

News at a Glance

May | June 2021

The purpose of the CEG Pilot Projects Program is to support qualified investigators, whether established or new to the field, toward obtaining significant preliminary data that can become the basis of larger NIH/NIEHS grant proposals and successful projects. Past recipients of this competitive “catalyst” funding have achieved an average Return on Investment of 12:1 on their research, leading to important advances in the understanding of gene-environment interactions (GxE). We congratulate these recipients of 2021–2022 CEG Pilot project funding:



Chunying Du, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the UC College of Medicine Department of Cancer Biology, for the study “Mechanisms of liver disease progression initiated by environmental genotoxin” (\$45,000 Affinity Group award).



Debajyoti Ghosh, Ph.D., Instructor in the UC College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Immunology, Allergy and Rheumatology. Project: “Elucidating the mechanism of Atopic Dermatitis induced by maternal exposure to phthalate compounds” (\$20,000 Innovator award).



Jun Wang, Ph.D., PE, CIH, CSP, Assistant Professor, UC College of Medicine, Department of Environmental and Public Health Sciences, Division of Environmental and Industrial Hygiene. Project: “Chemical and Toxicological Paradigm shift of Air Pollution in a Post Pandemic World” (\$20,000 New Investigator award).



Susan M. Pinney, Ph.D., FACE, Professor, UC College of Medicine, Department of Environmental and Public Health Sciences, Division of Epidemiology. Project: “Airborne uranium exposure and incidence of breast cancer in a population living near a uranium refinery” (\$30,604 Innovator award).



Jagjit Yadav, Ph.D., Professor, UC College of Medicine, Department of Environmental and Public Health Sciences, Division of Environmental Genetics and Molecular Toxicology. Project: “Nanoparticle-induced Lung Immunotoxicity and Dysbiosis Mechanisms using Single Cell Transcriptomics Approach” (\$45,000 Affinity Group award).



Kyounghyun Kim, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, UC College of Medicine, Department of Environmental and Public Health Sciences, Division of Environmental Genetics and Molecular Toxicology. Project: “Role of AHR in Pancreatic Pathogenesis” (\$5,000 Time-Sensitive Response Award).

More can be read online about the CEG [Pilot Projects Program](#) and our [Integrative Technologies Support \(ITS\) Core](#), including ITS matching funds.

Save the Dates

Thursday August 5: All CEG Meeting. Agenda will include the welcome of new members, 2022 Pilot Projects Program, the CEG competitive renewal and strategic planning. 1:00–2:30 PM

Tuesday November 2: NIEHS Precision Health Community Forum, with a visit from NIEHS Director Rick Woychik, PhD, and other program leaders from NIEHS

CEG

Center for Environmental Genetics



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<http://med.uc.edu/eh/centers/ceg>

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Recent Publications

Bischoff ME, Zang Y, Chu J, Price AD, Ehmer B, Talbot NJ, Newbold MJ, Paul A, Guan JL, Plas DR, **Meller J, Czyzyk-Krzeska MF**. Selective MAP1LC3C (LC3C) autophagy requires noncanonical regulators and the C-terminal peptide. *J Cell Biol.* 2021 Jul 5;220(7):e202004182. [PMID: 33988680](#). [PMCID: PMC8129795](#).

Upadhyay PR, Ho T, **Abdel-Malek ZA**. Participation of keratinocyte- and fibroblast-derived factors in melanocyte homeostasis, the response to UV, and pigmentary disorders. *Pigment Cell Melanoma Res.* 2021 May 11. [PMID: 33973367](#) Review.

Zablon HA, Ko CI, **Puga A**. Converging roles of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor in early embryonic development, maintenance of stemness and tissue repair. *Toxicol Sci.* 2021 May 1. [PMID: 34009372](#).

Tarapore P, Ouyang B. Perfluoroalkyl chemicals and male reproductive health: Do PFOA and PFOS increase risk for male infertility? *Int J Environ Res Public Health.* 2021 Apr 5;18(7):3794. [PMID: 33916482](#). [PMCID: PMC8038605](#).