



New York State Children's
Environmental Health Centers



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 (NYSHECK) is pleased to announce the *2023 Call for Pediatric Environmental Health Scholars*. NYSHECK is a network of environmental health centers, located in seven medical centers across NYS, with the Coordinating Center based at the NYC location. The Network is dedicated to protecting and improving the environmental health of New York's children through clinical, educational, and community-based initiatives. NYSHECK sponsored its first round of scholars in 2018 and the second cohort in 2020. Appendix A describes select projects.

Focus: The primary focus of the NYSHECK 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 seven Centers: Albany (Capital Area Children's Environmental Health Center at Albany Medical Center), Buffalo (Western NY Children's Environmental Health Center at University of Buffalo); New York City (NYC Children's Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai); Long Island, NY (Children's Environmental Health Center at Northwell/Stonybrook); Rochester (Finger Lakes Children's Environmental Health Center at University of Rochester Medical Center); Syracuse (Central NY Children's Environmental Health Center at Upstate Medical Center); and Westchester (Hudson Valley Children's Environmental Health Center at New York Medical College and Westchester Medical Center). **Opportunities for cross center work also would be considered.**

Selected scholars will:

- Collaborate with leading experts in the fields of environmental health, environmental pediatrics, toxicology, epidemiology, risk assessment and risk communication on important current and emerging environmental health issues in NYS.
- 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 work on population-based environmental health interventions.
- Participate in educational activities to expand knowledge in environmental public health.
- Provide mentorship to trainees (students, residents) participating in elective programs.
- Collaborate with community organizations and promote initiatives to improve the health of all NYS children.

Eligibility: Professionals of all backgrounds interested in the environmental public health field, especially 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, DrPH, MPH etc.) and varied experiences in the medical, public health, social service and community-based advocacy work.

Anticipated start date/duration: November 1, 2022; 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 20-90% time (depending on salary level and available funding). As part of the 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

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 select the area of greatest interest to you and what you hope to gain from training in this core area? (limit: 250 words)

A: Incorporating environmental health into routine child medical care and screening programs which link families to needed healthy homes interventions. This screening can take place in a variety of clinical settings including general pediatrics, subspecialty practices, the inpatient setting and school-based health. A scholar's project could implement a new EH screening program, expand upon an existing program or evaluate the program laying the groundwork for quality improvement.

B: Incorporating environmental health into healthcare, public health professional education programs and other relevant fields (e.g., law, architecture/design, communications, marketing etc.) at all stages of training including youth. A scholar's project could implement a new EH educational efforts, expand upon an existing program or evaluate the program laying the groundwork for quality improvement.

C: Promoting environmental justice and community capacity building through meaningful partnerships with community-based organizations. A scholar's project could implement a new EJ or community capacity building project, expand on an existing collaboration or evaluate the collaborative effort laying the



groundwork for quality improvement.

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. The scholar's project could focus on one specific policy effort or expand on an existing effort.

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):

6. 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 which link families to needed healthy homes interventions. This screening can take place in a variety of clinical settings including general pediatrics, subspecialty practices, the inpatient setting and school-based health.
 - Incorporating environmental health into healthcare, public health professional education programs and other relevant fields (e.g., law, architecture/design, communications, marketing etc.) at all stages of training including youth.
 - 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.
7. Will the proposed project support or build upon your Center priority areas in your work plan? If so, how?
8. Has a primary mentor(s) been identified for the scholar? If yes, who?
9. Supplemental funds are required in order to demonstrate institutional commitment. Does the host Center have matching funding and if so how much?
10. Is the applicant currently employed at the primary site?
11. How many hours per week (or %FTE) are proposed for the scholar's project?
12. What are the proposed start and end dates for the scholar?
13. 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 – NYS CHECK ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCHOLAR’S PROGRAM – PROJECT EXAMPLES



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)



Karyn Reinhardt, RRT-NPS, Asthma Health Educator

Background: Certified Respiratory Therapist and trained asthma educator

Project Focus: Implemented an enhanced asthma diagnostic and prevention program in a pediatric clinic. Services included: screening families for EH concerns in the home and linking families to prevention resources, family education (basic asthma education, including reducing EH exposures, medication, and spacer use), pulmonary function testing, asthma action plan, and provision of exposure reduction supplies (mattress covers, storage bins, etc)

Host Center: Central New York Center (Syracuse)



Abigail Seide, MPH, CHES

Background: Research coordinator in the Division of General Pediatrics and clinical program coordinator for the Family Wellness Screening Program.

Project Focus: Implemented a new social determinants of health (SDH) screener, including environmental health concerns in the home, in a pediatric clinic. Families screening positive for SDH issues were linked to community-based social service and prevention resources. Also included an evaluation component.

Host Center: Long Island Center (Northwell)



Sarah Ventre, MD, MPH

Background: Board certified pediatrician; Clinical Assistant Professor; Co-Director, Advocacy Training, Pediatric Residency Program

Project Focus: Buffalo Sprouts, Urban Gardening Initiative. Created a vertical gardening in a pediatric clinic setting, providing an interactive educational experience related to healthy foods and linking families to community-based food and gardening resources. The project also included pre and post evaluation.

Host Center: Western New York Center (Buffalo)