Alumni Testimonials

Traci Brown, PhD

The CEHS Toxicology program prepared me well for a career as a scientist. The program provided me with an excellent education in the field of toxicology as well as providing instruction on writing, teaching, and presentation skills. I was supported in exploring my research interests and grew as a scientist.

The graduate students in the program formed a community and became great friends. I was encouraged to be an active member of the Society of Toxicology where I was able to network with peers and mentors nationally, in addition to serving as Chair for the Graduate Student Leadership Committee. As I was working on my dissertation I was offered Postdoctoral Fellowships in labs at leading research institutions in the country including my first choice that I accepted at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Forrest Jessop, PhD

Being a part of the CEHS community has been a foundational experience in my life, both professionally and personally. I joined the CEHS as an undergraduate student, and made many lifelong friends and mentors. I had every confidence that my experience as a graduate student in the Toxicology Program would be productive and open doors to future careers. Each member of the CEHS is exceptional, bringing both valuable expertise and support to the graduate curriculum.

My rich experience has resulted in multiple impactful publications, leadership skills, and a pre-doctoral fellowship that has conveyed me into an intramural postdoctoral fellowship at Rocky Mountain Laboratories, NIAID. I will be a lifelong advocate and supporter of my friends at the CEHS.
The Center for Environmental Health Sciences (CEHS) offers a highly successful Toxicology Graduate program, training students to become independent investigators.

**Program Overview**
- PhD training emphasizes individual career preparation and conducting cutting-edge research
- Boasting a 100% post-graduate employment rate, our PhD graduates have been placed in advanced training in national and international laboratories, academia, and organizations, including Harvard, National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins, Temple University, Roche Pharmaceuticals, University of Minnesota, Rocky Mountain Laboratories and Abcam.
- Students with a background in the biological, biomedical, or chemical sciences are encouraged to apply by January 15, annually.

**Research Focus**
- To determine the mechanisms by which environmental and occupational exposures contribute to the development of human diseases
- To translate that knowledge into development of biomarkers, therapeutic interventions and improved public health information

**CEHS Areas of Research Emphasis**
- Central Nervous System Diseases
- Immunology
- Respiratory Toxicology
- Gene Environment Interactions
- Nanotoxicology

The University of Montana is located in Missoula, a community with a high quality of life featuring abundant recreational opportunities and is located near Glacier National Park.

Teaching and research assistantships are available to highly qualified applicants. Tuition fee waivers are granted to most students. Current stipends are $14,400 for MS students and $23,000 for PhD students.

CEHS supports three Research Cores:
- The Fluorescence Cytometry Core
- The Molecular Histology and Fluorescence Imaging Core
- The Inhalation and Pulmonary Physiology Core

Each of the cores are led by experienced faculty and full time staff scientists helping investigators plan, execute and interpret experimental studies.

The cores are highly integrated providing collaborative workflows to accomplish complicated research.

The state-of-the-art core facilities and rich research environment make CEHS a unique center in Montana with the closest related centers located in Seattle, Portland and Denver.

**Core Resources**
- The Fluorescence Cytometry Core offers access to flow cytometers providing fluorescence analysis of tissue, systems for cell sorting, and digital microscopy for in-depth examination and photography of tissues and cells.
- The Molecular Histology and Fluorescence Imaging Core provides traditional and specialized histology services, including tissue processing (sectioning and staining), as well as access to confocal and transmitted light microscopes with analysis software.
- The Inhalation and Pulmonary Physiology Core resources include: inhalation exposure and pulmonary function assessment equipment, a full surgical suite, animal husbandry, and an exposure chamber for studying the health effects of inhaled wood smoke.

CEHS is supported by COBRE Phase III Award from the National Institutes of Health, grant number 5P20GM103338.