

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2011—2012 EnHIP Outreach Awards

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

#### *Utilization of National Library of Medicine Resources to Better Understand Animal-Human Connections of Zoonotic Diseases*

Students affiliated with the Student Environmental Health Association will use NLM online databases for research related to diseases transmitted between animals and humans. Students will work in teams and make presentations within seminar classes. They will be evaluated and will compete for awards. About 300 sophomores, juniors, and seniors majoring in biology, chemistry, environmental health, and public health will take part in this project. These training exercises build on a foundation established through previous EnHIP Outreach Awards. This project responds to the EnHIP Strategic Plan directive to expand students' knowledge of NLM collections. Also, it promotes the importance of students' understanding of environmental health topics.

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

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

The goals of the project are to increase awareness, provide instruction, and enhance the use and distribution of NLM online resources. About 300 professional staff, other employees, and students will take part in training sessions. Participants are affiliated with Charles R. Drew University, Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Service Ambulatory Comprehensive Center, and other agencies serving the south Los Angeles area. Participants will be instructed in toxicology, environmental health, and informational and instructional technology. Topics will include TOXNET®, Haz-Map®, Tox Town®, and scientific literature in the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, and health care systems.

By using questionnaires and conducting interviews, the project will be evaluated based on the number of participants and the increase in interest in the use of NLM online resources. These trainings build on the foundation established through previous EnHIP Outreach Awards. This project is responsive to the EnHIP Strategic Plan's directive to expand students' knowledge of NLM databases and resources.

### **Florida A&M University, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences – Tallahassee, FL**

#### *Improving Health Literacy and Access to National Library of Medicine Resources in Disadvantaged Communities*

Students will gain experience in communicating health literacy techniques to people living in a socio-economically disadvantaged community.

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*Improving Health Literacy and Access to National Library of Medicine Resources in Disadvantaged Communities*

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They will learn the operational aspects of NLM databases and then work alongside registered pharmacist faculty members to instruct community members in using NLM resources. Knowledge about medical terminology and risk factors for disease will be shared in addition to information about medication management and basic patient self-care skills. Also, pharmacy students will collaborate with medical staff at local indigent health centers to support greater use of NLM databases by patients so they might gain medical knowledge and greater access to quality health information. These efforts build on a foundation established through previous EnHIP Outreach Awards. This project responds to the EnHIP Strategic Plan's directive to enhance the capacity of minority-serving institutions to engage in their community and work toward eliminating health disparities.

### **Hampton University, School of Nursing – Hampton, VA**

*Stimulating Youth through Immersion in Biomedical Informatics and Library Science Careers*

The objectives of the program are to increase NLM and EnHIP visibility in communities with minority-serving institutions; lead discussions of professional opportunities in biomedical informatics and library science; promote these career paths at special events, such as Career Day; and track decisions about career paths among minority participants. Activities planned to carry out the project include a one-day forum for middle school, high school, and college students and participation at two career fairs. The Hampton University Career Counseling and Planning Center will sponsor a career fair in the fall, and a spring career fair will be sponsored by the project's community partners, Daughters Are You Listening and the Youth Connection of Hampton Roads. Also, students will develop a biomedical informatics and library science career project. This partnership project will increase the capacity of the faculty and students to engage in community service by enhancing the development of a diverse health care workforce. Also, the activities will disseminate information about the goals and objectives of NLM.

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

#### *NLM Web-Based Resources: A Catalyst for Biomedical and Environmental Health Research and Education*

The goal of this project is to continue to enhance health and biomedical sciences research and education at Jackson State University and around the world by organizing and implementing a pre-symposium workshop in conjunction with the Eighth International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research. The workshop will be designed to meet the needs of scientists, researchers, and policy makers who need information on health issues related to exposure to environmental substances and agents known to induce illnesses. Activities of the workshop will involve classroom lectures and computer practice sessions to learn how to access and use NLM resources. Major emphasis will be placed on navigating through the TEHIP's TOXNET® (Toxicology Data Network) databases and related resources.

Attendees of the pre-symposium workshop, slated for September 2011, will include faculty and students who are involved in biomedical sciences and environmental health research, as well as students, faculty, and scientists from around the world who will be participating in the symposium. The project fully supports EnHIP's mission of "enhancing the capacity of minority serving institutions to reduce health disparities" by providing training and developing skills of faculty, students and staff, and other scientists.

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

#### *Genomics Education & Outreach Program: Human DNA Variation, Health, and the Environment*

The Genomics Education and Outreach Program of Medgar Evers College is in its fifth year of operation. The program maintains a partnership with the Brooklyn Public Library's Human Genome Project Community Conversations Committee to increase genetic literacy among people in the community. The goal is to increase the genetic literacy of individuals, school children, and community groups in urban settings by informing them about the Human Genome Project and the 21st century science of genetics. Through information and education, the project strives to empower individuals to make informed genetics-related decisions and to enhance the quality of their lives. Activities include DNA Day @ BPL, November Family Health History Month, and a series of workshops for science majors on DNA ancestry. The target audience will be students majoring in biology at Medgar Evers College, students in the MEC Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program, and other students, faculty, staff, and community members. Community members include people who use the Brooklyn Central Public Library and its branches.

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

*Genomics Education & Outreach Program: Human DNA Variation, Health, and the Environment*

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These efforts build on a foundation established through previous EnHIP Outreach Awards. This project responds to the EnHIP Strategic Plan's directives by increasing students' and communities' knowledge of NLM online resources and their relevance to consumer and academic services. It expands efforts to ensure faculty and students are thoroughly knowledgeable of NLM collections of health and biomedical information.

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

*Promote the Use of NLM Resources with Faith-Based and Civic Organizations*

The goal of the project is to engage local organizations to develop an alliance focused on disaster preparedness. The alliance made up of churches and civic organizations will place emphasis on reducing health disparities emerging out of disasters, such as floods and tornadoes.

Funding will be used to support meetings and trainings to promote use of NLM resources. Community leaders will develop a coordinating committee to support members of the community in managing health issues and preparing for disaster situations. Participants connected with four churches will learn about consumer health information, health literacy, health disparities, electronic medical records, and disaster preparedness. Trainings will be conducted with assistance from librarians from the metro public libraries.

In addition, two individual trainings and one joint training will benefit two civic organizations. Training on NLM databases will be presented to Les Gemmes, a group that mentors teen girls in a medically underserved community, and the Witness Program, a church-based cancer survivorship program. All trainings will be promoted through traditional and social media channels to encourage wide participation. These efforts build on a foundation established through previous EnHIP Outreach Awards. This project responds to the EnHIP Strategic Plan's directive to enhance the capacity of minority-serving institutions to engage in community, public, and professional services that improve information and knowledge of electronic access and availability.

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

#### *Project Environmental Health and You*

The goal of the project is to increase awareness and use of NLM consumer health/environmental databases among target audiences: master of public health professors and their students, high school science teachers and their students, and librarians in the public and academic sectors. Interactive presentations will be given in environmental health classes, design projects related to NLM databases will be assigned, and evaluations will be completed to measure database preferences and use.

Those receiving training are:

- Two MPH professors at Morehouse School of Medicine and 10 graduate students
- Four high school science teachers and 300 students within the Atlanta Public School System's Health and Research Small Learning Community at Booker T. Washington High School
- Two Atlanta Fulton Public Library staff and two Morehouse School of Medicine library staff

This project responds to the EnHIP Strategic Plan's directives by increasing students' proficiency with NLM databases. This initiative expands into the community so others can use the online resources of NLM with equal fluency.

### **Morgan State University – Baltimore, MD**

#### *Project 3E+: Enable, Engage, and Empower Morgan State University Students and Community Partners with Health Information Technology*

The purpose of this project is to provide students and community partners with an integrating experience that will increase knowledge and proficiency on public health issues through access to resources and databases. Six or more sessions will be conducted with students. At least one session will be conducted with community partners. A kiosk in the library will be equipped for easy access to NLM databases. An evaluation will show the success of the project. It will measure attendance, satisfaction with presentations, assignments, and materials. The project reinforces EnHIP's Strategic Goal of increasing the awareness, understanding, and use of NLM programs and services by lay and professional groups surrounding the Morgan State University community.

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### **Tuskegee University, School of Nursing and Allied Health – Tuskegee, AL**

#### *Promoting Health Disparity Research and Educational Interventions in Alabama Black Belt Counties Through Research*

This project will address health disparities in African-American communities in selected Black Belt Counties of Alabama. Faculty members will use NLM databases and other resources to compile and summarize information in three areas: sexually transmitted infections in adolescents, cardiovascular diseases in African-American women, and prostate cancer in African-American men. They will use these findings to guide or modify nursing practices and to prepare manuscripts for publications about health disparities present in African-American populations. The primary aim of this project is to increase faculty capacity in the area of scholarship (grant writing, research, and publication). The reference librarian in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health, will familiarize faculty members with the NLM databases, other databases, and reference materials. A research consultant will assist with the integrative review methodology, establish criteria for selection of research studies, and aid with research proposal development.

This project responds to the EnHIP Strategic Plan's directive to enhance faculty involvement in translation of public health research findings and knowledge into evidence-based practice. The project is designed to prepare faculty to conduct basic and applied research, apply quantitative and qualitative data, and deliver information for the development of comprehensive health education programs for African- American communities.

### **University of Alaska Anchorage – Anchorage, AK**

#### *Exploring a Framework for Assessing the Moral Health of Anchorage, Alaska, through the Lenses of Health, Food, Environmental, Social, Economic Justice (respectively) and Deliberative Ethics: A Pilot Project*

The project will challenge students in an environmental ethics class with a service learning component to investigate how they can help the many and diverse communities in Alaska build capacity to address the health, social, economic, food security, and environmental conditions that shape their well-being as it pertains to climate change in Alaska. Students will interact with scientists, policy makers and lay persons to address ethical questions related to this topic.

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#### **(CONTINUED)**

This multidisciplinary undertaking will require students to employ their major field expertise in combination with diverse areas of philosophical reasoning. They will come to understand the difficulties in apprehending, posing, framing, and debating specific concerns about climate change. Students will elaborate on the possibilities and limits of dealing with ethics in a participatory setting that prioritizes citizen input and deliberative discourse. Students will help to plan and convene two public forums that will feature guest speakers from the National Library of Medicine (NLM), Ohio State University, and the University of Montana. Social media will be employed as a publicity vehicle and dissemination tool. The project responds to EnHIP Strategic Plan in several ways including enhancing the visibility, use, and distribution of NLM resources to faculty, staff, students, and community partners. It will focus on promoting health literacy and highlight the connection between health and other moral concerns impacting Alaska's vulnerable communities. The project will show students how libraries can contribute to moral and democratic deliberation and discourses.

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

*UPR-Medical Sciences Campus: Outreach Project in Environmental Health Information, 2011-2012*

The goal of the project is to reduce inequality in health literacy and in access to health information. Trainings on NLM resources will be offered to a broad spectrum of students and community members in order to reach minority and underserved groups. At UPR, trainings will be directed toward graduate students in the programs of pharmacy, nursing, and basic sciences (microbiology, anatomy, toxicology, biochemistry). Trainings will also be extended to biology and pre-med students as well as to a group of faculty, librarians, and graduate students affiliated with private universities in the San Juan area. At-risk students enrolled at an alternative high school (CASA project) will learn how to use NLM resources for studies related to health with a focus on resources of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, and alcohol and drug abuse. In addition, teachers and students at middle schools and high schools will receive training in searching environmental databases; elderly residents of the communities of Carolina, Mayaguez, and Ponce will receive training related to health issues; and training on women's health issues will be given to groups of women. Emphasis will be on identifying credible health sites and understanding information. The project supports EnHIP's mission of "enhancing the capacity of minority serving institutions to reduce health disparities" by providing access and training on the use of NLM databases and resources for faculty, students, and members of their communities.

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

#### *Home Environment Determinants of Fall-Related Injuries among Elderly Hispanics*

While substantial research exists about risk factors and prevention strategies of fall-related injuries, little research addresses the issues in relation to the Hispanic population, specifically Hispanics of Mexican origin. The objective of the project is to examine falls by ethnicity, taking into consideration language barriers, poverty, and lack of health insurance. The project will offer insight into how cultural factors may affect the incidence of falls (for example, persons of Mexican descent often live within multigenerational family settings where they are unable to make environmental changes, such as installing handrails. They may also live in dwellings that are structurally unsound due to poverty.) Interviews will be conducted with elderly Hispanic residents who have experienced a fall. Interviews with family caregivers will help verify accuracy of information. An analysis of medical charts will yield demographic and medical risk information. The intent of UTEP faculty, working in collaboration with the El Paso Falls Prevention Coalition, is to use the findings of this project to develop a culturally sensitive falls prevention program for elderly Hispanic persons. This project responds to the EnHIP Strategic Plan's directive to enhance faculty involvement in translation of public health research findings and to increase knowledge of evidence-based practice. It also highlights the roles of NLM and EnHIP in providing funding of pilot projects that support research and interventions for minority populations.