

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN HEALTH AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

NUNTIVM

April 2025

Welcome back!

Welcome back to another edition of the IHHE Nuntium, where we share recent news, accomplishments, and events going on within our community. Our Affiliates have been hard at work the past couple of months so let's take a look at what they've been up to.



Request for Ideas



The Institute for Human Health and the Environment is rolling out a new initiative called **“Request for Ideas” (RFI)**. The RFI is intended to help UR faculty and staff with projects and ideas that will increase the understanding of environmental factors and their effects on human health. Proposals for educational opportunities, community collaborations, workshops, and more can be submitted through this **REDCap survey**.

Submit your application by June 15th for access to this opportunity!



SHOUTOUT: KATRINA KORFMACHER, PHD



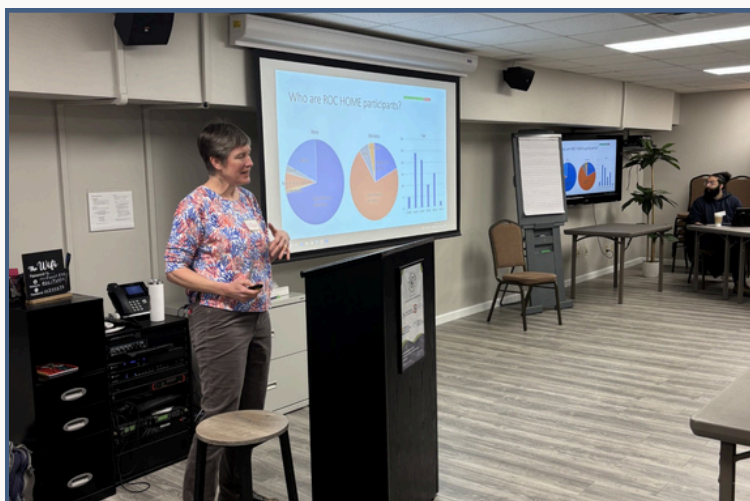
Shoutout to IHHE Affiliate Katrina Korfmacher, PhD! Katrina is a Professor for the Department of Environmental Medicine, the Department of Public Health Sciences, and for the Center for Community Health and Prevention. She is the Director of the EHSC Community Engagement Core, a leader for the IHHE Engagement Pillar, and a leading investigator for the Lake Ontario MicroPlastics Center.

PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

EHSC Healthy Homes & ROC Home Study: which focus on hazards and contaminants within Rochester households.

Lake Ontario MicroPlastics Center (LOMP): A joint partnership between the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology that researches the impacts of microplastics on human health.

Invited Perspective: Should You Scrap Your Plastic Cutting Board? E.F. Castillo., K.S. Korfmacher., A.C. Tyler



Katrina presenting at a recent ROC home Community and Partner Meeting

SHOUTOUT: SOUVARISH SARKAR, PHD



Shoutout to IHHE Affiliate Souvarish Sarkar, PhD! Souvarish is an Assistant Professor for the Department of Environmental Medicine and the Department of Neuroscience. He is the lead investigator for the UR EnviGene Lab which focuses on research related to gene-environmental interactions and their critical role in the etiology of Parkinson's Disease. Souvarish is also the faculty coordinator for the EHSC EnLight Seminar Series.

RECENT HONORS & PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Souvarish Sarkar received the Metals Section Young Investigator Award at the 2025 Annual Society of Toxicology conference.

Biotin mitigates the development of manganese-induced, Parkinson's' disease-related neurotoxicity in Drosophila and human neurons. Y. Lai., P. Reina-Gonzalez., G. Maor., G.W. Miller., S. Sarkar



One Health Activities for Community Settings

IHHE Affiliates, Becca Lauzon, PhD., and Dina Markowitz, PhD., created a new educational and engaging resource designed to increase the understanding of the concept of One Health – activities that help strengthen the knowledge of environmental interconnections.

[Learn more about it here!](#)

Altered expression profile of plasma exosomal microRNAs in exclusive electronic cigarette adult users

D. Li, Z. Xie, S.B. Shaikh, I. Rahman

Does E-Cigarette Use Increase the Risk of Cancer? This article, published by IHHE Affiliate Irfan Rahman, PhD., explores the relationship between e-cigarette use and the development and progression of cancer. You can read about this study in the journal, **scientific reports**.



Study suggests why ADHD might increase dementia risk

IHHE Affiliate, Marissa Sobolewski, PhD., was featured in this article to discuss the role and impact of increased iron levels in the brain. You can read this article in **MedicalNewsToday**.

Upcoming Events

What do we have going on next?

Traffic Cops: Role of Extracellular Vesicles in Embryonic Development

Dr. Rebecca Simmons from the University of Pennsylvania, will be presenting the Jack Finkelstein Lecture Series


Date: Thurs, May 1st

Time: 12pm

Location: SMD L Auditorium

THURSDAY MAY 1ST

Traffic Cops: Role of Extracellular Vesicles in Embryonic Development



Rebecca Simmons, MD
Hallam Hurt Professor of Neonatology
Co-Director, Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health
University of Pennsylvania

📅 1 MAY, 2025
🕒 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
📍 SMD ADOLPH AUDITORIUM (1-7619)

Biomonitoring of Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals in NY

Dr. Kurunthachalam Kannan & Anne Pysnik, will be presenting for the EnLight Seminar Series to discuss chemical exposure in New York.

Date: Thurs, May 8th

Time: 11am

Location: EHSC Conference Room 4.8820



Kurunthachalam Kannan, PhD
Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, Wadsworth Center
Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, College of Integrated Health Sciences, University at Albany



Anne Pysnik, MPH
Biomonitoring NY Project Coordinator
NYSDOH, Center for Environmental Health

📅 Thursday, May 8, 2025
🕒 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
📍 EHSC Conference Room (4.8820)

Epigenomic Reprogramming Induced by Early Life Environmental Exposures

Dr. Cheryl Walker from the Baylor College of Medicine, will be giving the keynote address for this year's Toxicology Program Retreat.

Date: Thurs, May 29th

Time: 11am

Location: SMD Large Auditorium (2-6424)

**Toxicology Training Program
Annual Retreat 2025**

Join the Department of Environmental Medicine's Toxicology Training Program for our Annual Retreat!

Keynote Address



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