Dear Colleagues,

The Center for Integrative Environmental Health Sciences is now operational. The first year of the P30 grant was reduced to 8.5 months, but we hit the ground running on July 15. The seminar program is active and each of the Research Interest Groups has held its first organizational meeting. The Pilot Project Program awarded 4 grants this year. The Integrated Toxicomics and Environmental Measurements Facility Core awarded 5 research vouchers and still has funds to subsidize your environmental health science research. The Integrated Environmental Health Sciences Facility Core will soon issue an RFA for requests for vouchers to subsidize use of the Clinical Trials Unit for human studies. The Career Development Program has initiated and formed a peer mentoring group for junior and early career investigators that meets monthly. The renovations of the CIEHS office on 13th floor of the Research Tower are complete.

CIEHS hired Sarah Jump to update the website and to communicate CIEHS news and accomplishments of members. Highlights are announced on the CIEHS website (https://Louisville.edu/ciehs/), so visit often to keep abreast of the accomplishments of CIEHS members. You can follow us on Twitter, Linked-In and/or Facebook if that is more convenient (links on the website). Please send Sarah (sarah.jump@louisville.edu) news of your accomplishments and/or recognitions so that we can highlight them.

A CIEHS retreat is being organized to gather member input on the state and future of the CIEHS. We polled the membership and December 1 is the date when the most members can attend. Recognizing that inevitably there will be some who cannot attend the retreat, Colleen Quinter scheduled short (15 minute) virtual meetings with each of you so that I can hear your thoughts. Stay safe!

Best wishes,

Chris
**Youth Exchange Session**

With Community Engagement Core

Special Guest Dr. Kimberly Hartley informed youth in Bowling Green on how nature can impact health. This was CIEHS' first Youth Exchange Session, held on November 10th and ended with great success! Thank you to Dr. Luz Huntington-Moskos and Dr. Vicki Hines-Martin for putting the session together and engaging youth.

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**Awards**

**Congratulations to the following!**

**Fall 2020 Research Voucher Awards Cycle 1**

Dr. Jiapeng Huang received the Small ITEMFC Voucher Award in collaboration with Dr. Lu Cai for their research project entitled "Metallomics in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension Patients." Several people received the Medium ITEMFC Voucher award including Dr. Madhavi Rane in collaboration with Dr. Sanjay Srivistava with a research project entitled "Proteogenomic effects of acrolein on mouse kidneys." Dr. Calvin Kouokam in collaboration with Dr. John Wise, Sr with a research project entitled "The inflammatory response in human lung cells after exposure to particulate hexavalent chromium[Cr(VI)], a key event in Cr(VI) carcinogenesis"; and Dr. Timothy O'Toole for his project entitled "Microplastics Exposure and Cardiovascular Disease." Finally, Dr. J. Christopher States in collaboration with Dr. Shesh Rai and Dr. Juw Won Park received the Large ITEMFC Voucher Award with their research project entitled "miRNA186 Impact on Differential Gene Expression, mRNA Splicing and Gene Fusions." Congratulations to all award recipients! The next cycle will start in January of 2021!

**Pilot Project Awards 2020**

Dr. Qunwei Zhang received the New Direction Pilot Project Award with Co-Investigator Dr. Yiqun Mo for their project entitled "Mechanisms underlying the susceptibility of diabetics to air pollution." Dr. Venkatakrishna Jala received the Interdisciplinary Pilot Project Award with Co-PI Dr. Mayukh Benerjee for their project entitled "Microbial metabolites protect against arsenic induced gut barrier dysfunction." Dr. Tyler Ellis also received the Interdisciplinary Pilot Project Award with Co-Investigator's Dr. Natalie DuPre and Dr. Matthew Ruther. Their project is entitled "Identifying Geographic Clusters and Environmental Correlates of Colorectal Cancer (CRC) in Kentucky." Finally, Dr. Mayukh Banerjee received the Career Development Pilot Project Award for his research project entitled "APC11 is a novel target for arsenic-mediated zinc displacement leading to cell cycledisruption". Congratulations to all pilot award winners!

**2020 CIEHS Grant Awards**

Several CIEHS members received new grants in July, August, and September these members are making UofL a nationally recognized premier metropolitan research University and promoting interdisciplinary collaborative research in our Center. For more information on who received grants you can click on the links to our website for the following months JULY, AUGUST and SEPTEMBER.

**2020 OVSOT Student Award Winners**

Several students while working in CIEHS member labs received awards during the annual OVSOT meeting. Jennifer Toyoda won the Graduate Student Platform Award while working in the Wise Lab. Aggie Williams won the Master student Poster Award while working in the Wise Lab as well. Andre Richardson won the Doctoral Poster Award while working in the Conklin Lab. Jamie Young won 1st place in Tox n The Clock while working with the Lu Cai Lab and Haiyan Lu won 2nd place in this category while working with the Wise Lab. Congratulations to all! We are so proud of your accomplishments!

*Congratulations to Center Director Dr. Christopher States for receiving UofL's 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award in Outstanding Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity.*