



# Superfund Research Program *e-Posted Notes*

September 3, 2021 (Issue 212)

## HEADLINES

### NIEHS SRP Science Art Competition Winners

The NIEHS SRP Science Art Competition held this spring was a chance for trainees to share content they captured while conducting research and staying safe over the summer. Trainees from SRP Centers across the U.S. submitted entries across four categories: laboratory experiments, field experiments, an image of something you saw while staying safe, and a piece of artwork created while social distancing. We encourage you to take a look at the winners and their impressive submissions, which were featured in a September [Environmental Factor](#) article.

### Register Now: Risk Communication Strategies to Reduce Exposures and Improve Health Webinar Series

SRP is hosting a Risk e-Learning webinar series focused on strategies to communicate potential environmental health risks to reduce exposures and improve health.

The four-part series will showcase effective risk communication strategies and how they have been tailored to the needs of diverse communities. Presentations will also highlight first-hand experiences designing risk communication messages and campaigns, evaluating impact, and adapting communication strategies for different populations. The webinar series builds on the [SRP Risk Communication workshop](#) held in June.

Registration is now open for all four sessions! See the [Risk e-Learning webinar series webpage](#) for more information about specific sessions, including registration links and a list of presenters.

- Session I: [Designing and Tailoring Messages](#), Sept. 24, 1-3 p.m. EDT
- Session II: [Combating Misinformation and Mistrust When Communicating Health Risks](#), Oct. 8, 1-3 p.m. EDT
- Session III: [Engaging Communities and Tailoring Messages to Advance Equity and Justice](#), Oct. 20, 1-3 p.m. EDT
- Session IV: [Communication Toolkits to Communicate Environmental Risks](#), Oct. 22, 1-3 p.m. EDT

### Integrating Approaches to Predict How Contaminants Move in the Environment

Researchers at the University of Arizona SRP Center study how hazardous materials move in the environment. By combining

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### PFAS Postdoctoral Research Associate at Northeastern University

Northeastern University's Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute seeks a one-year postdoctoral research associate to work in the [PFAS Project Lab](#) led by Phil Brown and Alissa Corder. The ideal candidate should have a doctoral degree and research experience in environmental health and community engagement, and preferably knowledge of PFAS science or policy. Candidates with experience in one or more areas of data science, as well as qualitative research experience, are preferred. For more information, and to apply, email Phil Brown ([p.brown@northeastern.edu](mailto:p.brown@northeastern.edu)).

### Postdoctoral Fellowship - University of Rochester

The University of Rochester Medical Center is accepting applications for a postdoctoral fellow in environmental and perinatal epidemiology. The fellow will analyze and publish data from a prospective pregnancy cohort study to examine adverse pregnancy outcomes from maternal air pollution exposure. Applicants should have knowledge of epidemiology and biostatistics and must have a Ph.D. or Sc.D. in a related field. To apply, please submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, two names for letters of reference, and 1-2 representative publications to David Rich

mathematical models with laboratory and field studies, the team can better understand factors that cause contaminant cleanup to stall and identify cost-effective solutions to better protect human health. Read the latest [Public Health Impact Story](#) to learn more!

## NIH Requests Input on Climate Change and Health

The Steering Committee of the NIH Climate Change and Human Health Working Group extended the deadline to submit feedback on the approaches NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices can take to enhance research on the health implications of climate change. Responses will be accepted through **Sept. 17**. The NIH has identified six priority areas of research on human health and climate change and seeks to identify research gaps and priorities in these areas. Please see the [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to submit a response and for more information on the priority research areas and information requested.

## Resource: Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

We wanted to make you aware of the NIEHS [Climate Change and Human Health \(CCHH\) Literature Portal](#). The CCHH Literature Portal is an integrated, curated bibliographic database of peer-reviewed research and gray literature that has been updated and expanded to contain more than 13,000 peer-reviewed articles and scientific papers published between 2007 and 2020. The portal offers scientists, policymakers, educators, students, health professionals, librarians, and emergency managers a one-stop shop for information on the scientific basis of how climate change affects human health.

Do you have any publications related to climate change? Take a look to see if it is in the [CCHH Literature Portal](#) today! If you can't find your publication but would like to see it in the portal, you can send your suggestions by using the [Contact Us](#) button.

## 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:

- [Good nutrition can help counter effects of contaminants, expert says](#): Rick Woychik, director of NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program, spoke with University of Kentucky project leader, [Bernhard Hennig](#), about complex interactions between nutrition and environmental exposures.

Visit the SRP page for more stories about the program:

- [SRP Trainee Event Highlights New Approaches to Engage with Communities](#): SRP trainees from institutions across the Southeastern U.S. gathered virtually for a two-day event, Aug. 2 and 4, to discuss best practices for partnering with communities vulnerable to environmental exposures.
- [SRP Researchers Inform PFAS Guidance](#): SRP-funded

([David\\_Rich@umc.rochester.edu](mailto:David_Rich@umc.rochester.edu)).

### Postdoctoral Opportunity at Harvard

The Department of Biomedical Informatics in collaboration with the Center for Computational Biomedicine (CCB) at Harvard Medical School is seeking a postdoctoral fellow with experience in biomedical data science. The successful candidate will work with Chirag Patel, the executive director of the CCB, to build tools and computer infrastructure to enhance the use of large datasets from the domains of biology and population health. For more information, contact Nichole Parker ([nichole\\_parker@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:nichole_parker@hms.harvard.edu)).

### EPA Postdoctoral Fellowship

A postdoctoral opportunity is available at the EPA to conduct research related to analytical chemistry and PFAS in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The successful applicant will have the opportunity to gain experience in the acquisition and modeling of empirically derived PFAS bioavailability data and will present this research through a combination of reports, presentations, and manuscripts. Applications are due **Oct. 12**. See the [job posting](#) for more information.

### Postdoctoral Opportunity at University of Michigan

The University of Michigan seeks a postdoctoral research fellow in environmental toxicology and epidemiology. A doctoral degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution is required at the time of appointment. For more information, see the [job posting](#) or email Gramm Drennen ([drenneng@umich.edu](mailto:drenneng@umich.edu)).

## CURRENT RESEARCH BRIEF

[SRP Research Brief 321](#): First-of-its-Kind Arsenic Meta-Analysis

researchers were part of an ad-hoc committee that met six times between February and August to hear the experiences of communities across the country affected by exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and use that information to help shape new recommendations.

## Gonsalves Discusses Food Access

Brown University SRP Center Community Engagement Core (CEC) State Agency Liaison Summer Gonsalves was featured in a [news story](#) about the social and environmental factors that limit food access for people of color. Gonsalves explained what food deserts are and how they affect communities. She also discussed some of the work the CEC is doing with the Narragansett Indian Tribe to increase access to healthy food, such as [distributing boxes](#) filled with seasonally, locally sourced foods.

## Grandjean Talks PFAS

University of Rhode Island (URI) SRP Center project leader Philippe Grandjean was quoted in a [CalMatters news article](#) about the chemicals perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in drinking water. The article discusses a recent move by the state government to seek public comment on proposed PFOA and PFOS drinking water standards. Grandjean's SRP-funded research explores the link between exposure to PFAS and metabolic abnormalities in children.

## UC Berkeley Scientists Featured in the Media

University of California (UC) Berkeley researcher Jillian Banfield was recently featured in [Nature](#) and [Science Alert](#) for her discovery of a [novel DNA structure](#), named Borgs, in California wetland mud. Supported by outside funding, these findings suggest a link between Borgs and *Methanoperedens*, a single-celled organism that can break down methane. Banfield co-leads an [SRP-funded project](#) to identify microbial communities that bioremediate chemical mixtures.

Project leader David Sedlak was recently interviewed by [Voice of America](#) on the topic of sponge cities. Sedlak discussed the benefits of green infrastructure and how it can create more livable cities while decreasing flooding from modest-sized storms. He also described the necessity of flood control infrastructure to protect against larger storms and floods.

## TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

### Magana Reflects on Women of Color in STEM

Laura Magana is a trainee at the UC Berkeley SRP Center studying the correlation between formaldehyde exposure and human disease using animal studies and laboratory experiments.

Formaldehyde, an environmental

Paves the Way for Future Data Integration (Andres Cardenas, UC Berkeley and Mary Gamble, Columbia University)

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](mailto:heacockm@niehs.nih.gov)).

Video summaries of the SRP Research Briefs are available on the [NIEHS Social Media Shorts YouTube page](#).

## EVENTS

### [Big Data in Environmental Science and Toxicology: Session 3](#)

Sponsored by the Texas A&M SRP Center

September 8, 2021

Virtual

### [NIEHS Environmental Health Language Collaborative Workshop](#)

September 9-10, 2021

Virtual

### [International Data for Policy Conference](#)

September 14-16, 2021

Virtual

### [International Conference on Biomedical Ontologies](#)

September 15-18, 2021

Bozen-Bolzano, Italy and Virtual

### [Risk Communication Strategies to Reduce Exposures and Improve Health: Session I "Designing and Tailoring Messages"](#)

September 24, 2021

Virtual

### [FLUOROS 2021 Symposium](#)

Sponsored by the University of Rhode Island SRP Center

October 3-7, 2021

Providence, Rhode Island and

Virtual

### [Big Data in Environmental Science and Toxicology: Session 4](#)

Sponsored by the Texas A&M SRP Center

October 6, 2021



pollutant used in making building materials and household products, is neurotoxic and carcinogenic. Under the mentorship of Center Director Martyn Smith, Magana hopes to better understand the underlying mechanistic pathways by which formaldehyde exposure can harm human health.

Magana received a [2018 K.C. Donnelly Externship Award Supplement](#) to travel to the Oregon State University SRP Center to learn how to incorporate behavioral and developmental screening tests, as well as gene expression assays, into her research. She is now applying these skills to evaluate formaldehyde toxicity in zebrafish.

She is also conducting mouse studies to explore how formaldehyde exposure disrupts cell function and can result in cancers, such as leukemia. In a [recent publication](#), Magana and other UC Berkeley SRP-funded researchers reported that formaldehyde can damage pulmonary and olfactory cells in mice.

A proud Oregonian Chicana, Magana is passionate about promoting higher participation of women and people of color in science, academia, and leadership positions. She is a member of the Latinx Association for Graduate Students in Engineering and Science, the Latina Researchers Network, the UC Berkeley graduate chapter of Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, and the UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly.

An avid mentor, Magana volunteered at UC Berkeley's Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics Conference, which served to introduce 5th through 8th grade girls to career opportunities in mathematics, science, engineering, computer science, and technology. She also presented at the [NSF INCLUDES Symposium for Advancing Latinas in STEM Academic Careers](#), where she presented data on Latinx presence in doctoral STEM programs.

In her spare time, Magana finds peace visiting her parents and helping out around their farm. She also enjoys hiking, as long as she gets to have a good brunch at the end. A big fan of science fiction, fantasy adventure, and superhero action, Magana loves to relax reading a good book or watching movies.

## HOT PUBLICATION

### SRP Researchers Use Plants to Understand Contaminant Metabolism

In a new [NIEHS-funded study](#), researchers from the Iowa

Virtual

Risk Communication Strategies to Reduce Exposures and Improve Health: [Session II "Combating Misinformation and Mistrust When Communicating Health Risks"](#)

October 8, 2021

Virtual

Risk Communication Strategies to Reduce Exposures and Improve Health: [Session III "Engaging Communities and Tailoring Messages to Advance Equity and Justice"](#)

October 20, 2021

Virtual

Risk Communication Strategies to Reduce Exposures and Improve Health: [Session IV "Communication Toolkits to Communicate Environmental Risks"](#)

October 22, 2021

Virtual

[Big Data in Environmental Science and Toxicology: Session 5](#)

Sponsored by the Texas A&M SRP Center

November 3, 2021

Virtual

[Big Data in Environmental Science and Toxicology: Session 6](#)

Sponsored by the Texas A&M SRP Center

December 1, 2021

Virtual

[SRP 35th Anniversary Annual Meeting](#)

December 15-17, 2021

Raleigh, North Carolina

[International Data Week](#)

June 20-23, 2022

Seoul, South Korea and Virtual

[SETAC 8th World Congress](#)

September 4-8, 2022

University SRP Center provided the first evidence that poplar trees can further degrade certain polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) metabolites or transform back to their original forms. These findings provide insights into the transport and transformation of PCB metabolites, which could help researchers understand new sources of these compounds in the environment.

PCBs are a large and complex group of chemicals that often occur in mixtures and can contaminate soil, groundwater, and air. However, some PCB metabolites can be more toxic than the parent compounds, and their environmental occurrence and persistence is not well characterized. Poplar trees are widely used in environmental remediation studies to remove, contain, immobilize, or metabolize contaminants in soil or water.

The researchers exposed poplar trees to two PCB metabolites, a methoxy-PCB and a PCB sulfate, to study how they are taken up by the plant and transformed.

PCB metabolites were taken up by the roots and transported to the leaves. They found that the methoxy-PCB was transformed into both a hydroxyl-PCB and a sulfate PCB. Similarly, sulfate PCB was transformed into both a hydroxyl-PCB and a methoxy-PCB. Their study demonstrated interconversion of the three compounds for the first time in plants.

According to the authors, these findings shed light on how plants may act as new sources of these PCB metabolites, which may be more toxic than the parent compounds. They explained that more research should be done to demonstrate the environmental hazard of these transformations.

## AWARD WINNERS

### Dartmouth SRP Receive Grants to Expand Research

The Dartmouth College SRP Center received a grant from the [Theodore Edson Parker Foundation](#) to expand their dragonfly program. The [dragonfly program](#) leverages citizen science to demonstrate that dragonfly larvae are a simple and cost-effective way to estimate the potential for mercury exposure in fish and wildlife.

Trace Element Analysis Core co-leaders Brian Jackson and Tracy Punshon received funding from the [National Institute of General Medical Sciences](#) to build on the work done by their core and establish a Biomedical National Elemental Imaging Resource to promote and facilitate the use of elemental imaging within the biomedical community.

### URI SRP Trainee Receives Award in Marine Chemistry

URI SRP Center trainee Maya Morales-Devitt received the [James Corless Prize in Marine Chemistry](#) from the URI Foundation. Morales-Devitt is a doctoral student working with URI SRP Center Director Rainer Lohmann to develop analytical and field methods to quantify PFAS in air and different water bodies. Morales-Devitt also received the [Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Environmental Protection Agency Fellowship](#), which will help fund

Singapore

[11th Conference on Metal Toxicity and Carcinogenesis](#)

October 16-19, 2022

Montreal, Canada

## GET UPDATES FROM OTHER SRP GRANTEEES

To see the latest SRP grantee publications, visit the [SRP Grantee 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 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.

her research to develop passive samplers for PFAS in water.

## Chiu Appointed to EPA Advisory Committees

Texas A&M University (TAMU) SRP Center Decision Core leader Weihsueh Chiu was appointed to the [Science Advisory Board](#) and the [Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee](#) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He will also chair [the Committee of the National Academies](#) that will provide the EPA with a review of existing laboratory mammalian toxicity tests for risk assessment.

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### Accepting Publications for a Special Issue of Arsenic in Drinking Water

[Water](#), a peer-reviewed, open access journal on water science and technology, is accepting manuscript submissions for a special issue “Arsenic in Drinking Water and Human Health.” SRP Health Scientist Administrator Danielle Carlin is a guest editor and will help write the editorial to this special issue. NIEHS grantees and other researchers are invited to submit their manuscripts to share their latest findings on the human health effects of arsenic in drinking water. Submitted manuscripts should not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. For more information, see the [special issue webpage](#).

### Deadline Extended “ Abstracts for EPA Decon Conference

The [EPA International Decontamination Research and Development \(Decon\) Conference](#) will be **Nov. 1-5**. The deadline to submit abstracts for oral, poster, or technology cafe presentations has been extended to **Sept. 8**. For more information about the types of abstracts that can be submitted, visit the [abstract submission info page](#).

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### NIH Applicant Assistance Program

The NIH Applicant Assistance Program (AAP) provides free support for companies that are planning to apply for a Phase I [NIH Small Business Innovation Research or Small Business Technology Transfer Grants award](#). The AAP is open to current and future entrepreneurs developing innovative technology ideas in the healthcare space. A key objective of this program is to encourage participation from small businesses that are owned or controlled by individuals who are traditionally underrepresented in the biomedical sciences. Eligible applicants must apply by **Sept. 22**. Additional information on the application can be found at the [AAP program website](#).

### NIH Support for Research Excellence

NIH has released two funding opportunities for a new program called Support for Research Excellence (SuRE). SuRE is a

research capacity building initiative designed to develop and sustain research excellence in higher education institutions that receive limited NIH research support and serve students who are underrepresented in biomedical research.

- [PAR-21-227](#): Resource Center for the Support for Research Excellence (SuRE) Program (U24 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed). Applications are due **Sept. 24**.
- [PAR-21-173](#): First Independent Research (SuRE-First) Award (R16 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed). Applications are due **Sept. 28**.

### **DoD Minerva Research Initiative**

The Department of Defense (DoD) seeks proposals for the Minerva Research Initiative, which aims to increase DoD's intellectual capital in the social sciences and improve its ability to address future challenges and build bridges between the Department and the social science community. The initiative is for research related to nine interest areas, including Social Implication of Environmental Change. Applications are due **Sept. 29**. For more information, see the [Grant Opportunity Notice](#).

### **Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites [research grant applications](#) that will identify, develop, test, evaluate, or refine strategies to disseminate and implement evidence-based practices into public health, clinical practice, and community settings. Applications are due **Oct. 5**.

### **Addressing Health Disparities Among Immigrant Populations Through Effective Interventions**

NIEHS seeks to support innovative research to understand factors that contribute to health disparities among U.S. immigrant populations. This FOA ([PAR-21-080](#)) calls for multidisciplinary research focusing on the design and implementation of effective interventions that will address immigrant-specific factors to reduce health disparities. Projects should involve collaborations among relevant stakeholders in U.S. immigrant population groups, such as researchers, community organizations, public health organizations, consumer advocacy groups, faith-based organizations, and health care providers. Applications are due **Oct. 5**.

### **Investigator Initiated Research in Computational Genomics and Data Science**

The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) released two funding opportunities for innovative research efforts in computational genomics, data science, statistics, and bioinformatics for basic and/or clinical genomic sciences that are broadly applicable to human health and disease. NHGRI also seeks applications for research leading to improvement of existing software or approaches that are in broad use by the genomics community.

- [PAR-21-254](#): Investigator Initiated Research in Computational Genomics and Data Science (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed).

Applications are due **Oct. 5.**

- [PAR-21-255](#): Investigator Initiated Research in Computational Genomics and Data Science (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed).

Applications are due **Oct. 16.**

### **Request for Applications: EPA Annual P3 Awards**

The EPA, as part of its [People, Prosperity and the Planet \(P3\) Award Program](#), seeks applicants who will research, develop, design, and demonstrate solutions to improve the quality of people's lives and protect the environment. The EPA offers the P3 competition in response to the environmental and public health challenges in the U.S., including those in small, rural, tribal and/or underserved communities. Applications are due **Oct. 27.** For more information, see the [Request for Applications](#).

### **Innovative Approaches for Improving Environmental Health Literacy**

NIEHS posted the following Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer FOAs. This announcement solicits grant applicants to develop novel tools, activities, or materials to build environmental health literacy for a variety of groups, including community members, health care and public health professionals, educators, and students of all ages. Applications are due **Nov. 10.**

- [RFA-ES-21-008](#): Innovative Approaches for Improving Environmental Health Literacy (R43/R44 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- [RFA-ES-21-009](#): Innovative Approaches for Improving Environmental Health Literacy (R41/R42 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

### **Artisanal Mining Grand Challenge: The Amazon**

The [Artisanal Mining Grand Challenge](#) seeks innovations that improve the environmental and social outcomes of artisanal and small-scale gold mining in the Amazon region. All proposed innovations should demonstrate a measurable, attributable impact on reducing, mitigating, or eliminating harm to water resources, soil, biodiversity, and/or human health and well-being. Winners from previous years include SRP-funded small business, [Picoyune](#). Applications are due **Nov. 10.**

### **Smart Health and Biomedical Research in the Era of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Data Science**

NIH announced a collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF) on an interagency funding opportunity, [Smart Health and Biomedical Research in the Era of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Data Science](#). The solicitation aims to address technological and data science challenges that require fundamental research and development of new tools to address pressing questions in the biomedical and public health communities. Traditional disease-centric medical, clinical, pharmacological, biological, or physiological studies and evaluations are outside the scope of this solicitation. Applications are due **Nov. 10.** For more information, refer to the [NSF Smart](#)

[Health website.](#)

## **Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary Environmental Research**

NIEHS issued a [Notice of Intent](#) to reissue a FOA for the Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary Environmental Research (ViCTER). The ViCTER program fosters and promotes early-stage transdisciplinary collaborations and/or translational research efforts among fundamental, clinical, and population-based researchers in the environmental health field. A FOA will be posted in the fall, with an estimated application due date for **Feb. 2022**. For more information, please contact Heather Henry ([henryh@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:henryh@niehs.nih.gov)).

### **INTERAGENCY NEWS**

#### **ATSDR launches new Chronic Stress and Environmental Contamination Training Module**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has been working to better understand and develop resources to address the psychological and social impacts associated with living in a community affected by long-term environmental contamination. The agency is pleased to announce the launch of a new [Chronic Stress and Environmental Contamination Training](#).

This self-guided online training complements the ATSDR [Community Stress Resource Center](#). The training is intended for public health professionals working with communities affected by environmental contamination. It covers the biology of psychological stress, reasons why environmental contamination can be a source of chronic stress, the role of community resilience, and ways to tailor public health activities to support community psychosocial health. Please direct questions to [ATSDRStress@cdc.gov](mailto:ATSDRStress@cdc.gov).

#### **Superfund Remediation and Redevelopment for Environmental Justice Communities**

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and the EPA just released the [Superfund Remediation and Redevelopment for Environmental Justice Communities report](#). The purpose of this report is to recommend best practices to clean up Superfund sites and to improve the quality of life of communities impacted by contaminated hazardous waste sites. The report also introduces the need to adopt the core tenants of risk communication in written and oral communications with communities to enable people to make informed decisions to protect their wellbeing.

#### **NIH Invites Comments on Women's Health**

The NIH Office of Research on Women's Health is planning a [Women's Health Consensus Conference Oct. 20](#). The planning committee seeks comments and testimonies from the scientific community and the general public on current research efforts and personal experiences related to women's health to identify future areas of research. Responses will also be used for

planning purposes to inform the meeting. Comments must be received by **Sept. 15** for full consideration. For more information, see this [Federal Register notice](#).

## DATA SCIENCE AND DATA SHARING

### MIT Shares DNA Damage Metadata

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) SRP Center shared metadata from a publication that [linked a DNA repair enzyme to cancer susceptibility](#). The publication was recently featured in an [SRP news story](#). Their metadata and related standard operating procedures are open to the public via [Fairdom Hub](#).

### NIH Requests Input for Data Science

NIH recently released the following Requests for Information:

- [Developing Consent Language for Future Use of Data and Biospecimens](#): Responses are due **Sept. 29**.
- [NIH Programs to Increase Access to Cloud Computing to Diverse Biomedical Research Institutions](#): Responses are due **Sept. 30**.
- [Critical resource gaps and opportunities to support Next Generation Sequencing \(NGS\) test development, validation, and data interpretation](#): Responses are due **Nov. 1**.

### Data-Knowledge-Action for Urban Systems Podcast Series

The Data-Knowledge-Action for Urban Systems podcast series reflects on the systematic changes required for cities to become adaptive and intelligent for handling urban wellbeing. Each podcast will feature a global expert who will discuss critical issues and point out the way forward. New episodes release every two weeks. To listen to previous episodes, see the [podcast series website](#).

### Global Open Science Cloud Initiative Working Groups

The Global Open Science Cloud Initiative is looking for experts in data science interested in joining their working groups or case studies. The initiative aims to encourage the cooperation, alignment, and interoperability of existing and emerging open science clouds. [Working groups](#) will build on existing experiences and address key areas of shared interest and [case studies](#) will be applied to demonstrate how international collaborative research communities and projects can be supported by open science clouds. For more information about the initiative, see the [recording of their introductory event](#).

### TAMU Big Data in Environmental Science and Toxicology

The TAMU SRP Center is hosting a free, virtual learning series focused on techniques to analyze and share data for environmental and toxicology research. Over the course of six sessions, held once a month from July through December, attendees will engage with SRP researchers and other data

science experts to learn about handling data and placing research into context. The third session, [“Manipulating Big\(ish\) Data in Excel and Reading Into R”](#), will be held **Sept. 8**. For more information about specific sessions, please see the [course website](#).

### **Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Symposium**

The NIH Library Bioinformatics Support Program will host a free virtual [Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Symposium](#) **Sept. 9**. The event will feature keynote lectures, presentations on bioinformatics techniques, and research talks from authors of bioinformatics proceedings. The morning sessions will focus on epigenomics, protein structures, and proteomics. Afternoon sessions will feature genomics and single cell sequencing.

### **Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience in the Era of Big Data**

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is hosting a series of lectures dedicated to innovation, invention, and scientific discovery. The next session, [Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience in the Era of Big Data](#), will be **Sept. 9** with guest speaker Damien Fair, co-director of the Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain. This session will highlight new sample collection strategies, study designs, and analytic strategies in functional neuroimaging. More information is available on the [NIMH Director’s Innovation Speaker Series](#) website.

### **Data Carpentry Workshops**

Remember to check out the [Data Carpentry Upcoming Workshops](#) page! The [next workshop](#) will be **Sept. 10 and 17**. [Data Carpentry](#) develops and teaches workshops on the fundamental data skills needed to conduct research. Its target audience is researchers who have little to no prior computational experience, and its lessons are domain specific, building on learners' existing knowledge to enable them to quickly apply skills learned to their own research. Participants will be encouraged to help one another and apply what they have learned to their own research problems.

### **NIH Workshop on Broadening Cloud Computing**

NIH is hosting a virtual workshop on [broadening cloud computing usage in biomedical research](#) **Sept. 13-14**. The goal of the workshop is to gain insights on the barriers toward equitable access to cloud resources. Registration is required for this workshop. Each day of the workshop will include multiple breakout sessions with a limited number of seats. Please [register](#) by **Sept. 8** if you would like to be considered for breakout session participation.

### **Open Science FAIR Conference**

Registration is now open for the third Open Science FAIR Conference, an international event for all topics related to open science, being held **Sept. 20-23**. The event will include keynotes by distinguished speakers, roundtable discussions, workshops, and training sessions. For more information, and to register, see

the [event website](#).

### **Decoding Maternal Morbidity Data Challenge**

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is hosting a competition to help advance research on maternal health and promote healthy pregnancies. Their goal is to devise innovative data solutions to analyze the [Nulliparous Pregnancy Outcomes Study: Monitoring Mothers-to-be \(nuMoM2b\)](#) dataset. Submissions are due **Oct. 15**. For more information, see the [challenge webpage](#).

### **Reproducible Research Techniques for Synthesis Workshop**

On **Nov. 12-13** and **17-18**, the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis and DataOne will hold a five-day immersion workshop into widely adopted R-based tools for open science. The workshop will focus on improving researchers'™ data science skills to share data with the scientific community effectively and efficiently. For more information, see the [event website](#).

### **Supercomputing Conference**

The International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage, and Analysis will be held **Nov. 14-19** in St. Louis, Missouri. The event will focus on learning how high-performance computing is empowering innovations to improve everyday life across the globe. For more information, and to register, see the [conference website](#).

### **Call for Abstracts: Computational Approaches for Cancer**

[The Computational Approaches for Cancer Workshop Series](#) is accepting abstracts focusing on high performing computing and cancer applications. The workshop will take place **Nov. 14** and will include a range of topics relating to computation and cancer. Abstracts should align to the workshop topic: Digital Twins in Cancer Research and Treatment. Proposals must be submitted no later than **Sept. 7**. For more information, see the [call for abstracts](#).

**PHOTO OF THE MONTH**



Matthew Dunn, a URI trainee under the mentorship of Center Director Rainer Lohmann, received a [2021 K.C. Donnelly Award](#) to travel to Chicago to work with SRP-funded small business [CycloPure](#). In this photo, Dunn uses CycloPure's [DEXSORB passive sampler](#) to measure PFAS in an urban stream.

