

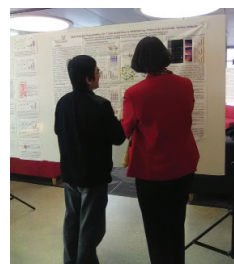


In March we bade farewell to CEG Deputy Director **Aimin Chen, M.D., Ph.D.**, as he pursues an exciting personal career opportunity at the University of Pennsylvania and its [Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics](#). We are pleased to announce that [Jagjit Yadav, Ph.D.](#) (top photo), veteran Director of the CEG Pilot Projects Program and leader of the ImmunoTox Forum, has generously agreed to serve also as our **CEG Deputy Director**. We welcome Associate Professor of Medicine [Jack Rubinstein, M.D.](#) (photo, left) as **leader of the CEG Integrative Health Sciences Facilities (IHSF) Core** and as a new CEG Associate Director. Rubinstein has worked with fellow CEG Associate Director [Alvaro Puga, Ph.D.](#), on a 5-year **\$2.4 million NIEHS award** to study dioxin exposure and gene-environment interactions during embryonic development and their consequences in terms of adult heart disease (R01ES024744). Rubinstein is also collaborating with CEG member [Hong-Sheng Wang, Ph.D.](#), on his major study of endocrine disruptors and health health (R01ES027855). [Kelly Brunst, Ph.D.](#) (photo, left) Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, will serve as co-leader of the IHSF Core, and [Roman Jandarov, Ph.D.](#) (photo, lower left) Assistant Professor in the Division of Biostatistics & Bioinformatics, will serve as co-leader of the Pilot Projects Program. Both Brunst and andarov have been CEG New Investigator Awardees (2018–2020).



Symposium Highlights Returns on Research Investment

[B. Paige Lawrence, Ph.D., A.T.S.](#), Wright Family Research Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental Medicine, and Director, Environmental Health Science Center, University of Rochester, delivered the keynote address and met with fellow presenters and guests at the February 21 CEG **Research Symposium**. Lawrence discussed how recent studies of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) offer clues about how environmental exposures affect immune system function in human populations and animal models. Seven CEG pilot awardees also presented during the Symposium on topics including the role of heavy metals speciation in clear cell renal cell carcinoma, DNA repair of environmental genotoxic damage in the liver, determining adolescent brain GABA and glutathione concentrations in the HOME Study, gene-environment interactions in epithelial morphogenesis, epigenetic mechanisms linking traffic-related air pollution and neurodevelopment, and investigating the predictive and cell type-specific lung immunotoxicity of nanomaterials. Many of the pilot projects featured at the annual symposium have led to larger, R01-type studies, with the average return on investment standing at 15 to 1 (higher in some cases and years). We are grateful to all of our speakers and poster presenters whose work was represented during the Year 27 Symposium.



Funded by NIEHS award P30 ES006096

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Recent Publications

Jackson-Browne MS, Papadonatos GD, **Chen A**, Calafat AM, **Yolton K**, Lanphear BP, Braun JM. Gestational and childhood urinary triclosan concentrations and academic achievement among 8-year-old children. [Neurotoxicology](#). 2020 Mar 19. doi: 10.1016/j.neuro.2020.03.011

Kim SS, Xu X, **Zhang Y**, Zheng X, Liu R, **Dietrich KN**, **Reponen T**, **Xie C**, Sucharew H, Huo X, **Chen A**. Birth outcomes associated with maternal exposure to metals from informal electronic waste recycling in Guiyu, China. *Environ Int*. 2020 Feb 17;137:105580. PubMed [PMID: 32078870](#)

Langevin SM, Eliot M, Butler RA, McClean M, Kelsey KT. Firefighter occupation is associated with increased risk for laryngeal and hypopharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma among men from the Greater Boston area. *Occup Environ Med*. 2020 Feb 27.pii: oemed-2019-106271. doi: 10.1136/oemed-2019-106271. PubMed [PMID: 32107319](#)

Percy Z, Vuong AM, Ospina M, Calafat AM, La Guardia MJ, Xu Y, Hale RC, **Dietrich KN**, **Xie C**, Lanphear BP, Braun JM, **Cecil KM**, **Yolton K**, **Chen A**. Organophosphate esters in a cohort of pregnant women: Variability and predictors of exposure. *Environ Res*. 2020 Feb 13;184:109255. PubMed [PMID: 32087441](#)