

# Environmental Health Information Partnership

## 2012—2013 EnHIP Outreach Awards

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

*Incorporating Competitive Team Presentations to Improve Minority-Serving Institutions' Knowledge of National Library of Medicine Resources of Information for Understanding Animal Contributions to Human Disease*

Students affiliated with the Student Environmental Health Association will use NLM online databases for research related to zoonotic contributors to human disease. Students will work in teams and make presentations within seminar classes made up of junior- and senior-level students majoring in science disciplines such as biology, chemistry, and environmental health science. The teams will be evaluated and will compete for awards. These training exercises will 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.

### **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 Tenth International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research. The workshop, focused on Web resources of NLM, is designed to meet the needs of environmental and biomedical scientists, researchers, and policy makers. With access to NLM databases, they can gain information on health issues related to exposure to environmental substances and environmental 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 workshop will include Jackson State University faculty and students who are involved in biomedical sciences and environmental health research, as well as students, faculty, and scientists who will participate in the international 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 the faculty, students, staff, and scientists in attendance.

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

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

In its sixth year of operation, the Genomics Education and Outreach Program informs students about the human genome project, the science of genomics, and the impact on science and society. The program maintains an affiliation 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 empower them through information and education to make informed genetics-related decisions and to enhance the quality of their lives.

Together with the Brooklyn Public Library, the program will sponsor several workshops and presentations related to genetics, health, and ancestry. Participants will use NLM resources, including PubMed®, the National Center for Biotechnology Information, and Genetics Home Reference. In addition, two workshops for high school students will be provided. Activities for Family Health History Month will include at least three training seminars. The target audience will be students majoring in biology at Medgar Evers College, along with other students, faculty, and staff. Selected high school students will be enrolled in workshops. Activities affiliated with the Brooklyn Public Library engage community members.

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

*Engage in Community, Public, and Professional Services in the Use of Electronic Databases of the National Library of Medicine*

Members of the Community Disaster Alliance of Nashville will continue to develop its work on disaster preparedness; they will build on the foundation established through a previous EnHIP Outreach Award. Representatives of 30 organizations will receive training in the use of NLM databases so they are better equipped to reduce health disparities emerging out of disasters, such as floods and tornadoes. Trainings will be conducted with the assistance of librarians from the metro public libraries. Participants affiliated with three churches will take part in six trainings so they can assist their members in the use of advanced searches related to disaster preparedness, community health, and management of chronic diseases. In addition, two individual trainings and one joint training on NLM databases will benefit Les Gemmes, a civic organization that mentors teen girls in a medically underserved community.

All trainings will be promoted through traditional and social media channels to encourage wide participation. 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 knowledge of electronic access and availability.

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

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

The purpose of the project is to increase awareness and maximize use of NLM databases and resources. Six training sessions will be conducted by graduate-level interns in the School of Community Health and Policy. They will make presentations to other Morgan State University students, and at least one session will be made for community partners. A kiosk in the library will be equipped for easy access to NLM databases. The goal is to expand and intensify education efforts so that faculty, students, and community professionals are thoroughly knowledgeable about detailed aspects of NLM collections of health and biomedical information.

An evaluation will show the success of the project. It will measure attendance, and satisfaction with presentations, assignments, and materials. The project responds to the EnHIP Strategic Plan by addressing the directives to educate and train health professionals and engage the community.

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

*UPR-Medical Sciences Campus: Outreach Project in Environmental Health Information, 2012-2013*

The goal of this project is to reduce the inequality in health literacy and to gain greater access to information related to health among minority groups and disadvantaged communities. Trainings in the use of NLM resources will be offered to a broad spectrum of students and community members as a way to reach minority and underserved groups. All workshops and conferences will be offered in Spanish.

The outreach program will develop leadership workshops and deliver training on NLM resources for a group of students from ASPIRA Alternative School. The students will make presentations and serve as counselors and a support group for other students seeking information about health, sexual at-risk behaviors, smoking, alcohol abuse, and drug abuse. They will reach out to other schools and into the community. Trainings on women's health issues will be given to groups of women. The emphasis will be on identifying credible health sites and retrieving understandable information.

At the Medical Sciences Campus, graduate students in the programs of microbiology, anatomy, pharmacology and toxicology, and biochemistry will be trained in the effective use of NLM resources.

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

*Examination of and Marketing to University of El Paso Students for the Development of an Understanding of and an Interest in Health-Related Information to Serve Vulnerable Underserved Populations Including Hispanic Individuals in Border Communities*

This project is designed to develop an infrastructure at the University of Texas at El Paso that will be used to educate and facilitate students' interest in health literacy topics and careers to serve vulnerable and underserved populations including Hispanic individuals living in border communities. The project will support a series of focus groups to determine an understanding of current awareness on campus regarding health disparities and the access, use, and delivery of health information. Findings will identify topics of cultural relevance and inform decisions about methods of outreach and dissemination most preferred by students. Students will be provided a research symposium to stimulate an introduction to and an interest in career opportunities in environmental health, biomedical research, and health care fields. They will learn practical applications of the National Library of Medicine databases and gain an understanding of how the information can help them engage in the advocacy of health promotion activities. These tasks relate to several EnHIP Strategic Plan directives, including providing the opportunity to increase the number of racial and ethnic minorities in the environmental health, biomedical research, and health care workforce.