



Insights

Your Monthly Update of News and Notes from HESI



August 2015

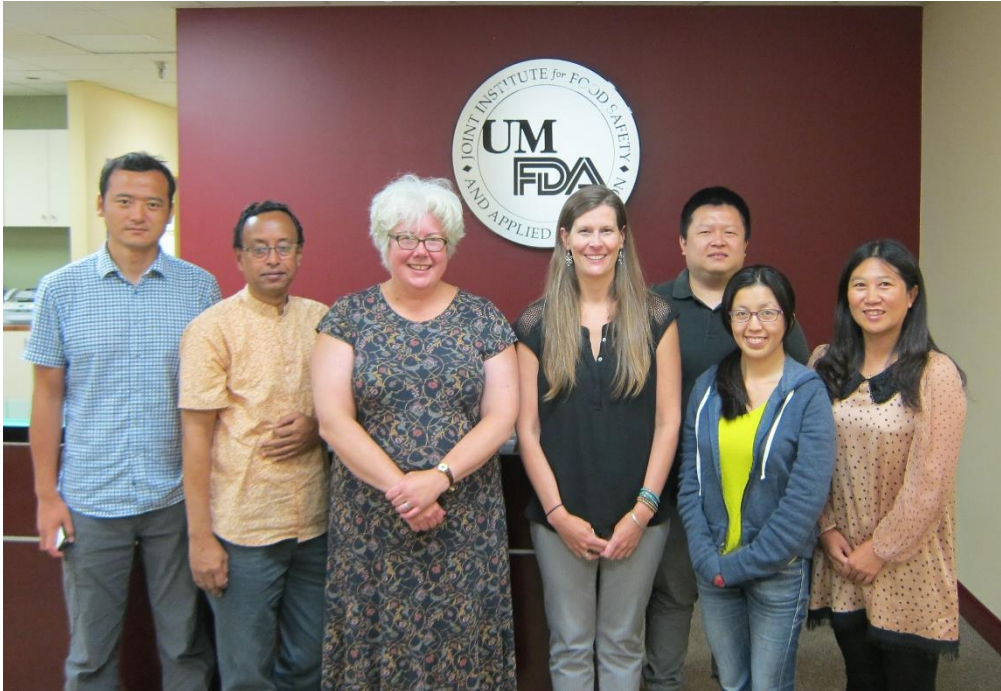


HESI at EUROTOX. The 51st Congress of the European Societies of Toxicology (EUROTOX), Bridging Sciences for Safety, is being held 13–16 September in Porto, Portugal. EUROTOX is held annually and represents the federation of national societies of toxicology in Europe. Visit the [EUROTOX website](#) to learn more. HESI has two featured sessions at this year's meeting:

- **HESI CITE Lecture** on Monday 14 September at 12:00 pm: Dr. John K. Colbourne (University of Birmingham, UK) will present on “Phylotoxicology: Breaking the Artificial Divide Between Human- and Eco-Toxicology.” Phylotoxicology applies high-throughput toxicity testing with animal models using genomics to better understand how chemicals may impact biological processes and bridging environmental and human health topics.
- **Hot Topic Session** on Wednesday 16 September at 1:00 pm: Drs. Jose Manautou (University of Connecticut) and Beatriz Silva Lima (Lisbon University) will present on “Identifying and Prioritising Emerging Issues in Human and Environmental Sciences.” The presentation will detail how HESI uses the Emerging Issues (EI) process to identify new topics of interest and will use the most recently identified EI Committee (Framework for Intelligent Non-Animal Alternative Methods for Safety Assessment) as an example.

FDA-HESI Safety Science Forum. HESI entered into a MOU with FDA in 2014 and through this agreement, HESI is organizing a series of educational lectures on contemporary safety science issues at the USFDA White Oak campus in Maryland. The first in the Safety Science Forum series is a two-part lecture on “Human Stem Cell Derived Cardiomyocytes. Evolving Roles in Drug Safety and Discovery” held on September 17, 2015. Drs. Gary Gintant (AbbVie) and Mark Mercola (University of California) will present on uses and limitations of human induced pluripotent stem cell derived cardiomyocytes in both basic research and the drug development process. These sessions are not open to the public, but we anticipate that recordings of the lectures will be made so the information can be shared more broadly.

RISK21 presentation at JIFSAN. On August 12th, Michelle Embry gave a presentation on the RISK21 Project to the summer fellows at the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN) in College Park, MD. The JIFSAN Food Safety Risk Analysis Professional Development Training Program was created in 1996 and its goal is to build capacity and empower professionals to meet their mandate in the area of food safety risk analysis. The 3 month training program includes coursework as well as an individual research project. The six 2015 fellows are from China, Taiwan, Thailand, and Bangladesh, and are each engaged in risk assessment research projects related to food safety. ILSI provided sponsorship to five of the fellows, and several of them will also attend the October RISK21 workshops in China and Taiwan.



JIFSAN Fellow pictures with HESI staff (L-R): Aidong Lui, Associate Researcher, China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment; Md. Rafiqul Islam, Executive Director, Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation; Clare Narrod, Risk Analysis Program Manager, JIFSAN; Michelle Embry, HESI; Wei-Hsiang Chang, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, National Cheng Kung University, National Cheng Kung University; Chieh-han Pu, Assistant Researcher, Taiwan Agricultural Chemicals and Toxic Substances Research Institute; Pingping Zhou, Associate Professor, China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment.

HESI and NASA Collaborate. Last year, HESI became a member of the NASA Human Health and Performance Center (NHHPC). While NASA may sound like an unlikely partner for HESI, many of the NHHPC goals align with HESI's mission. Both NHHPC and HESI share a goal of convening partners from industry, government, academia and non-profit organizations to advance and improve human health through collaborative science. The most recent partnership focuses on medicine stability and shelf life – what NASA is calling the MoSAIC (Medicine Stability Innovation Collaboration) project. The implications of this project would not only affect medicines provided to NASA astronauts, it would also benefit the developing world where access to medications is often lacking. Learn more and read the full newsletter [here](#).

Catching Up With Previous Staff. Congratulations to Alex Keller on his recent co-authorship on the publication by Good et al. titled "[Emerging Concepts Regarding Pannexin 1 in the Vasculature](#)" (*Biochemical Society Transactions*. 2015;43:495–501). Alex started at HESI as a Scientific Program Associate where he supported the Cardiac Safety Committee, which led him to his current interest in ion channel research and the doctoral program at the University of Virginia. We hope to see Alex back in the HESI community again in the future!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling Workshop. If you weren't able to attend the April workshop on FDA's Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling Rule, you haven't missed out. The Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology Technical Committee is sponsoring a European-based workshop to be held in conjunction with the European Teratology Society (ETS) Annual Meeting. The satellite workshop will be held on 2–3 September in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For more information, visit the HESI website [here](#), the ETS website [here](#), or contact Dr. Connie Chen (cchen@hesiglobal.org).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Miousse, IR, Currie R, Datta K, Ellinger-Ziegelbauer H, French JE, Harrill AH, Koturbash I, Lawton M, Mann D, Meehan RR, Moggs JG, O'Lone, R, Rasoulpuor RJ, Pera RA, Thompson K. (2015) Importance of investigating epigenetic alterations for industry and regulators: an appraisal of current efforts by the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute. *Toxicology*. 335:11-9. doi: 10.1016/j.tox.2015.06.009. Epub 2015 Jun 29.

[More details.](#)

Takei A (2015) ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI), global leader in advancing translational science to create science-based solutions for a sustainable, healthier world. *Genes and Environment*. 37:1. DOI: 10.1186/s41021-015-0001-0. [More details.](#)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Despite the alleged August lull, there is no shortage of activity ongoing across HESI. We are actively building on the innovative and challenging ideas brought forward at the June Annual Meeting and gearing up for some exciting new approaches over the next quarter. A draft strategic plan, based on your input in June, is in progress. Also, stay tuned for announcement of HESI's newest Emerging Issues program(s) next month!

Spil D. Pickett

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Vargas HM, Bass AS, Koerner J, Matis-Mitchell S, Pugsley MK, Skinner M, Burnham M, Bridgland-Taylor M, Pettit S, Valentin JP (2015) Evaluation of drug-induced QT interval prolongation in animal and human studies: a literature review of concordance. *British Journal of Pharmacology*. 172:4002–4011. [More details](#).

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