

Integrating Environmental Health into Pediatric Health Care : Children's Environmental Health Faculty Champions Initiative

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APHA Annual Meeting



National Environmental
Education Foundation

Knowledge to live by

National Environmental Education Foundation

- ◆ Private, non-profit organization committed to improving environmental literacy and advancing environmental health knowledge among healthcare providers
- ◆ Working with health professional organizations, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders, creates tools, conducts trainings and other educational and outreach activities in order to improve healthcare and public health, with a special emphasis on protecting children, minorities and other vulnerable populations

Environmental Health Faculty Champions Initiative

Faculty members at medical and nursing schools who:

- ◆ Take leadership in integrating environmental health into their academic institutions in a sustainable fashion
- ◆ Train other faculty members and colleagues
- ◆ Educate students
- ◆ Provide expertise in their institutions and communities
- ◆ Serve as models for how to integrate environmental health into health professional education

Children's Environmental Health Faculty Champions Initiative

- ◆ Two-year project with 28 medical and nursing faculty champions
- ◆ Led by a planning committee of experts
- ◆ Cosponsored by American Academy of Pediatrics, Ambulatory Pediatric Association, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Association of Academic Health Centers, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- ◆ Funded by a grant from US EPA, with additional funding from New York Community Trust and Baxter Healthcare

www.neefusa.org/health/champions/index.htm

Project Overview

- ◆ Invited faculty members who are ready and willing to be children's environmental health champions, from academic health centers (targeting geographic and racial/ethnic balance)
- ◆ Sponsored train-the-trainer workshop - July 14, 2006
- ◆ Provided CME credits for workshop and offered ongoing support
- ◆ Secured commitments
 - ◆ Action plans

Project Overview

- ◆ Faculty champions to train 10 health professionals each – 280 total
- ◆ Faculty champions to integrate content into medical and nursing school curricula
- ◆ Ongoing support from NEEF: Training tools (PowerPoint presentations) Listserv, materials, technical support
- ◆ Faculty champion activities supported by outreach campaigns by NEEF
- ◆ Train-the-trainer curriculum made available online and widely disseminated

Evaluation

- ◆ Pre and post test at workshop
- ◆ Baseline competency data collection following workshop
- ◆ Post test at 3 months
- ◆ Progress assessment survey at 4 and 8 months
- ◆ Telephone interviews at 6 and 12 months

Competencies Measured

- ◆ Completion of pediatric environmental health history taking
- ◆ Making referrals for preventative/curative interventions for possible environmental health hazards
- ◆ Involvement with community groups/organizations for environmental health and risk communications
- ◆ Utilization of resources for pediatric environmental health hazards
- ◆ Reporting incidents for regulating requirements

Results

- ◆ Workshop rated highly effective by participants
- ◆ Increased knowledge of faculty champions about pediatric environmental health
- ◆ 2,000 health professionals trained (planned to train 280)
- ◆ Sustained changes in curriculum
- ◆ Presentations at national, state, and local conferences and publications reaching national audiences
- ◆ Changes in students due to integration of pediatric and environmental health emphasis into their learning
- ◆ Discussions with community and policy makers about environmental health toxins to help make changes

Results

- ◆ Desire to continue to serve as faculty champions
- ◆ Desire to continue using NEEF materials
- ◆ Desire to participate in another workshop and to serve as mentors for the next group to be trained
- ◆ Desire to continue receiving updates via listserv

Conclusion

- ◆ Children's Environmental Health Faculty Champions Initiative was highly successful in increasing the number of health professionals who are able to address children's environmental health issues
- ◆ Initiative is a successful model that can be easily replicated and sustained
- ◆ Additional resources are needed to replicate the model in order to build capacity among all pediatric health professionals

Planning Committee

- Sophie Balk, MD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, The Children's Hospital at Montefiore
- Joel Forman, MD, Mount Sinai Medical Center
- Christine Johnson, MD, Naval Medical Center San Diego and Representative, Ambulatory Pediatric Association
- Leyla Erk McCurdy, MPhil, National Environmental Education Foundation
- Mary Musholt, MSN, PNP, University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Nursing and Representative, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- C. Fay Raines, PhD, RN, University of Alabama in Huntsville, College of Nursing and Representative, American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- James Roberts, MD, MPH, Medical University of South Carolina and Representative, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Bonnie Rogers, DrPH, COHN-S, FAAN, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Public Health
- Elaine Rubin, PhD, Association of Academic Health Centers

Faculty Champions

MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY

- Cenan Antowan, MD
- Millicent Collins, MD
- Frances Dunston, MD, MPH
- Hans Kersten, MD
- Kelly Leite, DO
- Gilbert Liu, MD, MS
- Stephen Maddox, MD
- Sean Mckenna, MD
- Dennis Ownby, MD
- Randall Phelps, MD, PhD
- Giovanni Piedmonte, MD
- Kokab Saeed, MD
- Elaine Schulte, MD MPH
- Myrtis Sullivan, MD, MPH
- Terry Wall, MD, MPH

NURSING SCHOOL FACULTY

- Pat Jackson Allen, RN, MS, PNP
- Laura Anderko, PhD, RN
- Annie Bruck, RN, MN, COHNS
- Karen Duderstadt, RN, PhD, CPNP
- Adele Foerster, RN, MSN, CPNP
- Roger Green, DNP, FNP
- Shelly Leitch RN, MSN, CPNP
- Linda McCauley, RN PhD
- Pamela Scheibel MS, RN, CPNP
- Gigi Smith MSN, APRN, CPNP
- Gale Spencer, PhD, RN
- Salimah Walani, RN, MSN, MPH

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCHOOL FACULTY

- Ken Harbert, PhD, CHES, PA-C

AFFILIATION

Texas Tech University
Howard University
Morehouse School of Medicine
Drexel University
Penn State Children's Hospital
Indiana University
New York University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
West Virginia University
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston
Albany Medical College
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Alabama at Birmingham

AFFILIATION

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University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
University of Washington
University of California at San Francisco
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Rocky Mountain University, Provo, Utah
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston
University of Pennsylvania
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Medical University of South Carolina
State University of New York at Binghamton
New York University

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South College, Knoxville

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