SRP is committed to sharing data and has compiled publicly available data sets from each Center. To view the data sets, click on your favorite Center on the [Currently Funded Page](#), and then click on the “Datasets” link, under Program Links.