

## NCAEHA Leadership

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## Message from the President



Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready to move into another fall season! As I'm writing this, Hurricane Joaquin is making some noise locally as we wonder whether our area will be affected by the heavy rainfall, flooding and winds. I'm wishing you all an uneventful next few days and hope that Joaquin plans to steer away from us here in the DMV and quietly dissipate out to sea.

Along with the arrival of fall weather comes our annual Fall Educational Conference. We hope you will join us on October 29 at the Food and Drug Administration Building in College Park, MD for some interesting presentations and time to network with fellow local environmental health professionals!

I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on some association activities. NCAEHA is sponsoring and proctoring a NEHA REHS/CP-FS testing opportunity on November 2, 2015 at the Fairfax County Health Department in Fairfax, VA. Several NCAEHA members have expressed interest and submitted applications to sit for the exams and hopefully achieve these prestigious certifications. We wish all of the examinees good luck and prosperous outcomes! If you are interested in sitting for the REHS or CP-FS exam in the future, please contact our Vice President of Programs and Professional Advancement, Kristen Pybus, at [kpybus@ncaeha.com](mailto:kpybus@ncaeha.com) so that we may coordinate additional testing opportunities in the future. Ms. Pybus is also interested in ideas for new credentialing or continuing educational opportunities!

In addition to planning the Fall Educational Conference, the Board has begun the process of planning for our 2015 elections. Open for election are the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Virginia Representative, Maryland Representative and DC Representative. We encourage all members

interested in serving in one of these capacities, or merely interested in expanding your role with NCAEHA, to express your interest or share your questions with our current Vice President of Membership, Denise Lucas, at [dilucas@ncaeha.com](mailto:dilucas@ncaeha.com). Further information on the duties of the positions open for election may be found on our website by accessing our bylaws (pages 3-5) through the homepage, [www.ncaeha.com](http://www.ncaeha.com). You will receive an email announcement for these opportunities in the next few weeks.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight this year's Annual Awards Dinner, hosted at JR's Stockyards Inn in McLean, VA on August 21. NCAEHA Members gathered to enjoy an evening of great food, NCAEHA and NEHA updates, and to recognize their peers who were honored with the Jerrold M Michael Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award, NEHA Certificates of Merit, and the James M Wordsworth Scholarship. Please join us in congratulating our award and scholarship recipients, Ms. Julia Balsley of the Arlington County Health Department; Ms. Michele Howard of the Alexandria Health Department; Ms. Nicole Biala, Ms. Shannon McKeon, Ms. Diana Rodriguez, Ms. Jeanelle Rogers and Mr. Ronald Campbell of the Fairfax County Health Department; and Ms. Mamta Chaudhari of the George Washington University. A short summary of some of their accomplishments may be found on the last page of the NCAEHA Annual Report, also sent to you along with this newsletter.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on October 29 for another informative conference. As always, please let myself or any member of the Board know of any thoughts or suggestions you may have on how we may better serve you.

Best Regards,

*Shannon McKeon*

NCAEHA President

NCAEHA

provides

**opportunities**

for Environmental  
Health Specialists

and other

Environmental

Health

Practitioners to

advance their

professional

growth through

**educational**

**programs.**

The Association

encourages

cooperation

between

**private**

and

**public sectors**

in activities

directed toward

the improvement

of **public**

**health** and the

**environment.**



# USDA Researchers Develop Camera System to Detect Active Shiga Toxin

by NewsDesk  
FoodSafetyNews.com

Scientists at USDA's Agricultural Research Service Western Regional Research Center in Albany, CA, have come up with a less-expensive way to detect biologically active Shiga toxin, a product of pathogenic *Escherichia coli* serotype O157:H7.

It is estimated that *E. coli* O157:H7 causes 73,000 cases of food poisoning and more than 60 deaths in the United States each year.

The new system involves the use of a camera and a light-emitting source to biologically determine active toxin.

Affordable, sensitive devices like this are needed to reduce the sources and incidence of foodborne illness, says Reuven Rasooly, who works in the center's Foodborne Toxin

Detection and Prevention Research Unit. Current immunological tests, such as the ELISA, cannot distinguish between the active and inactive form of Shiga toxin.

"For example, in food processing, a heat-treatment method inactivates the toxin, but the ELISA cannot tell whether the toxin is active or inactive in the processed food," Rasooly says. "Determining the activity of the toxin is very important, because the active form poses a threat to humans. The inactive form is nontoxic."

Rasooly says that while the cost of technology used to detect Shiga toxin and other pathogens is

not a concern for wealthy countries, the equipment is typically too expensive for developing ones, where the risk of foodborne illness and outbreaks is greatest. The camera system makes it easy and

It is estimated that *E. coli* O157:H7 causes 73,000 cases of food poisoning and more than 60 deaths in the United States each year.

affordable for diagnostic labs that cannot afford a fluorometer, which is typically used to detect toxins.

"We demonstrated that our system is effective in measuring Shiga toxin activity compared with equipment costing 100 times more," Rasooly says. "A fluorometer costs about \$35,000, whereas



## USDA Researchers Develop Camera System... *(continued)*

the camera in this experiment costs \$300.”

Scientists constructed a fluorescence detection system using a camera and light source to measure GFP (green fluorescent protein) in a cell-based assay. A portion of a Shiga toxin-containing food sample was incubated with cells designed to produce GFP. The toxin in the sample inhibited the synthesis of GFP — reduc-

ing GFP production in relation to the amount of toxin present. The greater the toxicity, the less fluorescent the cells were.

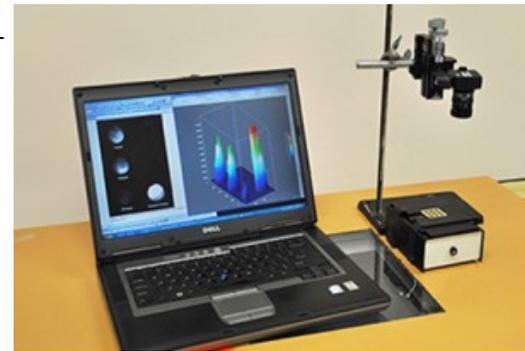
Filters used with the light source and camera blocked wavelengths (signals) that would interfere with precise measurements of fluorescence.

“We obtained these signal levels by taking a picture with a camera and analyz-

ing the image with a free, available computer software that determines average pixel intensity,” Rasooly explains.

The camera method, which can easily be adapted for detecting other foodborne toxins, was compared to a commercial

fluorometer for detecting active Shiga toxin, Rasooly adds. Both instruments had the same level of toxin detection.



“USDA Researchers Develop Camera System to Detect Active Shiga Toxin | Food Safety News.” *Food Safety News*. N.p., 30 Sept. 2015. Web. 01 Oct. 2015.

# NEHA 2016 AEC: San Antonio, Texas

June 13 to June 16, 2016





## Scholarship and Awards

### James M. Wordsworth Scholarship

The NCAEHA James M. Wordsworth Scholarship program was established to encourage early commitment by students to a career in environmental health and to stimulate professional growth in current environmental health professionals in pursuing graduate or postgraduate studies in environmental health sciences and/or public health. Applications with original documentation must be received by **May 1, 2016**. See page 8 for the application.

### Jerrold M. Michael Award

Do you know of a professional who has contributed greatly to the environmental health profession? If so, nominate the individual for the 2016 Jerrold M. Michael Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award by **May 1, 2016**. The application is available on page 7.

## Certificate of Merit Nomination

Each affiliate is invited to designate one of its members to receive a Certificate of Merit from NEHA, thereby nationally recognizing one of their own for outstanding contributions to the profession of environmental health. Nominate an environmental health professional by submitting a summary of their achievements to [smckeon@ncaeha.com](mailto:smckeon@ncaeha.com) by May 1, 2016.

Recipients are announced during the AEC awards program and in the *Journal of Environmental Health*.

# Renew your Membership

Complete the following application to renew your membership for 2016. Mail the completed application with the appropriate membership fee (payable by check or money order to NCAEHA) to:

Bruce Flippens, Treasurer  
National Capital Area Environmental Health Association  
2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW #361  
Washington, DC 20006

Or renew online using paypal at [www.ncaeha.com](http://www.ncaeha.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership & Credentials – Check all that apply

NEHA Member? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

REHS/RS \_\_\_ CFSP \_\_\_ CEHT \_\_\_ RET \_\_\_ RHSP \_\_\_ RHSS \_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

## Employer – Check one

Academia \_\_\_ Industry \_\_\_ Private Consultant \_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_ Student \_\_\_

State Government \_\_\_ Local Government \_\_\_ Federal Government \_\_\_

## Classes of Membership – Select one

### Regular (\$15)

Any person who is actively employed in the field of Environmental Health as an environmental health specialist, sanitarian, or industrial hygienist or who is interested in the field of Environmental Health.

### Honorary Lifetime (\$0)

Past NCAEHA Presidents, Jerrold M. Michael Award recipients, or any person for unusually distinguished achievement or service in the Environmental Health field as conferred by the Board of Directors. Members in this class shall not be required to pay dues.

### Supporting\* (\$150)

Any company, corporation or association with a general interest in and desire to contribute to the objectives of the Association. Members in this class shall not have voting rights.

### Student (\$5)

Any student working towards a degree in Environmental Health or a related field.

### Silver (\$5)

A retiree from active employment in the field of Environmental Health

# NEHA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*Yes! I'm joining NEHA today. My dues payment is enclosed.*

**Please send me more information on (please check all that apply):**

- NEHA The following NEHA credential applications and information:  
 NEHA E-News  REHS/RS (Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian)  
 NEHA's upcoming AEC & Exhibition  CP-FS (Certified Professional - Food Safety)  
 NEHA Publications  CEHT (Certified Environmental Health Technician)  
 NEHA Workshops  RET (Registered Environmental Technician)  
 Becoming a SUSTAINING MEMBER  RHSP (Registered Hazardous Substances Professional)  
 Becoming an EDUCATIONAL MEMBER  RHSS (Registered Hazardous Substances Specialist)  
 Food Safety Training Materials (NEHA Food Safety Training)  NEHA National Radon Proficiency Program

## 1. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization/Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Area of Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred by (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for one year's dues as an INDIVIDUAL MEMBER of the National Environmental Health Association.

[Dues: Individual, \$95 per year (U.S. & Canada) and International, \$125 per year. All memberships begin when payment is received and are renewable each year.]

## 3. METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Check enclosed

Mastercard or Visa

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. FAX OR MAIL TO:

National Environmental Health Association

720 S. Colorado Blvd., Ste. 1000-N

Denver, CO 80246-1925

Phone: 303-756-9090 Fax: 303-691-9490 E-Mail: [staff@neha.org](mailto:staff@neha.org) Internet: [www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)



## National Capital Area Environmental Health Association

**NOMINATION FORM:  
JERROLD M. MICHAEL AWARD  
(ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR)**

**NOMINATED BY:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINEE:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a brief (one page or less) explanation of the reasons you believe that the above named individual should be selected as this year's Jerrold M. Michael Award recipient. Specifically describe how this person has contributed to his or her employer's environmental health mission, to the goals of the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association, and to the advancement of the environmental health profession.

**THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE MAY CONTACT YOU FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

Nominations may be sent either by postal service or email to the NCAEHA President and must be received by May 1, 2016.

Send complete nominations to:

Shannon McKeon  
Fairfax County Health Department  
10777 Main Street, suite 111  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
[smckeon@ncaeha.com](mailto:smckeon@ncaeha.com)



# National Capital Area Environmental Health Association

## James M. Wordsworth Scholarship Application

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial): \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an active member of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)? YES/NO

Are you an active member of the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association (NCAEHA)? YES/NO

Education (list most current first)

School	Major	Dates	Degree

Year and date of expected graduation from current program: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment history (list present employer first):

Employer	Job Title	Years Employed
1.		
2.		
3.		

Write a short summary of your professional achievements, including any major contributions you have made that resulted in the increased protection of human health and the environment. (Not to exceed one type written page, attach additional page if necessary)

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List civic groups and other community activities of which you are a member. Also, note any special honors received. (Attach additional page if necessary)

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Provide one letter of recommendation from either the school in which you are currently enrolled, an active NCAEHA member, or a current or past supervisor

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Send completed application by May 1, 2016 to: Fairfax County Health Department, Attn: Shannon McKeon, 10777 Main Street, suite 111 Fairfax, VA 22030, Fax: 703.653.9448,



# NCAEHA

## NCAEHA 2015 Fall Educational Conference Agenda

Thursday, October 29, 2015

FDA Building, Wiley Building Auditorium,  
5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20740

- 8:00 – 9:00**     **General Registration and Light Breakfast Snacks**
- 9:00 – 9:10**     **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Robin Sleeman, NCAEHA Maryland Representative  
Shannon McKeon, NCAEHA President
- 9:10-9:55**     **Risk Factor Study Update**  
Kevin Smith, Director, Retail Food Protection Staff, FDA/CFSAN
- 9:55-10:40**    **Protecting U.S. Agriculture from Invasive Species**  
Dianna Bowman, Area Port Director, Port of Baltimore, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol
- 10:40-10:55**   **Break**
- 10:55-11:40**   **FDA Inspections at the Port of Baltimore**  
Theresa Smedley, Supervisor, USDA/FDA at Port of Baltimore
- 11:40-11:50**   **NEHA Update**
- 11:50-12:50**   **Lunch**
- 12:50-1:35**     **Ozonized Water Sanitizing Solutions for a Safe, Chemical Free Kitchen/Retail Foodservice Environment**  
Michael Caronna, Principal, Caronna Commercial Kitchens
- 1:35-2:20**     **Following Food Waste to the Farm (& Back Again): Sustainability and Food Safety at University of Maryland Dining Services**  
Allison Lilly, Sustainability and Wellness Coordinator, UMD Dining Services
- 2:20-2:35**     **Break**
- 2:35-3:20**     **The Chesapeake Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plans: Development, Evaluation, and Implementation**  
Lucinda Power, Environmental Protection Specialist, U.S. EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program Office
- 3:20-3:55**     **Introduction to the Prince George’s County Food Equity Council**  
Sydney Daigle, Program Coordinator, Prince George’s County Food Equity Council
- 3:55-4:00**     **Closing remarks**

*Conference Fee: NCAEHA members - \$15.00 and non-members \$30.00  
(Payment accepted onsite – Cash, Check, Credit Card, PayPal)*

*(5 contact hours available for full day attendance.)*



## Upcoming Events

- **October 29, 2015**  
NCAEHA Fall Educational Conference  
College Park, MD
- **November 2, 2015**  
REHS/RS, CP-FS Exams  
Fairfax, Virginia

**Mark your  
calendars!**

The Preventive Measure

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**ncaeha**

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Washington, DC 20006