Advocacy, Green Chemistry, and National Policy

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The Natural Resources Defense Council

• Founded in 1970 by environmental law students and attorneys
• Advocates for human rights to clean air, water, and safe food, as well as sustainability and protection of vulnerable populations
• Tools: legislation, litigation, regulatory engagement, industry campaigns and partnerships
• Scope: Federal, state, local, international and global
The Role of Science in Advocacy

- Advocacy organizations use science to inform their work in several ways:
  - Identifying relevant problems and solutions
  - Developing policy recommendations
  - Running data-driven public awareness campaigns
  - Supporting litigation
  - Evaluating, designing, promoting legislation
NRDC and the BCGC

- Shared goals for sustainability and safer materials
- Both highly collaborative and massively multidisciplinary institutions
- NRDC Internship for BCGC student funded in part by the Wareham group
- David interned at NRDC Fall 2017!
The Androgen Receptor Pathway Model

- The EPA has thousands of chemicals to evaluate, and reams of in vitro data
- Using this in vitro data, they built a statistical model for evaluating chemicals for AR activity and prioritization
- Internship Project: evaluate and comment on the AR Pathway model proposed by the EPA

From Kleunstereuer et al 2017
http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acs.chemrestox.6b00347
David Goes to Washington

- EPA Public hearing for adoption of AR Pathway model in November 2017
- David traveled to Washington D.C. to provide research support to Dr. Kristi Fedinik Pullen and to observe the hearing process
Lessons Learned

• NRDC:
  • Intern expertise incredibly helpful
  • Many shared goals and interests
  • Opportunities for future collaboration
  • Careful selection of project (especially scope) important to success

• BCGC:
  • The advocacy space is a great avenue for students with policy-oriented interests
  • David enjoyed and benefited greatly from learning about the complex political/legislative/economic context that affects chemicals legislation
NRDC and BCGC Moving Forward

• BCGC and NRDC look forward to continuing the internship program!
• Considering Future Opportunities for collaboration
Thank you!

Questions?