



GULF COAST CENTER
**PRECISION
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH**

NIEHS EHSCC MEETING SPEAKERS

2023

Plenary Session B- ESI Spotlight



Dr. Nadine Kotlarz is a Research Scholar in the Office of Research and Innovation at NC State University and a member of the NC State's Center for Human Health and the Environment. As an environmental engineer and exposure scientist, her work focuses on characterization of drinking water-associated exposures to emerging contaminants. She aims to lead research that informs drinking water quality assessment and regulation to protect public health.



Dr. Corina Lesseur is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at Mount Sinai and the HEALS P30 Center Scientist. Her work as a molecular epidemiologist focuses on placental epi/genomics and their link to pregnancy outcomes and early-life programming, as well as in the effects of environmental exposures (i.e., air pollution, pesticides, PFAS) in the placenta and birth outcomes.



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Dr. Donghai Liang is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Health at Emory Rollins School of Public Health. Dr. Liang is an expert in exposure assessment, high-throughput data analysis, and omics-based technologies with over 70 peer-reviewed publications. His research at the Emory HERCULES Exposome Research Center focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms behind complex health responses to environmental mixtures, such as air pollution and persistent organic pollutants. Dr. Liang also holds leadership positions in several academic societies, where he serves as Secretary of the International Society of Exposure Science (ISES), and Executive Committee Member for Consortium of METabolomics Studies (COMETS).



Dr. Shelly Buffington is a McNair Scholar and Assistant Professor in the Center for Precision Environmental Health (CPEH) and the Department of Neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). She graduated *Summa cum laude* from the University of Arkansas and performed doctoral studies in neuroscience at BCM. Her postdoctoral work unveiled links between maternal diet, the gut microbiome, and child neurodevelopmental risks. Dr. Buffington now leads an interdisciplinary team of scientists focused on understanding the mechanisms by which environmental exposures influence fetal programming of neurodevelopment and risk for neurodevelopmental disorders.




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Dr. Bambarendage Pini Perera is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, where she investigates epigenetic changes linked to environmental exposures at critical times in life. She received her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of New Orleans and her doctoral degree in biological sciences from the Louisiana State University. Her graduate and postdoctoral training focused on the molecular and epigenetic mechanisms involved in regulating genomic imprinting, and the influences of environmental exposures on the epigenome, respectively.



Dr. Georgios Kelesidis is an Assistant Professor at Rutgers School of Public Health and member of the CEED Center of the Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences Institute. His research focuses on the climate and health impacts of carbonaceous aerosols. He has developed advanced models for estimating the physicochemical properties of black & organic carbon. His recent research involves the design of novel platforms for the controlled synthesis of aerosols that emulate real world emissions. This research enables climate models to derive accurately the impact of carbonaceous aerosols.