

The NIEHS Green Researcher Program

The NIEHS Green Researcher Program was developed by NIEHS to recognize institute staff that demonstrate a strong commitment to conducting their research sustainably. This program seeks to recognize and reward individual efforts towards reducing waste, increasing recycling, sharing resources, improving cold storage management, conserving water, conserving energy, improving sustainable procurement and many other green practices. To participate in the Green Researcher Program, researchers are asked to fill out a self-assessment form regarding their individual sustainable lab practices.

The first year of the NIEHS Green Researcher Program ran from January 13 to March 19 of 2021. Three Silver-level and seven Bronze-level Green Researchers were recognized during the inaugural program year. These researchers were:

Silver-Level

- **Kevin Gerrish, Ph.D.**, Molecular Genomics Core Facility Group
- **Amy Papaneri, M.S.**, In Vivo Neurobiology Group
- **Tanya Whiteside**, Quality Assurance Laboratory

Bronze-Level

- **Lisa Banks**, Reproductive Medicine Group
- **Gary Bird, Ph.D.**, Calcium Signaling in Health and Disease Group
- **Terry Blankenship-Paris, D.V.M., M.S.**, Veterinary Medicine Group
- **Susan Elmore, M.S., D.V.M., D.A.B.T., D.A.C.V.P., F.I.A.T.P.**, Mouse Embryo Phenotyping Group
- **David Kurtz, D.V.M., Ph.D.**, Quality Assurance Laboratory
- **Saniya Rattan, Ph.D.**, Reproductive Developmental Biology Group
- **Donna Stefanick, M.S.**, DNA Repair & Nucleic Acid Enzymology Group

A few examples of the sustainable practices used by these individuals include disposing of unneeded cold storage units, sharing freezer space with other lab groups, maintaining a freezer sample inventory and routinely purging unneeded samples, washing instruments in bulk at the end of the day to conserve water, discontinuing the use of dedicated lab printers in favor of using shared networked printers, and requesting suppliers to use fewer packing materials in their shipments. Additional recognition was received by Dr. Terry Blankenship-Paris and Dr. Susan Elmore, whose labs also received certification through the 2020 NIH Green Labs Program. The Green Labs Program is open to all NIH labs and focuses on recognizing the green practices of labs, rather than individual researchers.

The NIEHS Green Researcher Program will continue in 2022, with a program scheduled to run from January through March. Anyone with access to the NIEHS Junction can learn more about the NIEHS Green Researcher Program [by clicking here](#). Questions about the Green Researcher Program should be directed to [Kerri Hartung](#).