

# Short List of Candidates for the EPA Human Studies Review Board

The EPA, Office of the Science Advisor (OSA) is considering a qualified individual in the areas of human health risk assessment to serve on the EPA Human Studies Review Board (HSRB).

**The OSA has reviewed and identified 4 possible candidates to serve on the HSRB.**

Brief biographical sketches on these candidates are provided below. OSA invites comments or other documentation from members of the public that the OSA should consider in the selection of HSRB members. Any information furnished by the public in response to this Web site posting will be combined with information already provided by the candidates and gathered independently by the OSA. In making the final selection of HSRB members, the combined information will be reviewed and evaluated for any possible financial conflict of interest or a possible appearance of a lack of impartiality. The information will also be used to ensure appropriate balance and breadth of expertise needed to address the charge to the Board. Candidates not selected for membership might be considered in the future as vacancies become available, used as a consultant to the HSRB, or used as a member or consultant to an HSRB subcommittee. **Please e-mail your comments no later than noon, Eastern Time, Friday, July 10, 2015 to Toby Schonfeld, OSA ([Schonfeld.Toby@epa.gov](mailto:Schonfeld.Toby@epa.gov)).**

HSRB Nominees:

**Douglas O. Johns, M.S., Ph.D**

Dr. Douglas Johns is currently Deputy Director of the Division of Respiratory Disease Studies with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). His work involves formulating, developing, and directing research programs designed to characterize and prevent respiratory illness, injury and death through the integration of occupational health protection and health promotion among workers in various industries throughout the United States. He is particularly interested in evaluating the effects of peak exposures to mixtures of air pollutants on adverse health outcomes, and in the integration of environmental and occupational exposure and health data to inform human health risk assessments. Dr. Johns serves as a member of the CDC/NIOSH Institutional Review Board (IRB), and as the Chair of the CDC/NIOSH Long Term Training Committee.

Prior to joining NIOSH, Dr. Johns spent seven years as a Senior Health Scientist with the National Center for Environmental Assessment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC, and Research Triangle Park, NC, where he worked on developing human health science and risk assessments for environmental chemical substances. The primary focus of his work involved analyzing and evaluating health evidence from studies of controlled human exposures to the criteria air pollutants regulated by the U.S. EPA under the Clean Air Act, as well as integrating this evidence with information from the epidemiologic and toxicological literature to reach conclusions regarding causal relationships

between exposures to air pollutants and various health endpoints. Dr. Johns received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Washington where he conducted controlled exposure studies designed to characterize the kinetics of volatile organic compounds in the human body.

### **Kathleen Kreiss, M.D.**

The James P. Keogh Award for Outstanding Service in Occupational Safety and Health recognizes a current or former employee of NIOSH whose career "exhibits respect and compassion for individual workers, with tireless leadership, courage, and a fierce determination to put knowledge into practice to enhance their well-being." For 2015, NIOSH honored Dr. Kathleen Kreiss, a dedicated leader in the field of occupational lung disease, who, over the course of three decades, has made extraordinary contributions to occupational medicine through her research, education, and public health work. Research led by Dr. Kreiss was instrumental in identifying and preventing previously unrecognized occupational hazards such as flavorings-related bronchiolitis obliterans ("popcorn lung"), flock-workers' lung, and adult-onset asthma associated with damp buildings.

### **Christine Rioux, PhD, MS**

Dr. Rioux's research and expertise bridge the disciplines of environmental science and engineering and public health. Her work focuses on environmental exposures, the role of neighborhood factors on disease progression and international work with USAID on the One Health program examining the intersection of animal, human and environmental health. Her research and teaching promotes an interdisciplinary perspective, a fertile ground for discovery and integration of new and prior knowledge. Her most recent projects involved leading trainings in health risk assessment in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon to physicians, veterinarians, environmental scientists, and forestry students. Her prior publications have advanced the understanding of susceptibility and vulnerability to environmental exposures using geo-spatial analyses, community-based research, and interdisciplinary risk assessment.

She currently teaches environmental and occupational health and epidemiology/biostatistics and is a course director for the Applied Learning Experience in the MPH program.

### **Helen H. Suh, Sc.D.**

Professor Suh is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Northeastern. She is also adjunct faculty at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and a Senior Fellow at NORC at the University of Chicago, reflective of the work that she continues to perform in her previous positions. Dr. Suh is an internationally recognized expert in air pollution health effects, having led multidisciplinary teams in environmental exposure assessment and epidemiology for over 20 years. Dr. Suh's research focuses on three general areas within air pollution health effects, including (1) assessment of the impact of lifestyle and neighborhoods on air pollutant exposures and human health, (2) examination of multi-pollutant impacts on human health, and (3) development of GIS-based

spatio-temporal modeling tools for epidemiological research. Her work has been published in over 100 papers in leading environmental health journals.

Dr. Suh performs advisory work in environmental health for numerous local, national, and international organizations. Currently, Dr. Suh is a member of the charter US Environmental Protection Agency Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee and the Institute of Medicine Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Herbicide Exposure. She is also Associate Editor of the International Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology.