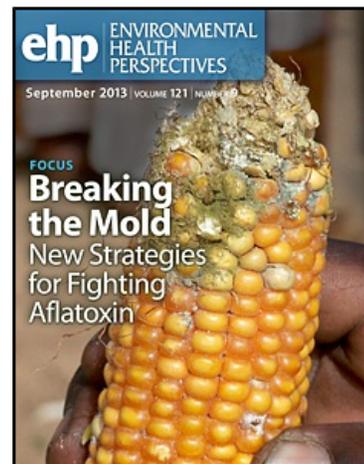


This month in EHP

This month, [Environmental Health Perspectives \(EHP\)](http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/) (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/>)

focuses on advances in combating aflatoxins in the food supply, and explores the gut microbiome in health and disease. EHP editors also extend their congratulations to authors of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) 2012 best paper of the year, which was published in the December 2012 issue of the journal (see [text box](#)).



Breaking the Mold: New Strategies for Fighting Aflatoxins

Aflatoxin B₁, the most potent naturally occurring liver carcinogen ever identified, is produced by *Aspergillus* fungi that infect crops during periods of drought stress and intense heat. Although found around the world, aflatoxins pose a human health threat primarily in developing countries. Researchers and development groups are investigating a variety of new methods to keep these agents out of food supplies.

The Environment Within: Exploring the Role of the Gut Microbiome in Health and Disease

A growing body of research suggests that part of what determines how the human body responds to external stimuli may be not only our own genes, but also the genes of the trillions of microorganisms that reside on and in the human body. New studies are shedding light on the ways that microorganisms in the intestinal tract influence biological functions beyond the gut and play a role in diseases throughout the body.

Featured research and related news articles this month include:

Retinal Microvascular Responses to Short-term Changes in Particulate Air Pollution in Healthy Adults - Particulate Matter and Cardiovascular Disease: Researchers Turn an Eye Toward Microvascular Changes

Improved Air Quality and Attenuated Lung Function Decline: Modification by Obesity in the SAPALDIA Cohort - Respiratory Disparity? Obese People May Not Benefit from Improved Air Quality

Perinatally Administered Bisphenol A Acts as a Mammary Gland Carcinogen in Rats - BPA as a Mammary Carcinogen: Early Findings Reported in Rats

Instruments for Assessing Risk of Bias and Other Methodological Criteria of Published Animal Studies: A Systematic Review - Bias Detection: Study Identifies Instruments for Evaluating Animal Studies

ISEE Best Environmental Epidemiology Paper Published in 2012

The International Society for Environmental Epidemiology has selected "[Birth Weight, Head Circumference, and Prenatal Exposure to Acrylamide From Maternal Diet: The European Prospective Mother-Child Study \(NewGeneris\)](http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/120/12/ehp.1205327.pdf)"

(<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/120/12/ehp.1205327.pdf>)

for its **2012 Best Environmental Epidemiology Paper Award**.

(http://ehbasel13.org/english/cfa_journals.php)

The award was presented in August at the **2013 ISEE Annual Conference**.

(<http://ehbasel13.org/>)

EHP congratulates authors Marie Pedersen, Hans von Stedingk, Maria Botsivali, Silvia Agramunt, Jan Alexander, Gunnar Brunborg, Leda Chatzi, Sarah Fleming, Eleni Fthenou, Berit Granum, Kristine B. Gutzkow, Laura J. Hardie, Lisbeth E. Knudsen, Soterios A. Kyrtopoulos, Michelle A. Mendez, Domenico F. Merlo, Jeanette K. Nielsen, Per Rydberg, Dan Segerback, Jordi Sunyer, John Wright, Margareta Tornqvist, Jos C. Kleinjans, Manolis Kogevinas, and the NewGeneris Consortium.

(<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/>)

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