

EHP Toxicogenomics is the first journal dedicated to publication of scientific work in genomics, proteomics, molecular medicine, and computational biology, as they relate to the impact of the environment on human health.

Inaugural Issue of *EHP Toxicogenomics*

The development of powerful molecular tools for genomic research has provided unprecedented research opportunities in toxicology and environmental health, including the ability to elucidate biologic responses in the genome after exposure to environmental toxicants and stressors. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) has been at the forefront of these research efforts.

Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) has always strived to provide a vehicle for dissemination of the latest research findings. Recognizing the important role that toxicogenomics will play in future research, we have expanded *EHP's* coverage of toxicogenomics by initiating a new quarterly edition of the journal titled *EHP Toxicogenomics*. Areas covered include pharmacogenomics, proteomics, metabonomics, molecular epidemiology, translational aspects of genomic research, and molecular medicine. The journal has full-color capabilities and features online publication of extensive data sets and supplementary materials. *EHP's* policy of publishing accepted research articles within 24 hours of acceptance will also apply. These articles are citable using the Digital Object Identifier code that is managed by CrossRef, a licensee of the International DOI Foundation. *EHP Toxicogenomics* in-press articles can be found on our website (<http://www.ehponline.org/txg>).

To help guide *EHP's* coverage of toxicogenomics, we are pleased to announce the appointment of an outstanding scientist as the editor of *EHP Toxicogenomics*. Dr. Kenneth S. Ramos of the Department of Physiology & Pharmacology of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, has agreed to serve in this role. Dr. Ramos is at the forefront of the emerging field of toxicogenomics and will help formulate the future directions for the journal's coverage of this critical area of research.



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Thomas J. Goehl

Dr. Ramos is a molecular toxicologist with long-standing interests in redox-regulated mammalian transcription and the genomic basis of environmental vascular and renal disease. He is currently director of the

NIEHS Center for Environmental and Rural Health and Chester Reed Professor of Toxicology at Texas A&M University. After 14 years at Texas A&M University, Dr. Ramos will be leaving in February to join the University of Louisville Medical School as distinguished professor and chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and director of the Center for Genetics and Molecular Medicine.

Dr. Ramos received his Doctor of Philosophy in biochemical pharmacology and toxicology in 1983 from the University of Texas at Austin. He has published over 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He is currently a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the NIEHS and has served in an editorial capacity for many journals, including *In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology*, *American Journal of Physiology*, *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health*, *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology*, *Cell Biology and Toxicology*, *Vascular Pharmacology*, *Chemico-Biological Interactions*, and *Cardiovascular Toxicology*.

We are excited about *EHP Toxicogenomics* and extremely pleased to have Dr. Ramos help us advance our goals. As we craft the new publication, your feedback on how *EHP Toxicogenomics* can help in your work is encouraged and very much appreciated.

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***EHP Toxicogenomics*: A Publication Forum in the Postgenome Era**

The availability of the genome sequences of various model organisms as well as humans has not only revealed fundamental biologic information but has also ratified what many long suspected—that biologic complexity arises from intricate genomic interactions that are highly susceptible to the internal and external environments. Indeed, our ability to define molecular mechanisms of human disease and to address the challenges of modern medicine depends on understanding better the interaction between genes and the environment. This is one of the greatest biomedical challenges of the new millennium.

“Toxicogenomics” describes an emerging discipline that combines expertise in toxicology, genetics, molecular biology, and environmental health to elucidate the response of living organisms to stressful environments. Of particular interest to scientists in the field is the advancement of high-throughput and computational methodologies to study gene and protein expression at all levels, and the application of this knowledge to enhance our understanding and therapeutic management of human illnesses. The promise of toxicogenomics will become a reality as we begin to fully understand how subtle variations in the environment give rise to altered phenotypes that compromise organ and system functions.

EHP Toxicogenomics is the first journal dedicated to publication of scientific work in genomics, proteomics, molecular medicine and computational biology, as they relate to the impact of the environment on human health. With this definition in hand, an outstanding editorial board has been assembled that comprises talented scientists eager to help fulfill the promise of toxicogenomics. Our goal is to publish the results of studies from model systems and humans that focus on gene and protein expression profiling, functional prediction, gene identification, and assessment of gene–environment interactions. The journal will also feature invited reviews and perspectives that enhance our understanding of technologies and scientific approaches to support this new field. To



Kenneth S. Ramos

achieve rapid publication of research findings, the journal will rely on web-based technologies for immediate online publication of accepted manuscripts. Publishing online and following in print will offer authors flexibility for fast dissemination of results and publication of large data sets, without losing the advantages of permanent record and access.

The need to understand the interaction between genes and the environment has been realized for some time, but the complexity of the biologic circuitry involved in the cellular response to stressful environments is only poorly understood. As such, evolution of the field will be greatly facilitated by outstanding research that aids in the discovery of genes targeted by environmental factors, analyses of genotypic and phenotypic profiles during the acute and adaptive response to environmental insult, and molecular characterization of environmental triggers of human illness. Our collective challenge will be to nurture the field by maintaining the highest standards of excellence. The launching of the journal marks a critical stage in the evolution of toxicogenomics. On behalf of the editorial staff and the editorial board of *EHP Toxicogenomics*, I would like to invite you to support this new venture!

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