

JUNE 2024

# NUNTIVM

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT



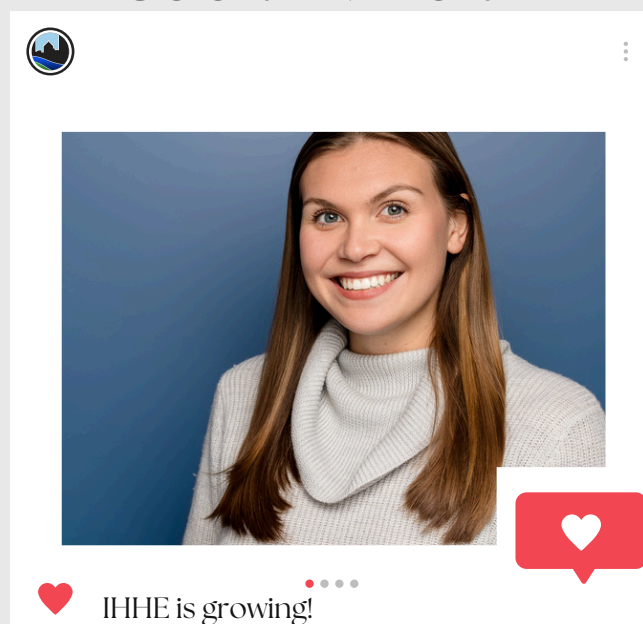
## WELCOME BACK!



**HI THERE! WE HOPE YOU'VE BEEN WELL!  
IN THIS EDITION OF THE NUNTIVM, WE  
WILL WRAP UP THE SPRING AND ENTER  
INTO THE NEW SUMMER SEASON.**

## NEW TEAM MEMBER

WELCOME MADELINE HOLODNIK, MPH,  
THE ENGAGEMENT PILLAR'S  
COORDINATOR



Maddie is the new IHHE Engagement Coordinator. Prior to this position, she received a degree in Environmental Studies and Sociology from St. Lawrence University and her Masters of Public Health in Environmental Health from Emory University. When she is not working, Maddie enjoys spending time with her family and friends and taking her old English sheepdog, Poppy, for walks.



## SHOUTOUT



**Shoutout to IHHE Director, Paige Lawrence, PhD**, who has received a new R01 grant, “Developmental Immunotoxicity of PFAS”. This new grant is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and will study how PFAS exposure affects immune function, both early and later in life.



## SHOUTOUT



**Shoutout to IHHE affiliates, Lisa DeLouise, PhD, MPD and Gloria Pryhuber, MD**, for receiving a UR 2024 University Research Award for their collaborative project, “Lung Microbubble Chips for Antibiotic Drug Discovery”.



# READ ALL ABOUT IT

## IN ROCHESTER, GILLIBRAND CALLS FOR \$20 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING TO REGULATE INDUSTRIAL PFAS POLLUTION

IHHE director, Paige Lawrence, PhD, was invited by U.S. Senator, Kirsten Gillibrand, to speak at a press conference about PFAS contamination in Monroe County. Interact with the image below to gain access to this article.



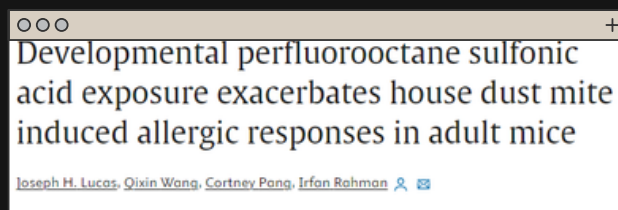
## PARASITIC BRAIN WORMS & MERCURY POISONING

IHHE affiliate, Matthew Rand, PhD, was featured in *The Washington Post* to speak about aspects of mercury poisoning. Check out this article by interacting with the image for the link.



## DEVELOPMENTAL EXPOSURE STUDIES

Recent Toxicology Program graduate, Joseph Lucas, PhD, has had two scholarly papers accepted. Interact with the images below to read these articles.



# CHECK THIS OUT! “WHY SHOULD I PLAY INSIDE TODAY”

IHHE affiliate, **Rebecca Lauzon, PhD**, and grad student, **Sophia Samantaroy**, created a family-friendly resource guide on air quality. This guide was a “Featured Material” in the *National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Partnerships for Environmental Public Health* monthly newsletter. These guides were created in response to wildfire events that took place in Summer 2023. The guides are kid and family friendly, meaning that they are accessible to all who are looking for information when it comes to air quality and health.

Why should I play inside today?

Wind can bring smoke far away from the fire

When it is hot and dry, a small spark can start a wildfire. Many people help keep us safe from wildfires.

Can you spot all the helpers?

What color is your air quality today?

You may not be able see or smell the smoke. Scientists test the air to see if it is healthy to play outside. You can too!

How are you feeling?

How does smoke get into your body? Connect the dots!

Scan the QR code to check your air and color the flag.

If it is green or yellow, it is healthy to play outside!

Draw yourself as a helper!

Find all the hidden words!

Some fun things I can do inside are...

“Why should I play inside today?” is an activity sheet designed for elementary school-aged children who may be experiencing air pollution from wildfire smoke but are not directly experiencing a nearby wildfire.

Changes in climate like record high temperatures and dry conditions are increasing the severity and frequency of wildfires. With longer fire seasons and larger fires, more communities are impacted by wildfires and wildfire smoke. This includes communities far from actively burning fires, as wind patterns can carry the smoke long distances.

**How to use this activity sheet**

Parents, educators, healthcare providers, and other caregivers can use this activity sheet alongside conversations including:

- What a wildfire is and where it is happening.
- That wildfire smoke can travel a long way through the air and can be harmful.
- What you can do to stay healthy.
- Fun things you can do indoors.
- How you and the child are feeling.

**What can I do?**

**Check the air quality**

Scan the QR code on the activity sheet or visit [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) together to check your air quality. Color the flag on the sheet with what you find. Follow the guidance for outdoor activity.

**Read or listen to a picture book**

“Why is Coco Red?” Available from the EPA in multiple languages

**Wildfire smoke and health**

Wildfire smoke can impact air quality far from the source fire. Smoke exposure is particularly dangerous for children and babies as their bodies are still developing.

Learn how to protect yourself and kids if wildfire smoke is affecting your area from the [NYS Children’s Environmental Health Centers](https://www.nyschildrens.org/health-centers)

Find tips for talking to children about natural disasters from the [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](https://www.aap.org/child-adolescent-psychiatry)

**Create a clean room for safer breathing**

Learn how at [EPA.gov](https://www.epa.gov)

**Buy or make your own air purifier**

Scan the code for instructions in English or Spanish from the [USC Environmental Health Centers](https://www.usceh.org/health-centers)

en Español in English



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

**The Institute for Human Health and the Environment is teaming up with the Environmental Health Sciences Center for the next research symposium on Air Health and Pollution.**

This event will feature two keynote speakers: **Marianthi-Anna Kioumourtzoglou, ScD**, from Columbia University and **Matthew Campen, PhD**, from the University of New Mexico.



## **WANT TO KEEP UP WITH US?**

If you have anything you'd like to contribute to the next issue, please send the information and/or photos to us at [ihhe@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:ihhe@urmc.rochester.edu).

