EIGHTH EDITION: JULY-AUGUST 2026

WEATHERING CHANGE: A C4H NEWSLETTER

The Center for Collaboration on Climate & Community for Health

University of CINCINNATI

A MESSAGE FROM THE C4H CO-DIRECTOR, DR. ARDYTHE L. MORROW



Welcome to the latest edition of *Weathering Change*, the newsletter of the Center for Collaboration on Climate and Community for Health (C4H) at the University of Cincinnati.

It has been a season of real momentum for our Center. Across every core, C4H continues to contribute significant science to the fields of climate and health; work that matters not only for what it teaches us, but for who it serves. As the only P20 Center of its kind supporting Greater Cincinnati and Appalachia, we hold a distinct responsibility: to build research capacity in communities that are too often overlooked, and to ensure that the knowledge we generate together translates into real, local impact.

That spirit of partnership was on full display at our inaugural Weathering Change Symposium this August, where nineteen presenters, faculty, students, and community partners came together to share their work and imagine what we might build next. Moments like these remind me how much opportunity there is when we collaborate, not just within C4H, but across institutions, disciplines, and communities. We are fortunate to work alongside proactive community leaders across the region who are building resilience. C4H is committed to strengthening these connections and advancing climate and health science together.

This edition is full of evidence of that collaborative spirit, from our SURF-CLIMATE fellows' summer research, to the Climate Café's community conversations, to our continued partnerships with the Cincinnati Museum Center and Green Umbrella.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and dedication to this critical work in advancing healthier and more climate-resilient communities.

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C4H UPDATES

C4H Annual Weathering Change Symposium: A Day of Connection, Collaboration, and Conservation

On August 6, 2026, C4H hosted its **inaugural Weathering Change Symposium** at the University of Cincinnati's Kettering Laboratory. The event brought together researchers, community partners, climate leaders, and organizations to share ongoing work, build connections, and explore future collaborations. **Nineteen presenters** delivered **three-minute project talks**, followed by a **poster session** that gave attendees the opportunity to discuss projects in greater depth.

Topics ranged from **extreme heat and weather's impact on public health** to community programs advancing education, **green spaces**, landscaping, and other health-boosting initiatives. Presenters included faculty and students from UC, alongside colleagues from Cardinal Land Conservancy, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and Northern Kentucky University.





Following lunch, several participants **visited Cardinal Land Conservancy's Bahr Farm** for a guided tour and additional networking. Bahr Farm staff members guided the group through the land's history and shared an overview of their sustainability practices, including rotational cattle grazing, which helps promote the long-term health of the land, plants, and surrounding ecosystem.





The symposium offered C4H members a wonderful opportunity to learn from one another's work and spark new ideas for collaboration. For more upcoming events, visit the **C4H website**.

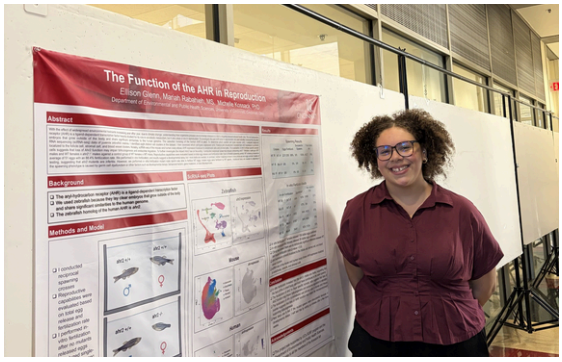
SURF-CLIMATE Fellows Complete 10-Week Summer Research Program



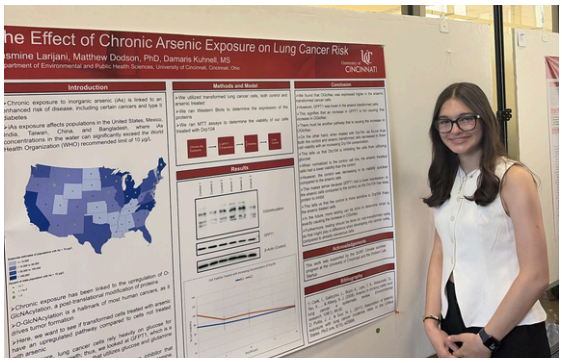
The C4H Development Core has wrapped up its 2026 SURF-CLIMATE Undergraduate Research Fellowship, **a 10-week summer program that supported three undergraduate students** through hands-on research, faculty mentorship, professional development, and program activities. Each fellow was paired with a dedicated faculty mentor to support their learning and research experience.

This year's cohort included Ellison Glenn of Cincinnati, mentored by Dr. Michelle Kossack; Jasmine Larijani of Dublin, Ohio, mentored by Dr. Matt Dodson; and Margaret Chandler of Hudson, Ohio, mentored by Dr. Josh Benoit. The program concluded with the UC SURF Capstone Fair, where all three fellows presented their summer research.

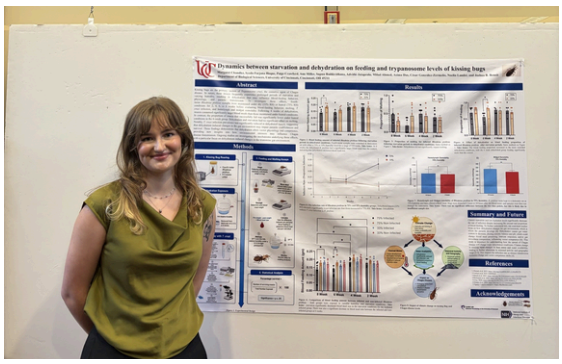
Meet the 2026 SURF-CLIMATE Fellows



Ellison Glenn (student) and Dr. Michelle Kossack (mentor)
Ellison investigated the role of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (ahr2) in zebrafish reproduction. Her analysis of juvenile zebrafish ovarian data identified ahr2 expression in follicle, stromal, and blood-vessel cell clusters, while early fertilization findings suggest that ahr2 mutants may experience developmental delays.



Jasmine Larijani (student) and Dr. Matt Dodson (mentor)
Jasmine examined how environmentally relevant levels of inorganic arsenic affect lung epithelial cells and may contribute to lung cancer development. She also compiled climate and environmental data from a Middletown, Ohio, fenceline community to support future analysis of potential links between environmental conditions and arsenic exposure.

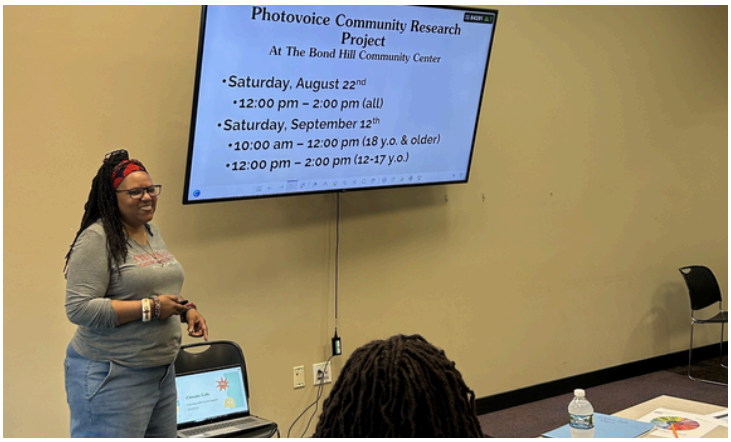


Margaret Chandler (student) and Dr. Josh Benoit (mentor)
Margaret studied how dehydration and starvation affect the kissing bug, Rhodnius prolixus, and its infection with Trypanosoma cruzi, the parasite that causes Chagas disease. Her findings suggest that dehydration can increase blood-meal size while reducing infection, indicating that environmental stress may affect disease transmission.

Learn more about the **SURF-CLIMATE Undergraduate Research Fellowship**

CEC Hosts First Climate Café: Sparking Conversation on Climate, Community, and Mental Health

In early August, the CEC hosted its first-ever Climate Café in collaboration with Dr. Nzingha Dalila, one of our C4H Grassroots Award recipients. The event brought community members and researchers together for conversation about local climate exposures and their impacts on mental health.





Dr. Dalila facilitated interactive games and hands-on activities that encouraged meaningful discussion and connection among participants. A highlight of the event was ATi, a sustainability-focused board game designed by University of Cincinnati graduate student Amanda Kporwofa. The game offered an engaging way for participants to explore sustainability concepts while contributing to the day's conversation.

CEC and Green Umbrella Team Up with the Cincinnati Museum Center to Raise Awareness About Extreme Heat

In July, the CEC partnered with Green Umbrella and the Cincinnati Museum Center to bring extreme heat education to CMC's Advancing Health Gallery. Together, they shared resources on heat-related illnesses, the urban heat island effect, extreme heat safety, and local resources available to the community.

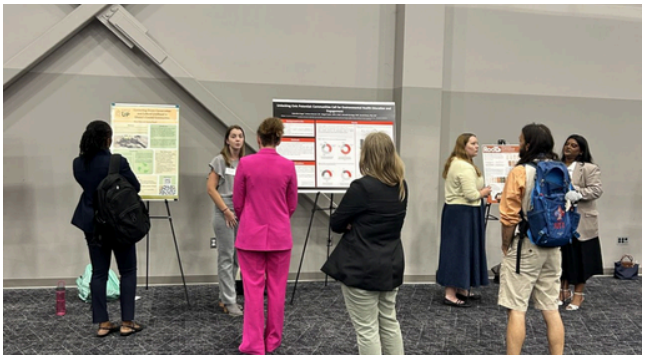


Alongside paper handouts, the CEC and Green Umbrella created an educational slideshow that played in the background throughout the gallery, giving museum guests an engaging way to absorb the information as they explored the space.

C4H Participates in Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit

In June, C4H staff and students attended Green Umbrella's 13th Annual Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit. The event provided a valuable opportunity to learn, network, and build connections with regional leaders and organizations working toward a more sustainable future.



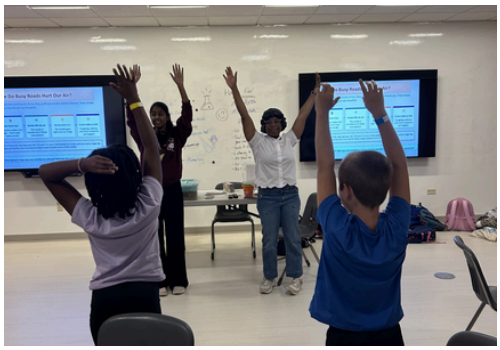


The C4H team left inspired to continue advancing a healthy environment, climate, and community for all. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage with others whose work is creating meaningful change across the region.

A special thank-you to Gabrielle Kroger, Andrea Ronzani, Abigail Cuyler, Dr. Michelle Burbage, and Dr. Kermit Davis for their contributions to the CEC poster presenting community needs assessment data.

C4H Environmental STEM Camps Inspire Young Learners

The CEC Core of C4H completed another successful summer of Environmental STEM camps in partnership with the Cincinnati Museum Center and the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center. This year's camps introduced young learners to key environmental health topics, including UV and sun exposure to climate and extreme weather, water pollution, home health, and biodegradable waste.







Throughout the spring semester, Dr. Michelle Burbage and Abby Cuyler trained and guided University of Cincinnati undergraduate and graduate students, with additional support from UC graduate students studying STEM education. Together, the team delivered interactive, hands-on lessons designed to make environmental science engaging and relevant. Activities brought the science to life, including demonstrations of the pollination process, building water filters, and testing sunscreen at different SPF levels.

Call for Submissions: Climate Knowledge Gaps in Frontiers in Public Health

Dr. Michelle L. Burbage is serving as a **Topic Editor for a new Frontiers in Public Health Research Topic**: "Climate Knowledge Gaps: Toward Enhanced Public Perception and Resilience."

The collection seeks interdisciplinary research on strengthening climate-health knowledge, communication, education, public perception, community engagement, and resilience. Relevant topics include climate-health literacy, risk communication and misinformation, public perceptions and behavior, community resilience, policy and health promotion, behavioral and implementation science, and other interdisciplinary approaches to climate and public health.

Faculty and researchers with current or upcoming work in these areas are encouraged to consider submitting and to share the opportunity with interested colleagues and collaborators. **Learn more** about the **Research Topic and submission process**.

New Research: How Pakistani Media Framed Climate and Health During the 2022 Floods

We are excited to share a new research publication co-authored by CEC Core member Dr. Shaunak Sastry alongside Rabia Qusien and Sayyed F A Shah: "**Media framing of climate and health in Pakistan: analysis of floods 2022 news coverage**."

The study examines how three major English-language newspapers in Pakistan covered the health impacts of the country's devastating 2022 floods. As Pakistan faces increasing climate-related threats, including extreme heat and flooding, the research highlights the important role of media communication in helping people understand climate-related public-health risks. **Read the full study here**.

Participate in the C4H Greening for Health Study

C4H is conducting the Greening for Health: Local Government Perspectives on Greenspace and Community Wellbeing in Greater Cincinnati study (UC IRB Study #2025-1050). The project explores **how local government officials understand greenspace** and how public health is considered in local planning, governance, and investment decisions.

The study aims to strengthen evidence for greening as both a sustainability strategy and a public-health investment. As an NIH-funded center, C4H seeks to connect scientific evidence with local practice in greenspace planning, management, and health promotion. **Local government officials in the Greater Cincinnati region are invited to participate**. If you are interested, or **can connect the study team with a local government official,** please contact **bahun@mail.uc.edu**.

Recap of of Recent Weathering Change Webinar Series

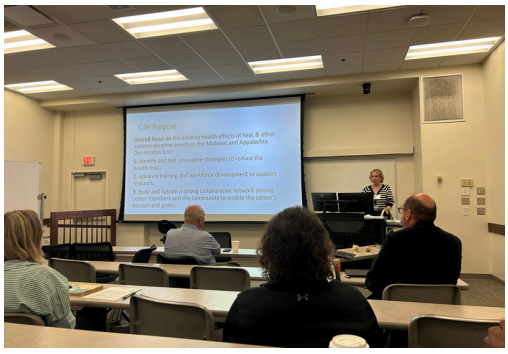
C4H's Weathering Change seminar series continued this summer with a range of expert speakers addressing climate and health topics:

- On July 21, 2026, **Dr. Manish Arora from Mount Sinai** presented on "Novel technologies to study human health impacts from a changing environment." A recording of the seminar is available on the **Weathering Change YouTube Playlist**

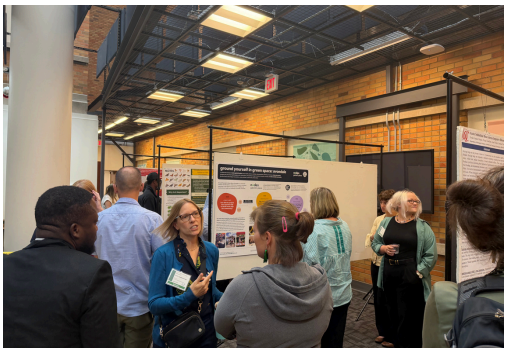
- On July 28, 2026, **Dr. Kathleen Grogan from the University of Cincinnati** presented on "Acclimatization to environmental change via epigenomic and genomic mechanisms in humans and non-human primates." Watch the recorded presentation on YouTube. A recording of the seminar is available on the **Weathering Change YouTube Playlist.**

Photos from C4H Annual Weathering Change Symposium










UPCOMING EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Weathering Change Webinars

On On September 8, 2026, **Dr. Stacy Stanifer from the University of Kentucky** will be presenting on "When Extreme Weather Disrupts Cancer Care: The Time to Build Resilient Cancer Programs is Now." **Register here**.

Coming Soon: Forest Calls 2.0

We are excited to share information about Forest Calls 2.0, an upcoming series of free public events focused on forests, climate, and community connection. The series will provide opportunities for community members, researchers, and partners to engage with timely conversations and activities related to the role of forests in supporting environmental and community health.

Event details and registration links will be available soon. All events are free and open to the public. **Learn more about the initiative at Forest Calls 2.0**.

Environmental Risk and Cancer Research Conference, November 12-13, 2026, Puerto Rico Convention Center

This conference will bring together researchers, health professionals, students, and leaders from Puerto Rico and the U.S. to foster knowledge exchange and meaningful research collaborations. Learn more by contacting crtec@cccupr.org

Explore NIH Funding Opportunities

Explore the latest **NIH funding opportunities** at the intersection of health and extreme weather.

New open call for environmental research: €210 million available under Horizon Europe

The categories include Biodiversity and ecosystem services (€76 million), Circular economy and bioeconomy (€101 million), and Clean environment and zero pollution (€33 million). **Apply by September 17, 2026!**

Founding Meeting: Special Interest Group on Climate and Public Safety: September 6, 9:00 - 12:00 BST | West Yorkshire, UK

Join The Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association and other participants to help shape the vision, priorities, and future activities of an international network focused on advancing research, policy, and practice at the intersection of climate and public safety. **Register Here!**

SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHTS WITH US

The Center for Collaboration on Climate and Community for Health (C4H) wants to highlight your impact!

We know you are all doing incredible work in your different cores and the C4H newsletter provides a great opportunity for you to share that with our network. If you have a story, research projects, an upcoming event to highlight, or climate news and resources (conferences, fellowships, awards, volunteering, etc.), please let us know at cincinnati4health@gmail.com.

Our LinkedIn page is live. Ensure you follow us!

Stay up to date with C4H Weathering Change Newsletter!

See you next month!