



The Swetland Scoop

May 2026

Our mission is to accelerate pathways to vibrant and healthy environments through collaborative research, immersive training, and authentic community engagement.



Environmental Health Connector Event

The Swetland Center hosted its Environmental Health Connector Keynote Speaker event on April 28th with **Dr. Angela Odoms-Young**, the Nancy Schlegel Meinig Associate Professor of Maternal and Child Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University.

From L to R: Crystal Davis, Dr. Odoms-Young

Dr. Odoms-Young provided insights on "**Hope and Resiliency in Communities and Local Food Systems**," followed by an intimate discussion with scholars and community partners about current challenges and opportunities. The session was moderated by **Crystal Davis**, a member of the Swetland Advisory Council. As a part of Environmental Health Connector event, we had the opportunity to introduce Dr. Odoms-Young to some of our local food system gems, including Rid-All Green Partnership and Re:Source Cleveland. **Michael Walton**, member of the Swetland Center Advisory Council, served as our tour guide and provided historical and cultural insights into Cleveland's local food system.



Environmental Health Connector Planning Team and Guests from Left to Right: Julie Austin, Lucy Chamberlain, Dr. Owusua Yamoah, Dr. Karen Mulloy, Yvonka Hall, Dr. Angela Odoms-Young, Dr. Darcy Freedman, Ruth Swetland-Eppig, Crystal Davis, Dr. Ivory Simms, Michael Walton



Local Food Systems Tour at Re:Source Cleveland from Left to Right: Patrick Kearns, Dr. Darcy Freedman, Linea Webb, Djeneba Diallo, Lucy Chamberlain, Jugnu Shrestha, Dr. Ivory Simms, Brejona Whitlock, Michael Walton, Dr. Angela Odoms-Young

Awardee Selected for the Small-Scale Incubation Funds to Identify Best Practices for Locally Rooted PRx Models

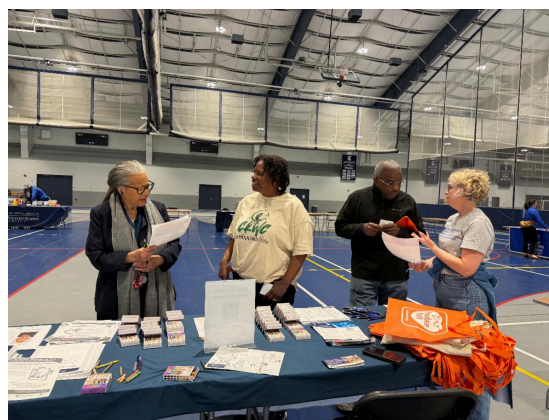
Congratulations to Ismail Samad (Loiter!), the awardee selected to implement a locally rooted



produce prescription program titled "Heart, Home & Harvest" with their partners Dr. Laura Hammel (Leg Up for Cleveland's Kids) and Dr. Ben Alencherry (Cleveland Clinic). This 14-week program will serve 50 participants and their households, addressing health outcomes and social determinants simultaneously by integrating clinic-based prescribing through The Centers in East Cleveland with community-based education, movement, and produce access to address chronic disease risk factors. This model functions as both a food-is-medicine intervention and a behavior change pilot, with a defined pathway to health system integration. Loiter! and their partners plan to begin enrolling participants in May 2026, and will conclude the program on July 31st. They will receive \$24,000 from the CDC REACH grant for programmatic costs and \$6,000 from another source for food costs.

Swetland Center Supports CWRU ONE Day

The Swetland Center was proud to support CWRU's inaugural ONE Day event on April 18th designed to create shared spaces where collaboration, trust and long-term partnerships can grow. We shared information about the Swetland Center with neighbors. Dawn Glasco, Project Coordinator of Nourishing Power Network, joined us to raise awareness about ongoing efforts to increase community ownership of local food systems.



News & Announcements

Swetland Center Faculty Update



Congratulations to **Dr. Shannon Conrey** on receiving a CWRU Mather Center Career Development Award, which is supporting participation in Columbia University's workshop on Exposome Analysis this summer. The workshop is focused on the concepts, techniques and data analysis methods in the study of the exposome, a new science for measuring the sum of all exposures, rather than individual exposures, to identify environmental impacts on human health.

Welcome to Our New Graduate Research Assistant



Welcome to **Djeneba Diallo** (pronounced Jé-né-ba "Jenny" Dee-ah-lo), a Masters of Public Health student at CWRU, with a concentration in Global Health. She is interested in women's health disparities, health communication, and environmental health. Jenny graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelors in Human Biology. In her free time she loves to read, play basketball and hang out with friends.

At the Swetland Center, Djeneba will support data analysis and dissemination, Community Engagement Studios and the Environmental Health Connector.

Events & Opportunities

Workshop: Funding for Produce Prescriptions

Facilitated by Kim Hines, Co-Director, North American Food Systems Network

- Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026
- Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM
- Location: Virtual (Zoom)
- [Register here](#)

Workshop: Funding for Produce Prescriptions

May 14, 2026 | 12:00-1:30pm
Virtual (Zoom)

Join this free workshop facilitated by Kim Hines, Co-Director of the North American Food Systems Network, to learn about:

- the funding landscape to support produce prescription programs
- what funders are looking for in grant proposals



Register here!



tinyurl.com/May14PRx

After the workshop, sign up for a free technical assistance session to help you apply for funding for your PRx program!

TA sessions must be completed by 8/1/26.

Questions?
Email us at reach@case.edu

This workshop is made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention REACH grant.



Upcoming Swetland Seminar

A Food System That Works for All: The Social Capital Story Behind the Nourishing Power Network

- Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026
- Time: 9:00 - 10:00 AM
- Location: Virtual (Zoom)
- [Register here](#)



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
Mary Ann Swetland Center
for Environmental Health

6/16/2026

9 - 10 AM

EST

Virtual

REGISTER
HERE:

tinyurl.com/Jun16Seminar



Accelerating
Progress Towards
Environmental
Health for All
Communities

CASE.EDU/swetland

Join us for the Swetland Center Seminar

A Food System That Works for All: The Social Capital Story Behind the Nourishing Power Network



Dawn Glasco, MA
Project Coordinator
Nourishing Power Network
Lead, Dawn Visions, LLC



Darcy Freedman, PhD, MPH
Director
Mary Ann Swetland Center for
Environmental Health
Case Western Reserve University



Owusua Yamoah, PhD, MA
Research Scientist
Mary Ann Swetland Center for
Environmental Health
Case Western Reserve University

What to Expect

- Overview of the Nourishing Power Network intervention designed to bridge community & organizational power for local food systems change.
- Review key findings around changes in participants' connections to power brokers & influential actors.
- Discussion about what these findings mean for advancing nutrition equity & next steps for this work.

This is a free learning opportunity that is open to the public. Visit youtube.com/@swetlandcenter9524 for a complete video archive of the series.

Hot off the Press

Check out our Latest Publications

Swetland Center Faculty, Staff, and/or Trainees are in Bold.

Julia M Baker, Slavica Mijatovic-Rustempasic, Mary C Casey-Moore, Brendon White, Claire P Mattison, Rachel M Burke, **Shannon C Conrey**, Ardythe L Morrow, Daniel C Payne, Rashi Gautam, Umesh D Parashar, Jacqueline E Tate, Mary Allen Staat, Monica M McNeal, **Rotavirus-Specific IgA and IgG Patterns During the First 2 Years of Life in the PREVAIL Birth Cohort.** *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 2026;, jiaj141.

Jennifer L. Cannon, Julia M. Baker, Claire P. Mattison, Hannah Browne, Kenny Nguyen, Rachel M. Burke, Slavica Mijatovic-Rustempasic, Mary C. Casey-Moore, Rashi Gautam, Eddie Bartlett, Shane Embury, Allison Burrell, **Shannon Conrey**, Umesh D. Parashar, Daniel C. Payne, Mary Allen Staat, Ardythe L. Morrow, Jan Vinjé. **Enteric Viral Pathogens in Infants in the United States: 2017–2020.** *Pediatrics* May 2026; 157 (5): e2025072461.

Julia M Baker, Jennifer L Cannon, Claire P Mattison, Hannah Browne, Kenny Nguyen, Rachel M Burke, Eddie Bartlett, **Shannon C Conrey**, Allison R Burrell, Mary Allen Staat, Ardythe L Morrow, Umesh D Parashar, Jan Vinjé, Sara A Mirza, Daniel C Payne, **Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Norovirus Infections in Early Life; the PREVAIL Cohort, 2017–2020,** *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 2026;, ciag033.

Schulte, J.B., Ngendahimana, D., Ciesielski, T.H., Dalton, J.E., Lee, E., & Freedman, D.A. (2026). **Evaluation of an algorithm to tailor implementation strategies for community nutrition interventions to local readiness and capacity.** *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, 16(1), ibag023.

Olvera RG, Balvanz P, **Yamoah O**, Klingler, K, Booty, MD, Ellison SA, Farmer, A, Kuntz, AK, Surratt, HL, Oser, CB, McGladrey, ML. **“Policymakers Need to See This!”: Dissemination and Evaluation of a Multisite Photovoice Project on the Opioid Epidemic.** *Health Promotion Practice*. 2026.

Farmer, A, Joseph B, Green K, **Yamoah, O**, Egan, K, Elmore, B Fye, J Crawford, T Wilson, L Harness, J **Roberts, S** Freisthler, B & Salsberry, P. (2026, 3 24). **Engaging Communities to Address the Opioid Crisis in Ohio: Lessons Learned.** *Ohio Journal of Public Health* 8(1):1-8.

Check out our Latest Toolkit

Swetland Center Faculty, Staff, Advisory Council members, and/or Trainees in Bold.

Webb, L., Walton, M., Strozier, B., Taggart, M., **Oddo, T., & Freedman, D.A.** (October 2025) **REACH Fellowship Workbook 2025.** Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health, Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH.

This toolkit provides a step-by-step overview of the REACH Fellowship, a 6-month training to increase access to networks and resources among leaders innovating food systems change. Training objectives support community and clinical community leaders to:

1. Increase their knowledge of produce prescriptions.
2. Grow their vision for a produce prescription program that is tailored for individuals at the highest risk or burden of chronic diseases.
3. Create an action plan for produce prescription implementation.
4. Expand their leadership capacity.
5. Grow a network of supporters.



Association for Clinical and Translational Science Conference

Dr. Darcy Freedman and **Dr. Ivory Simms** attended the Association for Clinical Translational Science (ACTS) conference in Milwaukee, WI. Dr. Simms shared lessons learned from the CTSC on Northern Ohio's Community Engagement (CE) Studio model in a poster titled "Amplifying Community Voices: Enhancing CE Studios Through Facilitator-Led Power Sharing In Translation Research." Dr. Freedman presented on two panels focused on best practices for Community Advisory Boards and integrating cooperative extension to expand the reach and impact of translational science.



Midwest Climate Summit

The Midwest Climate Collaborative hosted their annual Midwest Climate Summit at CWRU from March 30th-April 1st. Swetland staff members **Dr. Ivory Simms** and **Linea Webb** attended to promote the Center's work, and learn from climate leaders in the Midwest. The Midwest Climate Collaborative is a multi-sector network spanning 12 states working for a carbon neutral, climate resilient, interconnected Midwest region. This event prioritized multi-disciplinary approaches that connect leaders across sectors and communities for greater collective action on climate.



Swetland Spotlight

Congratulations to our "Matching" Medical Student Trainees



Cathy Charles

Congratulations to Cathy Charles, a long-time Swetland Center graduate research assistant currently working with us on the CTSC's Community Engagement Studios. She **matched in Internal Medicine (primary care track) at Brown University**. Cathy was drawn to the program's collaborative culture and its strong emphasis on both clinical training and research. She is grateful for her time at Swetland and the invaluable experiences she gained here, which she looks forward to applying to her future practice.

Nikhila Yerabandi

Congratulations to Nikhila Yerabandi, 2024 Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD awardee for **matching at Swedish Cherry Hill in Seattle, WA for a family medicine residency**. Nikhila shared: "I talked about the award I received through the Swetland Center and my project a lot during my interviews. I am super grateful for receiving the Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD Award!"

Nikita Das

Congratulations to Nikita Dasi, 2024 Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD awardee for **matching at UCLA for a neurosurgery residency**. Nikita shared: "During my interviews, I spoke often about the Ravin Award experience, and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity your team gave me to pursue my project with this funding."

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