

## May 10 Community Forum on Precision Environmental Health features the latest research and lively dialogue

The CEG recently welcomed to Cincinnati Richard Woychik, PhD, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP), and Liam O’Fallon, MA, Health Specialist in the NIEHS Population Health Branch. Their daylong introduction to regional environmental concerns and ongoing CEG work was capped by an afternoon

[Community Forum](#) attended by dozens of community leaders and local government and public health officials. Dr. Woychik and Mr. O’Fallon joined several DEPHS faculty members in visiting two locations in Cincinnati to discuss environmental health issues. Visit stops included Smale Park at Cincinnati’s riverfront, where Dave Schmitt, executive director of the Mill Creek Alliance, led a discussion on water issues, and Groundwork Ohio River Valley in Price Hill, where Alan Edwards, chief executive officer of the organization, presented that organization’s air pollution monitoring project. “Visiting the neighborhoods and talking with residents,” Woychik told UC publicist Bob Baugert, “reinforced the importance that community engagement plays in helping us achieve our mission at NIEHS.”

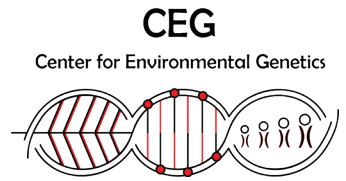
*NIEHS Director Rick Woychik (center) with invited panelists from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency, Greater Cincinnati Water Works, and the Center for Closing the Health Gap.*



Funded by NIEHS award P30 ES006096, the CEG conducts research on gene-environment interactions and works to translate findings to new therapeutics and preventive measures against environmental health risks. The CEG also works closely with regional stakeholders on projects that have included the Fernald Community Cohort and Superfund site in western Hamilton County and local water systems to eliminate perfluorinated chemicals from drinking water.

### Recent Publications

- Fu H, Hawley NL, Carlson JC, Russell EM, Pomer A, Cheng H, Naseri T, Reupena MS, **Deka R**, Choy CC, McGarvey ST, Minster RL, Weeks DE. The missense variant, rs373863828, in CREBRF plays a role in longitudinal changes in body mass index in Samoans. *Obes Res Clin Pract.* 2022 May 20. [PMID: 35606300](#).
- Bhattacharya SS, Yadav B, Rosen L, Nagpal R, Yadav H, **Yadav JS**. Crosstalk between gut microbiota and lung inflammation in murine toxicity models of respiratory exposure or co-exposure to carbon nanotube particles and cigarette smoke extract. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol.* 2022 May 18. [PMID: 35595072](#).
- **Mendy A, Mersha TB**. Comorbidities in childhood-onset and adult-onset asthma. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2022 May 17. [PMID: 35595004](#).



Funded by NIEHS award P30 ES006096

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## New Investigator Award (NIA) Nominations due by June 17

On a biennial basis, the CEG recognizes up to three New Investigator Awardees (NIA’s) for a 2-year term. These are promising junior faculty members with demonstrated interest in environmental health science. NIA’s receive \$25,000 in salary support and associated benefits each year. Applications for New Investigator Awards must include a nomination letter from the proposed mentor, copies of the applicant’s and mentor’s CVs, and a personal statement by the applicant specifying his or her plans for environmental health research over the 2-years of CEG funding. The statement should include planned grant submissions to [NIEHS](#). Submit with cover form that can be found online [here](#).

### Who selects New Investigator Awardees?

The CEG Director, Deputy Director and Associate Directors will review all applications and make preliminary selections. Final decisions are made with review and assent of the CEG Internal Advisory Board.

### Who are previous New Investigator Awardees?

2018–2020 NIA’s were Drs. Kelly Brunst, Katherine Burns, Roman Jandarov and Liang Niu. Our 2020–2022 NIA’s are Jun Wang, PhD, PE, CIH, CSP; Patrick Ray, PhD; and Angelico Mendy, MD, PhD.