

# NUNTIUM

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

After more than 40 years at the University of Rochester, Dr. Jeff Wyatt, a professor in the Departments of Comparative Medicine and Environmental Medicine, is welcoming retirement. IHHE thanks him for his contributions to animal, environmental, and human health. [Read more about his legacy here.](#)



In November, Jeff Wyatt, DVM., invited Kinari Webb, MD., to present a special seminar to talk about human health and land conservation. They both work together with [Health in Harmony](#).

## MUNCHIES & MICROPLASTICS: IHHE MIXER



IHHE faculty and staff gathered for a social workshop, learning about microplastics and snacking on donuts. This activity was led by **Dina Markowitz, PhD.**, **Katrina Korfmacher, PhD.**, and **Becca Lauzon, PhD.**

### SPECIAL SHOUTOUT

**Gagandeep Kaur, PhD.**, was awarded a K99/R00 by the National Institute of Health! Gagan is a post-doc in Irfan Rahman's lab.





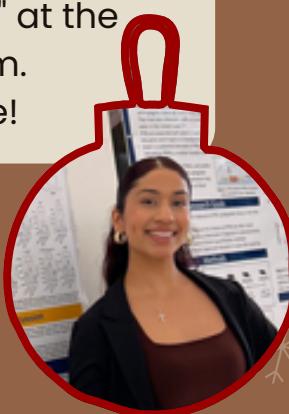
# Association between rural lifestyles and allergies

IHHE Affiliate, Kirsi Jarvinen-Seppo, PhD., and her group were featured on the front page of the December issue of the online journal, *Science Translational Medicine*! This article explores the relationships between environment and allergy development in infants. [Read it here.](#)



## Toxicology Graduate Program

**Catherine Caballero**, a 3rd year student in the Toxicology program, received a poster award for her poster titled "Targeted expression of Sirtuin 6 to bone marrow stromal cells reverses their age-dependent transcriptional signatures" at the Wilmot Annual Symposium. Congratulations, Catherine!



## IHHE at the CCHP

IHHE Affiliate, Philip Hopke, PhD., and UR student, Kamsi Oparaugo, presented research on Black Carbon pollution near local railways at the Center for Community Health & Prevention (CCHP) seminar. Kamsi worked with Dr. Hopke during the summer as a recipient of the IHHE Summer in Environmental Health Research Fellowship.

## CEC and CAB

The EHSC's Community Engagement Core (CEC) hosted their biannual Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Thursday, December 11, 2025. Discussions were led by Katrina Korfomacher, PhD., Becca Lauzon, PhD., and Chris Widmaier, the Executive Director of [Rochester Ecology Partners](#). The group invited EHSC members and community partners to discuss [current projects and future goals for the CEC](#).



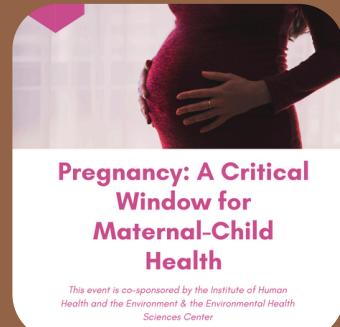
# WHAT'S NEXT FOR IHHE?

2026 will be a great year for the Institute for Human Health and the Environment! From workshops, to symposia, lectures and more, our next year will be busy for sure!

## Maternal - Child Health Research Symposium

On **Thursday, April 9, 2026**, the Institute for Human Health and the Environment along with the Environmental Health Sciences Center, will be hosting a symposium on Pregnancy: A Critical Window for Maternal - Child Health. This event will feature keynote speakers, a poster session, and lunch!

Registration opens on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



## Summer in Environmental Health Research Fellowship



The Summer in Environmental Health Research Fellowship is a scholarship opportunity for UR undergraduate students who are interested in research related to impacts of environmental exposures on human health. Students who receive this scholarship will work alongside UR faculty over the course of 3 months and learn valuable skills as young researchers. More information will be posted on the IHHE website, under the [Education and Career Development Pillar](#).

## Great Lakes Microplastics and Health Symposium

IHHE is partnering with the Lake Ontario Microplastics (LOMP) Center and Michigan State University's Great Lakes Center for Fresh Waters and Human Health to host a grand symposium on **Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Registration for this event opens soon. Learn more about [LOMP](#) and the [Great Lakes Center for Fresh Waters and Human Health](#) by visiting their webpages.



## ENLIGHT SEMINAR SERIES

The Environmental Lectures in Global Health and Toxicology (EnLIGHT) seminar series will resume in January 2026. During the academic year, we host guest speakers (external and internal) to share their research with our community every month. **If you have anyone you'd like to nominate and invite to present for this series, reach out to [Souvarish\\_Sarkar@URMC.rochester.edu](mailto:Souvarish_Sarkar@URMC.rochester.edu).**

Environmental Lectures in Global Health and Toxicology (EnLIGHT) Seminar Series  
Co-sponsored by the NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Center and the UR Institute for Human Health and the Environment

**Using Omics Biomarkers to Unravel the Role of Prenatal Metals Exposures in Child Development**

  
**Allison Kupsco, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences  
Columbia University

 Thursday, January 22, 2026  
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 EHSC Conference Room (4.8820)

For access to the Zoom link, contact [Anish\\_Mercado@URMC.rochester.edu](mailto:Anish_Mercado@URMC.rochester.edu)

The University of Rochester is committed to providing inclusive experiences and equal access to programs, services, and meetings. If you anticipate needing any type of communication access (ASL interpreting or real-time captioning), please contact [Anish\\_Mercado@URMC.Rochester.edu](mailto:Anish_Mercado@URMC.Rochester.edu). In all situations, a good-faith effort (up until the time of the meeting) will be made to provide accommodations.

We acknowledge and respect the Seneca Nation, known as the "Great Hill People" and "Keepers of the Western Door" of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We acknowledge the painful history of dispossession and honor the ongoing connection of Indigenous people, past and present, to these lands and waters. Read more on the University of Rochester's mission and land acknowledgement here: <https://www.sas.rochester.edu/land-acknowledgement.html>

 University of Rochester

Dr. Allison Kupsco from Columbia University will present on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

Environmental Lectures in Global Health and Toxicology (EnLIGHT) Seminar Series  
Co-sponsored by the NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Center, the UR Institute for Human Health and the Environment

**Environmental Mercury Toxicity: Lessons from history, hair, microbes and flies**

  
**Matthew Rand, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Medicine  
University of Rochester

 Thursday, January 29, 2026  
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 EHSC Conference Room (4.8820)

For access to the Zoom link, contact [Anish\\_Mercado@URMC.rochester.edu](mailto:Anish_Mercado@URMC.rochester.edu)

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 University of Rochester

Dr. Matt Rand from the University of Rochester will present on Thursday, January 30, 2026

## WANT TO KEEP UP WITH US?

### FOLLOW US!

Dina\_Markowitz@URMC.rochester.edu keeps our social pages updated with all the news that our community wants to hear about. We love sharing your accomplishments, events, and opportunities for connection in any way that we can. Make sure to follow us on X, Facebook, and Bluesky!

The IHHE website is currently updated with all seminars, events, resources and an archive for all of our past nuntiums. If there's anything you would like to share for the next newsletter, email us at [IHHE@URMC.rochester.edu](mailto:IHHE@URMC.rochester.edu)

Happy holidays!



[IHHE.urmc.edu](http://IHHE.urmc.edu)

