Background

The Interdisciplinary Research & training Initiative on Coastal ecosystems & human Health (I-RICH) is one of the five training consortia in the US funded by NOAA's Oceans and Human Health Initiative. The mission of I-RICH is to 1) train scientists who can work effectively in the coastal zone, who understand the dynamics of coastal systems and the specific problems that relate to ecosystem and human health; and 2) provide resources and information that will address and shape human responses to pressing coastal management problems related to living marine resources, seafood safety and human health. For more information see: http://www.i-rich.uconn.edu/.

Meeting Goals

- Foster scientific exchange and communication among scientists, managers, and educators who are involved in oceans-and-human-health (OHH) activities across the State and region.
- Disseminate information about Connecticut’s I-RICH training consortium and identify opportunities to enhance collaboration, integration and coordination among those involved in OHH activities.
- Advance discussions on developing and communicating OHH initiatives to the general public.

Meeting Location

University of Connecticut, Avery Point Campus, Groton, CT 06340
Marine Sciences Building, Room 103

Program

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Coffee and Continental Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Introduction: <strong>Dr. J. Evan Ward</strong>, Professor and Lead PI of I-RICH Training Consortium</td>
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<td>8:35 am</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening Remarks: <strong>Dr. Jeremy Teitbaum</strong>, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
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<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Overview of Connecticut’s I-RICH Program: <strong>Dr. J. Evan Ward</strong></td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Overview of NOAA's Oceans and Human Health Initiative: <strong>Ms. Juli Trtanj</strong>, NOAA, OHHI Director</td>
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<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Guest Presentation, Connecting human and marine animal health: <strong>Dr. Rebecca Gast</strong>, Associate Scientist, Woods Hole Center for Oceans and Human Health</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>10:20 am</td>
<td>Science Presentations by I-RICH Trainees (20 minutes each)</td>
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<td>1. Pathogen persistence: What is the role of organic aggregates in recreational waters? - <strong>Dr. Maille Lyons</strong>, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Marine Sciences</td>
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Continued......
2. Reactive oxygen species are linked to the toxicity of *Alexandrium* sp. to protists - **Dr. Hayley Skelton**, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Marine Sciences
3. The impact of harmful algal blooms on aquatic animal and human health: An immunotoxicological risk assessment approach - **Dr. Milton Levin**, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science
4. Metabolic changes in *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* to survive the aphotic zone - **Dr. M. Soledad Fuentes**, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
5. Examining the uptake of manufactured nanoparticles by suspension-feeding bivalves - **Mr. John Doyle**, Doctoral Student, Department of Marine Sciences

12:00 noon  Lunch (provided)

12:45 pm  Coffee and Dessert with Poster Session (see titles below)

2:00 pm  Building Connections: Informational Talks by I-RICH Partners, Government Agencies, NGOs, and Public Health Programs
1. NOAA, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Milford Laboratory - **Dr. Gary Wikfors**, Biotechnology Branch Chief, and I-RICH PI
2. Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration - **Dr. Tracy Romano**, Senior Vice President, Research and Zoological Operations, and I-RICH PI
3. Connecticut Department of Public Health - **Ms. Stacey Kinney**, Supervising Microbiologist
4. UConn, Center for Public Health and Health Policy - **Dr. Ann Ferris**, Professor and Director
5. Ledge Light Health District - **Mr. Stephen Mansfield**, RS, MPH, Deputy Director of Health
6. Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture - **Ms. Kristin Frank**, Environmental Analyst II
7. NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, CT Office - **Ms. Melissa Ryan**, Lead Program Instructor

3:15 pm  Workshop: Break into one of four working sections
1. Pathogens, diseases and seafood safety
2. Emerging and legacy toxicants, public health concerns and seafood safety
3. Harmful algal blooms and public health concerns
4. Climate change and health of marine ecosystems and humans

4:45 pm  Reconvene, Plenary Summary and Wrap Up: **Dr. Sylvain DeGuise**, Professor, I-RICH PI, and Director of Connecticut Sea Grant College Program

5:00 pm  Closing Remarks: **Dr. J. Evan Ward**

**Poster Presentations**

**Trainees**
1. Investigating the microbial communities of commercially important bivalves - **Ms. Melissa Pierce**, Doctoral Student, Department of Marine Sciences
2. Diving, stress and marine mammal health - **Ms. Laura Thompson**, Doctoral Student, Department of Marine Sciences, and Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration
3. Comparison of solid phases for the detection of phthalate esters and insights into the distribution of these pollutants in Long Island Sound - **Ms. Joanne Elmoznino**, Doctoral Student, Department of Marine Sciences

Continued.....
4. Biogeochemical factors affecting mercury speciation in Long Island Sound - **Ms. Amina Schartup**, Doctoral Student, Department of Marine Sciences

5. An aquarium based model to study the pathogenesis of a novel Exophiala species in chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* - **Dr. Akiny Nyaoke**, Doctoral Student, Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science

6. Are anthropogenic and environmental stressors influencing host susceptibility to disease?: Phocine distemper virus in the northeast U.S. seal population - **Ms. Andrea Bogomolni**, Doctoral Student, Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science

7. Primary trophic transfer of mercury and methylmercury - **Ms. Kathleen Gosnell**, Doctoral Student, Department of Marine Sciences

8. Flow-cytometric analysis of eastern oyster hemocytes to investigate immune responses stimulated by environmental stresses - **Ms. Kathy Zhai**, Public Health Graduate, University of Connecticut, and I-RICH Public Health Summer Fellow


10. Indirect intracellular detection of domoic acid - **Ms. Caitlin Fenerty**, MPH Student, University of Georgia, and I-RICH Public Health Summer Fellow

11. Health assessment of wild bottlenose dolphins - **Mr. Anup Ojha**, Undergraduate Student, University of Connecticut, and I-RICH Public Health Summer Fellow

**Other CT OHH Groups**

1. Connecticut’s clean vessel act program, no discharge area for Long Island Sound, and clean marina program - **Mr. Rick Huntley**, CT Department of Environmental Protection

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**Support for the I-RICH Consortium and Trainees**

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