

# Report to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council

Director, NIEHS and NTP

February 15, 2022

## Trevor K. Archer Named Deputy Director of NIEHS

**Dr. Trevor K. Archer** has been chosen to serve as the next **Deputy Director of NIEHS**. Dr. Archer received a Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1987 at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. In 1991, he was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. In 1999, Dr. Archer came to the NIEHS in the prestigious SBRS program as a nationally and internationally recognized scientist in the field of molecular endocrinology, epigenetics, and chromatin biology. In 2002, he was selected as Chief of the Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis, and in 2014 during the reorganization of the DIR, Dr. Archer became Chief of the newly created Epigenetics and Stem Cell Biology Laboratory (ESCBL). He maintains an active research program at NIEHS as an NIH Distinguished Investigator. Dr. Paul Wade will serve as the Acting Chief of ESCBL until a permanent ESCBL Chief can be identified following an open national search.



Currently operating under 2nd CR, which expires February 18, 2022

## Congressional Appropriations

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Enacted	2022 President's Request	FY2022 House Mark	FY2022 Senate Mark	Δ Between FY 2021 and FY 2022 House Mark	Δ Between FY 2021 and FY 2022 Senate Mark
NIEHS (L -HHS)	\$ 802,598,000	\$ 814,675,000	\$ 937,107,000	\$ 941,799,000	\$ 936,271,000	\$ 127,124,000	\$ 121,596,000
NIH <sup>a/</sup>	\$ 41,685,000,000	\$ 42,935,500,000	\$ 51,952,703,000	\$ 49,656,990,000	\$ 48,143,881,000	\$ 6,721,490,000	\$ 5,208,381,000
Common Fund <sup>b/</sup>	\$ 639,111,000	\$ 648,539,000	\$ 658,539,000	\$ 669,712,000	\$ 663,802,000	\$ 21,173,000	\$ 15,263,000
Superfund	\$ 81,000,000	\$ 81,500,000	\$ 83,540,000	\$ 83,540,000	\$ 84,540,000	\$ 2,040,000	\$ 3,040,000
NIEHS/DOE Training <sup>c/</sup>	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000		\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
COVID -19 Supplemental 5 - Year Funds 2020 -2024	\$ 10,000,000						

a/ Includes NIH Discretionary BAplus Mandatory Type 1 Diabetes Research and Superfund.

b/ Includes addition of \$12.6 million for the Gabriella Miller Kids FirstAct pediatric research initiative.

c/ Appropriations Committee report language supporting the transfer of funds from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Defense Environmental Cleanup account to NIEHS for the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:**

**117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS (2021-2022):**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

**Currently under second Continuing Resolution**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Senate (65 - 35) and the House (254 – 175) passed H.R. 5305, Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (first Continuing Resolution), which continued funding for the federal government through Dec. 3, 2021. The bill was signed into law (P.L. 117-43) by President Biden that evening, averting a government shutdown. The bill also provided nearly \$35 billion in aid to disaster victims and relocation assistance for Afghan refugees who helped the U.S. government during the war in Afghanistan, as well as \$2.5 billion to help care for unaccompanied migrant children. **Of note to NIH:** Division A, Section 139 makes available through FY 2022 all NIH multiyear grants that were obligated through FY2016.

On December 2, 2021, the House (vote of 221-212) and Senate (vote of 69-28) passed the second continuing resolution (H.R. 6119) funding the government through February 18, 2021 at current funding levels (with minimal exception). President Biden signed the measure into law on December 3, 2021. Prior to the vote on the CR, the Senate voted 48-50 to reject an amendment from a group of Republican conservatives to bar funding to implement a new private sector vaccine mandate as well as requirements for federal employees, federal contractors, health care workers and the military.

Congress now needs to pass another CR or some/all of the 12 FY22 appropriations bills by midnight on February 18 in order to keep the government running. As of this writing, we expect talks to resume on the FY22 budget in early to mid-February before the February 18<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Remaining FY2022 Senate Appropriations Bills**

The Senate Appropriations Committee released their versions of the remaining nine FY22 Appropriations bills on October 18, 2021, but they do not plan to markup with the bills. The Senate and the House Appropriations Chairs and Ranking Members started negotiations for the full year FY22 Appropriations, but there was not an agreement on differences between defense and non-defense spending and policy riders. It is looking more likely there will be another CR for an unknown time period if the Majorities and Minorities of both chambers can't resolve their differences by the Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline.

**Quick summary House vs. Senate vs. President's Budget for Labor-HHS NIEHS Appropriations:**

- The Senate FY22 mark has NIEHS at \$936,271,000 for FY22 with \$100 million for Climate Change (+\$121,596,000 from FY21).
- The House FY22 mark has NIEHS at \$941,799,000 with \$100 million for Climate Change (+\$127,124,000 from FY21).
- The President's FY22 Budget had NIEHS for FY22 at \$937,107,000.

**Quick summary House vs. Senate vs. President’s Budget for Interior and Environment FY22 NIEHS**

**Appropriations for Superfund-related Programs:**

- The Senate FY22 mark has NIEHS at \$84,540,000 (+ \$3,040,000 from FY21).
- The House FY22 mark has NIEHS at \$83,540,000 (+ \$2,040,000 from FY21).
- The President’s FY22 Budget had NIEHS for FY22 at \$83,540,000.

**Senate Appropriations Committee’s FY22 Labor-HHS bill language for NIEHS (pg. 72):**

“NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to environmental health sciences, \$936,271,000.”

**Senate Appropriations Committee’s FY22 Interior and Environment bill language for NIEHS Superfund-related Programs (pg. 134):**

“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, \$84,540,000.”

**Senate Appropriations Committee’s FY22 Labor-HHS Explanatory Statement (pgs. 127-128) for NIEHS:**

“NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Appropriations, 2021 ..... \$814,675,000

Budget estimate, 2022 ..... 937,107,000

Committee recommendation ..... 936,271,000

The Committee recommendation includes \$936,271,000 for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences [NIEHS].

*Climate Change Research.*—The Committee provides an increase of \$100,000,000, consistent with the fiscal year 2022 budget request, for NIEHS to support research on the impact of climate change on human health.

*Parkinson’s Disease [PD].*—Research suggests that PD is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Agricultural exposure to pesticides, including herbicides, has been associated with an increased risk of developing the disease, yet other exposures common to soldiers, firefighters, first responders and others, such as burn pits, insecticides, solvents and heavy metals, need to be explored or should be considered. The Committee urges NIEHS to expand its research and collaborate with appropriate partners to understand effects of these chemicals on PD development and progression. Research should include fundamental approaches to identify other environmental triggers and to understand the expression of PD traits that result from the interplay

of genes and environment to advance the development of individualized precision environmental health strategies to prevent and treat PD. The Committee requests an update on these activities in the fiscal year 2023 CJ.”

**Additional Language directed at NIEHS with other ICs in the NIH Portion of Senate FY22**

**Appropriations Explanatory Statement included the topics of:**

- ALS Research Coordination and Acceleration,
- Gene-Environment Interactions in Neurodegenerative Disorders in the Diverse Populations of African Americans and Latinos, and
- The HEALTHy Brain and Child Development [HBCD] Study

**Senate Appropriations FY22 Interior and Environment Explanatory Statement (pgs. 122-123) for NIEHS Superfund-related Programs:**

“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) authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to conduct training and education of workers who are or may be engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal or containment or emergency response.

Appropriations, 2021 .....	\$81,500,000
Budget estimate, 2022 .....	83,540,000
Committee recommendation .....	84,540,000

The bill provides \$84,540,000 for the operations of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences account, \$3,040,000 above the enacted level and \$1,000,000 above the budget request. The Committee continues the \$2,000,000 provided in fiscal year 2021 as base funds in fiscal year 2022 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. The Committee appreciates the contributions of the WTP’s supplemental projects during the COVID–19 pandemic in helping protect hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other front-line workers at high risk of exposure.”

### **New Debt Ceiling Signed into law**

On Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the House voted on the bill (S. 610) to pave the way to raise the U.S. Debt Ceiling with a simple majority vote in the Senate by a vote of 222 to 212. The bill also delays Medicare and other program cuts that otherwise would be triggered on Jan. 1. With a vote of 64-36 on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, the Senate voted to limit debate on S. 610, the measure that sets up a process to provide a temporary loophole that will allow the Senate to pass a separate bill that will provide for a debt limit increase with only 51 votes, and limits debate on the measure to just 10 hours. The final vote occurred on S. 610 and it passed with a vote of 59-35 in the Senate. The President signed the bill into law shortly after.

With the procedure bill passed, the Senate (vote of 50-49) and House (vote of 221-209) passed the joint resolution debt limit bill (SJ Res. 33) on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This bill increases the statutory debt ceiling by \$2.5 trillion, which is expected to last past the midterm elections and into 2023.

### **CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS:**

#### **PFAS Briefing to House Science, Space and Technology**

On November 30, 2021, Dr. Brian Berridge and NIEHS PFAS SMEs briefed the House Science, Space and Technology Majority and Minority Staff on NIEHS PFAS Research and Development, as well as Inter-Agency Coordination activities related to PFAS. Dr. Berridge presented NTP and DERT's research and activities to the staffers. The presentation was well received. Dr. Berridge, Dr. Henry and Dr. Weis were able to elaborate on the newly formed interagency Joint Subcommittee for Environment, Innovation and Health and the PFAS Strategy team that is just getting off the ground as well. The House science staff asked questions on how we differentiate between different PFAS compounds and their associated health effects, and how and if Congress can help with encouraging more interagency collaborations, calling for research areas that have been overlooked or STEM workforce issues. Participants on Zoom briefing-- For NIEHS: Dr. Brian Berridge, Dr. Chris Weis, Dr. Scott Masten, Dr. Kim Gray, Dr. Heather Henry, Dr. Mary Wolfe and April Bennett; From HHS ASL: Anne Tatem; From NIH OLPA: Larry Lohmann and Essence Motley; From the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology: Priyanka Hooghan (Majority Staff), Courtney Fogwell (Majority Staff), Evan Brooks (Majority Staff), Dahlia Sokolov (Majority Staff), Ben Berger (Majority Staff), Daniel Dziadon (Minority Staff), and Megan McKeown (Minority Staff).

#### **House Interior and Environment Subcommittee Majority Briefing**

On January 18, 2021, Dr. Woychik briefed the new House majority staffer of the Interior, Environment, and related agencies Appropriations Subcommittee on NIEHS's Superfund related activities. After the overview of activities and updates of WTP and SRP, Ms. Erickson asked questions of Dr. Woychik. She was interested in where our grantees were located, our work with Native Americans, and our current spending with the WTP's COVID supplemental. Participants on the Zoom briefing--NIEHS Attendees: Dr. Woychik, April Bennett; NIH Attendees: Larry Lohmann (NIH OLPA), Morgan Brand (NIH OLPA) and Michael Robinson (NIH OLPA); HHS ASFR: Janai Hollinger; and House I&E Staff: Janet Erickson.

## **CONGRESSIONAL HEARING:**

### **PFAS Hearing in the House Science, Space and Technology Committee**

On Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the House Science's Subcommittees on Environment and Research and Technology held a hearing entitled "Forever Chemicals: Research and Development for addressing the PFAS Problem." Two of our NIEHS grantees, **Dr. Elsie Sunderland**, Gordon McKay Professor of Environmental Chemistry, Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and **Dr. Peter Jaffé**, Professor, Department Civil and Environmental Engineering, Princeton University were witnesses for the hearing. Additional witnesses were: Ms. Amy Dindal, Director of Environmental Research and Development, Battelle Memorial Institute, and Ms. Abigail Hendershott, Executive Director, Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART). The witnesses provided their knowledge of the current state of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and where each felt future actions should be focused. Each of the subcommittee Congressional members took the opportunity to ask the witnesses about current understanding and gaps in understanding about PFAS, what research needs to be done, and how to move forward to address the remediation of PFAS. NIEHS PFAS SMEs briefed the committee on Nov. 30 to help educate Congressional staff prior to the hearing. The archived video footage and written testimonies from the hearing can be found here: <https://science.house.gov/hearings/forever-chemicals-research-and-development-for-addressing-the-pfas-problem>.

## **LEGISLATION:**

### **FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**

[S. 1605](#), the fiscal 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, was passed in the House with an amendment (which included the compromise language between the chambers) by a vote of 363-70 on December 7<sup>th</sup>. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Senate passed the compromise bill by a vote of 88 – 11. The bill was signed into law by the President on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

#### **Provisions of interest for NIEHS on PFAS, Burn pits, and AFFF (pgs. 100-110):**

- The Defense Department must establish an internal task force to address the effects of PFAS released from DOD activities. Task force duties would include monitoring the health aspects of exposure to PFAS, coordinating within DOD to mitigate the effects of a release of PFAS substances, and identifying and funding the procurement of an effective alternative for firefighting foam without PFAS.
- Within two years of the FY22 NDAAS's enactment, DOD must test for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at all U.S. military bases and National Guard facilities that were identified, as of March 31, to have PFAS releases. Testing (using methods validated by EPA for PFAS in drinking water) would determine whether the facility has been contaminated or caused contamination outside the base, as well as if additional environmental actions are necessary.
- Extends for two years, through fiscal 2023, the authorization for a CDC ATSDR study on the health effects of PFAS in drinking water.
- DOD must prohibit burning PFAS and aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), which contains PFAS, until the department issues guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on

disposing the materials or when EPA publishes a final rule on the issue. The fiscal 2020 defense authorization ([Public Law 116-92](#)) required the phaseout of the foam, which contains PFAS. Also, DOD would need to report to Congress annually (for FY23-FY26) about: total amount of covered materials incinerated, location and facility where they were incinerated, recommendations for the safe storage of PFAS and PFAS-containing materials prior to destruction and disposal.

- DOD must issue guidance on preventing and mitigating spills of AFFF.
- The FY22 NDAA also:
  - Requires DOD to disclose the results of tests it conducts for PFAS on military sites.
  - Directs DOD to report on PFAS remediation efforts at 50 specified military bases and National Guard locations.

### **Science Advances**

#### *DIR*

Li H, Bradbury JA, Edin ML, Graves JP, Gruzdev A, Cheng J, Hoopes SL, DeGraff LM, Fessler MB, Garantziotis S, Schurman SH, Zeldin DC. 2021. sEH promotes macrophage phagocytosis and lung clearance of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. *J Clin Invest* 131(22):e129679.

#### *DERT*

Hu X, Walker DI, Liang Y, Smith MR, Orr ML, Juran BD, Ma C, Uppal K, Koval M, Martin GS, Neujahr DC, Marsit CJ, Go YM, Pennell KD, Miller GW, Lazaridis KN, Jones DP. 2021. A scalable workflow to characterize the human exposome. *Nat Commun* 12(1):5575.

#### *DNTP*

Holmgren SD, RR Boyles, RD Cronk, CG Duncan, RK Kwok, RM Lunn, KC Osborn, AE Thessen and CP Schmitt. Catalyzing knowledge-driven discovery in environmental health sciences through a community-driven harmonized language. *Int J Environ Res Public Health* (2021) 18(17), 8985.

#### *2021 Papers of the Year*

The January 2022 issue of the Environmental Factor features the 2021 Papers of the year. These are 35 of the best papers out of 3942 papers published by NIEHS researchers and grantees selected by institute leaders. The publications cover a broad range of topics from metals in e-cigarettes to DNA repair. A complete list of the publications can be found at <https://factor.niehs.nih.gov/2022/1/papers/papers-of-the-year/index.htm>.

### **Climate Change and Health Initiative**

The concept clearance for this NIH Climate Change and Health initiative was presented at a special session of the NAEHSC on November 29, 2021. Since then, several efforts have been underway:

- Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of NIAID, has appointed Dr. Lee Hall to join the CCH Steering Committee to provide input on the initiative
- New subcommittees are being stood up including:

- the progress, evaluation, and measures committee which will be developing long term evaluation metrics and plans;
- the review team which will be discussing details of the review process and includes the Center for Scientific Review and multiple IC's
- the FOA writing teams which are working hard to write the funding announcements and NOSI's that the program hopes to release
- the Global Research and Partnerships subcommittee which is coordinating with partners to provide a global lens to the climate and health research.

The NIH Wide Group held a webinar on February 9, 2022, hosted by NIMHD, featuring Dr. Robert Bullard from Texas Southern University. The webinar, titled "why Climate Change is a Health Threat," discussed how people of color and low-income households have contributed least to the climate crisis but are more greatly affected. The next webinar in the series is scheduled for February 22, 2022. NHLBI is hosting Dr. Jonathan Samet and Dr. Tami Bond from the University of Colorado School of Public Health. The webinar is titled "Climate Change, Air Pollution, and Health: What Lies Ahead." Registration for the event is required and can be found at

[https://nih.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_IIErxGFR3Krr\\_bn206Ldw](https://nih.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_IIErxGFR3Krr_bn206Ldw).

In addition to the Steering Committee and Working Group Efforts, staff from the CCH Initiative and NIEHS have been actively participating in many climate change and health related discussions and external committees, such as the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/National Academies workshop in November and the NCATS meeting, "Climate Change and Human Health (C2H2) Through a Translational Science Lens" held on February 10, 2022.

Staff are actively participating in notable committees such as the HHS office of Climate Change and Health Equity Coordination Committee. NIEHS and CCH Initiative staff remain part of the Interagency Crosscutting Group on Climate Change and Human Health (CCHHG) at the US Global Change Research Program. The NIH CCH Initiative Working Group meetings recently featured notable speakers including Alison Crimmins, the Director of the USGCRP 5<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment, and Paul Schram and Ben Beard from the CDC Agency-wide Climate and Health Task Force.

### **Report on Carcinogens**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the 15<sup>th</sup> Report on Carcinogens (RoC) on December 21, 2021. The RoC is a congressionally mandated, science-based public health document that the National Toxicology Program (NTP) prepares for the HHS Secretary. The cumulative report now includes 256 substances that are known or reasonably anticipated to cause cancer in humans. Publication of the RoC represents an important government activity towards improving public health.

The 15<sup>th</sup> RoC contains eight new substances:

- *Helicobacter pylori*: known to be a human carcinogen



*H. pylori* is a bacterium that colonizes in the stomach and causes gastritis and peptic ulcers. There is evidence of person to person spread, especially among families. *H. pylori* causes stomach cancer in humans.

- Antimony trioxide: reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen  
Antimony trioxide is primarily used as a component of flame retardants in plastics, textiles, and other consumer products. The highest exposure occurs among workers who produce the substance or use it to make flame retardants. Studies have found lung and other tumors in rodents exposed to antimony trioxide.
- Six Haloacetic acids (HAAs) found as water disinfection by-products: reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen
  - bromochloroacetic acid
  - bromodichloroacetic acid
  - chlorodibromoacetic acid
  - dibromoacetic acid
  - dichloroacetic acid
  - tribromoacetic acid

HAAs are formed during the disinfection of water from a reaction between the chlorine-based disinfection agents and organic matter in the source water. Approximately 250 million U.S. residents use community water systems and are potentially exposed to HAAs in disinfected water. Improvements in disinfection technology can reduce the levels of the HAAs in drinking water. HAAs cause mesothelioma, liver, and other tumors in rodent studies.

A new RoC dashboard provides interactive visualization and interrogation of the listed substances, their uses, and associated cancers.

### **2021 NIH Rural Health Day**

The NIEHS was a proud co-sponsor of the 2021 NIH Rural Health Day Seminar that built on the NIH UNITE initiative to end structural racism by highlighting the role of structural-level determinants of health, including exposures in the physical environment, that lead to or exacerbate rural health disparities. The NIEHS values collaboration across all NIH Institutes, Centers and Offices, so were honored to participate in this event that celebrated a collective awareness across NIH on the need for research in partnership with rural communities.

The NIEHS 2018-2023 Strategic Plan emphasizes the NIEHS commitment to environmental health disparities and environmental justice research to ensure that all communities, both urban and rural have equitable access to healthy environments. To address rural health inequities, we need action-oriented research to create real solutions that address the root causes of structural-level environmental health disparities.

The distinguished panelists included Drs. Tony Ward (University of Montana), Jani Ingram (Northern Arizona University), Jonathan London (UC, Davis) & Paloma Beamer (University of Arizona). NIEHS grantee Dr. Georgia Kayser (UC, San Diego) presented during the Early-Stage Investigator session.

## **Addressing Racism as a Public Health Issue Through the Lens of Environmental Health Disparities and Environmental Justice**

The NIEHS Environment Health Disparities-Environmental Justice Cross-Divisional Faculty hosted its first workshop on December 10, 2021. “Addressing Racism as a Public Health Issue Through the Lens of Environmental Health Disparities and Environmental Justice—from Problems to Solutions” was held virtually. Over 700 individuals attended the workshop. The goals of the workshop were to:

- Raise awareness of systemic racism in America and its contributing role to Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) and Environmental Justice (EJ)
- Inform the NIEHS community of current EHD research and outreach activities in EJ
- Engage regional and local community leaders involved in EJ advocacy networks to discuss best practices for community engagement. Collaborated with WERA, NCEJN, and 7 Directions of Service.

Discussion topics included a history of environmental racism, EJ issues impacting people of color in North Carolina and the nation, and building successful authentic community partnerships to address local environmental health concerns. The next workshop, titled “Environmental Impacts on Women’s Health Disparities and Reproductive Health,” will be held April 27-28, 2022.

### **Staff Updates**

**Dondrae Coble, D.V.M.**, recently was appointed chief of the NIEHS Comparative Medicine Branch and animal program director. He succeeds Kathy Laber-Laird, D.V.M., who retired at the end of 2021. Before joining the institute, Dr. Coble directed the animal resources core and was an attending veterinarian at the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

**Helena Hogberg, Ph.D.** joined NICEATM as a staff scientist at NIEHS. Dr. Hogberg will conduct research drawing on her broad expertise in applying in vitro methods to assess developmental neurotoxicity (DNT) potential of chemicals.

**Carlos (Charly) Guardia, Ph.D.**, joined DIR as Stadtman Tenure-Track Investigator in RDBL in December 2021. He was also selected to participate in the NIH Distinguished Scholars Program (DSP).

**Chris Weis, Ph.D., D.A.B.T.**, Senior Advisor and Toxicology Liaison retired in December after 11 years at NIEHS and over 32 years of Federal Service. Dr. Weis has over 30 years of experience characterizing environmental exposures and hazards for chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological and explosive (CBNRE) materials and represented NIEHS and NTP on national and international committees, task forces, and ad hoc working groups.

## **Awards and Recognition**

The Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI), a Washington, D.C.-based organization committed to improving human and environmental health, has awarded its inaugural **Innovation Prize** to former NIEHS and National Toxicology Program (NTP) Director **Kenneth Olden, Ph.D.** The prize recognizes exceptional scientists who have helped improve health equity and reduce health disparities. Olden will receive a cash award of \$80,000.

**Gwen Collman, Ph.D.**, Acting Deputy Director of NIEHS received the inaugural **Margo Simon Golden Distinguished Service Award** from the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC). This award will be presented annually to an individual who best exemplifies dedication to preventing the environmental causes of cancer.

**Robin Stanley, Ph.D.**, and **Clarice Weinberg, Ph.D.**, are recipients of the **2021 NIEHS Scientific Director's Award for Excellence**. The institute scientists each receive \$100,000 to advance their research efforts, which were recognized as outstanding by the NIEHS Division of Intramural Research Board of Scientific Counselors. Stanley, a Stadtman Investigator who leads the institute's Nucleolar Integrity Group, won for her research on the enzymes involved in processing RNA. She said that she plans to use her award money to purchase needed equipment and conduct tests of RNA processing. Weinberg, a senior investigator in the NIEHS Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch, was recognized for her research on epistasis, which is the interaction between genetic variants that could cause a specific trait or a disease. Her award will allow her to sequence genomes of 400 families affected by breast cancer as part of the Two Sister Study. The study looks at women who develop breast cancer while younger than 50 years and what genetic and environmental factors may be involved. Weinberg previously won the Award for Excellence in 2017

**Benedict Anchang, Ph.D.**, a Stadtman Investigator in BCBB, received a **Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) Award**. The award includes nearly \$820K from the Chan Zuckerberg Donor Advised Fund to develop the first map of placental cells from African women. The project will shed light on gene expression patterns during pregnancy and potentially reveal how environmental and social factors can influence maternal health. CZI was founded in 2015 to help solve some of society's toughest challenges. The mission of CZI is to build a more inclusive, just, and healthy future for everyone.

**Geoff Mueller, Ph.D.**, Director of the NMR Research Core Facility (GISBL), was selected to present the **John W. Yunginger MD Memorial Lectureship** at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

**Paula Stein, Ph.D.**, biologist in the Reproductive Medicine Group under Carmen Williams, will be the recipient of the Frontiers in Reproduction **2022 Jerry Strauss Beacon Award**.

**Wan-Ning (Chloe) Li, Ph.D.** a Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow in Franco DeMayo's group received the **Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology Award** to support her post-graduate research at NIEHS.

**Ciro Amato, Ph.D.**, a postdoctoral fellow in the NIEHS Reproductive Developmental Biology Group, earned **first place for his oral presentation** at the prestigious International Symposium on the Biology of Vertebrate Sex Determination, which was held Oct. 4-6.

#### *NIEHS Science Days Best Poster Presentations*

Poster presentations from the following trainees earned top honors at the 2021 NIEHS Science Day. Each winner will receive a \$1,500 professional development award.

- **Jacob Gordon**, IRTA predoctoral fellow in the Signal Transduction Laboratory — “Structure of the multi-functional human scaffolding protein PELP1 bound to WDR18 reveals insight into its diverse cellular functions.”
- **Kamiya Bridges**, IRTA postbaccalaureate fellow in the Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory — “The potential role of Runx1 in ovarian cancer and pathologies.”
- **Alicia Chi, Ph.D.**, IRTA postdoctoral fellow in the Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory — “WNK1 is vital for male fertility through regulating both meiotic initiation and progression during spermatogenesis.”
- **Katie Hudson, Ph.D.**, IRTA postdoctoral fellow in the Genome Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory — “Signature motif of glycidamide-induced hypermutation in single-stranded DNA is ubiquitous in human cancers.”
- **Ciro Amato III, Ph.D.**, IRTA postdoctoral fellow in the Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory — “A hindlimb-derived cell population is necessary in penis formation.”
- **Justin Collier, PharmD., Ph.D.**, IRTA postdoctoral fellow in the Immunity, Inflammation, and Disease Laboratory — “GLIS3-deficiency in the maturing kidney leads to metabolic reprogramming and polycystic kidneys.”

#### *Genetics and Environmental Mutagenesis Society of North Carolina*

- Retired NIEHS Division of the National Toxicology Program scientist **Barbara Shane, Ph.D.**, received the 2022 GEMS Lifetime Achievement Award. The honor recognizes members for outstanding scientific contributions to the field of mutagenicity and for dedication to the organization.
- **Kathleen Embury**, a postbaccalaureate fellow from the NIEHS Environmental Epigenomics and Disease Group, led by Douglas Bell, Ph.D., earned the second-place student research award.
- Two doctoral trainees in the lab of NIEHS grantee Michael Cowley, Ph.D., from North Carolina State University, also were recognized at the meeting. **Sierra Moorefield** won the first-place student research award and a \$1,000 prize for her paper related to cadmium-induced nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. **Mark Simmers** was awarded third place and \$500 for his work examining biological mechanisms involved in cadmium exposure and fetal growth restriction.

#### *Society for the Study of Reproduction*

- **Rong Li, Ph.D.**, an IRTA Postdoctoral Fellow in the Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory was awarded the **Lalor Foundation merit award** from the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR).

- NIEHS postbaccalaureate fellow **Kamiya Bridges** has received a 2021 **Burroughs Wellcome Travel Fellowship for Underrepresented Minority Trainees and Junior Faculty** from the SSR. The award comes with \$1,200 to attend the SSR annual meeting.

**John Balbus, M.D.**, who has served as senior advisor for public health at NIEHS since 2009, was elected to the **National Academy of Medicine (NAM)** on Oct. 18. In addition, he was recently appointed interim director of the newly established Office of Climate Change and Health Equity, which is housed in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

NIEHS grantee **Karletta Chief, Ph.D.**, from the University of Arizona, has been **named director** of the school's new Indigenous Resilience Center. Chief and colleagues will collaborate with tribal leaders and governments to design community-driven solutions that address the adverse effects of environmental challenges among Indigenous groups.

#### *Society of Toxicology Awards*

- National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council member **Lynn R. Goldman, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.**, Michael and Lori Milken Dean of Public Health at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University, received **Honorary Membership**. SOT recognizes nonmembers who embody outstanding and sustained achievements in the field of toxicology and/or allied disciplines with Honorary membership.
- NIEHS grantee **Prakash Nagarkatti, Ph.D.**, Senior Research Advisor to the President at University of South Carolina, Vice President for Research Emeritus, received the **2022 SOT Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award** for his role in advancing the field of immunotoxicology and his outstanding efforts in mentoring early career researchers. This award recognizes an SOT member who has made substantial and seminal scientific contributions to the understanding of the science of toxicology and is actively involved in toxicological research.
- Former NIEHS and NTP Director **Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S.**, has been awarded the **2022 SOT Merit Award** in recognition of her distinguished career as a federal scientist and her outstanding contributions to the fields of toxicology and risk assessment for more than four decades. This award recognizes an SOT member who has made distinguished contributions to toxicology throughout an entire career in areas such as research, teaching, regulatory activities, consulting, and service to the Society.
- NIEHS grantee **John P. Wise Sr., Ph.D.**, University of Louisville School of Medicine, has been awarded the **2022 SOT Toxicologist Mentoring Award** for his exemplary mentorship of the next generation of toxicologists at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral level. This award recognizes an SOT member who has displayed a commitment to mentoring and whose advice and counsel have substantially enhanced the career development of toxicologists.
- Former NAEHS Councilmember **Tomás R. Guilarte, Ph.D.**, Professor and Dean, Robert Stempel College Public Health & Social Work at Florida International University, has received the **2022 SOT Translational Impact Award** in recognition of his translational work involving the role of the translocator protein 18 kDa (TSPO) as a biomarker of neuroinflammation and brain injury caused

by neurotoxicants and for his study of neurodegenerative disorders. This award recognizes a scientist whose recent (within the last 10 years) outstanding clinical, environmental health, or translational research has improved human and/or public health in an area of toxicological concern.

- NIEHS grantee **Kristine Willett, Ph.D.**, Professor at the University of Mississippi, has been awarded the **2022 SOT Undergraduate Educator Award** in recognition of her exemplary undergraduate teaching contributions and her support of undergraduate educators—both in her classroom and in the greater scientific community. This award, sponsored by the SOT Endowment, recognizes an SOT member who is distinguished by outstanding contributions to the teaching of undergraduate students in toxicology and toxicology-related areas and whose efforts support the Society’s strategic efforts to “build for the future of toxicology.”

**NIEHS Animal Program** received an **Exemplary rating** with no suggestions for improvement during the most recent AAALAC site visit.

**NIEHS** first among federal agencies to earn **net-zero energy designation**. With the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), the NIEHS campus has officially achieved a net-zero energy designation. The accomplishment demonstrates the institute’s long-standing commitment to promote the health of the community and the planet.

#### *NIEHS Awards*

##### **Individual Merit Awards**

The Merit Award, the highest recognition at NIEHS, recognizes both individuals and groups for their scientific and administrative achievements that support the institute’s mission.

- **Kathy Crabtree**, for exemplary effort and dedication outside her normal responsibilities in coordinating sponsored travel.
- **Robert Petrovich**, for outstanding dedication and support of COVID-19–related research at NIEHS.
- **Cynthia Rider**, for exemplary leadership spearheading establishment of the Botanical Safety Consortium, which is an international effort to innovate the scientific study of the safety of botanical dietary supplements.
- **Erica Scappini**, for outstanding operation and preparedness in creating a safe work environment during the coronavirus pandemic within the Fluorescence Microscopy and Imaging Center.
- **Gregory Travlos**, for representing NIEHS on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) COVID-19 Technologies Portal Review Committee.
- **Frederick Tyson**, for exemplary leadership in building an NIEHS research program on toxicity linked to e-cigarettes and vaping.
- **Rita Volochayev**, for exemplary professionalism and participation in supporting COVID-19–related clinical and clinical research activities during the pandemic.

- **Vickie Walker**, for exemplary implementation and development of machine-learning technologies to improve reference screening and data extraction for literature-based evaluations.
- **Carmen Williams**, for exemplary research, communication, mentoring, and service to the Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory and NIEHS.

#### Group Merit Awards

- **Animal Colony Optimization Team**, for exemplary efficiency, professionalism, and initiative in managing animal colonies and ensuring successful continuation of animal studies during a period of reduced staffing. *Laura Degraff, Ligon Perrow.*
- **Animal Use Refinement Team**, for continuous initiative, creative approaches, and successful outcomes in animal use refinements. *David Goulding, Rebecca Wiltshire, Terry Blankenship.*
- **Autism Program**, for extraordinary initiative and leadership in carrying out activities to improve knowledge in environmental etiology of autism spectrum disorder for the benefit of public health. *Amanda Garton, Astrid Haugen, Cindy Lawler.*
- **Climate Change Awareness Team**, for extraordinary effort and achievement in raising awareness about the health impacts of climate change within the NIEHS community and among stakeholders. *Abee Boyles, Ann Liu, Ian Thomas, John Balbus, Kimberly Thigpen-Tart, Stephanie Holmgren, Tiffany Bowen, Trisha Castriano.*
- **Clinical Research Unit Team**, for exemplary performance in reopening the Clinical Research Unit, developing and starting two new studies addressing COVID-19, and continuing the work on critical research studies. *Alexander Njunge, Anna Drude, Audrey Brown, Bona Purse, Breana Beery, Brittany Mosley, Catherine Wild, Chris McGee, Christopher Wommack, Craig Wladyka, Cynthia Smith, Gladys Gonzales, Heidi Rogers, Jane Lambert, Joanne Harlin, Kathy Hampton, Kim Burnette Hoke, Kimberly Downey, Lisa Barber, Margaret George, Meghan Moscato, Nicole Edwards, Rebecca Church, Ruhani Agrawal, Xiomara Hodge.*
- **Committee on Promotions Application Team**, for exemplary achievement in developing the Title 42 Committees on Promotion (COP) application improving effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the DIR and DNTP COP review processes. *Chris Fisher, Dan Rich, Elizabeth Ruben, Gary Bird, Luana Fernandes, Myra Westmoreland, Ravi Kosuri, Sandy Henriquez, Sree Pallavi Thota.*
- **COVID Communications Team**, for the rapid development of clear guidance and information to ensure the health and safety of NIEHS staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Arrash Yazdani, Carol Kelly, Cheryl Thompson, Christine Flowers, David Iversen, Janet Hall, Joe Poccia, John McLamb, Mitch Williams, Paul Johnson, Rob Levine, Steve Novak.*
- **COVID Diagnostic Innovation Team**, for developing an innovative diagnostic method to assist in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. *Brian Papas, Douglas Bell, Oswaldo Lozoya.*
- **COVID Response Health and Safety Team**, for exemplary performance in ensuring a safe workplace for the NIEHS onsite staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Amanda Thompson, Amelia Pearson, Andy Hodgson, Antares Nicklow, Arrash Yazdani, Bill Steinmetz, Brian Berridge, Carranza Smith, Charles Lipford, Darryl Zeldin, Ericka Pearce, Greg*

*Westmoreland, John McLamb, Kent Cameron, Kerri Hartung, Larry Rogers, Paul Doetsch, Paul Johnson, Steve Novak.*

- **DERT (Division of Extramural Research and Training) Administrative Team**, for exemplary teamwork, integrity, efficiency, and professionalism in administering administrative activities for DERT. *Angela Sanders, Elizabeth McMillan, Helena Bonner, Joel Collinson, Katherine McGinnis, Leslie Lynch, Mitsue Parrish.*
- **Developmental and Toxicology Tables Group**, for outstanding efforts in the development and integration of developmental and reproductive toxicology tables for DNTP reports. *Chad Blystone, Christina Myers, Helen Cunny, Jennifer Fostel, Nicole Sayers.*
- **DIR (Division of Intramural Research) COVID Research Team**, for their undaunted response to the COVID-19 pandemic in scientific research and support of COVID research in DIR. *Geoff Mueller, Lalith Perera, Lars Pedersen, Mario Borgnia, Robert Petrovich.*
- **DR2 COVID Response Team**, for exemplary support of NIH COVID-19 response through vital access to research study resources to enhance timeliness, data interoperability, and harmonization for the NIH community. *April Bennett, Aubrey Miller, Betsy Galluzzo, Chandra Keller, Eric Shiroma, Jennifer Pakiam, John Phillips, Jonathan King, Kimberly Thigpen-Tart, Michael Spittel, Rebecca Clark, Regina Bures, Richard Kwok, Siobhan Champ-Blackwell, Steve Ramsey.*
- **Environmental Health Perspectives**, for exemplary performance and continuity of operations during a prolonged period of unprecedented leadership and organizational change in the branch. *Adam Palumbo, Catherine Callahan, Chloe Miller, Erin Dooley, Hui Hu, Jane Schroeder, Joel Kaufman, Judy Thomas, Julia Warren, Kathy Crabtree, Kristen Cosselman, Kelly Lenox, Kristin Inman, Rob Leon, Sabah Quraishi, Shaun Halloran, Susan Woolard, Windy Boyd.*
- **K-12 in the Time of COVID**, for the relevant and timely design, development, and launch of COVID-19 curricula and the virtual facilitation of professional development opportunities for North Carolina science teachers during the pandemic. *Alison Motsinger-Reif, Huei-Chen Lee, John House, Tom Randall, Tom Stanley.*
- **NIEHS Return to the Physical Workplace Working Group**, for exemplary leadership, planning, and execution of the NIEHS response to COVID-19 and the return of staff to the physical workplace. *Amanda Green, Bill Blair, Chris Long, Christine Flowers, Claire Long, David Fargo, Debi Del Corral, Edward Kang, Gwen Collman, J'Ingrid Mathis, Janet Hall, La Vern James, Mary Wolfe, Megan Irias, Melissa Gentry, Pat Mastin, Paul Doetsch, Steve Novak.*
- **DNTP (Division of the National Toxicology Program) Administrative Operations Team**, for exemplary service, professionalism, and leadership in business process improvements in support of DNTP. *Anna Lee Mosley, Beth Perry, Carolyn Hall, Debra Higgins, Denise Lasko, Lisa Wolf, Penelope Williams, Robbin Guy, Sara Page, Virginia Matthews, Whitney Murphy.*
- **DNTP Reorganization Team**, for extraordinary collaboration in carrying out the administrative reorganization of DNTP. *Andrea Davis, Angela Davis, Claire Long, Mary Wolfe, Michelle Hooth, Michelle Mayo, Shawndall Fox.*



- **DNTP Statistical Methods Team**, for exemplary professionalism and efficiency to develop new statistical methods for analyzing developmental and reproductive data for the Division of the National Toxicology Program. *Barry McIntyre, Carroll Co, Chad Blystone, Cynthia Rider, Gary Larson, Guanhua Xie, Helen Cunny, Jeffrey Krause, Keith Shockley, Kristen Ryan, Laura Betz, Mark Cesta, Rita Ross, Sandra McBride, Shawn Harris, Susan Elmore, Vicky Sutherland.*
- **Olden Distinguished Lecture Organizing Committee**, for extraordinary planning and implementation of the inaugural Distinguished Named Lecture in honor of former NIEHS and NTP Director Kenneth Olden. *Allison Eason, Artiom Gruzdev, Chandra Jackson, Charletta Fowler, Darlene Dixon, Ericka Reid, Fred Tyson, Ginger Muse, Joseph Rodriguez, Margaret George, Mary Jacobson, Nathan Mitchiner, Ron Herbert, Scott Redman, Sharon Beard, Spencer Smith, Stephen Copeland, Steve McCaw, Suzanne Marton, Trevor Archer.*
- **OSD (Office of Science Education and Diversity) Outreach and Research Training Group**, for the seamless and effective conversion of OSD outreach and academic-year undergraduate research training activities to a completely virtual platform during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Alyse Owoc, Anton Jetten, Cassandra Hayne, Chitragda Srivastava, Darlene Dixon, Erik Tokar, Erin Knight, Francesco Demayo, Gabe Knudsen, Geoff Mueller, Jean Harry, Jesse Cushman, Jian-Liang Li, Joan Pakenham, John Schelp, Johnette Morgan, Joselyne Tessa Tonleu, Joseph Rodriguez, Kevin Gerrish, Lalith Perera, Linda Birnbaum, Linda Yu, Margaret Gustafson, Melissa Smarr, Negin Martin, Nora Weston, Robin Arnette, Robin Stanley, Roel Schaaper, Ron Cannon, Stacy Mantooh, Stan Skinner, Steve McCaw, Steve Wu, Suchandra Bhattacharjee, Sue Fenton, Suzy Osborne, Tammy Collins, Trevor Archer, Yvette Malloy.*
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply Team**, for excellent customer service to researchers, contractors, and staff, ensuring everyone had the necessary PPE to do their jobs safely during the pandemic. *Amelia Pearson, Andy Hodgson, April Byrd, Arrash Yazdani, Bill Steinmetz, Carranza Smith, Ericka Pearce, Greg Westmoreland, Kelly Powell, Kerri Hartung, Kim Jones, Reginald Moore, Rick Weaver.*
- **STIC Team**, for exemplary integrity, efficiency, and professionalism in conducting the Intravenous Sodium Thiosulfate in Dermatomyositis Clinical Trial. *Adam Schiffenbauer, Alberta Derkyi, Anna Jansen, Christine Johnson, Emilia Matthews, Julia Agafonova, Lisa Rider, Sarvar Nazir, Terrance O'Hanlon.*
- **Technical Review Team**, for exemplary performance in providing urgent technical reviews of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulatory rules and policies affecting the NIEHS mission and the environmental health of the nation. *Aubrey Miller, Chris Weis, Christine Flowers, John Balbus, Kelly Chandler, Sharon Evans, Sheila Newton.*
- **VIP Meetings Project**, for advancing NIEHS collaboration through the Virtual and In-Person (VIP) Meetings project. *Cheryl Thompson, Chris Williamson, Diane Spencer, Gail Kestner, Hans Luecke, Helena Kennedy, La Vern James, Leroy Worth, Matt Burr, Rhonda Carroll, Rob Levine, Spencer Smith, Treva Bunch.*

- **Virtual Meetings Team**, for maximizing virtual meeting capabilities that enabled the NIEHS to continue operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. *John Maruca, Nathan Mitchiner, Parris Milly, Rich Cabrera, Richard Kwok, Spencer Smith.*

### Peer Awards

The Peer Award gives NIEHS employees a chance to recognize their colleagues' professionalism, integrity, hard work, efficiency, and innovation.

- **Laura Hall**, for exemplary efforts on collaborative DNTP projects.
- **Jui-Hua Hsieh**, to recognize and appreciate consistent scientific leadership and extra efforts she enthusiastically provides her peers and others at NIEHS.
- **Helena Kennedy**, for exemplary integrity, efficiency, and professionalism performing divisional tasks that are imperative to her colleagues and the DERT mission.
- **Chris McGee**, for taking the lead to get the Clinical Research Unit Laboratory CLIA-certified. The acronym stands for [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments](#).
- **Julie Nixon**, for outstanding and sustained support of the COVID-19 testing capability at NIEHS, enabling a safe working environment for all employees.
- **Nicole Popovich**, for exemplary initiative and enthusiasm towards fostering DERT discussions on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- **Brooke Rogerson**, for outstanding professional and innovative work in support of the NIEHS Animal Care and Use Committee, the Comparative Medicine Branch mission, and NIEHS investigators.

### Years of Service

Federal employees also were recognized for their years of dedicated service.

- **50 years** — *Ralph Wilson.*
- **40 years** — *Laura Hall.*
- **30 years** — *Kathy Almark, Gary Bird, Paula Brown, Matthew Burr, Lori Edwards, Ronald Herbert, La Vern James, Shawn Jeter, Andrea Lynn, Virginia Matthews, Sheila Newton, Elizabeth Ney, Robert Sills, Eugenia Thompson, Thai Vu Ton, Frederick Tyson, Francisca Wagstaff, Richard Weaver, and Robert Wine.*
- **20 years** — *Danica Andrews, David Balshaw, Mario Borgnia, Monya Brace, Kaliopi Chrysovergis, Margaret Fender, Patricia Harris, Edward Kang, Huei-Chen Lee, Fred Lih, Jacqueline Marzec, Michelle Mayo, Geoffrey Mueller, Srikanth Nadadur, Hooramack Sobhany, Valarie Sims, William Steinmetz, and Xianhong Yu.*
- **10 years** — *Georgia Alexander, Jacquelin Barbour, Carol Coatney, Joel Collinson, Diane D'Agostin, Matthew Edin, Christopher Ford, Jenny Greer, David Kurtz, Amy Papaneri, Nichole Popovich, Lorin Devlin Sawyer, Varsha Shukla, Angela Tew, Ian Thomas, Amanda Thompson, and Richard Woychik.*

*NSCP 2021-22 Fall Connection Presentation Winners:*

- **Best Presenter: Ariana Frazier**  
Mentored by Dr. Joan Packenham

- **Best Presenter: Micah Hysong**  
Mentored by Dr. Joseph Rodriguez
- **Honorable Mention: Jessica Wu**  
Mentored by Dr. Ayland Letsinger and Dr. Jerrel Yakel

#### NIH Director's Awards

##### Scientific/Medical

- **Oswaldo A. Lozoya**, for dedication and passion for research into COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2, and for leadership in receiving NIH-wide funds through the RADx Rad program.
- **Katie M. O'Brien**, for excellence in research and communication on a controversial topic of public health importance.
- **Katz Early Stage Investigator Award Committee\***, for exceptional efforts and leadership in launching the Katz ESI Program to provide a new pathway for Early Stage Investigators to propose research. *Cindy P. Lawler*
- **NIH-Wide Strategic Plan Working Group\***, in recognition of leadership and collaboration in the development of the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for FYs 2021-2025. *Sheila A. Newton, Kimberly G. Thigpen Tart*
- **RADx Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) Working Group\***, for outstanding contribution, coordination, and implementation of the RADx-UP initiative to better understand and address health disparities associated with COVID-19. *David M. Balshaw, Danielle J. Carlin, Gwen W. Collman, Yuxia Cui, Christopher G. Duncan, Kimberly A. Gray, Jenny L. Greer, Michelle L. Heacock, Lindsey A. Martin, Liam R. O'Fallon, Clark A. Phillips, Claudia L. Thompson, James R. Williams*
- **RADx-UP Data Harmonization Workgroup Chairs\***, for exceptional skill and leadership developing data harmonization guidance for the RADx-UP initiative. *Lindsey A. Martin*
- **Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx-RAD) Working Group\***, for excellence in leadership and implementation of the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics Radical initiative to support new, non-traditional technologies that address gaps in COVID-19 testing. *Douglas A. Bell, Richard P. Woychik*
- **Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research Team\***, for the rapid development of a road map for the NIH strategic research response to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Sheila A. Newton, Kimberly Thigpen Tart*

##### Administrative

- **NIEHS Asymptomatic Testing Site Team**, for establishing and operating the asymptomatic COVID-19 testing site at NIEHS, serving all NIH staff in North Carolina. *William M. Blair (OD), Kimberly E. Burnett-Hoke, Heather M. Crum (CC), Heather A. Davis (OD), Debra D. Del Corral, Maria P. Fagoaga (CC), Janet E. Hall, Robert S. Levine, Jon W. McKeeby (CC), Irisneia Merscher, Robert W. Neiberger, Julie D. Nixon, Ericka E. Pearce, Shepherd H. Schurman, James V. Stancil (OD), Terry Wells (OD), Fred M. Williams, Arrash T. Yazdani*
- **NIH Applicant Assistant Program\***, in recognition of superior team resourcefulness and leadership in administering the Applicant Assistance Program to enhance inclusive entrepreneurship across the NIH SBIR and STTR Programs. *Lingamanaidu V. Ravichandran*
- **Blueprint Neuroimaging Workshop Planning Committee\***, For exceptional scientific expertise, collegiality and dexterity in organizing and conducting the virtual workshop "Addressing Neuroimaging Challenges across Populations and Settings". *Kimberly A. Gray*

- **BMC Repository Characteristics Subgroup\***, for extraordinary efforts in developing the desired characteristics for open data sharing repositories, which led the way to the OSTP Desirable Characteristics. *Christopher G. Duncan*
- **Distinguished Scholars Program Developers\***, for visionary and creative leadership in the design and implementation of the NIH Distinguished Scholars Program. *Trevor K. Archer*
- **OER Stepping Up to Enable COVID Research Team\***, for exceptional efforts providing policy, guidance, systems, and other support to enable the robust, extramural research response to the COVID pandemic challenges. *Jenny L. Greer*
- **Presidential Transition Preparation Team\***, for outstanding dedication to the preparation of transition materials ahead of the 2020 general election. *Sheila A. Newton*
- **NIH UNITE Initiative \***, For extraordinary dedication, teamwork, and leadership in support of NIH's UNITE Initiative to address structural racism and promote racial and ethnic equity. *Trevor K. Archer, Talin Barnes*

#### **Common Fund Leadership**

- **Trans-NIH Accelerating Leading-Edge Science in ALS (ALS2) Program\***, for Common Fund Leadership in the implementation of the new, trans-NIH Accelerating Leading-edge Science in ALS (ALS2) Program. *Jonathan A. Hollander*

\*The individuals listed are staff members from NIEHS recognized as part of a trans-NIH group.