

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2009—2010 EnHIP Outreach Awards

### **Benedict College – Columbia, SC**

#### *Improving Minority-Serving Institutions' Knowledge of National Library of Medicine Resources Through Competitive Student Team Presentations*

This project improves on previously funded informational efforts by requiring three teams of four students to intensely research the National Library of Medicine (NLM) online databases and to make presentations on their findings. The students have multidisciplinary majors, but all are members of the College's Student Environmental Health Association. Each team is required to research and prepare an informative poster and PowerPoint presentation on select NLM online databases. The students will present their findings to students, faculty, and staff within the College's School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) required seminar classes. Approximately 300 students will benefit from the posters and presentations. The goals of the project are to (1) increase awareness of important NLM resources among students within the College's School of STEM, and (2) improve students' ability to detail both orally and graphically important contributions of NLM databases. The project's objectives are as follows: provide information to a core group of motivated students about NLM resources, including how those resources help in disaster preparedness; assist the approximately 40 members of the College's Student Environmental Health Association in developing teams to research and make presentations on NLM databases; identify top teams that will make presentations on NLM database research to students within junior- and senior-level STEM seminar courses; and conduct team presentations for seminar students' knowledge and evaluation.

### **Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science – Los Angeles, CA**

#### *Environmental Health Outreach and Education Project*

Consistent with NLMs efforts to promote scientific discovery and treatment and prevention of disease, the goals of this project are to increase the awareness of NLM online resources related to the use of toxicological, environmental, occupational, and hazardous materials/waste at Drew University, Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center, and other agencies serving the south Los Angeles area; to provide instruction in the use of NLM Web-based resources; and to enhance the use and the distribution of health-related information to the Drew University faculty, staff, and students and the staff of other agencies serving the south Los Angeles area.

**(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)**

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2009—2010 EnHIP Outreach Awards

### **Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science – Los Angeles, CA**

*Environmental Health Outreach and Education Project*

#### **(CONTINUED)**

Training will be delivered to approximately 300 employees, professional staff, and students of Charles Drew University and its affiliated training sites and to the staff and clients of other agencies serving the south Los Angeles area. Experts in the fields of toxicology, environmental health, and informational and instructional technology will provide the training. It will focus on the scientific literature in the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, and health care systems; TOXNET® for information on toxicological profiles on hazardous chemicals that cause health and environmental effects; Haz-Map® for specific information about the possible effects of exposure to chemicals and biological agents; and Tox Town® for information on common toxic substances encountered in everyday life.

### **California State University at Northridge – Northridge, CA**

*Assessing the Impact of NLM Web Site Training on Information Source Trustability*

Many communities across the country face issues relating to pollution in their neighborhoods. As government agencies and businesses reach out to these citizens in an attempt to provide them information, there are factors that can influence the ability to successfully communicate environmental information. One of these factors is information source trustability (IST). It is the identification of those sources of information trusted by the community. The goal of this project is to understand which environmental information sources are considered trustworthy by Hispanic undergraduate students at California State University-Northridge (CSUN) and to determine whether the introduction to and the training of using NLM online resources changes the IST perspective of these students.

Previous studies (for example, the Six Community Study by Columbia University, 1992) have focused on traditional sources of information in the study of IST. These sources include community leaders, safety and medical service providers, friends, family, and companies. In the last two decades, new electronic sources of information are available and are used often to access information. As an example, the NLM Web site, which includes both health and toxicological information, is an authoritative source of health information available to the general public. The issue of IST needs to be reevaluated in light of these information sources. CSUN serves the community of southern California with its large Hispanic population. Understanding the issues of IST within this population is of interest to those who work in the community when faced with the issue of providing trusted health information. The non-science major CSUN student population provides an opportunity to study the issues of IST within the Hispanic community and the availability and impact of electronic information sources.

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2009—2010 EnHIP Outreach Awards

### **Diné College – Shiprock, NM**

*Using Shiprock, New Mexico, as a Model for a Rural Desert Town for the Tox Town® Web Site*

The Diné College at Shiprock project will focus on increasing community awareness of toxics by modeling the NLM Tox Town Web site to create a typical desert southwest community in Indian Country. This focus stimulated from the many Native Americans who are not well informed of toxics they may be exposed to daily in their communities. Such communities have fewer services, a factor which contributes to toxic exposures. The project is targeted to rural communities, especially Native American communities. The overall goals of this project include improving environmental quality for rural communities through education and providing a convenient source for health information to rural communities. The objectives of this project are as follows: using research already in progress from funding received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which has designated Shiprock, New Mexico, as a CARE community, add toxics unique to these locations; providing links to the best information available to assist communities in improving their health through decreased exposures and better life choices; and providing links to volunteer programs that could be organized to help provide missing community services.

### **Howard University – Washington, D.C.**

*Consumer Genetics Education Network Workshop Continuation*

The Consumer Genetics Education Network Workshop (CGEN) project will expand to include other wards of Washington, DC. The overall goal of the Howard CGEN project is to improve the genetic literacy of the participant communities by integrating genetic research activities into the local and national communities of African Americans and other people of color in order to facilitate their active participation in efforts to eliminate health disparities. The use of NLM Web sites will enhance the project by providing more educational resources to those who want to understand how genetics and race plays a role in their current health status. The CGEN project has been holding NLM database training workshops at churches and community centers to provide urban, underserved African-American adults the opportunity to enhance their literacy and content knowledge of genetic and family health history concepts, increase their awareness of the importance of genetic and family health history issues, and increase their skills to complete genetic-related tasks (e.g., family health history record). One intervention of the CGEN project includes the development of two handbooks used at community education training workshops.

The expected outcomes of the CGEN project are to increase the genetic literacy so people can make informed health and genetics-related decisions; increase access to and use of culturally appropriate programs; and promote lifestyle changes to reduce health risks.

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2009—2010 EnHIP Outreach Awards

### **Jackson State University – Jackson, MS**

#### *Continued Enhancement of Biomedical and Environmental Health Research and Education Through Utilization of the NLM Web-Based Resources*

The goal of this project is to continue the enhancement of environmental health and biomedical sciences research and education at Jackson State University and around the world by hosting a pre-symposium workshop in conjunction with our yearly International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research. The pre-symposium workshop, titled “The National Library of Medicine Web Resources for Environmental Health Research,” is provided for attendees who need information on health issues related to exposure to environmental substances (including those that are naturally occurring) and environmental agents known to induce illnesses and health disparities. The NLM Toxicology and Environmental Health Information Program (TEHIP) databases provide an invaluable resource to address these issues. Major emphasis will be placed on navigating through the TEHIP TOXNET® (Toxicology Data Network) databases and related resources. As in previous years, workshop participants will learn how to access NLM toxicology and environmental health databases on the Internet; learn how to find valuable information on environmental contaminants; and explore other environmental health information resources on the Internet. The seventh pre-symposium workshop will be held in September 2010. Attendees of the pre-symposium workshop will include Jackson State University’s faculty, staff, and students who are involved in biomedical sciences and environmental health research as well as students, faculty, and scientists who will be participating in the international symposium.

### **Medgar Evers College, City University of New York – New York, NY**

#### *Genomics Education and Outreach Program: DNA Ancestry, Human Variation, Complex Diseases and Health Promotion*

Medgar Evers College (MEC) Genomics Education & Outreach Program (GenEOP) is completing its third year of operation. GenEOP is designed to educate and inform the students, the College, and community members about genetics and the human genome. This year the focus is on health promotion through education about the relationship of genes, environment, and human variation to complex diseases and wellness. Two diseases have been identified for special attention, asthma and diabetes. They are representative of the health disparities especially in urban minority communities.

**(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)**

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2009—2010 EnHIP Outreach Awards

### **Medgar Evers College, City University of New York – New York, NY**

*Genomics Education and Outreach Program: DNA Ancestry, Human Variation, Complex Diseases and Health Promotion*

#### **(CONTINUED)**

The goal of this project is to provide information, incorporating the resources of NLM. Outreach activities will promote knowledge about genetics, human variation, health, and environment at the Brooklyn Public Library and at the College. The target audience will be MEC biology majors and other students, faculty, staff, and community members who use the Brooklyn Central Public Library and its branches.

Activities, such as workshops, community discussions, and a seminar, are planned throughout the year. They will focus on information and promotion of the knowledge of human variation, complex diseases, and healthy lifestyles through the interest created from the haplotype (a term used for different genes that are located closely together on the same chromosome and tend to be inherited) results of maternal and paternal ancestry obtained from the National Geographic Genographic Project.

### **Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN**

*Promote and Encourage the Use of "Trusted Information Services that Promote Health Literacy and the Reduction of Health Disparities"*

Meeting the ongoing needs for health literacy in Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee, this project builds on the College's efforts to collaborate with four local community churches in developing faith-based partnerships with public libraries to emphasize and promote the importance of health literacy and health disparities and their connection to community health as well as the knowledge and use of NLM databases and the electronic medical record. Focus meetings will be held to initiate discussions with the lay public through the "Faith-based Network" (Network) about NLMs free consumer information resources, health literacy, health disparities, and the value and importance of the electronic medical record in patient care. The next step will be to increase the awareness of 500 members of the Network regarding health literacy, health disparities, and the importance of electronic medical records by offering sessions on how to access and use NLM and other federal agency databases and resources. This will empower individuals and families in the Network to gain information on health literacy and health disparities through trusted electronic databases and to reinforce searching skills and knowledge in their explorations. It is anticipated that these activities will influence participants on the necessity of becoming more knowledgeable about trusted information services on Web sites by using NLM as the authoritative resource for disseminating health information.

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2009—2010 EnHIP Outreach Awards

### **Morehouse School of Medicine – Atlanta, GA**

#### *Disaster and Emergency Planning Outreach Workshops at Three Atlanta Fulton Branch Public Libraries*

Continuing with its public health preparedness efforts, this project builds on the previous year's project by presenting workshops on disaster and emergency at three Atlanta Fulton Public Libraries, targeting public libraries and their users. This project has the potential of reaching at least 1,200 individuals. The Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) already houses a Regional Coordinating Center for Hurricane Response. MSM believes strongly in providing disaster and emergency information to the community. Through a series of workshops, MSM librarians will use the resources from the NLM newly formed Disaster Information Management Research Center to show participants where to find disaster or emergency information, how to create a disaster or emergency plan, and how to share the information with members not living with them and encourage them to have a plan of their own. Other selected NLM databases and resources will be demonstrated, including Haz-Map, Household Products, Tox Town, TOXMAP®, and MedlinePlus®. Promotional activities will include a kickoff event at each library with brochures, flyers, posters, e-mails, resource manuals, and on-site demonstrations of NLM databases.

### **Southern University A&M College – Baton Rouge, LA**

#### *Journey to Wellness Online with the National Library of Medicine: Community based Workshops*

The purpose of the project is to provide basic health informatics instruction to students, faculty, and community members to promote and enhance their ability to use NLM databases and resources. Implementation plans are as follows: design an interactive, comprehensive one-day symposium to introduce and demonstrate practical uses of eight NLM databases and resources to new users; implement a face-to-face and online course/content specific e-health resource module for future users; and evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching styles used in the symposia and to evaluate new users' ability.

NLM databases and resources will be introduced to 20 institutional and community change agents and 30 nursing students: Health Services Research and Health Care Technology; Journals Database; NIH Public Access; NIH Manuscript Submission System; Disaster Information Management Research Center; Environmental Health and Toxicology; MedlinePlus; and NIH Senior Health—Easily accessible, age-related health information.

**(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)**

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2009—2010 EnHIP Outreach Awards

### **Texas Southern University – Houston, TX**

#### *Knowledge for Health*

The goal of this project is to provide primary prevention and intervention through education and risk factor modification during childhood to reduce chances of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD) in adulthood. Therefore, specific target approaches have been proposed in order to assess the level of knowledge, attitude, and practices related to CVD risks among middle-school-aged African-American students and their parents; and the impact of an educational intervention to encourage healthy behavior.

The objective of the project is to ascertain the baseline knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) about CVD among middle-school-aged African-American students and their parents and to enhance their knowledge through a series of activities and lessons. The following strategies will be employed to complete this study: Phase I – Recruitment of eligible students, age 12 to 15, enrolled in the University's Charter School; Phase II – Data collection (Part I) will consist of obtaining a detailed questionnaire from students and parents to determine their baseline KAP; Phase III – Delivery of the intervention will take place through program staff providing students with a series of educational sessions about CVD. Similar information will be sent home to share with parents; and Phase IV – Data collection (Part 2) will consist of a questionnaire similar to the one that was given to students and parents during Phase II to determine the impact of the project

### **University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus – San Juan, PR**

#### *Outreach Project in Environmental Health Information Path 2009-2010*

Continuing the University's commitment to increase awareness about health and environmental concerns, the goal of this project is to reduce the inequality in the access to information related to health among minority groups, disadvantaged communities, and health students and to increase the awareness of addressing health literacy among groups of students, librarians, school faculty, and community leaders. Customized training in the effective use of NLMs medical and environmental online databases will be provided to the following groups: graduate students in the programs of pharmacy, nursing, and basic sciences (microbiology, anatomy, pharmacology and toxicology, biochemistry) and faculties of the Medical Sciences Campus; students of the ASPIRA Association's Alternative School (CASA--Spanish acronym for Help and Student Services Centers) in subjects related to health and environment that impact their lives (sexually transmitted diseases and HIV); middle and high school teachers and students and school librarians; faculty, librarians, and graduate students of private universities located in the San Juan metropolitan area; and a graduate student's project on the quantization and toxic effects characterization of xylazine mixed with recreational drugs by substance abuse addicts in Puerto Rico.

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2009—2010 EnHIP Outreach Awards

### **The University of Texas at El Paso, College of Health Sciences – El Paso, TX**

#### *Service Learning in Guatemala: A Collaborative Project of Occupational and Physical Therapy Students*

This international service learning project will give students the opportunity to practice clinical skills learned in the classroom. The students will improve their cultural competence and gain a better understanding of health disparities, two experiences they can apply to the local community. A group of selected occupational and physical therapy graduate students from the University of Texas at El Paso will spend a week during the 2010 school year working with children and adults with disabilities in several locations throughout Guatemala, including a special needs orphanage and a hospital/residential living center. Students will conduct evaluations, provide therapy, construct equipment, and consult with family members and staff. Some anticipated outcomes of this project will provide opportunities for students to understand the significant differences and similarities in culture as they relate to development, health, health disparities, and education between Guatemala and the United States; describe the influences of the environment on service provision; and identify the social and economic determinants of health care.

### **Xavier University of Louisiana – New Orleans, LA**

#### *Connecting Older Americans and NLM Electronic Health Information*

The project, Connecting Older Americans and NLM Electronic Health Information, will educate older adults regarding the use of computers and introduce them to resources provided by the NLM database, NIH SeniorHealth. The project developed a toolkit called "Helping Older Adults Search for Health Information Online: A Toolkit for Trainers." Once the training is complete, the participants will be introduced to select NLM Web sites as well as other reputable health information sites. These include Enviro-Health Links, Drug Information Portal, and MedlinePlus. Participants will be encouraged to navigate the selected NLM Web sites to obtain information on medications, emergency and disaster preparedness, and environmental health information for seniors. The project is targeted to residents of Christopher Homes, Incorporated, facilities for individuals age 60 years and older. Anticipated outcomes of this project include increased number of older Americans who are able to use a computer; and increase in the availability of NLM electronic material to older Americans.