

U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development Contacts for ECOS/ERIS Members

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Office of Research and Development (ORD) Immediate Office of the Assistant Administrator

ORD is the scientific research arm of EPA, whose leading-edge research helps provide the solid underpinning of science and technology for the Agency.

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ORD Labs, Centers and Offices

The research is conducted by ORD's three national laboratories and four national centers, located in 12 facilities across the country and in Washington, D.C. The labs and centers develop knowledge, assessments and scientific tools that form the underpinnings of the vast majority of EPA's protective standards and guidance. ORD's Technical Support Centers (TSCs) offer scientific and engineering expertise to contaminated site decision makers; EPA's regional offices network with the states and tribes within their area to request assistance from the TSCs.

National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL)

NERL develops and applies innovations in environmental exposure science to support EPA's mission. NERL research products are used to identify and characterize contaminants in built and natural environments and how humans and ecosystems come into contact with these contaminants. Exposure science sets the context for understanding and solving real-world problems, and is used to help answer fundamental questions about risk, its reduction/mitigation/prevention, and risk reduction evaluation. Research capabilities include analytical/monitoring methods development; indicators/indices of exposure; exposure/dose process characterization; decision support tools (like EnviroAtlas); landscape characterization; predictive modeling; land use risk to humans and ecosystems; and source apportionment/environmental forensics to identify important sources and pathways for exposure.

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National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL)

NHEERL conducts systems-based, effects research needed to improve environmental and public health outcomes. Research focuses on the development of predictive models that link environmental condition to the health and well-being of people and society as well as to advance research and tools for achieving sustainable and resilient watersheds and water resources. In addition, integrated research is conducted to identify and characterize modifiable factors that respond to environmental conditions, and through intervention, improve health and well-being. Research capabilities include epidemiological, clinical, animal, cellular, and molecular toxicology research to assess the impact of environmental effects on human health, and coastal, estuarine and freshwater systems at four geographically based coastal divisions.

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National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL)

NRMRL works to provide scientific and engineering solutions that enable EPA, states, communities and other stakeholders to minimize the potential impacts of current and future environmental stressors on human health and the environment. NRMRL focuses on risk management research through environmental problem-solving to support efforts that improve air quality, manage chemical risks, clean up hazardous waste sites, and protect America's water. Research capabilities and expertise include drinking water and wastewater treatment and management, water quality and watershed management, air emission estimation and characterization, ground water and contaminated site remediation, and ecosystem restoration.

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- Engineering TSC
Provides site-specific assistance on engineering and treatment issues of site cleanup; helps incorporate technology-based data needs and site-specific remedy options for site cleanup.

John McKernan

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- Ground Water TSC
Provides site-specific assistance on groundwater and subsurface contamination problems at waste sites; publishes issue papers on subsurface remediation and groundwater topics.

David Burden

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National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT)

NCCT works to reform current chemical safety evaluation methods and integrate advances in biology, biotechnology, chemistry and computer science to identify biological processes disrupted by chemicals using computational toxicology research. NCCT's research is part of EPA's broader Chemical Safety for Sustainability Research Program.

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National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA)

NCEA champions high quality, scientifically defensible risk assessment through the development of health and ecological assessments that determine how pollutants or other stressors may impact human health and the environment. NCEA is the international leader in scientific assessment providing decision makers with fit-for-purpose, decision-relevant assessments that serve as a major component of the scientific foundation supporting EPA's regulations, advisories, policies, enforcement and remedial actions, and other risk assessment and risk management decisions.

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- Ecological Risk Assessment TSC
Provides technical information and addresses scientific questions regarding ecological risk assessment at hazardous waste sites.

Michael Kravitz

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- Superfund Health Risk TSC
Provides technical support on exposure and toxicity risk issues; reviews exposure and toxicity factors and develops new and updated provisional peer-reviewed toxicity values.

Beth Owens

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National Center for Environmental Research (NCER)

NCER supports extramural funding for research in exposure, effects, risk assessment and risk management by managing funding competitions through EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR), People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3), National Priorities, and Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) programs.

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National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC)

NHSRC works to ensure that federal, state, tribal and local decision makers have timely access to the information and tools they need for community resilience to catastrophes involving environmental contamination that threaten public health and welfare. NHSRC provides research to ensure national security with training and technical assistance to community organizations responsible for response and recovery.

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Office of Science Policy (OSP)

In direct support of the National Research Programs, OSP is the lead organization for integrating, coordinating and communicating scientific and technical information and advice across ORD, and between ORD and EPA's programs and regions. Programs and projects managed by OSP include: Board of Scientific Counselors, Regional Science Program, Tribal Science Program, and research supporting environmental justice.

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- Site Characterization and Monitoring TSC
Provides site characterization assistance by supporting the use of cutting-edge methods and technologies for identifying contaminants, determining levels and concentrations, and identifying geographic extent.

Felicia Barnett

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ORD National Research Programs

ORD supports six research programs that identify the most pressing environmental health research needs with input from EPA offices, partners and stakeholders. Strategic Research Action Plans outline the research underway in the programs.

Air and Energy

The overall vision of EPA's Air and Energy (A-E) Research Program is to advance the science needed to achieve clean air and attain the national ambient air quality standards, protecting human health and ecosystems throughout the United States.

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Chemical Safety for Sustainability

The goal of EPA's Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program is to provide information and methods to make better-informed, more timely decisions about the safety of chemicals, many of which have not been thoroughly evaluated for potential risks to human health and the environment. The CSS team meets this goal by generating new data for understanding chemicals and their impacts, developing tools for efficiently evaluating chemical safety, and translating CSS science to EPA partners and stakeholders to support decision making.

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Human Health Risk Assessment

EPA's Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) Research Program identifies, evaluates, synthesizes and integrates scientific information on individual chemicals and chemical mixtures. The state-of-the-science, independently peer-reviewed human health assessments prepared under the HHRA research program serve as the foundation for EPA's regulations.

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Homeland Security

EPA's Homeland Security Research Program (HSRP) conducts applied research, provides technical support and builds systems-based solutions to plan, implement and deliver products that support response to "all hazards," including chemical, biological and radiological contamination intentionally released or caused by natural disasters or accidents. The HSRP research areas focus on providing decision makers with the means to respond to wide-area contamination incidents and improve the ability of water utilities to prepare for, and respond to, water contamination incidents.

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Safe and Sustainable Water

EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water (SSWR) Research Program uses an integrated, systems approach to support innovative scientific and technological solutions that ensure clean, adequate and equitable water supplies to protect human health and to protect and restore watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

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Sustainable and Healthy Communities

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program conducts research to expedite the cleanup of contaminated sites and to reduce the burden of materials being land-filled. SHC provides useful science and tools for decision makers at the federal, regional, state and community levels to help communities become resilient as they achieve regulatory compliance.

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ORD Regional Science Liaisons and Superfund and Technology Liaisons

The Regional Science Liaisons (RSLs) are the primary link between ORD research programs and EPA's regional offices. The RSLs are regional scientists supported by ORD, with one RSL located in each of the 10 regional offices. The RSLs facilitate the communication and transfer of ORD products to regional offices, state partners, local agencies and tribal programs through venues such as regional demonstration projects, training courses and seminars. The Superfund and Technology Liaisons (STLs) are ORD senior scientists and engineers located in EPA's regional offices supporting the hazardous waste programs. Regional STLs can help connect states with ORD's Technical Support Centers.

Regional Science Liaisons (RSLs)

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