



**The Role of Companion Animals as Sentinels for Predicting
Environmental Exposure Effects on Aging and Cancer Susceptibility in Humans**

December 1-3, 2021

*The National
Academies of* | **SCIENCES
ENGINEERING
MEDICINE**

The domestic dog as a sentinel species for environmental influence associated with cancer – ongoing studies.



Matthew Breen PhD C.Biol. FRSB

Oscar J. Fletcher Distinguished Professor of Comparative Oncology Genetics

Dept. of Molecular Biomedical Sciences, College of Vet. Medicine, NCSU

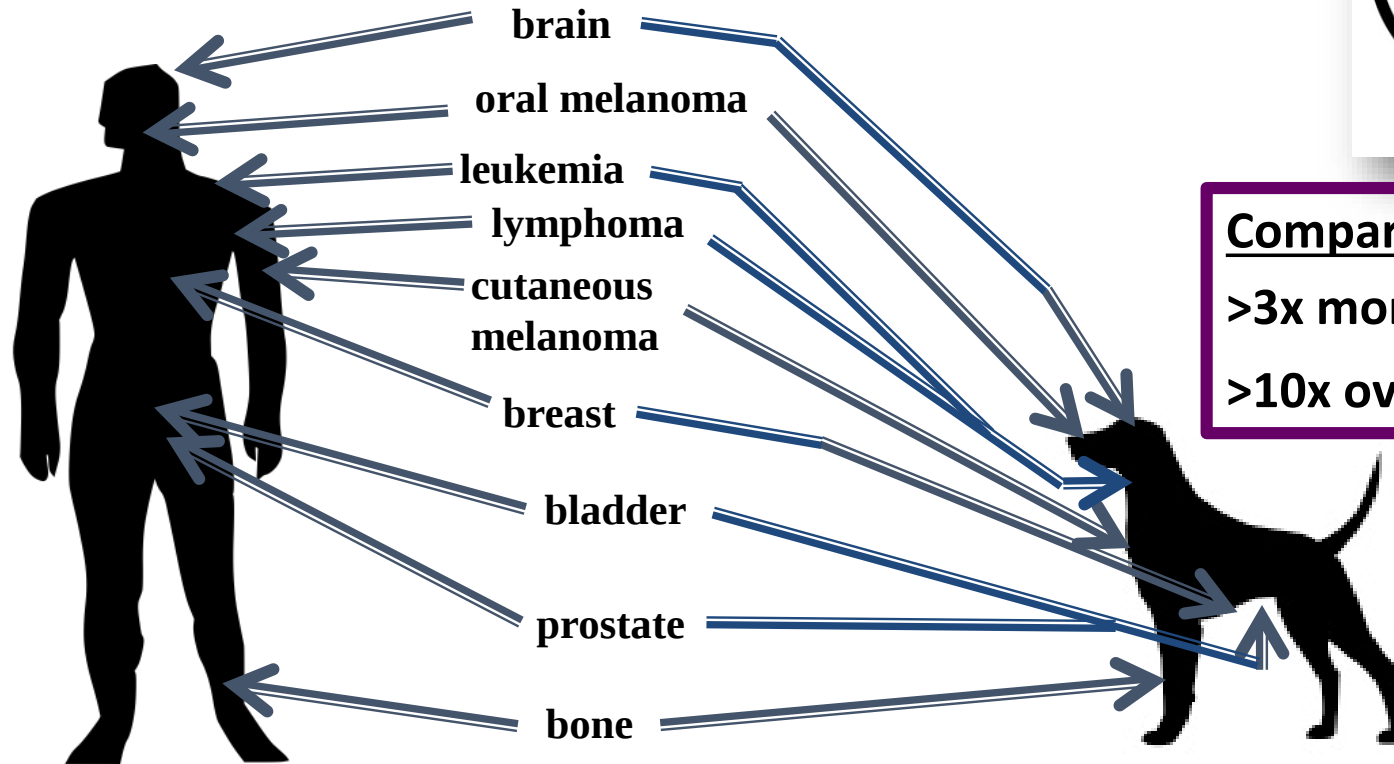
Comparative Medicine Institute, NCSU

Center for Human Health and the Environment, NCSU

Duke Cancer Institute

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Centre

One Medicine



Compared to people, dogs have
>3x more cancer cases diagnosed/year
>10x overall cancer incidence

~1.8 million diagnoses each year
(~442 cases/100,000 population)*

~6 million diagnoses each year
(~6,600 dogs/100,000 population)

One Pathogenesis

* www.cancer.gov



60M vet visits each year
6M cancer diagnoses
CLINICAL DATA
GEOSPATIAL DATA

fixed
normal
tissue

snap frozen
normal tissue

serum

whole
blood

plasma

urine sample

FFPE specimen

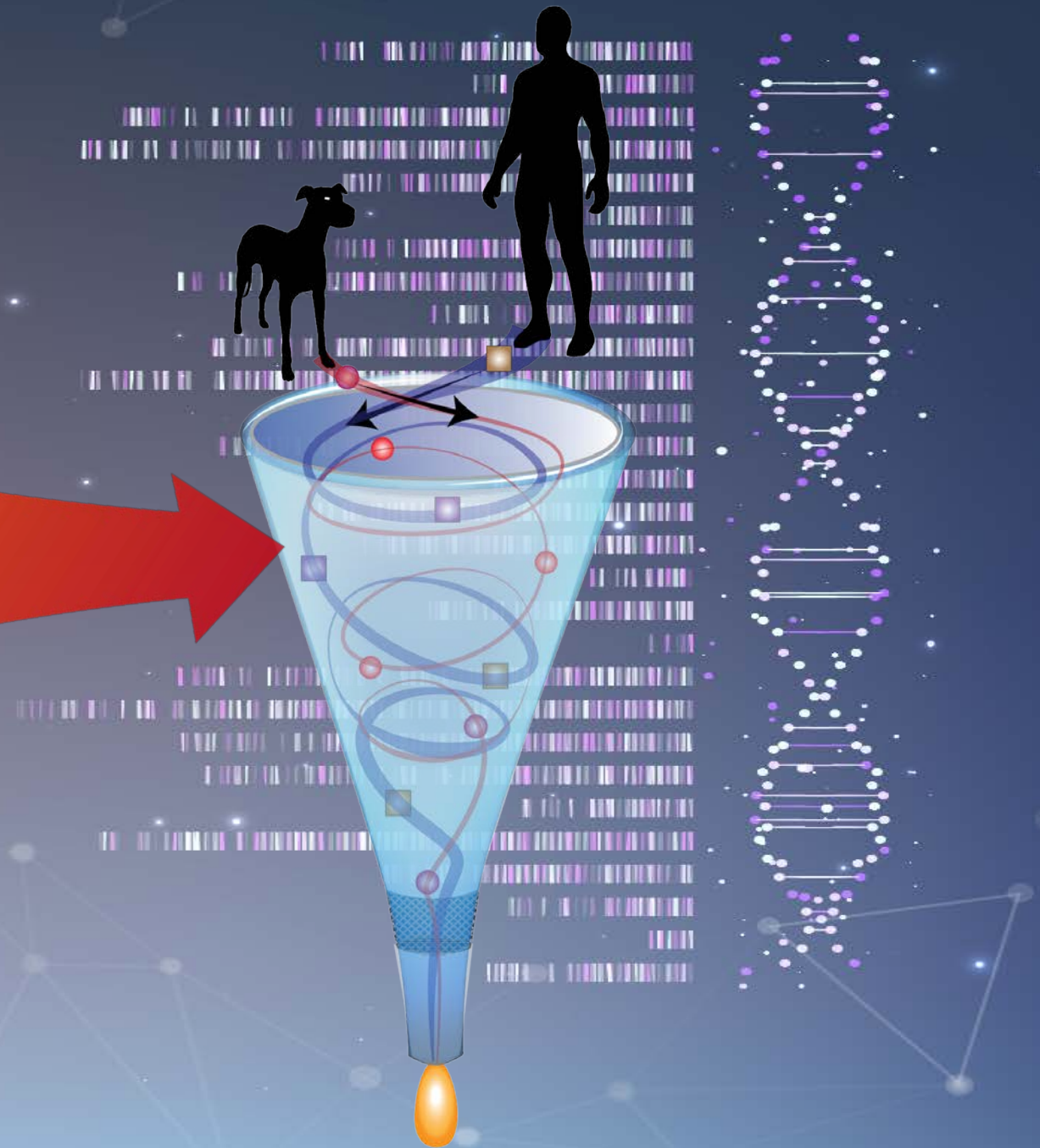
fixed
tumor
tissue

snap frozen
tumor tissue



Comprehensive genomic analysis of cancer specimens

Comparison of canine and human data to identify shared features





LABORATORY INVESTIGATION - HUMAN/ANIMAL TISSUE

'Putting our heads together': insights into genomic conservation between human and canine intracranial tumors

Rachael Thomas · Shannon E. Duke · Huixia J. Wang · Tessa E. Breen · Robert J. Higgins · Keith E. Linder · Peter Ellis · Cordelia F. Langford · Peter J. Dickinson · Natasha J. Olby · Matthew Breen

Genome-wide assessment of recurrent genomic imbalances in canine leukemia identifies evolutionarily conserved regions for subtype differentiation

Sarah C. Roode · Daniel Rotroff · Anne C. Avery · Steven E. Suter · Dorothee Bienze · Joshua D. Schiffman · Alison Motsinger-Reif · Matthew Breen

Received: 19 March 2015 / Revised: 2 May 2015 / Accepted: 5 May 2015

Canine urothelial carcinoma: genomically aberrant and comparatively relevant

S. G. Shapiro · S. Raghunath · C. Williams · A. A. Motsinger-Reif · J. M. Cullen · T. Liu · D. Albertson · M. Ruvolo · A. Bergstrom Lucas · J. Jin · D. W. Knapp · J. D. Schiffman · M. Breen

Received: 10 January 2015 / Revised: 7 February 2015 / Accepted: 10 February 2015

THE ROYAL SOCIETY PUBLISHING

Comparative oncology: what dogs and other species can teach us about humans with cancer

Joshua D. Schiffman¹ and Matthew Breen²

Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B **370**: 20140231



Evolutionarily conserved cytogenetic changes in hematological malignancies of dogs and humans – man and his best friend share more than companionship

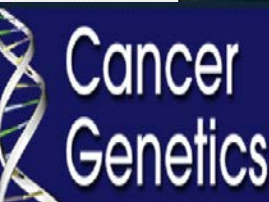
Matthew Breen^{1,2*} & Jaime F. Modiano^{3,4}

Chromosome Research (2008) 16:145–154

Comparative cytogenetic characterization of primary canine melanocytic lesions using array CGH and fluorescence in situ hybridization

Kelsey Poorman · Luke Borst · Scott Moroff · Siddharth Roy · Philippe Labelle · Alison Motsinger-Reif · Matthew Breen

Received: 26 August 2014 / Revised: 7 October 2014 / Accepted: 14 October 2014



Comparative

approach

Detection of BRAF Mutation in Urine DNA as a Molecular Diagnostic for Canine Urothelial and Prostatic Carcinoma

Hiroyuki Mochizuki, Susan G. Shapiro, Matthew Breen

Published: December 9, 2015 • DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0144170

A genome-wide approach to comparative oncology: high-resolution oligonucleotide aCGH of canine and human osteosarcoma pinpoints shared microaberrations

Andrea Y. Angstadt^a, Venugopal Thayanithy^b, Subbaya Subramanian^{b,c}, Jaime F. Modiano^{c,d}, Matthew Breen^{a,e,f,*}

PLOS COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

Transcriptomic profiling in canines and humans reveals cancer specific gene modules and biological mechanisms common to both species

Gregory J. Tawa¹, John Braisted, David Gerhold, Gurmit Grewal, Christina Mazcko, Matthew Breen, Gurusingham Sittampalam, Amy K. LeBlanc

BMC Cancer

Molecular cytogenetic characterization of canine histiocytic sarcoma: A spontaneous model for human histiocytic cancer identifies deletion of tumor suppressor genes and highlights influence of genetic background on tumor behavior

Benoit Hédan¹, Rachael Thomas^{2,3}, Alison Motsinger-Reif^{3,4}, Jerome Abadie⁵, Catherine André⁶, John Cullen⁷ and Matthew Breen^{1,2*}

BMC Cancer 2011, 11:201

BRAF Mutations in Canine Cancers

Hiroyuki Mochizuki¹, Katherine Kennedy¹, Susan G. Shapiro¹, Matthew Breen^{1,2,3,4,*}

PLOS ONE | DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0129534 June 8, 2015



Genes Chromosomes Cancer, 2011 Nov;50(11):859–74. doi: 10.1002/gcc.20908. Epub 2011 Aug 11.

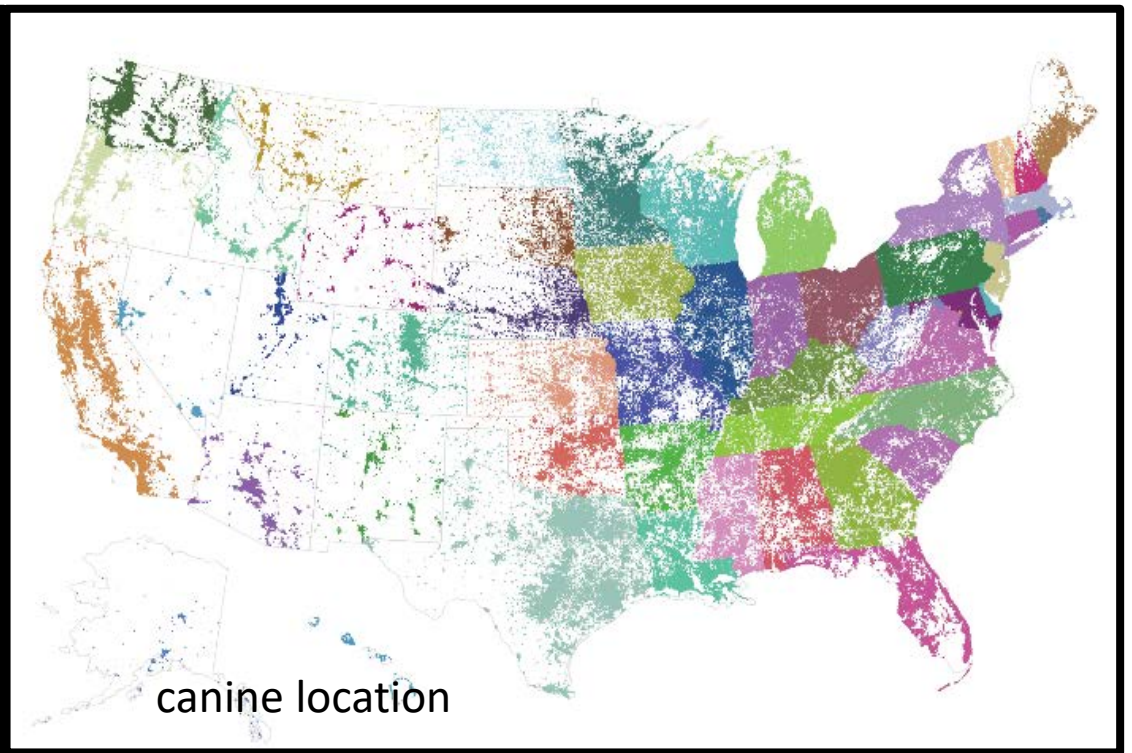
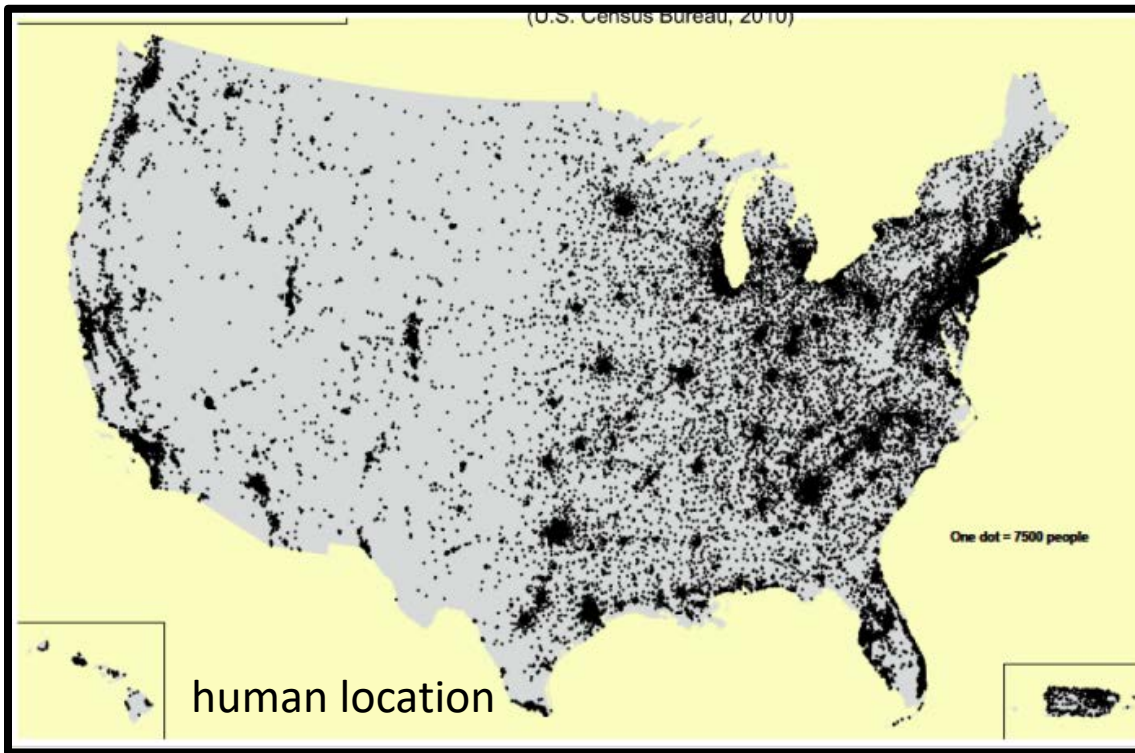
Characterization of canine osteosarcoma by array comparative genomic hybridization and RT-qPCR: signatures of genomic imbalance in canine osteosarcoma parallel the human counterpart.

Angstadt AY¹, Motsinger-Reif A, Thomas R, Kisseberth WC, Guillermo Couto C, Duval DL, Nielsen DM, Modiano JF, Breen M.



Environmental influences on cancer





77-78 years

Our dogs live where we live



10-12 years*

Info accessible:

Age

Sex

Pedigree (purebred)

Diet, Health records

Exposures

* breed/size dependent. <20lbs ~ 11 yrs . Over 90lbs ~8 yrs



A nationwide collaboration of stakeholders of animal health

Integrating the skills and resources of scientists, veterinary professionals, and dog owners



Collaboration with dog owners, breeders, veterinarians

Academic-community based collaborations

GOALS:

Work with our nationwide network, providing opportunities for them and their dogs to participate in studies designed to :

- 1. monitor changes in incidence of cancer in pet dogs to highlight geographical regions of potential health concerns in the human population — considering differences in latency of exposure**
- 2. participate in clinical studies that include exposure assessment — humans and dogs in the same household with either or both diagnosed with a project focused cancer**





Matthew Breen (genetics), Shelly Vaden (veterinary internist), Catherine Wise (PhD student), Claire Wiley (clinician investigator), Patty Secoura (internal medicine), Eli Cohen (veterinary radiologist), Michael Mastromauro (veterinary oncologist), Tonya Harris (internal medicine)
inset: Gabi Seiler (veterinary radiologist), Nate Nelson (veterinary radiologist), Joanne Intile (veterinary oncologist)



THE **V** FOUNDATION®
for Cancer Research

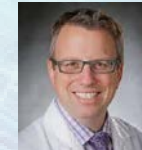
Duke
UNIVERSITY



Heather Stapleton PhD
Ronie-Richele Garcia-Johnson Distinguished Professor
Nicholas school of the Environment
Duke University



Catherine Wise PhD
Postdoctoral Associate
Nicholas school of the Environment
Duke University



Brant Inman MD MS
Cary N. Robertson Professor of Surgery
Urologic Oncology
Duke Cancer Institute



DUKE CANCER INSTITUTE &
NCSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

**Consortium for Canine
Comparative Oncology**



Duke | NICHOLAS SCHOOL OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

Duke Cancer Institute



NC STATE

Veterinary Medicine



Environmental associations with canine bladder cancer



Community Engagement



Beagle



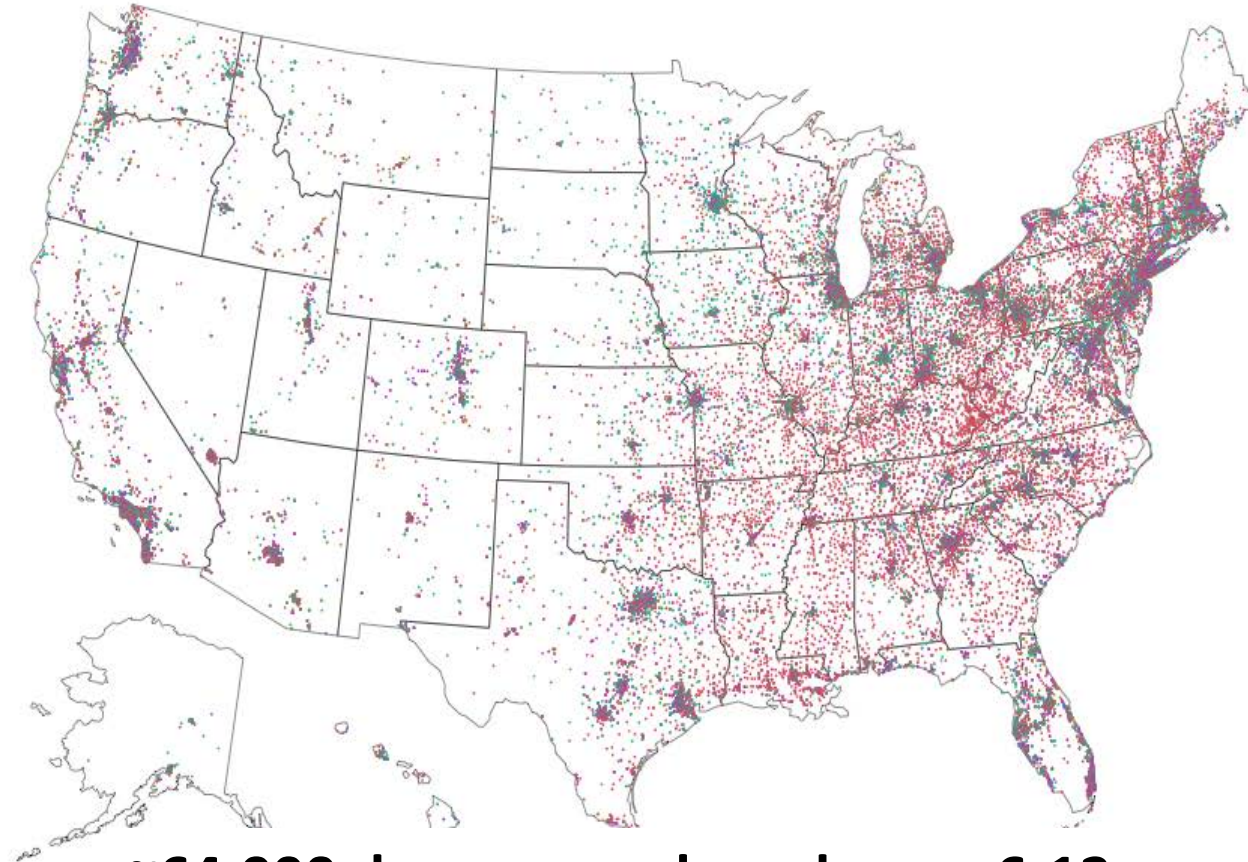
Scottish Terrier



Shetland Sheepdog



West Highland
White Terrier



~64,000 dogs, seven breeds, age 6-12 yrs
engaged owners of ~900 dogs within 72 hrs
(now over 2,000)

identify relatives for controls



Russell Terrier



Parson
Russell
Terrier



American Eskimo Dog



Use of silicone bands with dogs to investigate health impacts on humans from shared exposures

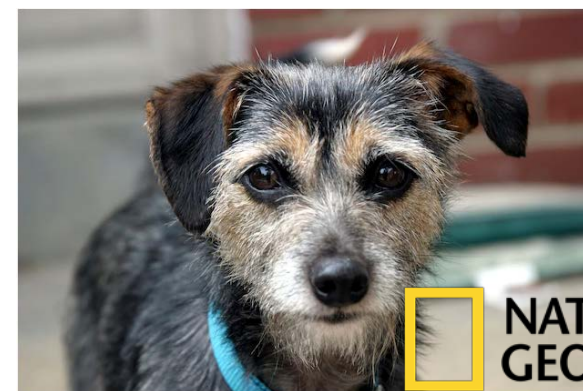
Environ Sci Technol. 2020 June 16; 54(12): 7409–7419.

Comparative Exposure Assessment Using Silicone Passive Samplers Indicates That Domestic Dogs Are Sentinels To Support Human Health Research

Catherine F Wise^{1,2}, Stephanie C Hammel³, Nicholas Herkert³, Jun Ma^{4,5}, Alison Motsinger-Reif⁶, Heather M Stapleton^{3,7}, Matthew Breen^{1,2,7,8,9}



Silicone monitoring devices. (a) Wristband for human (b) Dog tag affixed to dog collar.



**NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC**

Domestic dogs have similar physical characteristics and diseases as humans, particularly cancers.
PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBIN SIEGEL, NAT GEO IMAGE COLLECTION

Dogs can be 'early-warning systems' for toxic chemical exposure at home

BY CARRIE ARNOLD

PUBLISHED JUNE 10, 2020

Dogs and people carry remarkably similar amounts of common household chemicals in their bodies, a possible boon for human health.

Environmental Factor

Your Online Source for NIEHS News

JULY 2020

 National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences

[All Issues](#) [Subscribe](#) [RSS](#) [+A](#) [-A](#)

[Home](#) [Science Highlights](#) [Community Impact](#) [Papers Published](#) [Awards & Recognition](#) [Beyond the Bench](#)

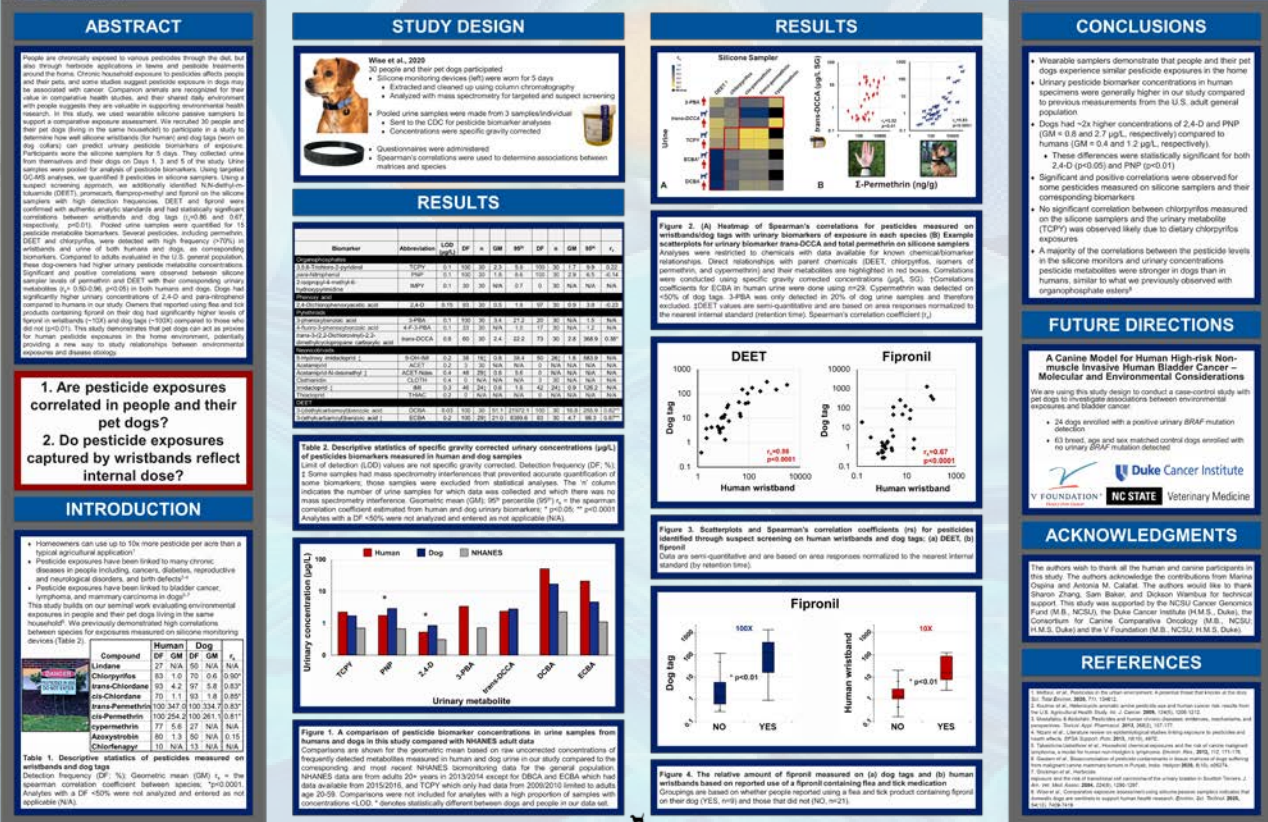
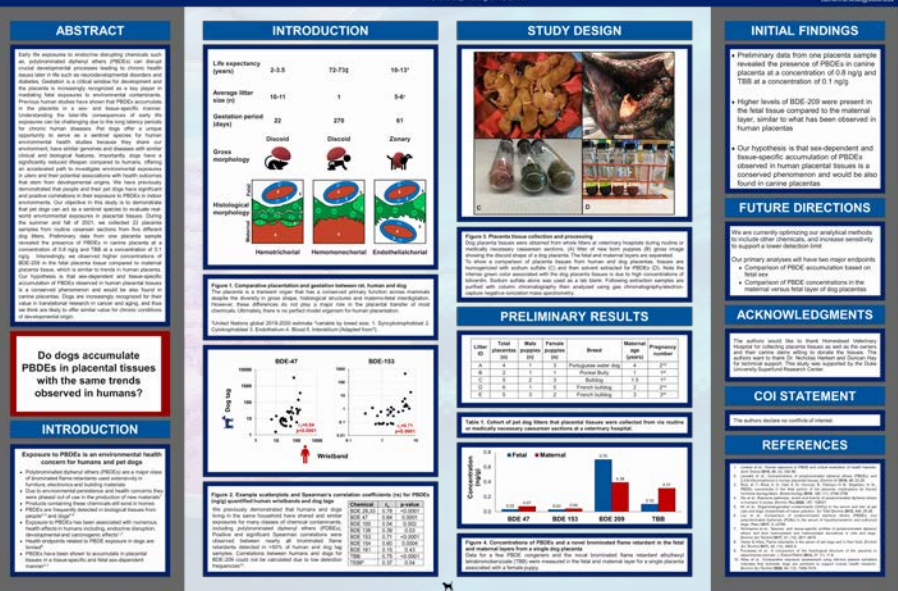
Canine companions shed light on chemicals and disease

[Previous Article](#)

[Next Article](#)

NIEHS grantees study pet dogs to better understand how human exposure to everyday chemicals may lead to cancer and other conditions.

**Dr. Heather Stapleton will review tomorrow
& please view posters from Dr. Catherine Wise**



POSTERS

Catherine Wise PhD
 Postdoctoral Associate
 Nicholas school of the Environment
 Duke University

Estimated new cases, 2021

By cancer type, both sexes combined

Breast



Prostate



Lung and bronchus



Colorectum



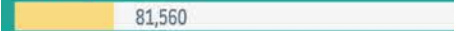
Melanoma of the skin



Urinary bladder



Non-Hodgkin lymphoma



Kidney and renal pelvis



Uterine corpus



Leukemia



Pancreas



Oral cavity and pharynx



Thyroid



Liver and intrahepatic bile duct



Myeloma



Stomach

Estimated deaths, 2021

By cancer type, both sexes combined

Lung and bronchus



Colorectum



Pancreas



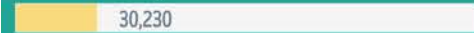
Breast



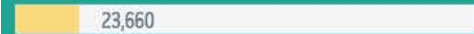
Prostate



Liver and intrahepatic bile duct



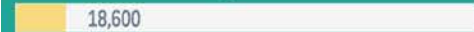
Leukemia



Non-Hodgkin lymphoma



Brain and other nervous system



Urinary bladder



Esophagus



Kidney and renal pelvis



Ovary



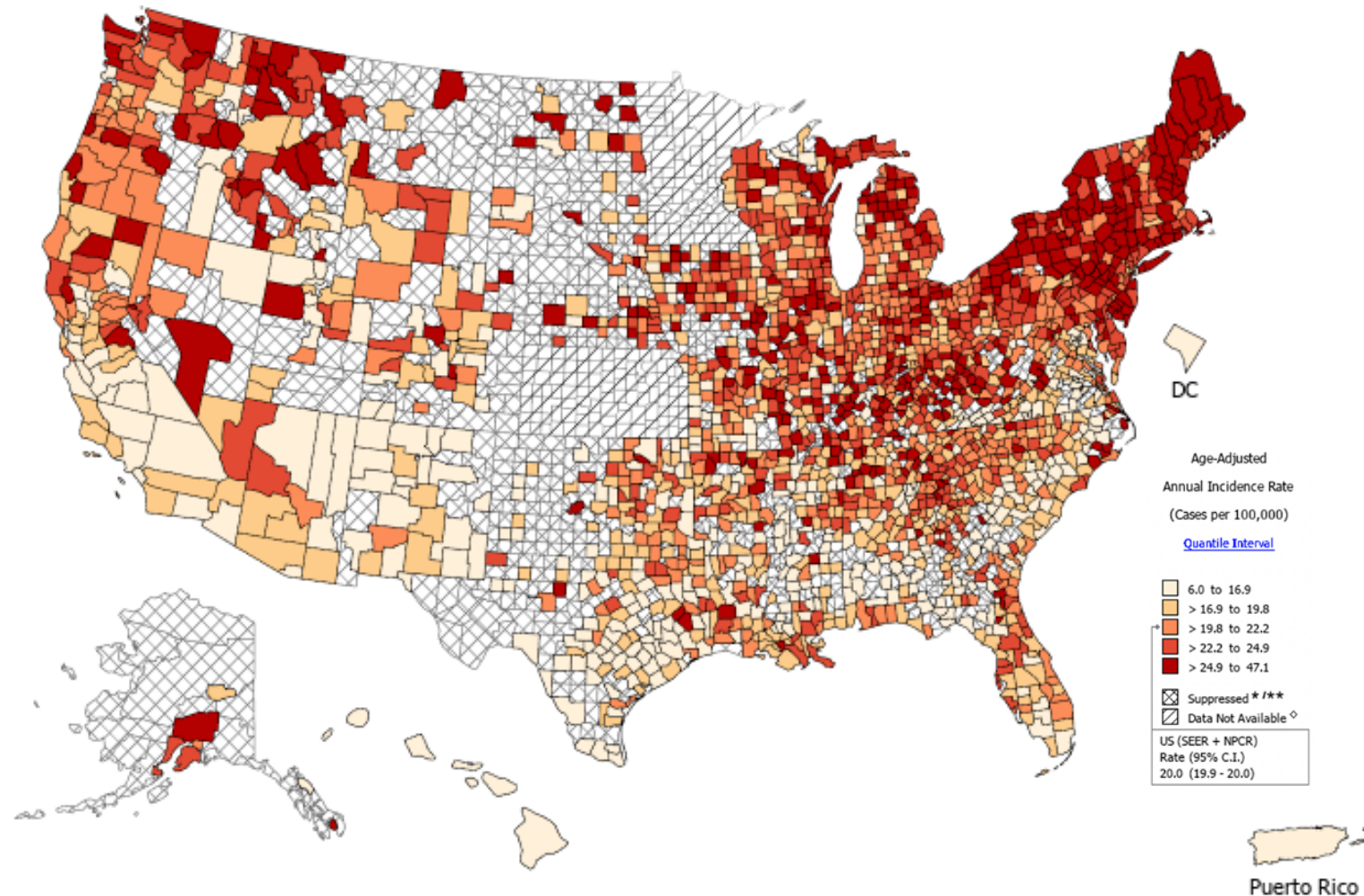
Uterine corpus



Myeloma



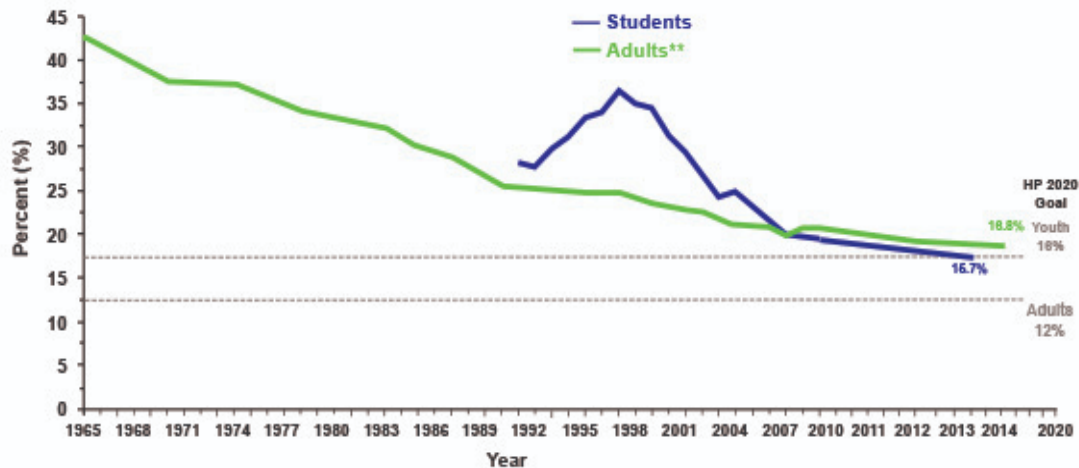
Assessment of households with human bladder cancer



Assessment of households with bladder cancer patients

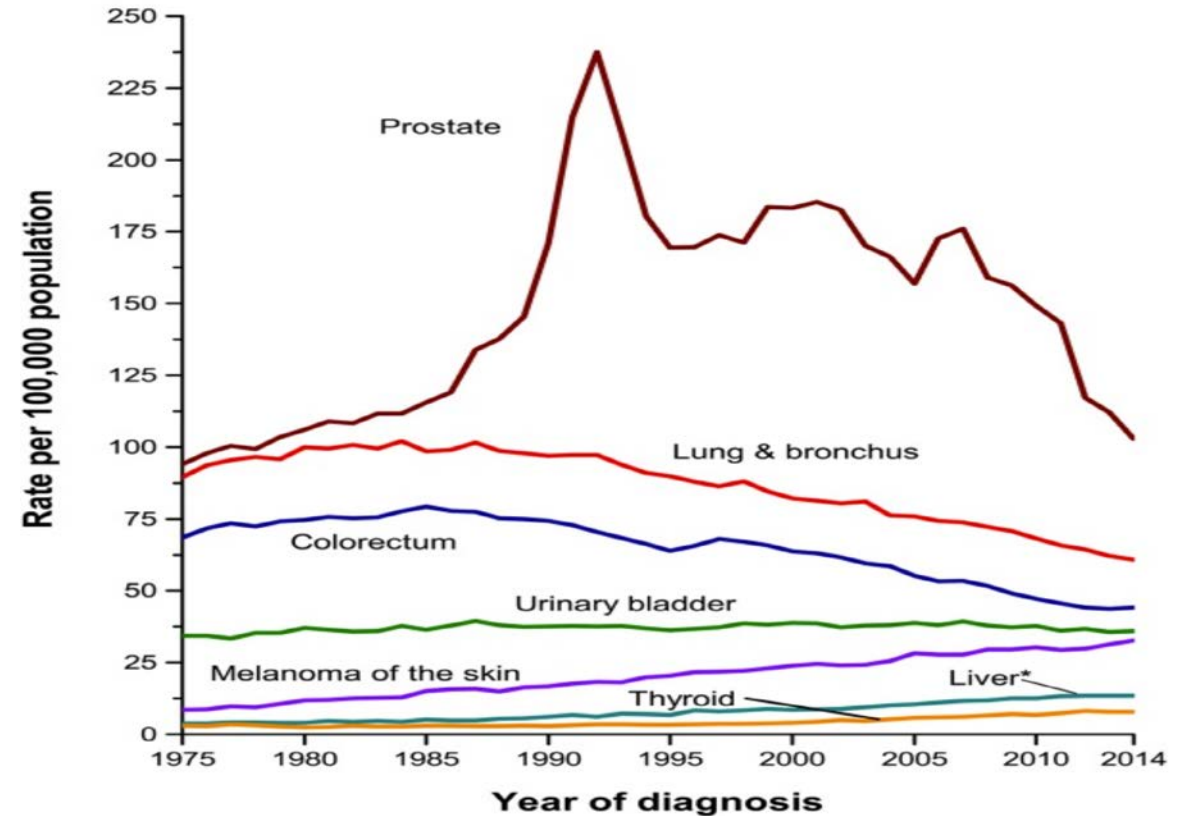
SMOKING – No 1 risk factor for bladder cancer

Trends in Current Cigarette Smoking by High School Students* and Adults**— United States, 1965-2014



*Percentage of high school students who smoked cigarettes on 1 or more of the 30 days preceding the survey (Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1991-2013).

**Percentage of adults who are current cigarette smokers (National Health Interview Survey, 1965-2014).



- Incidence of lung cancer has been decreasing over the last 30 years, likely due to decreased smoking rates.
- BUT - bladder cancer incidence rates have remained steady over the same period at ~40/100,000.
- **QUESTION: Is this due to an increase in non-smoking causes of bladder cancer?**
 - E.g. workplace exposures (e.g. aromatic amines), arsenic, aristolochic acid

Bladder Cancer Hotspots in Ohio



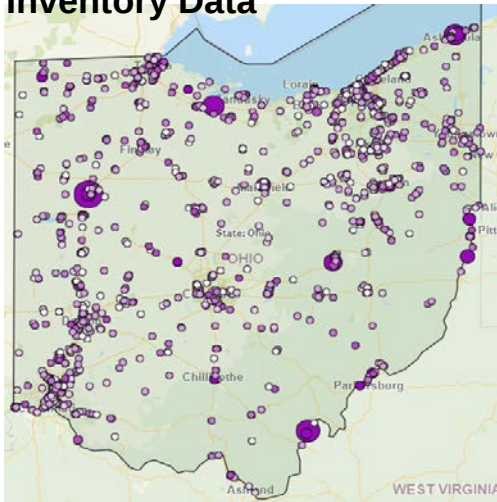
Byron Lee, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Section of Urologic Oncology
Department of Urology
Cleveland Clinic

Daniel Rotroff, PhD, MSPH

Department of Quantitative Health Sciences
Lerner College of Medicine
Cleveland Clinic

2019 EPA Toxic Release Inventory Data



- **GOAL:** Evaluating exposures of bladder cancer patients in OH hotspots
- **APPROACH:** Assessment of dogs and humans for associated exposures (water, urine, wristband)

Personalized Environment and Genes Study (PEGS)

Formerly the Environmental Polymorphisms Registry

- **North Carolina Based Cohort**

- **Est. 2002**
- **n~20,000 enrolled**
- **n~11,000 active participants**



Dr. Janet Hall



Dr. Alison Motsinger-Reif



- **Environmental Exposures**

- Health and exposure questionnaires (n~9,000)
- Internal and external exposome questionnaires (n~3,000)
- Geospatial exposure from residential address histories

- **Phenotypes**

- Questionnaires (n~9,000)
- Soon: health records from UNC and Duke



Health records for the household dogs (est >5,000)

- **Genotypes**

- Whole genome sequencing (n~4,700)
- Candidate genes (n~11,000)



Omics of household dogs

Personalized Environment and Genes Study

Formerly the Environmental Polymorphisms Registry



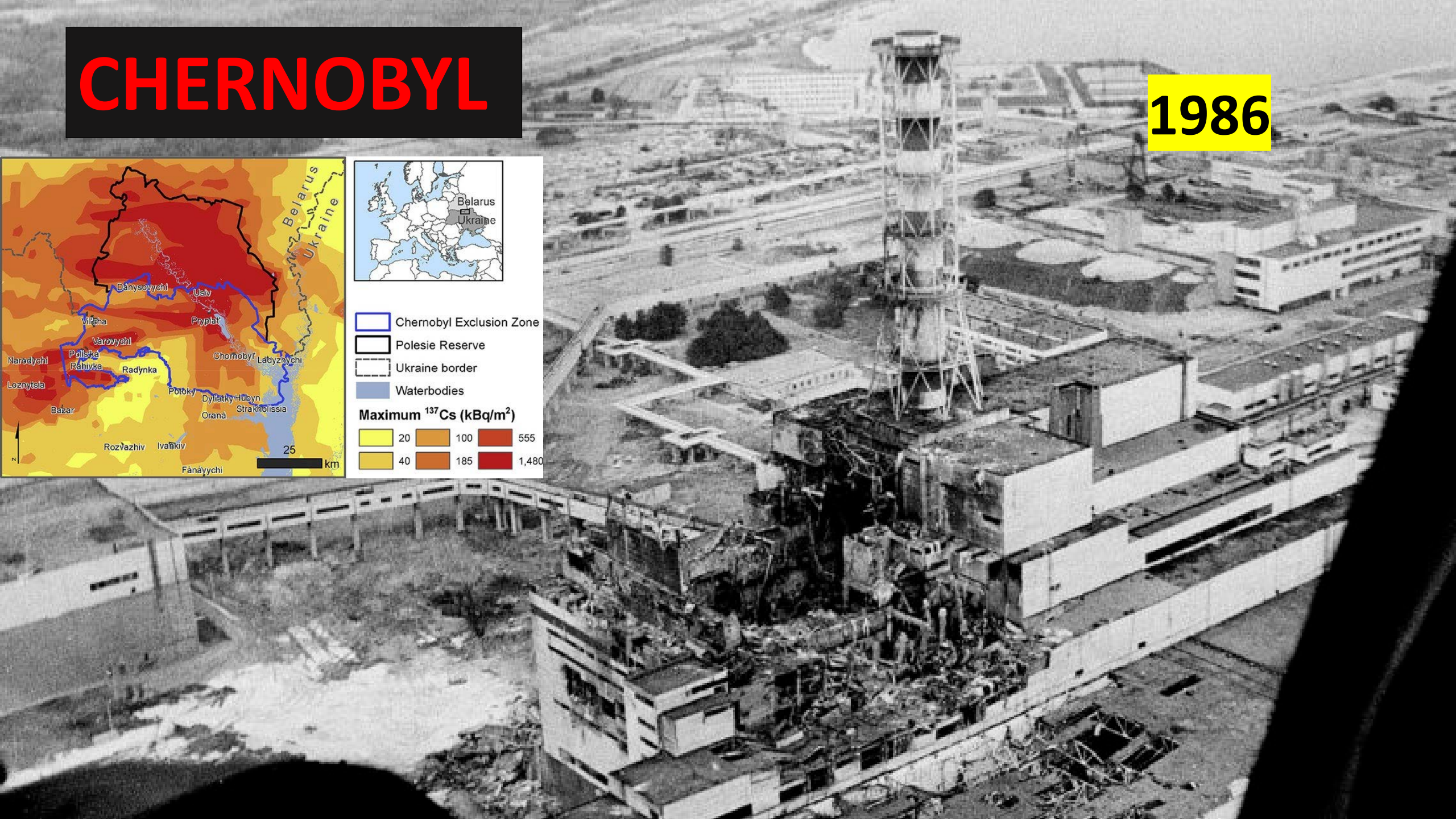
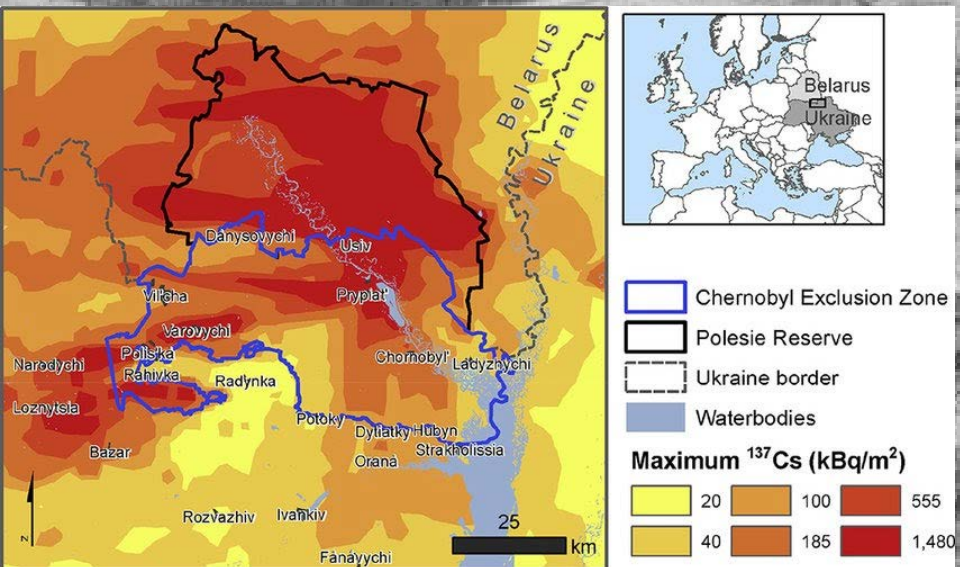
Growing Number of Geospatial Data Layers

- Airports
- Conc Animal Feeding OP
- Cellular towers
- Drinking water
- Dry cleaners
- Hazardous waste
- Highways
- Nuclear sites
- Wastewater
- Population info
- Power lines
- PR landfills
- Railroads
- Spills
- Sanitary landfills
- Superfund sites
- Toxic release sites
- Air pollution
- others

- **Overlay canine health data onto these exposure maps**
- **Do these exposures impact the health of the canine population BEFORE they impact the human population?**

CHERNOBYL

1986



CHERNOBYL

2021

how have these dogs survived and what has been their biological response to continuous insult by these exposures?



Google earth Nov 15th 2021



Photographs courtesy of Dr. N. Kleiman



Dogs of Chernobyl.

A model for human health effects arising from chronic exposure to radiation, heavy metals, and other environmental toxins

NIH National Human Genome Research Institute



Elaine Ostrander PhD

Chief & NIH Distinguished Investigator
Cancer Genetics and Comparative Genomics Branch



Gabriella Spatola MS

PhD student




UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina

Timothy Mousseau PhD

Professor, Biological Sciences
University of South Carolina

University of South Carolina Chernobyl Research Initiative

 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

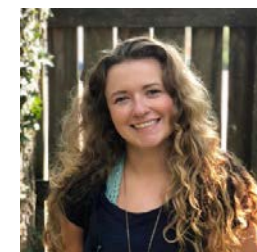


Norman Kleiman PhD

Assistant Professor
Environmental Health Sciences
Columbia University Medical Center

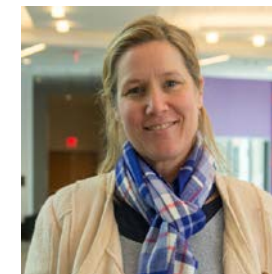
genomic analyses, population structure,
mutational profiling, epigenetics, pathogens,
microbiome, heavy metals

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY



Megan Dillon

PhD student
Molecular Biomedical Sciences

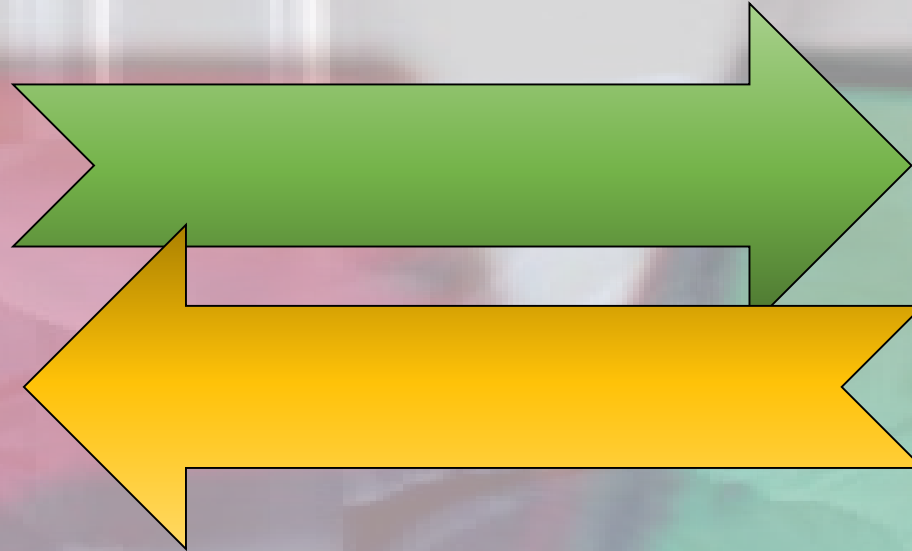


Martha Burford-Reiskind PhD

Assistant Professor
Dept. Biological Sciences



**Exposure research
related to cancer is
now bidirectional**



and accelerating



**Sharing exposures to
environmental influences**

...

**the keys to unlocking some
of the puzzles may be
walking right beside us**



Acknowledgements



NC State University

Jaiden Bartley – student
Marth Burford-Reiskind – Population Genetics
Eli Cohen – Veterinary Radiology
Megan Dillon – PhD student
Emma Droste – Research Assistant
Lauren Hale - student
Tonya Harris – Internal Medicine
Joanne Intile - Veterinary Oncology
Michael Mastromauro – Veterinary Oncology
Nate Nelson - Veterinary Radiology
Michael Nolan – Veterinary Radiation Oncology
Carley Ruslander - student
Patty Secoura - Internal Medicine
Gabi Seiler - Veterinary Radiology
Kristina Stayer – student
Rachael Thomas – genetics/genomics
Shelly Vaden - Veterinary Internal Medicine
Claire Wiley - Veterinary Internal Medicine

Canine models of exposure

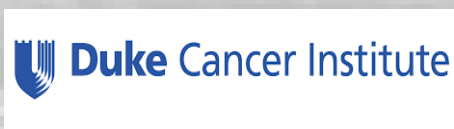
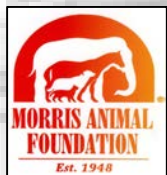
AKC: Mark Dunn, Vanessa Skou Chuck Bettini
CDC: Maria Ospina, Antonia Calafat
Duke: Heather Stapleton, Catherine Wise, Nick Herkert
NIEHS: Alison Motsinger-Reif, Janet Hall et al

Dogs of Chernobyl

Columbia University: Norman Kleiman
NHGRI: Elaine Ostrander, Gabby Spatola
University of South Carolina: Tim Mousseau

Urothelial carcinoma

Cleveland Clinic: Daniel Rotroff, Byron Lee
Duke University: Brant Inman
University of Wisconsin: Michael Wood, Jessica Pritchard





Acknowledgements



NC State University

Jaiden Bartley – student
Marth Burford-Reiskind – Population Genetics
Eli Cohen – Veterinary Radiology
Megan Dillon – PhD student
Emma Droste – Research Assistant
Lauren Hale - student
Tonya Harris – Internal Medicine
Joanne Intile - Veterinary Oncology
Michael Mastromauro - Veterinary Internal Medicine
Nate Nelson - Veterinary Internal Medicine
Michael Nolan – Veterinary Internal Medicine
Carley Ruslander - student
Patty Secoura - Internal Medicine
Gabi Seiler - Veterinary Internal Medicine
Kristina Stayer – student
Rachael Thomas – genetics/genomics
Shelly Vaden - Veterinary Internal Medicine
Claire Wiley - Veterinary Internal Medicine

Canine models of exposure

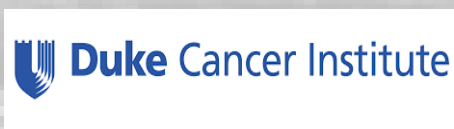
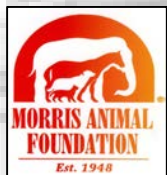
AKC: Mark Dunn, Vanessa Skou, Chuck Bettini
CDC: Maria Ospina, Ant
Duke: Heather
NTP: Wise, Nick Herkert
et Hall et al

1,000's of dog owners, breeders, and
veterinarians that collaborate to provide
samples and information

Carroll Spatola
North Carolina: Tim Mousseau

Prothelial carcinoma

Cleveland Clinic: Daniel Rotroff, Byron Lee
Duke University: Brant Inman
University of Wisconsin: Michael Wood, Jessica Pritchard



Thank you for your attention

Matthew Breen

North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC

919-513-1467

Matthew_Breen@ncsu.edu