



New York State Children's  
Environmental Health Centers



Mount  
Sinai

## New York State Children's Environmental Health Centers Call for Applicants: Pediatric Environmental Health Scholars Program

The New York State Children's Environmental Health Centers (NYSCEHC) is pleased to announce the 2020 *Call for Pediatric Environmental Health Scholars*. NYSCEHC is a network of environmental health centers, located in seven medical centers across NYS. The Network is dedicated to protecting and improving the environmental health of New York's children through clinical, educational, and community-based initiatives. NYSCEHC sponsored its first round of scholars in 2018. Appendix A describes the projects.

**Focus:** The primary focus of the NYSCEHC Scholars Program is to train future leaders in children's environmental health. Trainees will benefit from expert mentorship from faculty, community partners, and local, state and federal public health agencies across the Network.

**Scholars can be based at one of the following Centers:** Albany NY Medical Center, Buffalo Regional Children's Environmental Health Center, Syracuse Upstate Children's Environmental Health Center, Rochester Finger Lakes Children's Environmental Health Center, Westchester Children's Environmental Health Center of the Hudson Valley, and the Center of Excellence in Children's Environmental Health at Stony Brook/Northwell. **However, priority consideration will be given to Centers who have not had scholars.**

### Selected scholars will:

- Collaborate with leading experts in the fields of environmental health, environmental pediatrics, toxicology, epidemiology, and risk assessment on important current and emerging environmental health issues in NYS.
- Participate in work on cross-cutting, population-based environmental health interventions.
- Collaborate with community organizations and promote initiatives to improve the health of all NYS children.
- Gain expertise in risk assessment and risk communication and provide sound, evidence-based counseling about how to prevent and reduce environmental exposures to families and communities.
- Participate in educational activities to expand their knowledge in environmental public health.
- Provide mentorship to trainees (students, residents) participating in elective programs.

**Eligibility:** Professionals in the health field, with a strong interest in children's environmental health, are encouraged to apply. We are seeking diverse applicants from a variety of training backgrounds (e.g., MD, DO, RN, SW, PhD, MPH etc.) and varied experiences in the medical, public health, social service and community-based advocacy work.

**Anticipated start date/duration:** November 1, 2020; applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and additional scholars may start at a later date. The duration of training can be 1-2 years.

**Funding and Time Commitment:** EH Scholar funding may support 20-50% time (depending on salary level and available funding). Reflecting institutional commitment from the host center, it is expected that the center will cover the

remaining salary over the course of the scholar's project. This model is designed to support the development of institutional champions in children's environmental health.

**How to Apply:** Please complete the attached application. In addition, please submit a curriculum vitae (CV) and up to three letters of recommendation for consideration.

**Please direct any questions and email your application with the Subject Line: PEH Scholars Program to the attention of Michael Ejiogu at: [Michael.ejiogu@mssm.edu](mailto:Michael.ejiogu@mssm.edu)**

*Mount Sinai Hospital and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai are equal opportunity/ affirmative action employers. Women and minority candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.*

## **New York State Children's Environmental Health Centers Pediatric Environmental Health Scholars Application**

### Section A: Information About the Applicant

Applicant:

Primary Residence/Work Address:

Email Address:

Phone/Cell Number:

1. Explain why you are interested in the program (limit: 250 words).
2. Explain previous training or participation in children's environmental health issues (limit: 250 words).
3. What Center are you proposing to work with? (If not known by applicant, the Mount Sinai Coordinating Center can connect the applicants to potential partner sites.)
4. The NYS Network has four key strategies to reduce the adverse impact of pediatric environmental health hazards and to maximize access to high quality environmental health services for New York State families: These are listed below. Please describe which of these are of greatest interest to you and what you hope to gain from the training in these core areas?

A: Incorporating environmental health into routine child medical care and screening programs.

B: Incorporating environmental health into healthcare professional education and training programs in environmental health.

C: Promoting environmental justice and community capacity building through meaningful partnerships with community-based organizations.

D: Building broad-based awareness of environmental health and promoting evidence-based public health policy designed to reduce disparities in environmental disease, especially impacting children and pregnant women.

5. How do you foresee integrating children's environmental health into your current work responsibilities and future career plans? (limit: 250 words)

**Section B (To Be Completed by the Host Center):**

- a. What is the core area of focus for the applicant's proposed project? Please check one.
  - Incorporating environmental health into routine child medical care and screening programs.
  - Incorporating environmental health into healthcare professional education and training programs in environmental health.
  - Promoting environmental justice and community capacity building through meaningful partnerships with community-based organizations.
  - Building broad-based awareness of environmental health and promoting evidence-based public health policy designed to reduce disparities in environmental disease, especially impacting children and pregnant women.
- b. Will the proposed project support or build upon your Center priority areas in your work plan? If so, how?
- c. Has a primary mentor(s) been identified for the scholar? If yes, who?
- d. Supplemental funds are required in order to demonstrate institutional commitment. Does the host Center have matching funding and if so how much?
- e. Is the applicant currently employed at the primary site?
- f. How many hours per week (or %FTE) are proposed for the scholar's project?
- g. What are the proposed start and end dates for the scholar?
- h. Please submit a proposed budget for the scholar that outlines salary support, along with travel and training related expenses. At a minimum, the Center should budget for travel to the annual conference and one in-person visit to the NYC Coordinating Center in NYC. A stipend is provided to all scholars to cover such costs.

## APPENDIX A

## Examples of Past NYSCEHC Environmental Scholar's Projects

**Genesis Abreu**

**Background:** community organizer with a bachelor's degree in environmental and political science and master's degree student in environmental policy and sustainability.

**Project Focus:** Promoting environmental justice and strengthening community in decision making related to environmental health.

**Host Center:** NYC

**Georgia Bancheri**

**Background:** Bachelor's degree with a strong interest in environmental health and toxic stress impacting on low income communities.

**Project Focus:** Promoting awareness of environmental health stressors, especially working with high risk young adults, and empowering communities to make change through collective action and policy change

**Host Center:** Long Island

**Amy Brown, MD, MBe**

**Background:** Board certified in pediatric pulmonology and general medicine; Attending in Pediatric Pulmonology, Allergy and Immunology

**Project Focus:** Working toward creating sustainable strategies for in-home asthma interventions for children with asthma. Also, focusing on strategies to build awareness and prevention related to the vaping epidemic in youth.

**Host Center:** Hudson Valley Center (Westchester)

**Sandra Jee, MD, MPH**

**Background:** Board certified pediatrician; Associate Professor of Pediatrics

**Project Focus:** Integrating environmental health into medical training for interns and residents and expanding awareness in the community about children's environmental health issues and prevention.

**Host Center:** Finger Lakes Center (Rochester)

**Lissette Palestro, MPH**

**Background:** Project Coordinator with an MPH in Environmental Health from Texas A&M and interned at the Hudson Valley CEHC.

**Project Focus:** Increasing environmental health education, screenings, and referrals to the Western New York Children's Environmental Health Center (WNY CEHC) and building overall community awareness and capacity to address children's environmental health issues.

**Host Center:** Western New York Center (Buffalo)