

**Report to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council
Director, NIEHS and NTP
September 12, 2024**

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

118th CONGRESS (2023-2024):

• **FY2025 APPROPRIATIONS**

○ **Status of FY25 Appropriations**

The House and Senate return from August recess on September 9, 2024, and they have about 3 weeks until the September 30th fiscal year deadline to pass all 12 Appropriations bills or to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government. If the House and Senate need more time to negotiate the final FY25 Appropriations bills beyond the September 30th funding deadline, we most likely will see a CR.

The House passed all 12 of the Appropriations bills out of the House Appropriations Committee. Before the August recess, the House passed 5 of the 12 House Appropriations bills out of their chamber and those bills now await votes in the Senate. One of the Appropriations bills failed in the House (Legislative Branch bill), and the remainder of the House Appropriations bills are still awaiting to be taken up for a vote on the House floor.

The Senate has passed 11 of the 12 of the Senate FY25 bills out the Senate Appropriations Committee (the Senate FY25 Homeland Security bill still needs to be voted on). These 11 bills now await to be taken up for a vote on the Senate floor.

○ **House FY25 Labor-HHS Bill**

On July 10, 2024, the House passed the FY25 Labor-HHS bill with amendments out of Committee by a vote of 31-25. The bill now awaits to be taken up on the House floor.

For NIH, the House Labor-HHS bill provides \$48 billion, which is higher than the final the FY24 enacted level of \$47.081 billion.

The bill also includes a portion of the [House Energy and Commerce's NIH reform proposal](#) (which was released on June 14, 2024 for stakeholder comments, which closed on August 16, 2024). The part of the E&C proposal included in the House FY25 Labor-HHS bill has NIH going from 27 Institutes and Centers to 15. If passed into law, NIEHS would become part of the National Institute on Health Science Research. This would be an Institute made up of NIMHD, NCCIH, NINR, FIC and NIEHS. The proposed new National Institute on Health Sciences Research mark in the FY25 House bill is **\$1,931,662,000**. This would be an increase of \$20,049,000 from FY24 levels of the ICs that make up the National Institute on Health Sciences Research (Please note: the FY24 combined total of FIC, NCCIH, NINR, NIMHD and NIEHS was \$1,911,613,000).

The FY25 House Labor-HHS bill language for the National Institute on Health Sciences Research (pg. 70):

“NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to health sciences research, including research into health disparities, nursing, complementary and integrative health, and environmental health, **\$1,931,662,000**: Provided, that **\$95,162,000** shall be for the John E. Fogarty International Center.”

House FY25 Labor-HHS report language specific to NIEHS (pgs. 107-108; Note: The report released included headers for the new “NIH reform” consolidated ICOs (if passed into law), but the report language under these new consolidated ICOs names maintains the names and acronyms of the current ICOs in the language for ease of reading):

“Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM). —ICCVAM is a committee of NIEHS under the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicology Methods (NICEATM). The primary mission of ICCVAM is to coordinate Federal agency collaboration of new, revised, and alternative test methods, including the development of non-animal testing methods. The Committee urges robust support for ICCVAM and NICEAM to facilitate inter-agency efforts on the development and utilization of non-animal testing methods, and to reduce, refine, and replace animal use in Federal research when feasible.

Microplastics. —The Committee recommends that NIH review primary chemicals in the life cycle analysis of plastic materials that are negatively impacting the environment and human health. The Committee urges NIH to research the presence of microplastics and nanoplastics in the human body, including in organs and biospecimens and how such presence impacts human health.

Wildfire Smoke Health Research. —The lack of data about the health impacts of wildland fire smoke and wildfire management strategies is a major gap in our firefighting arsenal. The Committee encourages NIEHS to help fill this gap by pursuing research to evaluate smoke health impacts for communities experiencing different times of wildfire and to develop datasets linking wildfire smoke to health impacts.”

○ **House FY25 Interior and Environment Bill**

On July 9, 2024, the House FY25 Interior and Environment bill by a vote of 29-25 passed out of the House Appropriations Committee with amendments. The bill headed to the House floor on July 24, 2024, where it was passed by a vote of 210-205.

The House Interior and Environment bill has the NIEHS Superfund related activities at \$75M, which is a cut of \$4,714,000 (about 6%) from FY24 levels, and an \$8M cut from the President’s FY25 Budget and FY23 levels. Note: This is the same mark that the House gave NIEHS Superfund related programs in FY24.

FY25 House I&E bill language for NIEHS (pg. 142-143):

“NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For necessary expenses for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in carrying out activities set forth in section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9660(a)) and section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, \$75,000,000.”

The House FY25 I&E report language for NIEHS (pg. 98):

“NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), an agency within the National Institutes of Health, was authorized in section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and in section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 to conduct certain research and worker training activities associated with the Nation’s Hazardous Substance Superfund program.

Appropriation enacted, 2024	\$79,714,000
Budget estimate, 2025	\$83,035,000
Recommended, 2025	\$75,000,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 2024	-\$4,714,000
Budget estimate, 2025	-\$8,035,000

The Committee recommends \$75,000,000 for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The Committee continues to support the Worker Training Program, which trains workers to safely work in hazardous environments and respond in emergency situations. NIEHS is encouraged to continue its work supporting communities’ capacity to respond to pandemics and disasters.”

○ **Senate FY25 Labor-HHS Bill**

On August 1, 2024, the Senate Appropriations Committee considered and passed the Senate FY25 Labor-HHS bill out of Committee by a vote of 25-3. This bill now awaits to be taken up for a vote on the Senate floor.

For NIH, the FY25 Senate Labor-HHS bill provides \$50.224 billion in base discretionary funding, an increase of \$2.05 billion over fiscal year 2024, and higher than the \$48.581 billion the House included for NIH in their FY25 bill. The bill also includes \$127 million in Cures Act authorized funding for a total of \$50.351 billion for NIH and funds ARPA-H at the FY24 enacted level of \$1.5 billion. The report language for the Senate Labor-HHS bill did include a provision for NIH to implement term limits for NIH Directors (total term for up to 10 years).

For NIEHS, we are flat at FY24 levels at \$913, 979, 000 for FY25 in the Senate Labor-HHS bill, which is .6% below the President’s Budget request for FY25.

FY25 Senate Bill language for NIEHS (pg. 73):

“NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to environmental health sciences, \$913,979,000.”

FY25 Senate Report Language for NIEHS (pg. 119-120):

“NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Appropriations, 2024	\$913,979,000
Budget estimate, 2025	916,791,000
Committee recommendation	913,979,000

The Committee recommendation includes \$913,979,000 for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences [NIEHS].

Disaster Research Response Program. —The Committee urges NIEHS to support research and community engagement activities related to the health of individuals affected by the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, including first responders and local residents in both Ohio and Pennsylvania.

East Palestine. —The Committee directs \$2,000,000 to carry out section 2 of the East Palestine Health Impact Monitoring Act of 2024, with funding to remain available until September 30, 2029.

Environmental-related Health Conditions. —The Committee provides \$40,000,000 for NIEHS to continue research on the impacts that changing environmental conditions have on human health.

Heated Oil Fumes Health Impact. —The Committee is concerned that aircraft crews and some frequent fliers can be exposed to low concentrations of oil fumes routinely and to higher concentrations during a documented event. The Committee encourages NIEHS to investigate the health effects of inhalation exposure to heated oil fumes in aircraft flight decks and cabins.

Indoor Air. —The Committee urges NIEHS to continue researching indoor pollutants, including from combustion indoors, to better understand the indoor air landscape and its impacts. The Committee requests an update on these activities in the fiscal year 2026 CJ.

Wildfire Smoke. —The Committee recognizes that exposure to smoke from wildfires is no longer a rare occurrence and is a reality for millions of Americans. The Committee is concerned that public health experts do not yet fully understand the risk posed by exposure to wildland fire smoke—particularly acute and chronic smoke exposure to patients with existing pulmonary and cardiac disease. The Committee encourages NIEHS to support research to understand the health risks associated with wildfire smoke exposure and any interventions that can be implemented to mitigate adverse health effects.”

NIMH FY25 Senate report language that mentions NIEHS:

“Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD]. —The Committee encourages NIH to support greater investment in research on autism, particularly in areas outlined in the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee’s [IACC] Strategic Plan for ASD. The Committee urges NIMH to

work in close partnership with the other Institutes that serve on the IACC to provide an update on the level of research investment for each of the priority areas outlined in the IACC Strategic Plan for ASD. While significant progress has been made in the understanding of autism, large gaps remain in the ability to improve outcomes and access to services for autistic individuals across their life span. Research has shown that autistic individuals have higher rates of some co-occurring physical and mental health conditions, impacting quality of life and increasing medical utilization and costs. Additionally, there are significant unaddressed racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic health equity challenges experienced by autistic individuals across their life span and by their families. As such, the Committee encourages NIMH to work collaboratively with NIMHD to support research on the socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic health disparities associated with ASD, and to work collaboratively with other institutes including NIA, NIEHS, and NINDS to support research on the impact of neurological, social, and environmental factors leading to co-occurring health conditions.”

NIH OD FY25 Senate report language that mentions NIEHS:

“*The HEALthy Brain and Child Development [HBCD] Study.* —The Committee recognizes and supports the NIH HBCD Study, which will establish a large cohort of pregnant individuals and follow them and their children up to age 10 to characterize the influence of a variety of factors on neurodevelopment and long-term outcomes. The study aims to enroll over 7,000 participants through 27 sites across the United States, including regions of the country significantly affected by the opioid crisis. The study cohort will be comprised of participants who reflect the U.S. population but will oversample for individuals who have used substances sometime during their pregnancy. The study will also include a matching cohort with similar characteristics but no substance use during the pregnancy. Multimodal data collection will include neuroimaging, behavioral and cognitive assessments as well as collection of biospecimens and brain activity measurements [EEG]. Knowledge gained will be critical to help understand and prevent some of the known impacts of pre- and postnatal exposure to drugs and environmental influences, including risks for future illicit substance use, mental illness, and other behavioral and developmental problems, as well as identify factors that contribute to resilience and opportunities for intervention. The Committee recognizes that the HBCD Study is supported in part by the NIH HEAL Initiative, and NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices [ICOs], including OBSSR, ORWH, NEI, NIMHD, NIBIB, NIEHS, NICHD, NINDS, NIAAA, NIMH, NCI, and NIDA, and encourages additional NIH support for this important study.”

FY25 Senate Report language for NIH on Term Limits for IC Directors: “*Term Limits.* —

The Committee continues to provide \$500,000 and directs NIH to implement Recommendation 10 from the 2003 Institute of Medicine report *Enhancing the Vitality of the National Institutes of Health: Organizational Change to Meet New Challenges*. NIH is directed to provide an annual report on these efforts, including a timeline and any barriers to implementation.”

○ **Senate FY25 Interior and Environment Bill**

On July 25, 2024, the Senate Appropriations Committee considered and passed out of Committee the Senate FY25 Interior, Environment, and related agencies bill by a 28-1 vote. This bill now awaits to be taken up for a vote on the Senate floor.

The Senate FY25 Interior and Environment bill provides NIEHS **\$81,614,000** for the NIEHS Superfund related activities. This is **\$1,900,000 above the final enacted in FY24** and **\$1,421,000 below the President’s FY25 Budget and the FY23 enacted level.**

Senate FY25 Interior and Environment bill language (pg. 141):

“NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For necessary expenses for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in carrying out activities set forth in section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9660(a)) and section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, \$81,614,000.”

Senate FY25 Interior and Environment report language (pgs. 127-128):

“NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences [NIEHS], an agency within the National Institutes of Health, was authorized in section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (Public Law 115–141), to conduct multidisciplinary research and training activities associated with the Nation’s Hazardous Substance Superfund program. Section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–499). The bill provides \$81,614,000 for the operations of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences account, \$1,900,000 above the enacted level and \$1,421,000 below the budget request. The Committee continues the \$2,000,000 provided in fiscal year 2024 as base funds in fiscal year 2025 to further the Institute’s work on PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern. The Institute both leads and supports significant research on PFAS that will result in better remediation outcomes. Further, of the funds provided, not less than \$1,750,000 shall be to support risk reduction for Native Americans to hazardous metals mixtures from abandoned uranium mine waste. The Committee appreciates the contributions of the Worker Training Program [WTP] and encourages the Institute to prioritize resources and support for this program. Further, the Committee recognizes the Worker Training Program’s [WTP] work with the U.S. Department of Energy [DOE] Nuclear Worker Training Program and encourages NIEHS and DOE to continue prioritizing the comprehensive safety and emergency response training with this program, including at the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response Federal Training Center [HAMMER].”

- **Senate FY25 Energy and Water Report Language for DOE Transfer to WTP for training (pg. 137):**

“Within available funds, the Department is directed to provide \$10,000,000 for the hazardous waste worker training program.”

● **NIH REORGANIZATION/REFORM PROPOSALS FROM CONGRESS**

- On May 9, 2024, Senator Bill Cassidy M.D. (R-LA), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, released a white paper detailing proposals to improve the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Last year, Cassidy requested feedback from stakeholders on policies Congress could consider to modernize NIH. The press release and white paper can be found here:

<https://www.help.senate.gov/ranking/newsroom/press/ranking-member-cassidy-releases-new-proposals-to-modernize-nih>.

- On June 14, 2024, House Energy and Commerce Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-5), and House Appropriations Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Subcommittee Chair Robert Aderholt (R-AL-4) released a framework for NIH reform for comment. The comment period closed on August 16, 2024. Part of this framework proposal, to have NIH go from 27 Institutes and Centers to 15 Institutes and Centers, was included in the House FY25 Labor-HHS bill. The press release and framework can be found here: <https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/chair-rodgers-unveils-framework-for-nih-reform-requests-stakeholder-input>.

- **BRIEFINGS/CONGRESSIONAL EVENTS:**

- **Senate Majority and Minority Briefing on the NIEHS Superfund-related Programs FY25 Budget:** On June 12, 2024, Dr. Woychik, accompanied by Dr. Balshaw, Dr. Heacock, and Ms. Beard met with Senate Majority and Minority Staff to give them an update on our Superfund related activities, the NIEHS Superfund Research Program and Worker Training Program. The briefing covered SRP's work on Real World Impacts of SRP Research, Protecting Rural and Underserved Communities, Grants supporting Community Engagement with Indigenous Populations, remediating PFAS, and Disasters and Extreme Weather Events. The briefing also covered WTP's work on Disasters and Related Events, Disaster training tools and resources, new Heat Stress Prevention Training Program and Building Capacity in Indigenous Communities, Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP), and Training workers at DOE sites. The updates were well received by Senate Staff.
- **Congresswoman Foushee and Congresswoman Ross Congressional Visit and Tour:** On June 18, 2024, Congresswoman Valerie Foushee (D-NC-4) and Congresswoman Deborah Ross (D-NC-2) visited the NIEHS Campus to learn about Institute, hear about our research and see the facilities at NIEHS. The visit started off with a meeting with Dr. Woychik, Dr. Archer, Dr. Collman, and Ms. Mathis to hear about our research priorities, programs, and initiatives at NIEHS. After the meeting, Ms. Christine Flowers led a tour of some of the facilities at NIEHS for the Congresswomen and their staffs. Stops included: NIEHS Fluorescence Microscopy and Imaging Center Facility (Jeff Tucker, Ph.D.), CryoEM Core Facility (Mario Borgnia, Ph.D. and Bill Copeland, Ph.D.), and the NIEHS Clinical Research Unit (Jan Hall, M.D.). They also had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Packerham about the NIEHS Women's Health Awareness Community Engagement Program. Both congresswomen said they look forward to returning for another visit soon.

NIEHS Updates

Tribal Advisory Committee Biannual Meeting

On June 26-28, NIEHS welcomed the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) to the institute's Research Triangle Park campus and hosted the committee's biannual meeting. The event provided a forum for the committee to learn about NIEHS-supported programs that work with Tribal communities on local environmental health questions and

concerns. TAC is an advisory committee to NIH leadership. The meeting was coordinated by the NIH Tribal Health Research Office (THRO). THRO is the central point of contact at NIH for federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes throughout the U.S. The office serves as the coordination hub for all Tribal health research activities at NIH. This involves coordinating collaboration across NIH institutes and centers as well as other agencies in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The goals are to promote opportunities for the next generation of AI/AN scientists, expand health research with Native communities, and lead Tribal consultation and engagement efforts for NIH.

Climate and Health Outcomes Research Data Systems (CHORDS) Website Launch

NIEHS launched the [Climate and Health Outcomes Research Data Systems \(CHORDS\) website](#), which includes a catalog of environmental and health outcomes data from various government and nongovernmental agencies at the end of July. The website provides a catalog of data resources to aid researchers in finding relevant data for their specific research projects; an online training toolkit that provides tutorials and walk-throughs of downloading, integrating, and visualizing health and environmental data; a listing of publications of note on wildfire and health research; and links to existing resources, such as the NIEHS climate change and health glossary and literature portal. In the future, the CHORDS team will be adding more resources to its catalog, expanding content in the training toolkit, and developing new software tools to generate standardized environmental data sets that health researchers will be able to add to their own research projects.

NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative Website Update

The NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative (NIH CCHI) has a new website. The main purpose of the website is to provide health, climate, and community engagement experts with easy access to funding opportunities, the latest scientific findings, news and events, and capacity building materials so they can work together at the critical intersection of climate change and human health. Visit <https://climateandhealth.nih.gov/> to learn more.

Eagle Horizon 2024

As part of the global Eagle Horizon 2024 (EH-2024), NIH conducted an exercise on the NIEHS campus demonstrating the ability to sustain essential functions during an extended disruption to normal operations in the Washington DC area. NIH demonstrated its ability to relocate key personnel to alternate facilities and transfer responsibility for essential function performance to personnel and devolution teams here at NIEHS. The Exercise was a success and sparked several discussions for mitigation planning.

NTP Fluoride Monograph

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) has released its Monograph on the State of the Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopment and Cognition. The NTP conducted a systematic review of the published scientific literature on the association between fluoride exposure and neurodevelopment and cognition. The findings are available in the Monograph found at <https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/mgraph08>. A corresponding meta-analysis on children's IQ has been accepted by a scientific journal for publication later in 2024.

NIEHS Strategic Plan 2025-2029

The September 2024 Council presentation, "Report of the NIEHS Director" includes the presentation of the FY2025-2029 NIEHS Strategic Plan to Council. As announced in the June 2024 Council, the draft was posted for public comment in June 2024, and incoming comments and

Senior Leadership review informed further review and refinement of the plan. The final plan will be made available at: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/about/strategicplan>.

Awards and Recognition

The Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) has selected NIEHS Molecular Pathology Group lead **Arun Pandiri, Ph.D.**, as its inaugural Mid-Career Excellence Award recipient. The award was presented at a June 19 recognition ceremony during the STP Annual Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland. The STP Mid-Career Excellence Award is given to a member in good standing who has made outstanding contributions in toxicologic pathology in the middle phase of their career. Nominees are active members, within 11-20 years of last relevant training, who have distinguished themselves as leaders in industry, government, education, and/or public service.

NIEHS Senior Investigator **Shyamal Peddada, Ph.D.**, recently received a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of AIDS Research (OAR) Innovation Award to improve understanding of the gut microbiome and antimicrobial resistance in persons with HIV. Peddada's proposal builds on emerging research indicating that microorganisms lining the gastrointestinal tract may play an important role in defending against antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

NIH FARE Awards

Fifteen NIEHS trainees ranked among the top 25% in the 2025 Fellows Award for Research Excellence (FARE) competition for their impressive scientific research projects. Fellows from across the 27 Institutes and Centers that comprise the National Institutes of Health competed for the annual award. Only two other institutes — the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases — had more awardees than NIEHS this year.

- **Marine Baptissart, Ph.D.**
Revealing RNA poly(A) tail dynamic during spermiogenesis and its function to support male fertility
Mentor: Dr. Marcos Morgan
Study Section: Reproductive Biology
- **Niketa Bhawsinghka, Ph.D.**
dGTP starvation in E. coli
Mentor: Dr. Roel M Schaaper
Study Section: DNA Replication, Damage and Repair
- **Dazhe Chen, Ph.D.**
Childhood and adolescent residential and farm pesticide exposures and inflammatory bowel disease incidence in a U.S. cohort of women
Mentor: Dr. Dale Sandler
Study Section: Epidemiology/Biostatistics - Prevention and Risk
- **Martin A. Estermann, Ph.D.**
Glucose metabolism as a driver for embryonic Sertoli cell differentiation
Mentor: Dr. Humphrey Yao
Study Section: Reproductive Biology
- **Jacob Gordon, B.S.**
The SUMO protease SENP3 is allosterically regulated by the rixosome complex.
Mentor: Dr. Robin E Stanley
Study Section: Biochemistry – General

- **Ji Cheng Li, Ph.D.**
Co-administration of D1 receptor PAM prevents L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia in parkinsonian mice
Mentor: Dr. Guohong Cui
Study Section: Neuroscience - Neurological and Neurodegenerative Disorders and Injury
- **Wilfred Lopez Perez, Ph.D.**
Deletion of Epithelial Membrane Protein 2 Protects from Lung Fibrosis
Mentor: Dr. Michael B Fessler
Study Section: Heart, Lung, and Vascular Disease and Biology
- **Mahina Monsur, M.D., Ph.D.**
*Whole Genome Study of Nucleotide Excision Repair and Translesion Synthesis in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae**
Mentor: Dr. Thomas A Kunkel
Study Section: DNA Replication, Damage and Repair
- **Krystal A Orlando, Ph.D.**
Cooperative binding of pioneer transcription factor and co-factors depends on the transactivation domain for remodeling the enhancer landscape
Mentor: Dr. Paul Wade
Study Section: Epigenetics
- **Puja Sohal, Ph.D.**
GLIS3 plays a critical role in the regulation of inflammation and fibrosis in cystic kidney disease.
Mentor: Dr. Anton Jetten
Study Section: Immunology – General
- **Lenka Radonova, Ph.D.**
The power network: mitochondria-endoplasmic reticulum interactions in oocyte and egg
Mentor: Dr. Carmen Williams
Study Section: Reproductive Biology
- **Danielle R Stevens, Ph.D.**
Gestational Exposure to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and Fetal Liver Development: Findings from the HPP 3D Study
Mentor: Dr. Kelly Ferguson
Study Section: Epidemiology/Biostatistics – General
- **Dimitrios Theofilatos, Ph.D.**
Exposure to high temperatures alters Glucocorticoid Receptor activity
Mentor: Dr. Trevor K Archer
Study Section: Epigenetics
- **Christina Wilkinson, Ph.D.**
CD301b+ lung dendritic cells confer tolerance to inhaled allergens
Mentor: Dr. Don Cook
Study Section: Immunology - Mucosal Immunity
- **Xiaoyue Wu, Ph.D.**
Microbiota-dependent deamidated NAD biosynthesis is important for gut resiliency under stress

Mentor: Dr. Xiaoling Li

Study Section: Cell Biology - Cell Cycle and Metabolism

Postbac Poster Day

Twenty-six postbaccalaureate (postbac) fellows from NIEHS traveled to Bethesda, Maryland to present at the 2024 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Postbac Poster Day. Eight of these fellows were recognized as “outstanding” for having authored posters that scored in the top 20%.

- **John Dong**, Neuroepigenomics Laboratory, Mentor: Elizabeta Gjoneska, Ph.D.
- **Hope Hawthorne**, Epigenetics and Stem Cell Biology Laboratory, Mentor: Traci Hall, Ph.D.
- **Abigail Kitakule**, Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory, Mentor: Humphrey Yao, Ph.D.
- **Skylar Montague Redecke**, Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory, Mentor: Francesco DeMayo, Ph.D.
- **Maira Perez**, Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory, Mentor: Carlos Guardia, Ph.D.
- **Elvis Quiroz**, Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory, Mentor: Francesco DeMayo, Ph.D.
- **Alanna Stewart**, Epigenetics and Stem Cell Biology Laboratory, Mentor: Paul Wade, Ph.D.
- **Tia Vierling**, Neurobiology Laboratory, Mentor: Serena Dudek, Ph.D.

Steve Ferguson, Ph.D., DTT Mechanistic Toxicology Branch, and **David Reif**, Predictive Toxicology Branch, were awarded a Director’s Challenge Innovation Award from the NIH/Office of Intramural Research for 2 years of funding with NCATS for the project, “Predictions of drug-induced liver injury using 3D liver tissue models.”

Janine Santos, Ph.D., DTT Mechanistic Toxicology Branch, was awarded an Innovation Award from the NIH/Office of AIDS Research, for the 1-year project, “Mixtures and material health: The effects of ART and PFAS on cardiometabolic outcomes.”

Stephanie Smith-Roe, Ph.D., DTT Systems Toxicology Branch, was elected President of the Environmental Mutagenesis Society.

Cynthia Rider, Ph.D., DTT Systems Toxicology Branch was elected Vice President of the Society of Toxicology.

Kelly Shipkowski, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., DTT Office of Program Operations, was elected President of the NC Society of Toxicology.

Renee Fisher, Comparative and Molecular Pathogenesis Branch: *2024 Histotechnologist of the Year Award* from the NC Society of Histology.

Andrew Rooney, Ph.D., Integrative Health Assessments Branch: co-recipient of the *Martin Stephens Achievements in Evidence-Based Toxicology Award* from the Society of Toxicology.

Staff Updates

Janet Hall, M.D., M.S., has stepped down as the NIEHS Clinical Director after almost 10 years in this role. Dr. Hall will continue as Chief of the Clinical Research Branch, overseeing the Clinical Research Unit and the Office of Human Research and Community Engagement. She will also

continue serving as Co-PI with Alison Motsinger-Reif of the Personalized Genes and Environment Study (PEGS) for the foreseeable future and plans to continue to direct her research group.

Michael Fessler, M.D. has been appointed the Acting NIEHS Clinical Director as of July 1, 2024, until a permanent Clinical Director for NIEHS is on board. Dr. Fessler will be contributing to the Senior Leadership Committee functions as well as attending the NIH Medical Executive Meetings and SD/CD meetings. Dr. Fessler is the Chief of the Immunity, Inflammation and Disease Laboratory.