



URC Health Threats Engagement Tour: Traverse City Dialogue on Microplastics

Monday, May 16, 2022 | 10:00 AM



Chair: Senator Wayne Schmidt, (R-Traverse City), Michigan Seante

Wayne Schmidt is a Republican member of the Michigan Senate and former member of the Michigan House of Representatives. He has represented Grand Traverse County in the 37th district since January 1, 2015 and formerly represented 104th District in the Michigan House. Before serving in the state Legislature, he was elected five times to the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners and served terms as both vice-chair and chair.



Melissa Duhaime, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan

The Duhaime Lab studies microbes and their viruses across organizational scales (individuals, populations, communities) and the impact of their interactions on microbial ecosystem functions and environmental health. Research within the plastic microbiome, this includes the role of microbes in plastic pollution in freshwater and oceans.



Muhammad Rabnawaz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Packaging, Michigan State University

Dr. Muhammad Rabnawaz has been an assistant professor for the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Packaging since August 2016. His lab missions include creating a new generation of highly skilled workforce, reducing plastic waste from packaging industry, and creating end-of-life solutions for waste plastics.



Rodrigo Fernandez-Valdivia, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology

The Fernandez-Valdivia lab conducts research focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms that control the intercellular signaling governing organ development and cancer development. His lab focuses on deciphering the molecular circuitries and genetic networks underlying the role of pollutants in breast and lung cancer initiation and progression.



Britany Affolter-Caine, Ph.D., URC Executive Director

Dr. Affolter-Caine is the executive director of Michigan's University Research Corridor (URC), one of the nation's top university innovation clusters. Previous to the URC, Affolter-Caine was a director of talent initiatives for Ann Arbor SPARK and the Detroit Regional Chamber, and senior research associate for the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution on the Great Lakes Economic Initiative.

Learn more at: URCMich.org/threats