Message

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Sent: 3/28/2017 6:38:44 PM
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Subject: Weekly Compass: March 28, 2017

EPA

WEEKLY compass

Weekly Update: 3/28/2017

Welcome to the Weekly Compass, your gateway to information about recent and upcoming ORD activities. If you have ideas for the Weekly Compass, please send them to the editors. To see each article on ORD@Work, please click on the text that is hyperlinked.

Bob's Corner

One of my recent highlights was meeting so many of you at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting this month, and seeing how much our work is driving the field of toxicology and environmental health. It was heartening to be approached by a large number of non-EPA attendees who expressed true support for our research and the role we play in environmental protection. Also, take a minute to read about the attention we are getting for our homeland security research, and the local impact the IRIS program has had on public health. These stories emphasize that what we are doing is critical to the mission of this Agency and the nation. I'm proud to be part of this team and the continued work you all do to protect public health and the environment. Keep up the good work. - *Bob Kavlock*

Quick Updates:

- Did you have a fitness goal or resolution for 2017? The 2017 Step It Up Challenge can help you reach that goal by motivating and supporting you as you track your daily steps and "step up" your activity level to accrue as many steps as possible

- Registration is open for ORD's 2017 National Postdoctoral Forum until 4/4!

- Reminder: all FY 2017 mid-year reviews must be completed by May 5, 2017.

- Reminder: FY 17 required training available via e-Learning.

- Nominations for the 2017 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards cycle is open until **Friday, April 21**.

- You can read the This Week @ EPA newsletter here.
- Next week, April 3 - 9, is National Public Health Week. Check out EPA's public health research and resources here.

- Upcoming webinars:

    - Upcoming Research on the Impacts of Water Conservation on Water Quality in Premise Plumbing: Wednesday, March 29, 2-3 pm ET
    - CompTox Communities of Practice Webinar: Thursday, March 30, 11-12 pm ET
    - IRIS Handbook Discussion: Thursday, March 30, 1:30-5 pm ET
    - 500 Cities Project Webinar: Thursday, March 30, 2-3 pm ET

Photos of the Week: SOT Annual Meeting, NHRSC Meeting and A Visit from ANSES

In the Lab:

NERL and NCCT Meet with European Chemicals Agency about REACH Data

On March 27th, NERL and NCCT participated in a web exchange meeting with European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on how to access their REACH database. REACH is a regulation the European Union adopted to improve the protection of human health and the environment from chemical risks. Under the regulation, companies identify and manage the risks linked to the substances they manufacture and market in the EU. REACH establishes procedures for collecting and assessing information on chemicals, and that information is housed in a publically available database. More information on REACH is available on the ECHA website.

Solution Building with a Citizen Science Challenge

The Innovation Team and NRML launched a new challenge, Solution Building with Citizen Science, on March 14. The Innovation Team and NRMRL are encouraging participation in the ideation from all of ORD to help NRMRL scientists develop proposal ideas that advance ORD research priorities, provide feedback, and find potential collaborations from fellow scientists throughout EPA.

ORD Finalized Field Collection Methods for Green Housing Study

Doris Betancourt and Timothy Dean of NRMRL collaborated with NERL, CDC, and HUD to produce a compilation of field collection standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Green Housing Study. The SOP is entitled Field Collection Methods for an EPA Pilot Study Evaluating Personal, Housing, and Community Factors Influencing Children's Potential Exposures to Indoor Contaminants at Various Lifestages (EPA Pilot Study Add-on to the Green Housing Study). The Green Housing Study follows changes in indoor air levels of pesticides, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter, allergens, and fungi.

New Village Green Station Installed at Houston Health Museum

NRMRL and NERL installed the 7th Village Green station in the U.S. at the Health Museum in downtown Houston, Texas. The air monitoring bench will have additional sensors beyond the "standard" set of the other Village Green stations, including sensors to measure nitrogen dioxide, black carbon, and total volatile organic compounds. The standard set of sensors includes particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, ozone, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and wind direction. ORD's Ron Williams provided onsite training to museum and city officials on the use of the bench. Ribbon cutting and dedication of the site is tentatively planned for late April.

In the Office:

Maintenance on Network Switches

Several sites will have planned maintenance done over the next few weekends to replace aging network switches. All maintenance will begin close of business on Fridays and return to operation before opening of business that following Monday. OSIM will provide scheduling information as it becomes available and will work with the respective site's OSIM Customer Service Representative.

Current schedule:

- Newport, OR – March 31-April 2
- Duluth, MN – April 7-9

Contact OSIM's Steve Greenfield at 702-798-2608 with questions concerning the upgrade.

Accolades:

WED Scientist Guest Editor for *Water* Special Issue

Paul Mayer of the Western Ecology Division is one of the three Guest Editors and the co-author of two papers in the *Water* Special Issue, "Land Use, Climate, and Water Resources." This collection of 10 papers includes research on the effectiveness of the Clean Water Rule and on the various impacts to water because of climate extremes and land use change, urbanization and stream burial, dam removal, nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, sediment runoff, forestry and livestock grazing, infrastructure degradation, and salinization and alkalinization. All of the articles are open access, and a hardcover book will be published later this year.

GED Scientist Guest Editor for *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*

Mace Barron of the Gulf Ecology Division has been invited to serve as Guest Editor for a virtual issue on oil spills for the *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*. Dr. Barron will help this journal broaden its coverage by selecting 22 relevant articles and writing an editorial introducing the larger field of oil spill science. The journal's interest in highlighting oil spill science with a special issue edited by Dr. Barron recognizes EPA's international leadership in oil spill science.

GED Scientist Recognized for Work on Nonylphenol Ethoxylates

Mike Lewis was recognized with a Mission Award by the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics. Lewis worked with a team of EPA scientists to assess the state of the science and ultimately propose adding Nonylphenol Ethoxylates (NPEs) for addition to the Toxics Release Inventory chemical list. NPEs have attracted attention due to prevalence in the environment and their potential role as endocrine disruptors and ability to act with estrogen-like activity.

NERL Poster Selected Among Top Five Abstracts at SOT

At last week's Society of Toxicology (SOT) meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, a poster from NERL's Jeanette Reyes and Paul Price was selected as one of the top five abstracts in the field of mixture research by the SOT Mixtures Specialty Section. The poster, *An Analysis of Cumulative Risks Indicated by Biomonitoring Data of Six Phthalates Using the Maximum Cumulative Ratio*, featured an application of an exposure-based approach to assessing mixtures and used National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey biomonitoring data. Reyes is an ORISE post-doctoral fellow working in NERL on mixture issues. Her work is funded under the Human Health Risk Assessment Program.

Air Quality in a Changing World

NCER's ACE Team, the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, and the Air Quality Model Evaluation International Initiative are coordinating two overlapping workshops in RTP under the banner of "Air Quality in a Changing World." The first workshop (April 3-4) will focus on drafting policy-relevant findings based on recent modeling experiments and outlining an overview results paper. The second workshop (April 5-6) will kick-off a new set of 13 STAR grants focused on improving our understanding of Particulate Matter and Related Pollutants in a Changing World.

Grant Impact

Recipients of an EPA STAR Cumulative Risk Assessment grant, Community Stressors and Susceptibility to Air Pollution in Urban Asthma, have found that identifying which social stressors are most important to community residents is critical for accurately incorporating stressor exposures into health research. Using a community-academic partnered approach, the researchers designed a multi-community study across the five boroughs of New York City to characterize resident perceptions of key neighborhood stressors. Researchers found three interrelated themes regarding the social and structural sources of stressful experiences commonly identified across neighborhoods: (1) physical disorder and perceived neglect, (2) harassment by police and perceived safety and (3) gentrification and racial discrimination.

In the News:

The Intercept Highlights the Importance of IRIS Program

Last week, an article in the Intercept covered the impacts of pollution on a Louisiana town and why EPA's work is essential to the health of communities. In particular, the work of the IRIS program on the health effects of chloroprene was featured.

EPA Homeland Security Research Featured in Popular Science

The article discusses why the National Homeland Security Research Center was created and highlights efforts such as emergency response and decontamination methods, the Water Security Testbed, and the Underground Transportation Restoration Project. Read the article This EPA Unit Fights Terrorism with Science.

Supporting Open Data in Toxicology

The Society of Toxicology recently posted a blog by David Faulkner, Data Is the Currency of Science, But When Will It Be Open?, highlighting the session at the recent SOT annual meeting entitled Supporting Open Data in Toxicology. Both NHEERL Associate Director for Health Ron Hines and NCEA's John Vandenberg presented at the session.

In the Community:

WED Researchers Participate in Marine Science Day at Oregon State University

This event will include interactive research exhibits that feature emerging ocean-observing technologies, bioacoustics of whales, deep ocean vents and volcanoes, fisheries management and ecology, and ocean acidification.
The WED exhibit will focus on how research on estuarine water quality protects the final ecosystem goods and services that coastal communities depend on. It will include hands-on activities about identifying ecosystem goods and services, measurement of water quality, and what citizens can do to reduce pollution of rivers and bays. WED participants will include Ted Dewitt, Cheryl Brown, Chanda Littles, Amy Zimmer-Faust, Christina Folger, Coral Tily, and Walt Nelson.

EPA-RTP STEM Outreach Events

- Lauren Bamford (NERL) will lead a hands-on activity for EcoBloom at the Durham Public Schools Hub Farm in Durham, N.C. EcoBloom will host 700 fifth-grade students from seven different schools over six weeks for forest ecology, pollinators, and watershed activities.
- EPA employees from the Finance Center will speak to students at Leesville High School in Raleigh, N.C. about Business and Finance.
- EPA-RTP's STEM Outreach Program will lead its 7th Citizens School session this year at Lowes Grove Middle School in Durham. Citizen School partners with public middle schools in low-income communities to provide an expanded learning day by engaging students in active learning one afternoon a week for 10 weeks.
- The ACE program will participate in the 2017 NC Breathe Conference at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh.

- Kelly Witter (NERL) will participate in a meeting of the Business Advisory Council at Southern High School in Durham. This is the 4th year that EPA has led the Council which engages local businesses in educational activities at the school.
- Lauren Bamford will visit Green Elementary School in Raleigh and lead students in hands-on activities related to how animals adapt to their environment.
- EPA will participate in Hope Valley Elementary's Science and Career Day in Durham.
- Lauren Bamford will participate in the Girls Scouts of North Carolina Coastal Pines EarthWorks Event in Selma, N.C.

East Central University (ECU) Students Visiting Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center (RSKERC)

Students from ECU's Environmental Science Department will visit RSKERC on March 28 to tour the laboratories and attend presentations on the research conducted and field equipment used. Tour stops include the General Parameters, Metals, and Scanning Electron Microscope laboratories.

EPA Hosting Tours for Students in Ohio's Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)

Students from Ohio's LSAMP program will participate in a tour of EPA-Cincinnati's Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center on March 31. The students will visit NRMRL's Advanced Materials and Solids Analysis Research Core Laboratory and Full Containment Facility; and OW's *Cryptosporidium* Laboratory. They will also learn about the building's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold certification, energy efficient systems and lighting, and other "green" building features. Ohio's LSAMP Alliance is a group of Ohio universities and colleges that provide support for underrepresented minorities working toward STEM degrees.

Photos of the Week: SOT Annual Meeting, NHRSC Meeting and A Visit from ANSES

Every other issue of the EPA Weekly Compass features one of ORD's outstanding employees. If you would like to nominate someone to be featured, please contact Megan Maguire or Maggie Sauerhage.

ORD Scientists at SOT

EPA scientists participated in the 2017 Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Meeting and ToxExpo last week in Baltimore, Maryland. SOT provides a forum to discuss and disseminate information about advances in EPA's toxicology research to the scientific community. Acting AA Dr. Bob Kavlock participated on a Meet the Director panel with Dr. Linda Birnbaum (NIEHS Director) at the meeting.

NHSRC Meeting

NHSRC met in Louisville, KY, to shape NHSRC's strategic research and organizational directions. In addition, Bob Kavlock visited in person and spoke and met with staff.

ORD Met with the French Food Safety and Environmental Health and Safety
Pictured from left: **Salma Elreedy**, Director of European and International Affairs Department, ANSES, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety; **Gerard Lasfarques**, Deputy Director General for Scientific Affairs, ANSES, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety; **Roger Genet**, Director General, ANSES, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety; ORD's **Bruce Rodan** & **Tina Bahadori**; **Catherine Rogy**, Deputy Agricultural Counselor, French Embassy in the US; **David Krembel**, Counselor for Ecology, Energy and Climate Change, French Embassy in the US

On Tuesday March 21, ORD met with the French Food Safety and Environmental Health and Safety (ANSES) to exchange views on research areas of interest to ANSES. These areas include detection and handling of new and emerging risks, risk assessment and scientific integrity. OSA, NCEA, CSS and others briefly presented on these areas of interest, and discussed with ANSES future activities for possible collaboration.