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The CEG Community Engagement Core (CEC) has been immersed in multiple summer activities, including a May 30 **Health Science Café** at the Norwood Library. Topic: The CEC's ongoing soil testing project and lead (Pb) contamination in urban soil. Presenter/Facilitator: **Nick Newman, DO, MS, FAAP**; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Environmental Health, UC College of Medicine, and Director, Environmental Health and Lead Clinic Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

On June 11 CEC Program Manager Angela Larck, MSOL, and colleague Victoria Straughn, CMA, joined CEG member **Zalfa Abdel-Malek, PhD**, CEG Director **Susan Pinney, PhD, FACE**, and Dr. Pinney's mentee **Katie Santanello** at Coney Island's **Sunlite Pool** for a community engagement exercise on the benefits of, and correct way of applying, sunscreen. Larger than a football field and holding more than 3 million gallons of water, Sunlite Pool is considered to be largest flat-surface recirculating pool in the world and attracts numerous swimmers of all ages.

Soon thereafter, the CEC returned for a second year in a row to the **Cincinnati Museum Center's Medical Camp** for 5th–8th grade students. At the camp, kids learn some of what it takes to be a doctor. Participants learn basic First Aid skills and animal dissection techniques and enjoy opportunities to meet with medical professionals. On June 12 MPH students **Hope Palalay** and **Ariela Topper** presented on the field of clinical microbiology and their research interest: infectious diseases. Hope and Ariela explained how the study of microbes can help us better understand disease prevention, including the need for good bacteria in our bodies, and how bacteria become antibiotic resistant. Campers seeded their own petri dishes with microbes sampled from everyday items, including the bottom of their shoes. Students were able to see the incubated results 2 days later. The children also practiced proper handwashing technique by using a special hand lotion that, under UV light, fluoresces germs.



On June 14 doctoral students **Alison Pecquet** and **Paul Deford**, who study under CEG member Susan Kasper, PhD, presented on the cellular/molecular biologist profession. Alison and Paul educated campers about the role of cell mutations in health and development and the ins and outs of RNA and DNA. Subjects ranged from "Superhero mutants" to molecular engineered dinosaurs. Campers voted unanimously that their favorite part of the day's session was a hand-on activity where they extracted DNA from strawberries.

Recent Publications

Bermúdez ML, Seroogy KB, **Genter MB**. Evaluation of carnosine intervention in the Thy1-aSyn mouse model of Parkinson's disease. **Neuroscience**. 2019 May 21 [Epub ahead of print] [PMID: 31125602](#). Dr. Mei Ling Bermúdez is a former CEG New Investigator Scholar (2014-2016). Mentor: Mary Beth Genter, PhD, DABT, Fellow, ATS.



Mahi NA, Najafabadi MF, Pilarczyk M, Kouril M, **Medvedovic M**. GREIN: An Interactive Web Platform for Re-analyzing GEO RNA-seq Data. *Sci Rep*. 2019 May 20;9(1):7580. doi: 10.1038/s41598-019-43935-8. [PMID: 31110304](#)

Chen A, Jandarov R, Zhou L, Calafat AM, Zhang G, Urbina EM, Sarac J, Augustin DH, Caric T, Bockor L, Petranovic MZ, Novokmet N, Missoni S, Rudan P, **Deka R**. [Association of perfluoroalkyl substances exposure with cardiometabolic traits in an island population of the eastern Adriatic coast of Croatia](#). *Sci Total Environ*. 2019 May 20;683:29-36. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.05.250.

Li N, Arbuckle TE, Muckle G, Lanphear BP, Boivin M, **Chen A**, Dodds L, Fraser WD, Ouellet E, Séguin JR, Velez MP, **Yolton K**, Braun JM. Associations of cord blood leptin and adiponectin with children's cognitive abilities. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*. 2019 Jan;99:257-264. [PMID: 30390444](#); PMCID: PMC6239208

Brown CM, Samaan ZM, Gance A, Haering A, Steele B, **Newman N**. Standardizing clinical response to results of lead screening: A quality improvement study. *Pediatrics*. 2019 May 9. pii: e20183085. doi: 10.1542/peds.2018-3085. [Epub ahead of print] [PMID: 31072828](#).

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Fassler C, Pinney SE, **Xie C**, **Biro F**, **Pinney SM**. Complex relationships between per-fluorooctanoate, body mass index, insulin resistance and serum lipids in young girls. *Env Res*. [ePub](#) ahead of print, 26 Jun 2019.