



News & Reviews

Announcements

New Students

Evans Afriyie-Gyawu is working for Dr. Tim Phillips. He is a native of Ghana, and holds both a BS and an MPH from Texas A&M. Evans has also worked on multiple projects for the Center for Environmental and Rural Health. His interests are in international health, particularly nutrition and infectious diseases.

Gary Barbee transferred from the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston. He is working in Dr. K.C. Donnelly's laboratory. He has earned both a BS and an MS from Texas A&M, and has consulting and research experience in both risk assessment and environmental science.

Cristi Gomez is rotating in a variety of laboratories this semester. She is a recent Texas A&M graduate, and currently a Regents' Fellowship recipient. Cristi is interested in a research and teaching career centered around environmental toxicology.

Xuhong Liu works in the laboratory of Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni. She is a native of China and holds BS and MS degrees in medicine from Harbin Medical University. Xuhong's specialty is neurology, and she is interested in all diseases relating to the nervous system. She is a current Regents' Fellowship recipient.

Wonsuk Yang is a native of South Korea, and holds both BS and MS degrees from Yonsei University. He is rotating through three laboratories this fall. His interest is in the cellular and molecular mechanisms of environmental toxicants, and the development of biomarkers for toxicants that are risks to human health.

Yu Zhang is a native of China, and has BS and MS degrees from Henan University and the Kunming Institute of Zoology, respectively. His previous research experience is with structure and function of neurotoxins and cytotoxins as pharmaceuticals. Yu will rotate through three laboratories this fall.

Meeting Attendance

Five students and one postdoc from Dr. Safe's laboratory attended the annual Texas Forum on Female Reproduction in Houston, May 18-19, 2000. **Emely Castro-Rivera, Dr. I-Chen Chen, Andrew McDougal, Thu Nguyen, Matt Stoner** and **Carrie Vyhldal** each presented their data at the forum.

Shannon Garcia (Donnelly) attended the Conference on Hazardous Waste Research: Environmental Challenges and Solutions to Resource Development, Production and Use held in Denver, CO, May 22-25, 2000. Her presentation was entitled "Determination of genotoxicity of wood- preserving waste-contaminated soil."

Kim Miller and **Napoleon Alejandro**, along with their mentor Dr. Ken Ramos attended the Gordon Conference "Mechanisms of Toxicity" in Plymouth, NH, July 23-27. Kim's abstract was "Nuclear Protein Binding to *c-Ha-ras* ARE/EpRE in Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells is Chemical- and DNA Binding Sequence-Specific." Napoleon presented

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“Benzo[a]pyrene-Induced Glomerular Injury is Characterized by Disruption of Podocyte Structure and Loss of Selective Permeability.”

Jeong-Eun Lee (Safe) attended the Dioxin 2000 International Symposium on Halogenated Environmental Organic Pollutants and POPs in Monterey, CA, Aug. 13-17. She presented two abstracts: “3',4'-Dimethoxyflavone as an Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Agonist in Breast Cancer Cells” and “Interactions of Resveratrol and TCDD in Human Breast Cancer Cells.”

Awards & Honors

At the 2000 College of Veterinary Medicine Honors Convocation, **Yun-Houng Chen** (Ramos) and **Matthew Stoner** (Safe) were both awarded the George T. Edds Toxicology award. The Fisher Institute Medical Research Awards were presented to both **Shawna Lemke** (Phillips) and **Lora Lindahl** (Tiffany-Castiglioni). **Napoleon Alejandro** (Ramos) received an Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Student Progress

The following students completed preliminary exams:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Charles Ake	Phillips
Henry Huebner	Phillips
Matthew Stoner	Safe
Wen Xie	Safe

May 2000 Ph.D. Graduates

Nancy Bordelon (Donnelly) is a scientist at NIEHS in Research Triangle Park, NC and is responsible for the design, interpretation, and reporting of toxicity and carcinogenicity studies for the National Toxicology Program.

Yun-Houng Chen (Ramos) recently received his Ph.D. and has moved to Houston.

Mona Gupta (Safe) is living in Richmond, VA and working as a postdoctoral researcher at the Medical College of Virginia.

Kim Poe Lu (Ramos) is working as a

postdoctoral assistant in Dr. Ramos' lab.

Gulan Sun (Safe) resides in Austin and works as a postdoctoral assistant for Dr. Robin Fuchs-Young at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center-Science Park in Smithville, TX.

August 2000 Ph.D. Graduates

Kevin Kerzee (Ramos) is working as a postdoctoral assistant for Dr. Alvaro Puga at the University of Cincinnati.

Shawna Lemke (Phillips) is working as a postdoctoral researcher for the Dept. of Nutrition at the University of California-Davis. She is studying b-carotene metabolism in humans.

Andrew McDougal (Safe) is currently working as a postdoctoral assistant in Dr. Safe's lab.

Komkrich Pimpukdee (Phillips) has returned to his native country, Thailand, where he will conduct mycotoxin research and serve as a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine in Konkhan.

Bill Reeves (Donnelly) is working as a postdoctoral assistant for Dr. Bruce Hammock at the University of California-Davis. His project involves improving methods for protein sequencing via accelerator mass spectrometry.



Superfund News

The second quarterly meeting of the renewed SBRP project at Texas A&M University was held on August 4, 2000 from 9:00 AM until noon. At this meeting, Project 5 was summarized by Dr. T. D. Phillips, followed by research progress reports from three of his students (Charles Ake, Henry Huebner and Sean Ottinger). More specifically, methods to hybridize and immobilize clay and zeolitic minerals onto solid supports such as carbon, silica and other diverse matrices have been developed and investigated in Dr. Phillips' laboratory. Importantly, these clay-based composites are porous, "water permeable" and multifunctional in their ability to remove diverse target contaminants (e.g., organic, inorganic and microbial pollutants) from water. In further work in Project 5, nanostructured, thin-film composites have been produced by anchoring exfoliated clay platelets onto the surface of the silica, using electrostatic glues. Potential applications of this research are numerous and include: water purification, diagnostic testing and molecular dosimetry biomarkers to determine human exposure to pollutants, and the manufacture of microarray biochips for gene identification and cell immobilization. Methods of chemical degradation of PAHs are also being investigated within this project. One of these methods involves the application of electrochemically generated ozone to degrade and detoxify mixtures of anthracene, fluoranthene, pyrene, benzo[a]pyrene, chrysene, dibenzo[a,h]anthracene, 7,12-dimethylbenzanthracene, 3-methylcholanthrene and dibenzo[a,l]pyrene.



SBRP Annual Directors' Meeting

The Annual Directors' Meeting will be held in Chapel Hill, NC, December 12-14, 2000. The University of North Carolina and Duke University SBRP will host the meeting. The scientific theme is "Oxidative Stress" and was chosen due to its' implication in a wide number of disease processes including atherosclerosis, autoimmune disorders, neuronal degeneration and cancer. Basic mechanisms, biomedical applications, ecological and remedial applications and risk assessment. Another aspect of this meeting is to focus on the unique roles and opportunities that SBRP programs have to partner with community and government organizations. Finally, the meeting will provide program administrators and business managers an opportunity to share ideas for enhancing and improving SBRP administration and promote networking among this group.

Partnership for Environmental Education and Rural Health

by Larry Johnson, Ph.D.

The Partnership for Environmental Education and Rural Health project (PEER, <http://peer.tamu.edu/>) was funded by NIEHS in 1999 for three years at a total direct cost of \$600,000. The long-term goal of this science-education partnership involving the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Education as well as the Center for Environmental and Rural Health is to develop and disseminate a model for enhancing environmental health science education of grade levels 6-8 in rural settings. Rural is emphasized because of public concern for increased numbers of environmentally related diseases in rural Texas (birth defects, lead poisoning, etc.). Rural schools are less likely than metropolitan schools to receive state of the art information on environmental health and have fewer interactions with college professors that might influence their career choices. Middle school was chosen as it is the prime development period for social skills and is central to channeling young adolescents into making vast improvements in their academic and personal competence. Environmental health information and research experiences are disseminated into rural settings via existing mass media distant learning methods and professional teacher development programs through the Texas Rural Systemic Initiative (TRSI). Specific objectives are to develop on-line engaging curricula, provide professional teacher development, and provide a human interface between environmental health scientists and public school classrooms.

Three environmental health science curricular modules have been developed and will be tested next year. These include "Water's the Matter" (water quality experiments and monitoring) produced by Todd Hudson, "Cells are Us" (cell biology) produced by Dr. William Klemm, and "Toxic or Not" (toxic module with a mystery learning game-like activity relating health symptoms to possible sources of exposure) produced by Drs. Charles Farnsworth, Irma Ramos and K.C. Donnelly.

Professional development opportunities available to teachers included a one-week intensive course on using technology and environmental health science experiments in the classroom (15 teacher participants), a one and one-half day of water monitoring training (27 teacher participants), and

scientists' visits to classrooms (seven CERH scientists visited public school classrooms and made presentations to over 1300 students). Water quality education monitoring kits were provided to the teachers to facilitate training.

The PEER project was presented at a poster/discussion session at the 2000 annual meeting of the Society of Toxicology and the NIEHS PIs annual education meeting. Dr. Larry Johnson served on an NIEHS education contract panel to evaluate curriculum development entitled "Human Health and the Environment: A curriculum supplement for middle school biology" by Biological Sciences Curriculum Study group in Colorado Springs. NIEHS requested that the two integrating grants funded in Texas (ours and one at Baylor College of Medicine out of the 8 investigating grants in the US) present our projects to 1500 science and math teachers at the New Mexico State Science Teachers Conference in Albuquerque to be held on October 19-21, 2000. Dr. Johnson will present the PEER project and plans for integrating environment health science into non-science courses. Dr. Charles Farnsworth will conduct a workshop on the toxic hazard module.

Kids in Need of Drug Evaluation and Rx-treatment (KINDERx) is a clinic in Houston providing medical care and social services, including education, to children who were exposed to drugs, alcohol and/or HIV during their mother's pregnancy. PEER received a KINDERx award in the Science and Research category for its dedication to the rural community and inspiration to potential advocates of the less fortunate. The award will be presented February 22, 2001 at the KINDERx banquet.

PEER faculty in conjunction with the faculty of CERH and CVM, College of Education, and TRSI submitted and received an additional seven-year grant from NIEHS in the amount of \$1,750,000 for a project entitled "Integrating Environmental Health Science in Rural Schools." The long-term goal is to develop a model for integrating environmental health science into math, English language arts, social studies, and science of rural grades 6-8. Important local rural environmental health science themes integrated across disciplines help reduce barriers to learning, improve enthusiasm for learning, and improve overall academic performance.

Conferences

November 2000

November 8-11

Chemotherap Foundation Symposium XVIII

New York City, NY

Contact: Jaclyn Silverman, Page and William Black Post-Graduate School, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, One Gustave L. Levy Place – Box 1193, New York, NY 10029; Tel: 212-241-6737; Fax: 212-426-7748; Email: Jaclyn.silverman@mssm.edu; Internet: info.neoplastics.mssm.edu

November 14-17

Genetic Mechanisms in Cancer Houston, Texas

Contact: 53rd Research Symposium, Conference Services-HMB 131, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77030-4095; Tel: 713-792-2222; Fax: 713-794-1724; Email: meetings@www.mdacc.tmc.edu; Internet: www.mdacc.tmc.edu/~meetings. Early Registration Deadline: November 3, 2000

November 29-December 3

Mouse Models of Cancer La Jolla, California

Contact: Special Conferences Registration, AACR, Public Ledger Building, Suite 826, 150 South Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483; Tel: 215-440-9300; Fax: 215-351-9165; Internet: www.aacr.org. Abstract Deadline: September 25, 2000

December 2000

December 7-9

9th Conference on Gene Therapy of Cancer San Diego, CA

Contact: Cass Jones, Professional Conference Management, Inc., Gene Therapy Conference, 7916 Convoy Court, San Diego, CA 92111-1212; Tel: 858-565-9921; Fax: 858-565-9954; Internet: www.pcmisandiego.com/

[gene00.htm](#). Early Registration Deadline: November 1, 2000

December 9-13

40th American Society for Cell Biology Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA

Contact: The American Society for Cell Biology; 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3992; Tel: 301-530-7153; Fax: 301-530-7139; Email: ascbinfo@ascb.org; Internet: www.ascb.org/ascb

January 2001

January 19-20

Third International Symposium on Anti-Angiogenic Agents Irving, TX

Contact: The CBCE, 8445 Freeport Parkway, Suite 680, Irving, TX 75063; Tel: 800-492-2597; Fax: 972-929-1901; Email: symposia@theCBCE.com

March 2001

March 24-28

AACR: 92nd Annual Meeting New Orleans, LA

Contact: AACR, Public Ledger Building, Suite 826, 150 South Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483; Tel: 215-440-9300; Fax: 215-440-9313; Internet: www.aacr.org. Abstract Deadline: October 16, 2000

April 2001

April 2-4

11th Symposium on Environmental Toxicology and Risk Assessment Phoenix, Arizona

Contact: Dr. Michael C. Harrass, BP Amoco Chemicals, Suite 700, 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532; Tel: 630-434-6313; Fax: 630-434-6177; Email: harr2001@aol.com

May 2001

May 20-24

Toxicology: The Environment Meets Genetics in the Genomics Era

Victoria, BC, Canada

Contact: Gill Heaton, Toxicology Conference Secretariat, Hillside Cottages, Wheatley Road, Islip, Oxford OX5 2TF, UK; Tel: +44 (0) 1865 373625; Fax: +44 (0) 1865 375855; Email: toxicology@heaton-connexion.co.uk; Internet: www.elsevier.com/locate/tox2001. Abstract Deadline: November 15, 2000

June 2001

June 4-7

In Situ and On-Site Bioremediation San Diego, CA

June 30-July 5

11th International Congress on Genes, Gene Families and Isozymes Stockholm, Sweden

Contact: Congrex Sweden AB, Att: Gene Families, PO Box 5619, SE-114 86 Stockholm, Sweden; Tel: +46-8-459 6600; Fax: +46-8-661 9125; Email: gene@congrex.se; Internet: www.gene2001.org. Abstract/Early Registration Deadline: March 31, 2001

September 2001

September 11-15

12th Annual Conference on Cytochrome P450

La Grande Motte, France

Contact: 12th Annual Conference on Cytochrome P450, Alpha Visa Congres/P450-2001, 624, rue des Grezes, 34070 Montpellier – France; Internet: <http://congress.igh.cnrs.fr/P450-Grande-Motte/index.html>

September 13-16

EUROTOX 2001

Istanbul, Turkey

Contact: EUROTOX 2001 Congress, VISITUR Travel & Tourism Inc., Sehit Muhtar Cad. No. 17, Ozerk Ishani, Kat 2/3, 80090 Taksim-Istanbul-Turkey; Tel: +90 212 254 3230; Fax: +90 212 254 2783; Email: congress@visitur.com.tr; Internet: www.eurotox2001.org. Abstract/Early Registration Deadline: May 16, 2001

Employment Opportunities

Postdoctoral Positions

J. Burkey Associates, a major international animal health company, is seeking a DVM, PhD or Pharmacy degree with experience in Toxicology/Drug Metabolism to fill a position in Regulatory Affairs. Responsibilities include functioning as the liaison with US and Canadian regulatory agencies and submission and approval of registration applications. Contact: Julie Burkey at 201-262-7990, or fax resume to 201-260-7955, or email to jburkey@erols.com.

Ecology and Environment, Inc., an international environmental consulting firm, has an opening for an experienced Ph.D. in the life sciences with training/experience in toxicology, pharmacology, molecular biology or biophysics. Prior litigation support experience and trade association participation is required. Send resume, salary expectations and a writing sample to: Ms. Janet Steinbruckner, Director of Human Resources, Ecology and Environment, Inc., 368 Pleasant View Drive, Lancaster, NY 14086; Fax: 716-684-0844; Email: jas02@ene.com; Internet: www.ecolen.com.

Louisiana Institute of Toxicology has a postdoctoral position for a NIH funded investigation into toxicant-induced liver regeneration. Proficiency in RT-PCR, immunoblotting, slot-blot analysis and animal experimentation is essential. Ideally suited for recent Ph.D.'s in molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, immunology, pharmacology, or toxicology. Send letter of interest and CV to: Dr. Harihara M. Mehendale, Dept. of Toxicology, Louisiana Institute of Toxicology, College of Pharmacy, The University of Louisiana, Monroe, LA 71209.

Bowlby Associates, Inc. has a senior Toxicologist position available. A PhD in Toxicology and completion of a formal 2 year post-doc in a toxicological sub-discipline is required. Duties include conducting animal toxicology studies, writing study protocols, managing and interpreting collected data, and making oral and written presentations of results. Contact: Richard L. Bowlby, 321 West Summit St., Somerville, New Jersey 08876; Tel: 908-231-1466; Fax: 908-231-0425.

Cornell University has a Postdoctoral Research Associate position available to study transcriptional control of *CYP6D1*, a cytochrome P450 gene responsible for insecticide resistance. Applicants should possess a strong knowledge of molecular biology and have experience in one or more of the following: gel shift assays, footprinting, nuclear run-on transcription assays and/or protein purification. Send CV plus 3-4 references to: Dr. J.G. Scott, Cornell University, Dept. of Entomology, Comstock Hall, Ithaca, NY 14850; Internet: www.cals.cornell.edu/dept/entom/Faculty/Scott/JS.html.

EPA Gulf Ecology Division has Post-doctoral openings for a Landscape Ecologist, Molecular Biologist, Natural Products Toxicologist, Phytoplankton Ecologist and Plant Physiologist. More information is available at www.epa.gov/nheerl.

U.S. EPA, Gulf Ecology Division, is seeking qualified candidates to fill a Biologist position. Duties include providing technical support for studies on the effects of stressors on animals, plants and microbial communities indigenous to coastal environments and serving as a technical specialist. US citizenship is required. Apply through the US Office of Personnel Management by calling the automated jobline at 919-790-2822 or via Internet at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> and requesting an OPM package for [AR2421](#).

Industry Positions

Lynntech, Inc. has a position for a Research Assistant with a B.S. in, but not limited to analytical chemistry, biomedical science, or biochemistry. Applicant needs some experience in analytical skills, basic wet chemistry, sterile microbiological/cell culture techniques and/or bioassays. Contact or send resume to: Mrs. Joy Marshall-Caldwell, Lynntech, Inc., 7610 Eastmark Dr., College Station, TX 77840; Tel: 979-693-0017; Fax: 979-764-7479; Email: hrlynntech@lynntech.com; Internet: www.lynntech.com.

Fellowships and Awards

AACR Research Fellowships for Postdoctoral and Clinical Fellows. Seven to ten research fellowships will be awarded for one-, two-, or three- years or \$30,000 per annum. Each applicant must receive a strong nomination from a member of the AACR. Applicants must be members of, or submit application for membership in AACR. Download applications at www.aacr.org or contact: AACR, Public Ledger Building, Suite 826, 150 South Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483; Tel: 215-440-9300; Fax: 215-440-9372; Email: awards@aacr.org. Annual Deadline: December 15, 2000.

Gertrude B. Elion Cancer Research Award provides a general one-year research award to an Assistant Professor working in any area of cancer

research at an academic or not-for-profit research institute. Download applications at www.aacr.org or contact: AACR, Public Ledger Building, Suite 826, 150 South Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483; Tel: 215-440-9300; Fax: 215-440-9372; Email: awards@aacr.org; Internet: www.aacr.org. Annual Deadline: December 15, 2000.

AACR Career Development Awards are two-year awards for junior faculty in the first or second year of a full-time, tenure-track appointment at the Assistant Professor level, who are conducting cancer research. The annual stipend is \$50,000. Download applications at www.aacr.org or contact: AACR, Public Ledger Building, Suite 826, 150 South Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483; Tel: 215-440-9300; Fax: 215-440-9372; Email: awards@aacr.org. Annual Deadline: December 15, 2000.

INTERNET RESOURCES

***RISKANAL** Discussion list affiliated with the Society for Risk Analysis. To join, send message to: listserv@listserv.pnl.gov. Content of message: subscribe riskanal first_name last_name

***ToxList** Discussion and dissemination of issues and information related to all fields of toxicology. To join, send message to: listserv@esc.syrres.com. Content of message: Subscribe ToxList

***Enviro-Newsbrief** Summary of news that affects EPA, the Council on Environmental Quality; changes to OMB's process of regulatory review; regulatory reform; environmental legislation; federal employee issues; and interagency work on environmental issues. To join, send message to: listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov. Content of message: Subscribe EnvironB-L first_name last_name

U.S. Government Web Sites

*Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) <http://www.epa.gov>
*EPA=B9s IRIS database <http://www.epa.gov/iris/>

*EPA=B9s Center for Exposure Assessment Modeling <http://www.epa.gov/software.html>

*EPA=B9s THERdbASE (Total Human Exposure Risk database and Advanced Simulation Environment) Modeling and Software Tool <http://eeyore.lv-hrc.nevada.edu/therdbase.html>

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/cdc.html>

*Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) <http://atsdr1/cdc.gov:8080/atsdrhome.html> (newsletter, related resources, chemical profiles, etc.)

*National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>

*National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) <http://www.niehs.nih.gov>

*National Institutes of Health (NIH) <http://www.nih.gov>

*National Library of Medicine (NLM)

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

*National Toxicology Program (NTP) <http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/>

*Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) <http://www.osha.gov>

Other U.S. Web Sites

*Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) <http://www.tera.org> (international database of risk values)

*Resources for the Future (RFF) <http://www.rff.org> (incl. Center for Risk Management and links to the home pages of other information.)

*RiskWorld: <http://www.riskworld.com> (news and views on risk assessment and management)

*EXtension TOXicology NETwork (EXTOXNET) <http://www.oes.orst.edu> (Cooperative effort among universities to stimulate tox issues dialog, and to make toxicology info. available. Incl. newsletter, fact sheets, chemical profiles, etc.)

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