



GULF COAST CENTER
**PRECISION
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH**

NIEHS EHSCC MEETING SPEAKERS

2023

EHSCC Plenary Session D Climate Change, DR2 and Health



Dr. Mary Rice is an Associate Professor of medicine and pulmonary and critical care physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston where she leads the Institute for Lung Health, a multi-disciplinary research team with the overall goal of identifying preventable exposures that contribute to chronic lung disease, and translating research findings to patient care and policy. Dr. Rice studies the respiratory health effects of air pollution, climate and other environmental exposures among children and adults. She is the recipient of the Jo Rae Wright Award for Outstanding Science from the American Thoracic Society, a national award recognizing tomorrow's leaders in science. She has been funded by NIEHS since 2013 is currently the principal investigator of a clinical trial evaluating air purification for patients with COPD (NIEHS ONES R01). For 6 years until 2020, Dr. Rice led the ATS environmental health policy committee, through which she has been involved in initiatives to inform air quality standards and climate policy at the national level.



Blanca Himes, PhD, ATSF, FAMIA has worked at the University of Pennsylvania since 2014, where she has been a tenured Associate Professor of Informatics since 2020. Her research focuses on gaining insights into pathogenesis and treatment of asthma and other pulmonary diseases using biomedical informatics approaches, including via the use Electronic Health Record (EHR) and omics data. She is the Director of the Exposure Biology Informatics Core of the Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology.



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Environmental Contributions to Health Disparities



Dr. Bein received Bachelor of Science degrees in Physics and Chemistry from California State University Chico and his PhD in Atmospheric Sciences at U.C. Davis. He is currently a Professional Researcher at the Air Quality Research Center, Research Professor at the Center for Health and the Environment, and Director of the Caldecott Tunnel Exposure Facility at UC Davis. His research interests lie at the nexus of air pollution, climate change, and health.



Dr. Westrick is the Director of the Lumigen Instrument Center, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Her primary research is in environmental analytical chemistry. She has developed many new technologies for natural and anthropogenic contaminants and has advanced environmental research in many areas ranging from sampling to forecast modeling. Her past experience as a certified drinking water operator provided training in emergency chemical spill response and contingency planning. She brings years of practical experience and modern analytical techniques to provide community support and promote public health.