Welcome to these 5 new CEG members

The CEG welcomes Yevgen Nazarenko, PhD, and Anthony Grillo, PhD, as new Associate members. Dr. Nazarenko joined the DEPHS in July as an assistant professor in the Division of Industrial Hygiene. He serves as Director of the Mid-Atlantic States Section of the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) and is a past Chair of the A&WMA Nanotechnology Coordinating Committee. Dr. Nazarenko is interested in research at the intersection of inhalation exposure to airborne toxicants and the effects that they have on the structure of proteins involved in DNA repair and replication.

Dr. Grillo is an assistant professor in the UC Department of Chemistry. The Grillo Laboratory focuses on biomolecular understanding of how genetic, age-related, or environmental-induced mitochondrial dysfunction alters metabolism through metal-mediated proteostatic failure in neurologic disease. In particular, Dr. Grillo’s team seeks to investigate the effects of metal toxicity (e.g., iron) and mitochondrial poisons (e.g., pesticides) in inborn errors of metabolism and age-progressive neurodegenerative diseases, using metallomic, metabolomic, proteomic, and/or phosphoproteomic studies in cellular and animal models. Grillo and colleagues recently discovered mitochondrial Complex I deficiencies (both through genetic inhibition rotenone) induce imbalances in iron speciation and distribution. They are now investigating the effect of metal exposure in these systems.

In July we also welcomed as new members Shesh N. Rai, PhD, Professor, Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, and Director, UC Cancer Center Biostatistics and Informatics Shared Resource (UCCC-BISR); Satish Madala, PhD, Professor, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine; and Rathnakumar Kumaragurubaran, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Director, Single Cell Genomics Core, CCHMC. Use of the CCHMC Single Cell Genomics Core by CEG members is now eligible for Integrative Technologies Support (ITS) core subsidy funding.

2023 Pilot Project Awards Announced

Katherine Burns, PhD, Associate Professor, Environmental Genetics & Molecular Toxicology: Forever chemicals, liver injury, and development of endometriosis. 40K Innovator award.

Ying Xia, PhD; Professor, Environmental Genetics & Molecular Toxicology: Rock (gene) and dioxin interactions in development tissue closure. 40K Innovator award.

Chunying Du, PhD; Associate Professor Department of Cancer and Cell Biology: Mechanistic Basis of PFOS-induced Steatohepatitis. 40K New to EHS award.

Nurit Azouz, PhD; Assistant Professor, UC Department of Pediatrics, CCHMC Division of Allergy and Immunology: Elucidating the role of AHR in oxazolone-mediated eosinophilic esophagitis. 40K New to EHS award.