

“WASTEFUL” RESEARCH? LOOKING BEYOND THE ABSTRACT

A Congressional Exhibition and Reception



April 13, 2016
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Kennedy Caucus Room
325 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

EPR

Coalition to Promote Research

Organizations Committed to Promoting Public Health, Innovation
and Fundamental Knowledge Through Scientific Research

CNSF 
COALITION FOR
NATIONAL SCIENCE FUNDING

The **Coalition to Promote Research** and the **Coalition for National Science Funding** welcome you to this unique poster exhibition. Here you will find posters of NIH- and NSF-funded research that has been tagged “wasteful” either in reports published by members of Congress or in the media. These scientists are eager to tell the story of their research and share with you the importance of their work to societal goals and public health. We are also featuring posters about the NIH and NSF peer/merit review systems, since the projects exhibited here—and many more like them—beat long odds to be funded under very competitive circumstances.

NIH Peer Review and How the Stars of U.S. Science and Health Are Born

Richard Nakamura, Ph.D.
 CSR Director
 Don Luckett
 CSR Communications Director

NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health

NIH... turning discovery into health. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the largest biomedical research agency in the world. It is the primary funder of biomedical research in the United States. NIH is the largest biomedical research agency in the world. It is the primary funder of biomedical research in the United States.

How Does NIH Find the Stars of Science?

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Who Sets NIH Policies?

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How NIH Peer-Reviewed Research Pays Off

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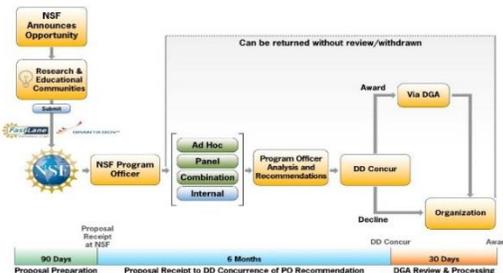
Taking Risks and Discovering Great Possibilities

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Placing a Bet on the Lucky Potential

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National Science Foundation Proposal Review and Processing Timeline



Children and Adolescents Get! Sexual Relationships: Understanding the Influence of Peer and Romantic Relationships

Children and adolescents get! Sexual relationships: understanding the influence of peer and romantic relationships. This poster discusses the impact of these relationships on health and well-being.



Message Breakthrough Panel in Support

Message Breakthrough Panel in Support. This panel focuses on supporting breakthrough research and innovation.

The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research and **Northwell Health**

Automated Adaptive Remote Mobile Messaging to Reduce Problem Drinking. This poster describes a program that uses mobile messaging to help reduce problem drinking.

Using the fruitfly, *Drosophila melanogaster* to Understand the Genetic Basis of Aging

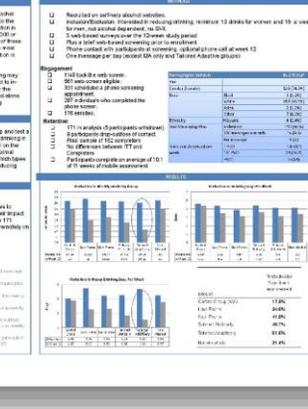
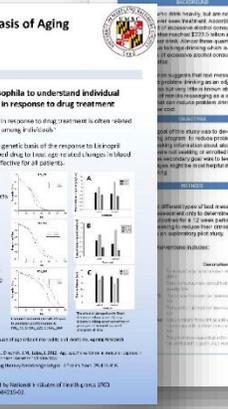
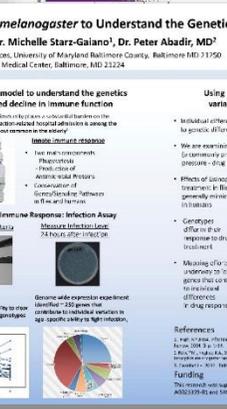
Using the fruitfly, *Drosophila melanogaster* to understand the genetic basis of aging. This poster discusses the use of fruitflies as a model organism for studying aging.

Introduction

All organisms experience aging. Aging is a complex process that involves changes in gene expression and cellular function. The fruitfly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, is a model organism for studying aging because it has a short lifespan and a well-understood genome.

Why Use Drosophila?

- Short lifespan: 30 days from egg to adult, allowing for rapid generation turnover.
- Genetic diversity: A wide variety of natural and induced genetic variation.
- Genetic tools: A rich repertoire of genetic tools for manipulating the genome.
- Conservation: Many genes and pathways are conserved between flies and humans.



746+ individuals needed to continue messaging

746+ individuals needed to continue messaging. This poster highlights the importance of reaching a large number of individuals.

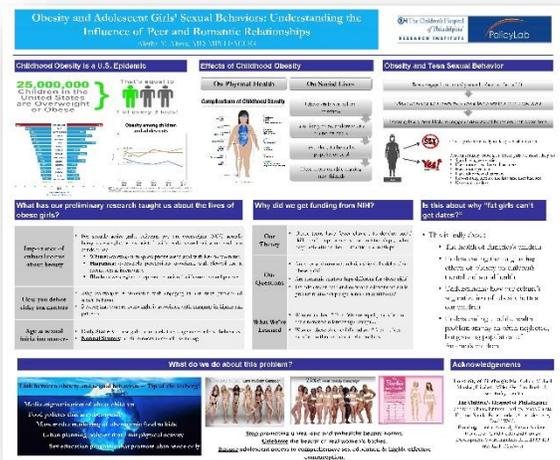
76% reduction in problem drinking

76% reduction in problem drinking. This poster reports a significant reduction in problem drinking among participants.

EXHIBITORS

Aletha Akers, MD, MPH, FACOG – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Akers is medical director of Adolescent Gynecology Consultative Services in the Craig Dalsimer Division of Adolescent Medicine at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Her research focuses on improving adolescent reproductive health outcomes and understanding the contextual and health system factors that influence adolescents’ sexual and healthcare decisions. Her research is funded by the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute for Child Health and Human Development.

Poster Summary: Studies have consistently shown that obese adolescent girls engage in more sexual risk-taking behaviors compared to non-obese girls. Few studies have examined the mechanisms underlying this association. Using secondary data analysis of data from two large, longitudinal cohorts of US adolescent girls, this research examines whether differences in the development of interpersonal social skills or differences in the intimate relationship experiences of obese and non-obese girls explains the higher rates of sexual risk taking among obese girls. Dr. Akers’ research on the *Role of Romantic Relationships in the Sexual Behavior of Obese and Non-obese Girls* was targeted in the media with the headline, “Feds Wonder Why Fat Girls Can’t Get Dates.”

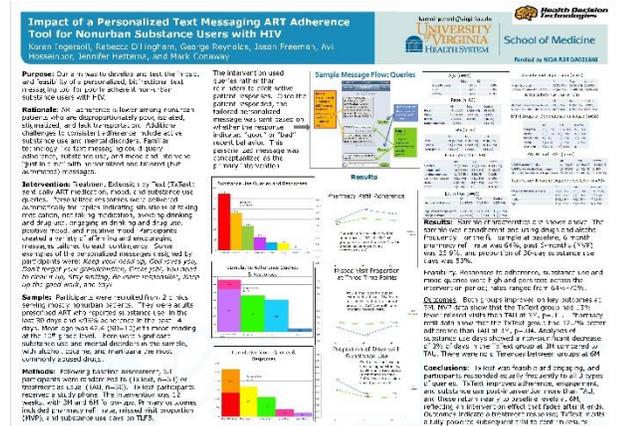


Karen Ingersoll, PhD – University of Virginia School of Medicine.

Dr. Ingersoll is a clinical health psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences. Her research focuses on the intersection of health and addictive behaviors and on developing methods to improve health and reduce the impact of addictive behaviors in populations living in rural areas. Her specific areas of interest are women's health and addiction and helping people with HIV live longer and healthier lives.

Poster Summary: Two current funded studies test technological approaches to improve health behaviors. The first is an innovative Internet intervention to reduce the risk of alcohol-exposed pregnancy (AEP) and offer new options for women at risk for AEP who do not have access to AEP prevention services. In the second project, her team is developing a novel Internet intervention to help people living with HIV in non-urban areas manage adherence and common life problems that reduce adherence, such as substance use, stigma, low social support, and depression.

Dr. Ingersoll's research is funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the National Institute of Drug Abuse. In the project that was identified as "wasteful," Dr. Ingersoll and her team developed a bidirectional text messaging tool for people with HIV and recent substance abuse. The study found this messaging tool resulted in improvements in clinic appointment attendance and adherence to HIV medications. Despite this, her work was labeled wasteful in a media article entitled, "NIH Spent \$480,500 to text message drunks."



Jeff Leips, PhD — University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Dr. Leips' research is focused on understanding the genetic basis of natural variation in life history traits using the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, as a model organism. He is particularly interested in identifying genes that control age-specific changes in traits that directly contribute to senescence and ultimately limit life span. These traits include age-specific reproduction, immune response and energy storage. He is also co-director of a new undergraduate training program in Biology and Mathematics at UMBC supported by the National Science Foundation.

Using the fruitfly, *Drosophila melanogaster* to Understand the Genetic Basis of Aging

Dr. Jeff Leips¹, Dr. Michelle Starz-Galano¹, Dr. Peter Abadir, MD²
¹Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore MD 21250
²Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Baltimore, MD 21224

Introduction

- All organisms deteriorate with age
- Aging decreases the quality of life of the elderly
- In human populations, individuals differ in rates of physiological decline with age
- Individual differences in aging is partially attributable to genetic differences among individuals
- The causal genes that are responsible for these differences among individuals are largely unknown and so limiting our ability to design treatments.

Why Use Drosophila?

- Flies show similar age-related declines to that of humans
- Decline in physical strength with age
- Decline in walking speed or endurance with age
- Decline in ability to fight infection with age
- Many fully sequenced genomes
- > 80% of fly genes shared with humans
- Efficient and Economical Model Organism
- Short life span (~50 days), a low measurement of genetic influences on age-related decline across entire life span
- Insensitive to disease and resistant to large populations (minimizes statistical power to detect genetic effects)
- Genomic mapping techniques in closely genetic contribute to variation in aging well developed
- 1000's of genetic resources allow experimental manipulation genes to validate genetic effects on aging
- Ideal organism for training the next generation of scientists



Drosophila as a model to understand the genetics of age-related decline in immune function

- Age-related decline in immune response is substantial burden on the health-care system; infection-related hospital admission is among the most costly and the most common in the elderly!

Innate immune response

- Two main components
- Phagocytosis
- Production of Antimicrobial Proteins
- Conservation of Gene/Signaling Pathways in flies and humans

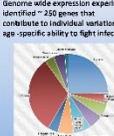
Measuring the Immune Response: Infection Assay

M. luteocola Bacteria

Measure Infection Level 24 hours after infection

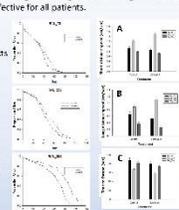
Genome wide expression experiment identified 250 genes that contribute to individual variation in age-specific ability to fight infection.

Effect of aging on the ability to clear infection differs among genotypes



Using Drosophila to understand individual variation in response to drug treatment

- Individual differences in response to drug treatment is often related to genetic differences among individuals!
- We are examining the genetic basis of the response to Lisinopril (a commonly prescribed drug to lower age-related changes in blood pressure - drug not effective for all patients).
- Effects of Lisinopril treatment in flies generally mirrors effects in humans
- Genotypes differ in their response to drug treatment
- Mapping efforts underway to identify genes that contribute to individual differences in drug response.



References

1. High mortality infection as a result of age related mortality in mice. *Ageing Research Reviews* 2004, 3(1): 21-31
2. Park, W., et al. *FASEB J*, 2004, 18(10): 1163-1165
3. Coulter, J. 2011. Talking to the hearing: pharmacogenetics. *J. Intern. Med.* 261:415-418.

Funding

This research was supported by National Institutes of Health grants: 1R01AG023950-02 and 1R01DK081234-02

Poster Summary: *Drosophila melanogaster* (the fruit fly) is a scientifically significant model for research. This research has produced important knowledge about genes that cause declines as individuals age. Dr. Leips' research has not been directly targeted, but research with fruit flies was labeled wasteful in the 2008 presidential campaign and in a subsequent 2012 wastebok.

Richard Nakamura, PhD – National Institutes of Health. Dr. Nakamura directs NIH's Center for Scientific Review (CSR), the division of NIH that organizes peer review groups or study sections that evaluate the majority (75%) of the research grant applications sent to NIH. Before accepting the directorship of CSR, Dr. Nakamura had a 32-year career at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), where he served as both its Scientific Director and Deputy Director. He also was Acting Director of the NIMH from 2001 to 2002.





NIH Peer Review and How the Stars of U.S. Science and Health Are Born

Richard Nakamura, Ph.D.
CSR Director
Don Lockett
CSR Communications Director

NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health

NIH is the world's largest medical research agency. It is the primary source of funding for biomedical research in the United States. NIH's research is the foundation for many of the medical advances that have improved the health and well-being of the American people.

How Does NIH Find the Stars of Science?

NIH uses a peer review process to evaluate research grant applications. This process involves scientists from the scientific community who are experts in their field. They review the applications and recommend whether they should be funded. This process is the foundation for many of the medical advances that have improved the health and well-being of the American people.

The NIH Center for Scientific Review Evaluates the Majority of NIH Grant Applications

The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) is the primary agency for the peer review of research grant applications. It is responsible for evaluating the majority of the research grant applications that are submitted to NIH. CSR's work is essential to the success of NIH's research program.

How NIH Peer Review Works

NIH uses a peer review process to evaluate research grant applications. This process involves scientists from the scientific community who are experts in their field. They review the applications and recommend whether they should be funded. This process is the foundation for many of the medical advances that have improved the health and well-being of the American people.

Who Gets NIH Funding?

NIH funding is distributed across a wide range of scientific disciplines. The majority of funding goes to research in the areas of cancer, heart disease, and infectious diseases. However, NIH also funds research in many other areas, including neuroscience, genetics, and environmental health.

How NIH Peer-Reviewed Research Pays Off

NIH peer-reviewed research has led to many of the medical advances that have improved the health and well-being of the American people. This research has led to the development of new drugs, medical devices, and diagnostic tests. It has also led to a better understanding of the underlying causes of many diseases.

Economic Benefits

NIH research has a significant economic impact. It creates jobs for scientists and support staff. It also leads to the development of new products and services, which can generate revenue for the economy. NIH research is a key driver of economic growth in the United States.



Research-based gains to emerge: The expenditures from NIH in 2008 have an economic value estimated at \$26.1 billion (not \$1.75, or about \$22.16 billion per year).

Scientists seek health advances

Scientists are constantly seeking new ways to improve human health. NIH provides the funding and support that they need to do this. Through NIH research, scientists are discovering new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases. This research is the foundation for many of the medical advances that have improved the health and well-being of the American people.

The Promise of the Next Breakthrough

NIH research is the foundation for many of the medical advances that have improved the health and well-being of the American people. It is also the foundation for many of the most promising areas of research in the world. NIH research is the key to unlocking the secrets of life and improving the health of the human race.

Taking Risks and Discovering Great Possibilities

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Placing a Bet on the Early Researcher: Transforming Researchers into Stars

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Microscopy Breakthrough Sheds Light on Cancer

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Geneticist Advances Autism and Schizophrenia Research

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Big Advances Are Built on Lots of Unheralded NIH Reviews and Grants

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Discovery drugs come from NIH

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The Bottom Line

NIH research is the foundation for many of the medical advances that have improved the health and well-being of the American people. It is also the foundation for many of the most promising areas of research in the world. NIH research is the key to unlocking the secrets of life and improving the health of the human race.

NIH News: What's New at NIH

NIH research is the foundation for many of the medical advances that have improved the health and well-being of the American people. It is also the foundation for many of the most promising areas of research in the world. NIH research is the key to unlocking the secrets of life and improving the health of the human race.

NIH News: Science Works for the U.S.

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Poster Summary: The Center for Scientific Review holds over 1,500 review meetings a year, involving about 17,000 outside reviewers from the scientific community. In efforts to fine-tune the peer review system in order to identify the best science, NIH recently adopted new guidelines to improve transparency, reproducibility and rigor in scientific applications.

Sheila Patek, PhD – Duke University. A professor of biology, Dr. Patek leads a laboratory that studies the dynamic interplay between evolutionary processes and physics. Dr. Patek studies the evolution of the biomechanical properties of extremely fast motion and underwater bioacoustic systems. Her NSF-funded research is producing new knowledge about how mantis shrimp generate and store extreme force, uncovering basic biomechanical principles that apply across species. The lab also has a grant from the Army Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative.

Poster Summary: Understanding the systems that allow organisms to produce extremely fast motion enables researchers to apply that knowledge to human-engineered systems. In fact, the mantis shrimp has already inspired a new design structure for composite materials, one more impact resistant and tougher than the standard currently used on airplanes. Dr. Patek’s research was labeled wasteful in the draft FY 2017 House budget resolution and in a recent wastebok that called it a “Shrimp Fight Club.”

Biological ultrafast systems surpass current engineered systems in:

- 1. Size:** The best biological performance is found at the smallest scales. The best engineered systems are orders of magnitude larger.
- 2. Repeatability:** Many biological impulsive systems can be used repeatedly, resistant to wear and tear. Engineered impulsive systems are primarily self-destructive.
- 3. Efficiency:** Biological systems are lightweight, robust and efficient. Most engineered systems are energetically costly, relying on explosives.

Ultrafast biological systems became visible to biologists primarily in the past 15 years, because of advances in lower light extreme high-speed videography. This is an area of intensive discovery of previously invisible systems and processes.

Duke University
Discovery and applications of ultrafast biological systems
 Prof. Sheila Patek - Department of Biology - Duke University - www.thepateklab.org

Mantis shrimp strike so quickly that the water cavitates at impact, generating heat equivalent to the surface of the sun, light and sound.

Cavitation sounds and destructive energy are the bane of propeller design and fast underwater motion.

Mantis shrimp do not cavitate during rotation - only during impact.

Mantis shrimp fluid mechanics provide key information for how engineered systems could avoid cavitation during impact, but suppress it during fast rotation.

Ultrafast movements use extreme energy storage and release to enhance power output.

Most engineered ballistic systems self-destruct after one use. Biological mechanisms provide novel insights for engineering design of repeatable, efficient impulsive systems.

Mantis shrimp fracture snail shells at bullet-like accelerations using a potent sequence of high peak, transient forces.

This discovery led to the synthesis of novel lightweight, fracture resistant materials.

Mantis shrimp use a lightweight appendage (~ mass of two toothpicks) to fracture ceramic materials. This is a fundamentally different approach than used by big jaws and heavy hammers.

Animals with lethal weapons have evolved non-lethal mechanisms to resolve disputes.

Mantis shrimp strike specialized armor on the opponent's tail. Size-matched fights are won by the maximum number of strikes.

The armor absorbs energy similarly to a punching bag.

The impact dynamics resemble the energy exchange of a baseball and ash bat.

The energy exchange scales with the animal's body size. Mantis shrimp may be able to assess size based on impact dynamics.

Engineers have developed new materials that dissipate impact energy, based on biological materials that resist impact fracture, with the goal of improving armor and protective sports gear.

Kimberley Phillips, PhD – Trinity University. Co-chair of the Department of Neuroscience and Professor of Psychology, Dr. Phillips holds additional appointments at the Southwest National Primate Research Center, Texas Biomedical Research Institute and the Research Imaging Institute, University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio. She studies primate behavior in the field and laboratory, working primarily with capuchin monkeys and marmosets.

Poster Summary: The marmoset model reflects more closely the clinical, anatomical, and neuropathological aspects of multiple sclerosis (MS) than any of the other current model. Dr. Phillips’ research training marmosets to safely exercise on a lab treadmill was labeled wasteful in a recent wastebok article titled, “Monkey on a Treadmill.” The study was part of a larger funded project to investigate the potential benefits and harm of exercise in a primate model of MS, knowledge that one day may be applied to human populations.

PI: Kimberley A. Phillips, Ph.D.





Evaluating the Effects of Exercise in a Monkey Model of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) “Take the Monkey and Run”

Exercise promotes increased blood flow to the brain, increased brain volume, and increased neurogenesis and neurotrophic factors such as brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF). While there is increased interest in the potential benefits of exercise to the diseased brain, we simply do not know the benefits and potential harm exercise might have to an individual with MS.

How can marmosets help us understand human behavior and disease?

- 95% of genes shared with humans
- Small enough to work with safely, efficiently and effectively in a lab environment.
- The marmoset model reflects more closely the clinical, anatomical, and neuropathological aspects of MS than any of the other current models.

Developed a paradigm for safely and effectively engaging marmoset monkeys in exercise.

- We only used **positive reinforcement**.
- We trained marmosets to willingly enter a transport container.
- We trained marmosets to then willingly enter the exercise ball.
- We gradually habituated each marmoset to increased speed and duration on the treadmill.
- Marmosets ran on the treadmill for 30 minutes, 3 times a week.

Research laid the foundation for long-term studies of the scientific basis for exercise as a potential treatment for MS.

- We are currently determining if exercise has neuroprotective effects on disease progression and cognition in the marmoset model for MS.
- We are investigating the signaling pathways of BDNF in exercising marmosets.



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Ex: Marmoset Nutritional Enrichment
J. Lenon, WHPRC



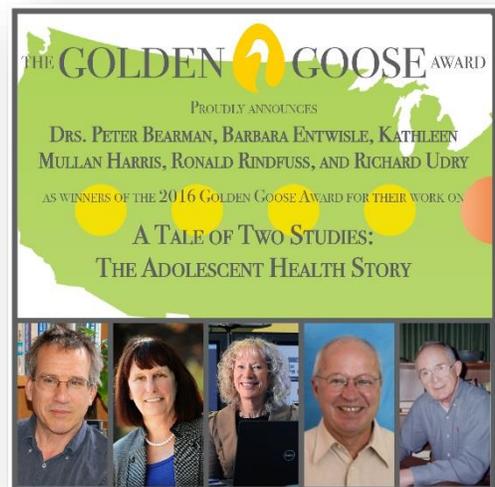
Marmoset has been trained and is exhibiting exercise behaviors.
K. Phillips, Trinity University, WHPRC

David Scholnick, PhD – Pacific University, Oregon. Dr. Scholnick is professor and chair of biology and teaches undergraduate courses in General Biology, Animal Physiology, and Marine Biology for both science and non-science majors. His research has focused on understanding the consequence of bacterial infections in marine organisms and the pathophysiology of malarial infections in lizards.

Poster Summary: Dr. Scholnick's research examines how recent changes in the oceans could potentially affect the ability of marine organisms to fight infections. Building a treadmill and teaching shrimp to run on it (without NSF funds) allowed him to study the shrimp's immune response during activity. This research was included in a 2011 wastebook article entitled, "How Long Can a Shrimp Run on a Treadmill?" The study was part of a larger project examining the physiological impacts of pollution and warming oceans on marine life. The project was significant because it showed that the health of important marine species is tightly linked to opportunistic bacteria that are responding to environmental changes in the oceans.

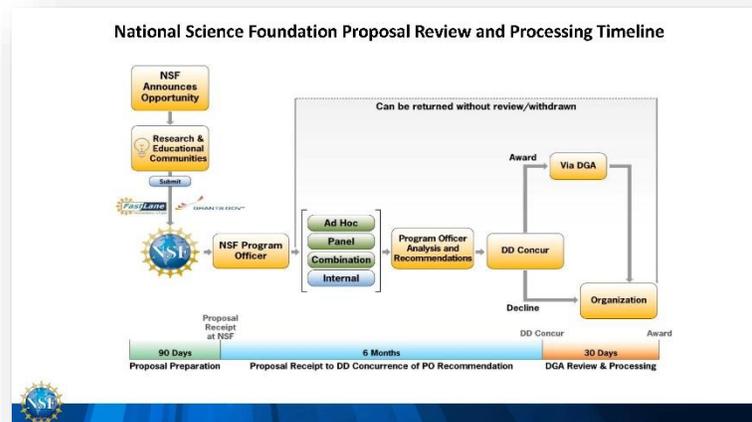
Joshua Shiode, PhD – American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Shiode is a Senior Government Relations Officer at AAAS. He is one of the leaders of the Golden Goose Award Steering Committee made up of individuals from the Founding Sponsors of the Award, Benefactors of the Award, and universities who helped launch the Award in 2012: AAAS, Association of American Universities, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Breakthrough Institute, Elsevier, Progressive Policy Institute, Richard Lounsbery Foundation, The Science Coalition, Task Force on American Innovation, United for Medical Research, University of Pennsylvania, and Vanderbilt University.

Poster Summary: The brainchild of U.S. Representative Jim Cooper (D-TN), the *Golden Goose Award* recognizes the enormous and often unanticipated impacts that obscure or odd-sounding federally funded research has had on society—from life-saving medical treatments to game-changing social and behavioral insights to major technological advances. Awardees are announced throughout the year and honored at an award ceremony each fall in Washington, DC. The *Golden Goose Award* is supported by generous donations from professional societies, colleges, universities, and corporations; it enjoys bipartisan support from Members of Congress in the House and Senate.



Alan Tomkins, PhD – National Science Foundation. Dr. Tomkins is the Acting Director of the NSF's Social and Economic Sciences Division in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE). Before joining NSF, Dr. Tomkins was Founding Director of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and professor in the University of Nebraska—Lincoln Law/Psychology Program. Dr. Tomkins' research interests include trust and confidence in public institutions and public engagement to inform governmental policy and increase trust in government. He received his JD and PhD in Social Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis.

Poster Summary: NSF funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering via grants and cooperative agreements. Awards are made to approximately 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations, and other research organizations throughout the US. The agency funds approximately 11,000 of the 50,000 proposals it receives each year for research, education, and training projects. NSF also receives more than 15,000 applications for graduate and postdoctoral fellowships annually. NSF recently adopted guidelines to ensure that the importance of the research it funds is conveyed in summaries for the public.



Megan Tracy, PhD – James Madison University. Dr. Tracy is an associate professor of anthropology where she teaches undergraduate courses in Cultural Anthropology, Peoples and Cultures of East Asia, The Anthropology of Food, and Anthropology in Business. Her research has focused on the transmission of food safety standards and the governance of food and health risks amidst increasingly globalized food production and distribution.

Poster Summary: In 2008, approximately 300,000 children in the People’s Republic of China were suspected of having melamine-related illnesses; six children died. Tracy’s research examines the meaning of transparency and the transformation of China’s food safety system following the global dairy scandal sparked by the “distribution of milk adulterated with the industrial chemical melamine.” China’s food product and safety troubles directly affect American public health and food security when problematic Chinese products reach US supermarket shelves. Her research on the food safety regulation system in China was

called into question during a 2013 House Science Committee hearing along with an additional request for extensive information from NSF.

Reconfiguring Accountability and Transparency in China's Dairy Industry
MPCAN TRACY
Department of Sociology and Anthropology, James Madison University (tracym2@jmu.edu)

THE PROBLEM
In 2008, approximately 300,000 children in the People’s Republic of China were suspected of having melamine-related illnesses; six children died. Tracy’s research examines the meaning of transparency and the transformation of China’s food safety system following the global dairy scandal sparked by the “distribution of milk adulterated with the industrial chemical melamine.”

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY PRACTICE: A MULTIMODAL APPROACH
Transparency is a widely produced term, often used to describe a range of practices in the public sector. This research examines the meaning of transparency in the context of food safety regulation in China. The research is multimodal, drawing on a range of methods including the production of maps, photographs, and video to explore the ways in which transparency is being reconfigured in the context of food safety regulation in China.

OBJECTIVES
1. To explore the ways in which transparency is being reconfigured in the context of food safety regulation in China.
2. To explore the ways in which transparency is being reconfigured in the context of food safety regulation in China.
3. To explore the ways in which transparency is being reconfigured in the context of food safety regulation in China.

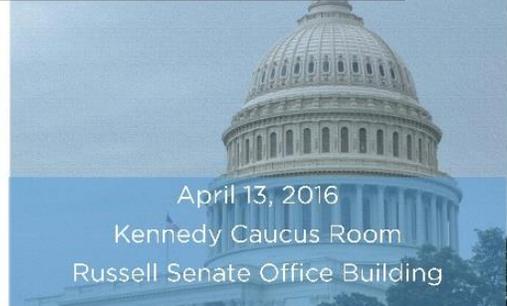
WHAT WE DID & WHERE WE DID IT
Completed ethnographic and archival research primarily in Beijing & Chengde in China, and (Dunhuang Autonomous Region) in the north-west of China. The Dunhuang Region is a major dairy producing area in the north-west of China.

WHY THIS MATTERS
China’s food safety system and industry challenges are a global concern. The 2008 melamine scandal in China was a major food safety crisis that led to the deaths of six children and the illness of 300,000 children. This research is important because it explores the ways in which transparency is being reconfigured in the context of food safety regulation in China. This research is important because it explores the ways in which transparency is being reconfigured in the context of food safety regulation in China.

“WASTEFUL” RESEARCH? LOOKING BEYOND THE ABSTRACT

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