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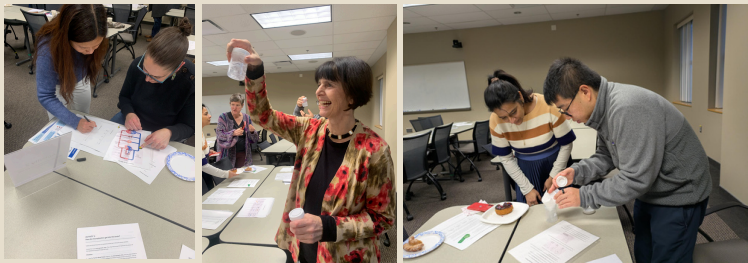
A SPECIAL THANK YOU

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.**

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SPECIAL SHOUTOUT

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



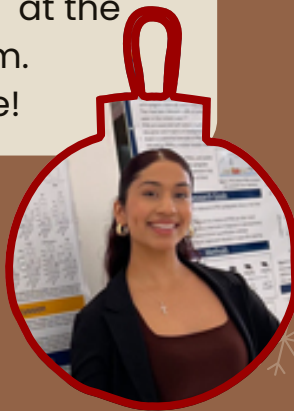
Association between rural lifestyles and allergies

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!



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 Korfmacher, 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.



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.



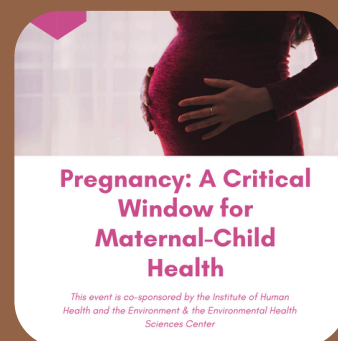
WHAT'S NEXT FOR IHHE?

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 5th, 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 18th, 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.**

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 Anisah_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 Anisah_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.ur.rochester.edu/theatre/about/land-acknowledgement.html>

supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Center Grant (ES000247), Training Grant (ES000738), the Institute for Human Health and the Environment, and the Department of Environmental Medicine



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 Anisah_Mercado@URMC.rochester.edu

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

WANT TO KEEP UP WITH 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!

FOLLOW US!

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

Happy holidays!



IHHE.urmc.edu

