

Superfund Research Program e-Posted Notes

March 9, 2018 (Issue 170)

HEADLINES

SRP at the 2018 SOT Meeting

If you are headed to the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Meeting March 11 - 15, 2018, in San Antonio, Texas, we encourage you to participate in SRP-related activities:

- **Atherosclerosis as a Model to Understand the Combined Effects of Environmental Chemical and Non-Chemical Stressors** - SRP Health Scientist Administrator Danielle Carlin is co-chairing a symposium session, "Atherosclerosis as a Model to Understand the Combined Effects of Environmental Chemical and Non-Chemical Stressors," on Wednesday, March 14, from 1:30 to 4:15 pm. The session includes presentations by SRP grantees Bernhard Hennig and Sanjay Srivastava.
- **Research Funding Insights Room** - SRP staff will be available in the Research Funding Insights Room. Talk to your program officer if you are interested in making an appointment in advance or check the posted schedule to meet with a staff member who can discuss aspects of scientific review or specific grant opportunities.
- **SRP Trainees and Mentors** - Oregon State University and University of New Mexico Superfund Centers have graciously opened their reception at the SOT Meeting to all SRP trainees and their mentors! It will be Monday, March 12 from 8-10 pm at the Iron Cactus – Agave Room, 200 River Walk Suite 100, in San Antonio, TX. Please make sure to RSVP by sending your "accepts" or "regrets" to emt@oregonstate.edu.

Several NIEHS SRP staff members are attending the SOT Annual Meeting and would love to visit your poster or listen to your talk, if you have one. Please email srpinfo@niehs.nih.gov to let SRP staff know about your SOT activities! For more information about NIEHS and NTP activities at SOT, see the [SOT NIEHS/NTP flyer](#).

SRP Annual Meeting Poster Winners Webinar

You are invited to attend this year's [SRP Annual Meeting Poster Winners Webinar](#), Tuesday, March 27 from 2 – 3:30 pm ET. These webinars feature outstanding graduate students conducting SRP-funded research in health and environmental sciences and engineering.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Postdoctoral Scholar – Oregon State University

A full-time postdoctoral scholar position is available in the laboratory of David E. Williams, Helen P. Rumbel Professor for Cancer Prevention at Oregon State University within the Linus Pauling Institute in Corvallis, Oregon. The Williams lab is an excellent training ground for individuals desiring advanced training in metabolism of xenobiotics with an emphasis on environmental carcinogens as well as the influence of diet on cancer.

The postdoctoral scholar will contribute to an NIEHS-funded study in humans, which employs micro-dosing of humans with [¹⁴C]-benzo[a]pyrene to examine, for the first time, the dose-response and pharmacokinetics of a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) as well as characterization of metabolites formed *in vivo*, impact of a binary mixture, diet and genotype of various PAH-metabolizing enzymes.

The position is available as soon as possible. Applications will be reviewed as they are received. For more information, see the [position announcement](#).

Environmental Risk Assessor / Epidemiologist – Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech's Department of Population Health Sciences seeks to

Environmental Science and Engineering Poster Winners

- **Stephanie Kim**, Boston University: "Application of Digital Gene Expression to Identify Adipogenic Gene Signatures of Environmental Metabolism-Disrupting Chemicals"
- **Hongyi Wan**, University of Kentucky: "Understanding the Role of Fe/Pd Nanoparticles in Functionalized Membrane Systems for PCB Degradation"

Health Sciences Poster Winners

- **Kelly Fader**, Michigan State University: "Dioxin Increases Bone Density in Male and Female Mouse Femurs"
- **Meichen Wang**, Texas A&M University: "Development of Broad-Acting Entero-Sorbents for the Mitigation of Superfund Chemicals and Mixtures During Emergencies and Natural Disasters"

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 (NIEHS, the U.S Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, etc.) – to hear the winners describe their current research/activities. Register for the webinar today on the [NIH WebEx page](#).

Presenter Ideas Requested: Risk e-Learning Webinar Series

The SRP will be hosting a seminar series highlighting new testing approaches and methodologies for toxicity, fate and transport, and ecotoxicity testing and screening. This includes approaches for obtaining relevant human toxicology data while reducing vertebrate testing. If you have suggestions for SRP-funded approaches that may be relevant to this webinar series, please contact Heather Henry (henryh@niehs.nih.gov).

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:

- [Berkeley — Thirty Years of Innovative Research in Environmental Health](#): For three decades, the SRP Center at the University of California, Berkeley has been at the forefront of important scientific discoveries, launching new programs and research initiatives. At a Jan. 30 event, researchers and program partners looked back at the center's history and how it has evolved to meet new research needs.
- [NIEHS-funded Papers Inform Efforts to Reduce Mercury Pollution](#): A suite of new articles describes the latest science on the fate and effects of mercury. The articles inform

attract a tenured or tenure-track faculty member in environmental health. Priority will be given to applications at the Assistant Professor rank.

The position is part of a robust and diverse cluster of faculty contributing to transdisciplinary research, teaching, and/or outreach initiatives that align with Virginia Tech's "Global Systems Science Destination Area." This initiative is focused on transdisciplinary solutions to critical social problems stemming from human activity and environmental change. Visit the [Global Systems Science page](#) for more information.

This position will be based on the main campus of Virginia Tech, a land-grant university in Blacksburg, Virginia, situated in the scenic New River Valley. For more information and to apply, visit the [job posting](#).

Tenure Track Faculty Position – University of Rochester

The Department of Environmental Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry invites applications for an Assistant or Associate Professor in the tenure track. The Department is especially interested in candidates with a passion for biomedical research focusing on how the environment shapes health and influences disease. Applicants interested in studying the fundamental mechanisms of toxicity, developmental origins of health and disease, and/or environmental effects on stem/progenitor cells are particularly encouraged to apply. The Department is home to an outstanding interdepartmental NIEHS P30 Core Center and the Rochester Toxicology Training Program, as well as two clinical programs in occupational medicine. Applicants must have a Ph.D. or M.D. degree, a track record of

activities under the Minamata Convention, a global treaty on mercury that was ratified in August 2017.

- [Paper of the Month: Possible Explanation for Male and Female Cardiovascular Differences](#): UC Davis SRP Center grantees discovered that estrogen can block the function of soluble epoxide hydrolase (sEH), an enzyme in cells that degrades chemically stable fatty acid metabolites. Because inhibition of sEH can be cardioprotective, this finding may help explain why women generally have a lower incidence of cardiovascular disease than men.

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

- [SRP Grantees Participate in Federal PFAS Information Exchange](#): On February 5 - 6, SRP grantees Raymond Ball, Jennifer Guelfo, and Angela Slitt provided their expertise and perspectives during the Federal Information Exchange on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Bethesda, Maryland.
- [Improving Site Characterization to Assess Contaminant Removal](#): A computational model can be used to measure how different factors influence the removal of groundwater contaminants at hazardous waste sites, according to a study from the University of Arizona SRP Center.
- [SRP Research Finds Ancestry-Based Differences in Telomere Length Genes](#): People with different ancestries may inherit telomere length differently, according to a new study from the Columbia University Superfund Research Program (SRP) Center.

UNM Center Highlighted in University News

A recent [University of New Mexico \(UNM\) news release](#) featured the UNM SRP Center and their work focused on studying the toxic effects of mixed metal and uranium exposure on tribal communities in the Southwest. Researchers are gauging the health impacts on Native Americans exposed to mixed metal and uranium waste while gaining a better understanding of how these metals move through the environment.

Dartmouth SRP Center Research Cited in Bloomberg Article

A recent [Bloomberg article](#) about diet during pregnancy cites research by Margaret Karagas and Tracy Punshon of the Dartmouth SRP Center. The article cites two Dartmouth SRP studies, which have found that a fetus may be [exposed to arsenic](#) when the mother eats rice, potentially affecting [fetal growth](#).

PROTECT Partner Featured in New York Times

The Silent Spring Institute, a partner with the Northeastern SRP Puerto Rico Testsite for Exploring Contamination Threats (PROTECT), was recently featured in a [New York Times opinion piece](#). In the article, Nick Kristoff discusses his results from a urine test for toxics through Silent Spring's biomonitoring study on

research accomplishments, and demonstrated interest in tackling significant topics relevant to environmental health and toxicology using state-of-the-art approaches. Visit the [University of Rochester job opportunities website](#) for more information and to apply.

Research Scientist Position in Environmental Health – Northeastern University

A position is open for a Senior Research Scientist in environmental health to conduct and support research for centers that study exposure to environmental contamination in Puerto Rico and its contribution to adverse birth outcomes and early child development. The Senior Research Scientist will work closely with scientists from different disciplines across multiple institutions to collect and analyze large and complex environmental/biological datasets. He/she will perform basic or applied research on critical or difficult problems involving the development of new theories or methodologies. For more information and to apply, see the [job announcement](#).

Postdoctoral Research Associate – Northeastern University

The SRP Center at Northeastern University has an open Postdoctoral Research Associate position, which will require an experienced research scientist or engineer with a focus on environmental health and engineering, specifically on one or more of the following: health informatics, geospatial informatics, environmental epidemiology, and environmental modeling. This individual will work closely with scientists from different disciplines across multiple institutions to analyze large and complex environmental/biological datasets. Primary responsibility is ensuring that the research is complete. The

everyday contaminants humans may be exposed to.

Goldstone Presents at Duke

Jed Goldstone, a Research Specialist in the Biology Department at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and researcher with the Boston University SRP Center, presented as part of the Duke Toxicology Seminar Series in February. His talk focused on the evolution and regulation of a set of chemical response proteins, the cytochrome P450 enzymes, which catalyze the oxidative transformation of many different types of organic substrates.

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

Wan Advances Membrane Technologies for Water Remediation

Hongyi (Derek) Wan is a graduate student at the University of Kentucky (UK) SRP Center under the guidance of Dibakar Bhattacharyya, Ph.D. Through his research, Wan is advancing the development of a metal functionalized membrane system for water remediation.



Wan and colleagues are developing membranes using nanomaterials to detoxify chlorinated organics, such as PCBs, TCE, and carbon tetrachloride, from groundwater and to capture trace toxic metals from industrial water. The microfiltration membranes integrate pH responsive polymers and nano-scale metal catalysts.

In a [recent paper](#), Wan explains how they developed the functionalized membrane system, and how it can be used for PCB dechlorination. According to Wan, these membranes have the potential for large-scale remediation applications and they are currently working to translate these technologies to industrial sectors for further application.

Wan received his bachelor's degree at Tianjin University, China. Tianjin is a principal port city of 16 million people which faces water shortages and poor drainage of industry wastewater. According to Wan, living in Tianjin sparked his interest in developing better ways to remove contaminants from wastewater, leading him to his membrane research in Kentucky.

He won poster awards at the 2017 SRP Annual Meeting and the 11th International Congress on Membranes and Membrane Processes. Wan also received travel grants to present on his SRP-funded work at the 9th Sino-US Joint Conference of Chemical Engineering in Beijing and the 1st Panamerican Conference on Nanotechnologies in Guarujá, Brazil.

appointment generally does not extend beyond two years.

The candidate must have a Ph.D. or equivalent in environmental health, computer science, epidemiology, statistics, geology, biomedical or other related quantitative fields. He/she should have advanced knowledge of modeling, analysis tools, and statistical packages. Previous experience in proposal development is strongly preferred. The ability to communicate and collaborate with a geographically dispersed group is essential. For more information, see the [job announcement](#).

CURRENT RESEARCH BRIEF

[Research Brief 279: Developing Training and Education for Emerging Technologies](#)

Past [Research Briefs](#) are available on the SRP website. To receive the monthly Research Briefs or to submit ideas, email Michelle Heacock (heacockm@niehs.nih.gov).

SRP EVENTS

[Society of Toxicology 57th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo](#)

March 11 - 15, 2018
San Antonio, Texas

[Superstorms and Superfund Sites: Preventing Toxic Exposures from Climate Change Disasters](#)

Grantee Event: Co-sponsored by the Boston University SRP
March 13, 2018 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
EDT
Webinar

[Northeast Superfund Research Program Meeting](#)

March 26 – 27, 2018
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

[Remediation Technologies for Radionuclides and Heavy Metals in](#)

At the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Annual Meeting, Wan received second place for his AIChE Separations Division [TED-Sep presentation](#), a competition modeled on the TED talk, which gave presenters the opportunity to pitch their work to the audience.

Wan is also involved with community engagement activities at the UK SRP Center. He has volunteered to visit a community residing near a Superfund site in Kentucky to explain information related to nutrition and pollutants. He also helped with the Appalachian health and well-being forum in Whitesburg, Kentucky.



When he is not in the lab, Wan enjoys taking part in a variety of outdoor activities, especially skydiving, skiing, and diving.

HOT PUBLICATION

Ultra-Stretchable Graphene-Based Molecular Barriers for Chemical Protection, Detection, and Actuation

Brown University SRP Center researchers show that textured graphene-based coatings can serve as ultra-stretchable molecular barriers. According to an [article in ACS Nano](#), the researchers envision these textured graphene-based bilayer films integrated into responsive devices, including personal monitoring equipment, wearable electronics, and soft robotics.

According to the authors, traditional approaches struggle to meet the conflicting requirements for high-density space-filling crystal structures (for barrier properties) and macromolecular mobility (for stretching). The new concept uses graphene nano-sheets with their high in-plane atomic density but replaces the requirement for molecular mobility with conformational shape changes. These configurational transitions allow the stiff, space-filling graphene sheets to mimic the elastic behavior of polymers.

These graphene-polymer bilayer structures also function as sensors or actuators by transducing chemical stimuli into mechanical deformation and electrical resistance change through asymmetric polymer swelling. These results may enable multifunctional fabrics that integrate chemical protection, sensing, and actuation, with further applications as selective barriers, membranes, stretchable electronics, or soft robotics.

AWARD WINNERS

Rice Wins Fierce Award

University of Kentucky (UK) SRP Center trainee Brittany Rice was one of five women recognized with a UK Graduate Diversity and

[Soil, Ground Water, and Sediments \(Session 2\)](#)

March 28, 2018 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

EDT

Webinar

[Understanding the Combined Effects of Environmental Chemical and Non-Chemical Stressors: Atherosclerosis as a Model](#)

April 3 - 4, 2018

Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

[ASPET Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2018](#)

April 21 - 25, 2018

San Diego, California

[2018 Toxicology and Risk Assessment Conference](#)

April 23 - 26, 2018

Cincinnati, Ohio

[3rd International Conference on One Medicine One Science](#)

April 29 - May 2, 2018

Minneapolis, Minnesota

[Central and Eastern European Conference on Health and the Environment \(CEECH\)](#)

June 10 - 14, 2018

Krakow, Poland

[Innovations at the Intersections of the Aquatic Sciences: Water Quality, Health, Materials, Technologies](#)

June 24 - 29, 2018

Holderness, New Hampshire

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 helpful information, such as SRP administrative supplements information, SRP best practices, guidelines for NIEHS logo use, and the Data Collection Form.

See the [SRP Science Digest](#) to read more about recent SRP research

Professional Initiatives Fierce Award. Rice was honored for mentoring women in fields where underrepresented student participation is limited and promoting diversity across the UK campus and community.

Simonich Selected to Attend Leadership Institute

Oregon State University SRP Center researcher Staci Simonich was selected to attend the [Higher Education Resource Services \(HERS\) Institute](#) at the University of Denver in June. Simonich was awarded a Clare Booth Luce Scholarship that provides funds to women in STEM higher education to attend the HERS Institute. Simonich will be part of the [HERS Luce Program for Women in STEM Leadership](#).

WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

Superstorms and Superfund Sites: Preventing Toxic Exposures from Climate Change Disasters

During this webinar, [Superstorms and Superfund Sites: Preventing Toxic Exposures from Climate Change Disasters](#), panelists will describe the range of toxic exposures and mixtures of chemicals that may be encountered during climate disasters from water, air, and industrial sources. They will discuss community prevention plans and policies that can help protect human and environmental health when the next disaster strikes. The webinar is hosted by the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the Boston University SRP Center.

Featured speakers are **Anna Goodman Hoover**, assistant professor and co-leader of the University of Kentucky SRP Center Research Translation Core (RTC), and **Tiffany Skogstrom**, a policy analyst for the Building Chemical Safety into Climate Change Resiliency Project at the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance. Boston University SRP Center RTC leader **Wendy Heiger-Bernays** will moderate the session.

The webinar will be held **March 13, 2018 at 2:00 pm EDT**.

Remediation Technologies for Radionuclides and Heavy Metals in Soil, Groundwater, and Sediments

The Federal Remediation Technology Roundtable (FRTR) invites you to attend its two-part webinar series, FRTR Presents: Remediation Technologies for Radionuclides and Heavy Metals in Soil, Ground Water, and Sediments. Each webinar is based on presentations from the most recent FRTR general meeting. An archive of the first session, which occurred on February 28, is available on the [CLU-IN website](#). In the second session, SRP Health Scientist Administrator Heather Henry will be discussing SRP-funded research in metal and metalloid remediation technologies.

Session 2: Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 1:00 - 3:00 pm EDT

To register, please visit the [CLU-IN website](#).

highlights and activities.

The [SRP Events page](#) contains information about upcoming meetings, seminars, and webinars.

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 [@SRP_NIEHS](#) to instantly hear news about the Program, noteworthy publications, events, and job opportunities for trainees.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

- **In Situ Activated Carbon Amendment for Sediment and Soil Mercury Remediation**
Dr. Cynthia Gilmour, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
- **Incremental Sampling Methods for Remediation of Heavy Metals**
Cathy Amoroso, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **SRP-Funded Research in Metal/Metalloid Remediation Technologies**
Dr. Heather Henry, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

Call for Applications to Participate in Neurohackademy 2018

[Neurohackademy](#) is a two-week hands-on workshop that will focus on technologies to analyze human neuroscience data, methods to extract information from large datasets of publicly available data, and tools for making human neuroscience research open and reproducible. The workshop will be held at the University of Washington eScience Institute in Seattle, **July 30 - August 10, 2018**.

Sessions in the first week will include lectures and tutorials on data science, machine learning, data visualization, and data resources. The second week will be devoted to participant-directed activities: guided work on team projects, hackathon sessions, and breakout sessions on topics of interest.

They are now accepting [applications](#) from trainees and researchers in different stages of their career (graduate students, postdocs, faculty, and research staff). Ideally, applicants should have some prior experience with neuroscience data analysis, but they welcome applications from participants with a variety of relevant backgrounds. **Applications are due March 19.**

PEPH Webinar: One Health

On the next [PEPH webinar](#), presenters will introduce [One Health](#), a holistic, cutting-edge approach that is gaining traction in the environmental health sciences. The concept of One Health emphasizes the connection between human health and the health of animals and the environment – with the goal of improving all health. Like environmental public health, One Health encourages collaborative efforts from different disciplines and backgrounds to achieve its goals locally, nationally, and globally.

The webinar will be held **March 20, 2018, 2:30 – 3:30 pm EDT**. To register for the webinar, visit the [NIEHS WebEx page](#).

Applied Bioinformatics and Environmental Genomics Courses at MDI Biological Laboratory

[MDI Biological Laboratory](#), in collaboration with the Dartmouth SRP Center, is pleased to offer two courses in July 2018 for advanced graduate students, post-doctoral trainees, and

researchers interested in incorporating bioinformatics into their research. Though the two courses are independent, participants may benefit from taking both courses. The first course offers experiences in bioinformatics that pave the way for the more complex experimental designs used in the second course.

[Applied Bioinformatics](#) (July 7-12, 2018) is an introductory course designed to prepare trainees and researchers at all levels to incorporate bioinformatics into their research. Hands-on experience is provided in bioinformatic data analysis of biomedical data such as human or mouse gene expression.

[Environmental Genomics](#) (July 13-21, 2018) is a hands-on real-world project training experience for Ph.D. students and early career scientists, designed to provide trainees with sufficient knowledge to initiate their own research programs. The course introduces wet bench and data analysis methods required to acquire and analyze RNA-Seq data in the context of gene-environment interactions and their effects on individuals, populations, and ecosystems.

The application deadline is **June 8, 2018**.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2018 Toxicology and Risk Assessment Conference

The [2018 Toxicology and Risk Assessment Conference \(TRAC\)](#), which will be held April 23 - 26 in Cincinnati, Ohio, will focus on topics in risk assessment principles and practice. The conference provides attendees with an overview of current research, methodological, and practice issues that are the focus of risk assessment efforts in various federal agencies, academic institutions, industry, and other organizations. The theme for TRAC 2018 is "Models, Methods, and Emerging Concerns."

TRAC will feature a poster session with a trainee poster competition. The poster abstract deadline is **March 12, 2018**.

2018 Tribal Environmental Health Summit

Abstracts are now being accepted for the [2018 Tribal Environmental Health Summit](#), June 25-26, 2018, in Corvallis Oregon. The summit, which is co-sponsored by the Oregon State University SRP Center, will focus on sustaining long-term partnerships and projects with Native American Communities. The abstract deadline is **May 31, 2018**.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

EPA Environmental Education (EE) Grant Opportunity

EPA is pleased to announce that funding up to \$3 million for locally focused environmental education grants is available under the 2018 [EE Local Grant Program](#). EPA will award three to four grants in each of EPA's ten regions for a total of 30-35 grants

nationwide.

Through this grant program, EPA intends to provide financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques that will serve to increase environmental and conservation literacy and that encourage behavior benefiting the environment in the communities in which they are located.

Proposals are due **March 15, 2018**. Visit the [EPA EE Grant Solicitation Notice](#) to view the Request for Proposals issued for each of EPA's ten regions.

Internships with the Science and Technology Innovation Program

The [Wilson Center Science and Technology Innovation Program \(STIP\)](#) is currently accepting [research interns](#) for the summer of 2018. STIP focuses on understanding bottom-up, public innovation; top-down, policy innovation; and supporting responsible and equitable practices at the point where new technology and existing political, social, and cultural processes converge. They are seeking advanced students (graduate-level preferred) with an interest in the research and policy applications of artificial intelligence, biological health innovations, cybersecurity, open science, human-centered design, international governance of science and technology innovation, and the ethics of science and technology innovation. **The deadline to apply is March 15.**

Integrative Action for Resilience: Progress Through Community-Research Partnerships

A funding opportunity from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), [Integrative Action for Resilience: Progress Through Community-Research Partnerships](#), is available for community leaders, organizations, and researchers. The opportunity focuses on helping communities prepare for, withstand, and recover from disasters, and understanding the combination of factors that lead to resilient communities.

RWJF wants to bring together people who have not worked together in the past. They are not seeking joint proposals at this time. Instead, they are inviting two types of applicants:

- Those who are working on the front lines to mitigate the effects of sudden or long-term stress on their community.
- Researchers who have experience working within communities and who have mixed quantitative and qualitative research methodologies

The application deadline is **April 11, 2018, 3:00 pm EDT**.

DATA SCIENCE AND DATA SHARING

NIH Scientific Data Council Seeking Input on a Draft NIH

Strategic Plan for Data Science

In order to capitalize on the opportunities presented by advances in data science, the NIH is developing a [Strategic Plan for Data Science](#). This plan describes NIH's overarching goals, strategic objectives, and implementation tactics for promoting the modernization of the NIH-funded biomedical data science ecosystem. On March 5, NIH published a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) that seeks input from stakeholders, including members of the scientific community, academic institutions, the private sector, health professionals, professional societies, advocacy groups, patient communities, as well as other interested members of the public.

Comments can be made electronically on the [RFI submission website](#). To ensure consideration, comments must be submitted by **April 2, 2018**.

Informing Environmental Health Decisions Through Data Integration

At a recent [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine \(NAS\) workshop](#), scientists, policymakers, risk assessors and regulators came together to explore the promise and potential pitfalls of environmental health data integration. SRP grantees Kim Boekelheide, of Brown University, and Margaret Karagas, of Dartmouth College, served on the workshop organizing committee.

Integrating large quantities of data from multiple, disparate sources can create new opportunities to understand complex environmental health questions. However, combining new types and larger quantities of data to inform a specific decision presents many new challenges. Workshop speakers discussed methods to reliably integrate data from experiments and presented a general framework for data visualization.

Boekelheide, who is also the co-chair of the NAS Standing Committee on Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions, provided opening and closing remarks at the workshop, highlighting the importance of integrating data and incorporating it into environmental health decision-making. Karagas opened day two with reflections from day one of the workshop, which included sessions on the promise and perils of integrating data, foundations for integration, and emerging approaches for environmental health data integration.

INTERAGENCY NEWS

Superfund and Technology Liaison Program Fact Sheet

The [Superfund and Technology Liaison \(STL\) Program Factsheet](#) was recently updated with current information about STL regional contacts and technical support centers. The STL program was established to facilitate regional access to EPA Office of Research and Development laboratories, provide technical

support, and assist with the integration of science and technology into decision-making for hazardous waste programs.

Superfund Redevelopment Focus List Announced

As of January 17, 2018, EPA announced the [Superfund Redevelopment Focus List](#), which comprises National Priorities List sites with the greatest expected redevelopment and commercial potential.

EPA will focus redevelopment training, tools, and resources toward the sites on this list. EPA will work with developers interested in reusing these and other Superfund sites, will identify potentially interested businesses and industries to keep them apprised of redevelopment opportunities, and will continue to engage with local groups in cleanup and redevelopment activities to promote the successful redevelopment and revitalization of their communities.

EPA developed this list in response to the [Superfund Task Force Recommendations](#), issued July 25, 2017, which outlined Administrator Pruitt's expectations for a renewed focus on accelerating work and progress at all Superfund sites while working to successfully return those sites to productive use in communities across the country.

2018 EPA Annual Report on Risk Evaluations Released

As required under the [Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act](#), EPA has released its annual plan for chemical risk evaluations. The annual plan identifies the next steps for the first 10 chemical reviews currently underway and describes EPA's work in 2018 to prepare for future risk evaluations. By the end of the 2018 calendar year, EPA will initiate prioritization for 40 chemicals - at least 20 low-priority and 20 high-priority candidates. By December 22, 2019, EPA will have designated 20 substances as low-priority and initiated risk evaluations on 20 high-priority substances. For more information, visit the [EPA website](#).

