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**CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY**  
**Mary Ann Swetland Center  
for Environmental Health**

# The Swetland Scoop

May 2024

## News & Announcements

Swetland Center is Hiring!

**FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY**

### **Director of Operations and Partnerships**

Working with minimal supervision in a highly collaborative and community-engaged applied research environment, the director of operations and partnerships will have leadership and scientific oversight of multiple research projects and other special projects assigned by the center director and several principal investigators. They will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of funded projects within the center, including the Community and Stakeholder Engaged Research Module of the Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (CTSC) of Northern Ohio. Providing leadership, training, mentoring, supervision, and oversight of the staff in the assigned projects within the center. They will also provide oversight of strategic growth initiatives to fulfill the center's mission.

### **Center Assistant**

Working under general direction, provide administrative support to the department. The department is highly collaborative and is a community-engaged research environment. This is a part-time position working 20 hours per week.

direct nutrition and physical activity educational programming (e.g., teaching standardized classes) and Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) approaches (e.g. farmers markets, farm to school, healthy food pantries) with local, community-based partners in areas of high food insecurity throughout Cuyahoga County. The target audience will be SNAP-eligible individuals of various demographics in a variety of community settings and use USDA approved, standardized curriculum and evidence-based PSE approaches to improve access to nutritious food and physical activity opportunities. Reliable transportation and a valid Driver's License are required for this position as it involves frequent travel to programming sites throughout the county and some travel throughout the State for training and professional development.

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## Swetland Partners Attend Racism in the Food System Convening



Swetland partners attended the *Understanding, Measuring, and Addressing Racism in the Food System: Applying an Anti-Racist Praxis to Improve Community Resilience and Well-Being* convening in March 2024. The transformation-focused event was organized by S M pact Consulting, the Nutrition Liberation, Food Sovereignty and Justice Laboratory at Cornell University, and ChangeLab Solutions. L-R: Wyndi Moore, Nourishing Power Network Advisory Council 2.0, Dr. Brandy Phipps, Swetland Center Advisory Council, Darcy Freedman, Swetland Center Director, and Ismail Samad, Nourishing Power Network Advisory Council 1.0.

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Over the past year, the Swetland Center provided convening support for the Ohio/Pennsylvania University Research Consortium. This is a collaboration between seven universities and about two dozen researchers co-led by Case Western Reserve University, The Ohio State University, Kent State University, and University of Pittsburgh. The consortium seeks to provide accurate, data-driven information to the East Palestine community following the train derailment in February 2023. Consortium members from L-R: Dr. Fred Schumacher (CWRU), Dr. Tim Ciesielski (CWRU), Ms. Haley Shoemaker (OSU), Dr. Darcy Freedman (CWRU), Dr. Lynn Singer (CWRU), and Dr. Jeff Hattey (OSU). Click [here](#) to learn more about the OH/PA University Research Consortium.

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## Meet Graduates of the Nourishing Power Fellowship



Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Cohort of the Nourishing Power Fellowship! Over the past six months, five teams of local food justice leaders have grown their vision for food justice into an action plan that will spark and expand supply and demand for culturally relevant and nutritious foods created by Asian, Black, Indigenous, and Latino/a/x food growers and makers. L-R: Janet Nevels, Ridwan Lawal, Katarina Smiley, Narkeita Motaabbed, Cheryl Clements, Vernon Clements, and Mikki Smith (Sonia Cruz Matos was there in spirit!). Click [here](#) to learn more about each Fellowship team's vision for food justice.

## Events and Opportunities

Join Us for the May 21st Swetland Center Seminar

### **Early Learnings From the Development of a Community-Advised Funding Model A Panel Presentation**

Often grant models are inequitable, driven by funders requirements and needs for data, evidence-based practices, and their lack of appetite to fund what they deem to be risky. What we do know from grassroots food justice leaders are that the projects many funders deem risky are the exact ones that are driven by community and have the potential for the greatest change. But who determines what change looks like? Who is defining success? How are the mechanisms of the who and what within the traditional grant making model hindering or accelerating the achievement of nutrition equity? Join a panel of Nourishing Power Network members as they reflect on insights gained

round of funding, and what are the experiences like being a grantee of the Nutrition Equity Fund.

**Date:** May 21st, 2024

**Time:** 9:00-10:00am

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

**Presenters:** Lindsey Lott, BS (Birthing Beautiful Communities), Shawn Brown, JD (The Humane League), Tanisha Velez (Jardin 4 Life and Cleveland Fresh)

**Moderator:** Dr. Shannon Walker (Swetland Center)

[Register Here](#)

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## Hot Off the Press

### State of the Science Updates: East Palestine, Ohio

Data briefs are based on publicly available data collected by others. Our team organized and assessed existing data with the goal of informing the community about what is known and not known. Based on these data, we developed recommendations and suggest further research to aid the community's efforts in public health and environmental monitoring. All data briefs are available online [here](#).

- Outdoor Air Data Brief
- Plant Tissue Data Brief
- Water Data Brief

\*Additional data briefs will be shared as they are ready.

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### Recent Publications

Fane LS, Jordan DW. [Hands-on fluoroscopy safety training for radiology residents: assessment of educational and safety perception outcomes](#). J Am Coll Radiol. 2023 Dec 24:S1546-1440(23)01033-5. doi: 10.1016/j.jacr.2023.12.014. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38147903.

Ciesielski, T.H., Sirugo, G., Iyengar, S.K. et al. [Characterizing the pathogenicity of genetic variants: the consequences of context](#). npj Genom. Med. 9, 3 (2024).

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## Meet the 2023-24 Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD Awardees

The Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD Award is a prestigious recognition granted to current MD and PhD students at Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine. These students demonstrate potential in the areas of occupational or environmental health. The award pays tribute to Dr. Ravin, a 1980 alumnus of the CWRU School of Medicine, for his commitment to educating future environmental and occupational health professionals and researchers.

### Lauren Fane, Rising 4th Year Medical Student at CWRU



#### Who are you?

I'm from Detroit, Michigan. In my free time, I love dancing, especially ballroom and Latin dancing, and I've loved choreographing for the medical school's musical fundraiser, Doc Opera.

#### What did you do through the Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD Award?

I studied radiation safety among residents at University Hospitals, published the study, and presented my work at a national conference - Association of University Radiologists Annual Meeting. It was a fantastic experience presenting, building relationships with mentors, and meeting inspiring peers across the country. Thank you to the Ravin Award for helping me attending this conference!

#### Who were your mentors on this award?

Dr. David Jordan (Chief Medical Physicist at UH and Cleveland Louis Stokes VA) has been a wonderful research mentor, assisting with manuscript revisions and recharging my drive every time we meet with his positive attitude. I'd also like to thank Dr. Mulloy

**What was your greatest learning or experience gained through the fellowship?**

I learned that I should follow my interests, even if they are niche topics. The self-directed learning during this research project was intrinsically rewarding.

**How did this fellowship shape your professional goals related to environmental and occupational health?**

Learning about radiation protection has inspired me to be an advocate for safety for my peers in residency training and beyond. I really appreciate the value of the hands-on, interactive training I studied, and I'll try to bring it to wherever I train/work.

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## Connor Riegall, Rising 3rd Year Medical Student at CWRU



*Taking the Food as Medicine elective students foraging at the CWRU Farm with Jeremy Umansky, Chef and Owner of Larder Delicatessen.*

**Who are you?**

I am originally from the Metro Detroit area and spent time before medical school working on a regenerative farm on Maui (La Kahea Community Farm).

**What did you do through the Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD Award?**

My goal through the award was to work on Food as Medicine. My classmate, Fiona Fragomen, and I started an elective to teach this concept to medical students, which had a speaker series as well as immersive events. To prepare for this, I took part in a 3-day culinary medicine intensive at the Chef's Garden. I also have been working on the intersection of climate and brain health with my mentor Dr. Peter Whitehouse and we presented Grand Rounds at the University of Toronto.

my direction with the award and I credit her for much of how I learned and grew throughout my time as a fellow. I also received amazing support from Dr. Peter Whitehouse (Professor of Neurology at CWRU) and Dr. Amy Sapola (Sapola Integrative Wellness).

**What was your greatest learning or experience gained through the fellowship?**

My greatest experience was the Food As Medicine (FAM) elective that we ran in the Fall of 2023. It was amazing to bring this curriculum to other students and witness how passionate they were about it. We also tried to extend into the community as much as possible and hope to continue to build partnerships around FAM within the Greater Cleveland Area.

**How did this fellowship shape your professional goals related to environmental and occupational health?**

This fellowship strengthened my resolve to incorporate the principles of environmental and occupational health into my future practice. I view these as tenets that underpin the health of every individual by nature of existing in the world and want to use both food as medicine and culinary medicine in my practice. Further, I believe education is key in helping others take control of their health, and will continue to involve myself in such efforts.



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