

Environmental Health Information Partnership

2008—2009 EnHIP Outreach Awards

Benedict College – Columbia, SC

Facilitating Campus Awareness of the Role of National Library of Medicine Databases in Preventing Potential Health or Environmental Disasters

The Benedict College Environmental Health Association (BCEHA) consists of more than 40 campus-wide students whose goals include sharing information to improve campus-wide health and environmental awareness. This project is a continuation of previous work with this group of students, with the goal of increasing campus awareness regarding preventing or addressing health and environmental emergencies.

The project will be initially promoted by disseminating information within seminar courses that are required of all students on campus. Principal investigators will continue to routinely train BCEHA student members on the use of NLM databases with an emphasis on disaster/emergency preparedness. The students will develop attractive monthly flyers to inform the college about NLM database roles in preventing or preparing for health or environmental emergencies. The principal investigators/project administrators will then evaluate all student flyers. Students with accepted flyers will receive stipends and will be permitted to disseminate their flyers at locations that provide greatest campus-wide access and visibility. In addition, the co-principal investigator will continue to host one visiting scientist seminar that will provide a forum for increasing awareness on potential health and environmental disasters.

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

Environmental Health Outreach and Education Project

The goals of this project are to increase the awareness of NLM online resources related to the use of toxicological, environmental, occupational, and hazardous materials/waste at Drew University, Martin Luther King, Jr., Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center, and other agencies serving the south Los Angeles area; to provide instruction in the use of NLM Web-based resources; and to enhance the use and the distribution of health-related information to the Drew University faculty, staff, and students, and the staff of other agencies serving the south Los Angeles area.

Training will be delivered to approximately 300 employees, professional staff, and students of Drew University and its affiliated training sites, and the staff and clients of other agencies serving the south Los Angeles area. Experts in the fields of toxicology, environmental health, and informational and instructional technology will provide the training, which will focus on the scientific literature in the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, and health care systems; TOXNET for information on toxicological profiles on hazardous chemicals that cause health and environmental effects; Haz-Map for specific information about the possible effects of exposure to chemicals and biological agents; and Tox Town for information on common toxic substances encountered in everyday life.

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Diné College – Shiprock, NM

Navajo Ethno-Medical Encyclopedia Project (NEME)

NEME was envisioned as a 10-volume compendium and repository of traditional Navajo Indian medical and healing knowledge accumulated over many centuries. This project, which was begun in the 1970s and suspended in 1981 due to a lack of funding, holds great significance to the Navajo People, as it provides the greatest hope for substantial preservation of a significant body of important cultural knowledge. The NLM funding will enable the conversion of original material, using modern optical scanning and optical character recognition technology, into modern word processing software and the creation of electronic files for permanent, accessible, and transferable storage.

This project is targeted to the Navajo People and clinical medical practitioners in the U.S. Indian Health Service and elsewhere, who regularly provide medical services to Navajos. Completion of the NEME will have a direct and substantial impact in enabling clinicians to become far more “culturally competent” for treatment of Navajo (and other Native American) patients and will thus have a direct impact on improvement in the quality of patient care for Native American patients. This ambitious project, begun with funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, involves the recording, transcription, and translation of interviews with Navajo traditional medicine practitioners and then organizing the information into a 10-volume set.

Traditional practitioners of Navajo medicine include the *hatathlis*, who have extensive training in one or more healing ceremonies; diagnosticians, who by developing innate gifts can determine the cause of the problem and what kind of treatment to seek; and herbalists, who have developed the knowledge and understanding of herbs and how to use them. This project includes participation from all three types of practitioners for a comprehensive understanding of Navajo health conceptions.

Preserving the language is a key component of the project, as language loss means loss of knowledge. To date, hundreds of tapes have been transcribed and many translated. The tapes are being kept to preserve the language. This project fulfills goal 2 of the NLM Long Range Plan: Trusted Information Services that Promote Health Literacy, Improve Health Outcomes, and Reduce Health Disparities Worldwide.

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Florida A& M University – Tallahassee, FL

Development of a Model Pharmacy Curriculum for Disaster Preparedness

In this project, Florida A&M University is developing a model pharmacy curriculum for disaster preparedness that can be replicated at all 112 schools/colleges of pharmacy across the country. Over 20 million people visit a community pharmacy each day of the year, which places pharmacies and pharmacists in a pivotal position to be primary health and information outreach centers in times of disasters. The principal investigator will take a draft course plan to the mid-winter meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) in February 2009. A focus group of pharmacy faculty will be asked to review and critique the draft model course. Input from this focus group will then be utilized to shape the second draft of the model curriculum, which will be critiqued at the July 2009 AACP annual meeting. From that review, the final model curriculum will be developed. The model course will be sent to deans and curriculum chairpersons at all 112 pharmacy schools/colleges in CD/ROM format, and an article on the preparation of the model will be submitted to the *American Journal on Pharmaceutical Education* for consideration for publication.

Hampton University – Hampton, VA

Community Outreach Health Literacy Initiative (COHLI)

The goal of the COHLI is to develop a patient-based research infrastructure at a historically black nursing school to support the research-related costs of increasing health literacy among health disparity populations in southeast Virginia. The objectives are to: enhance community involvement in research studies and clinical research trials, utilization of services, and adherence to lifestyle and behavioral changes; develop, implement, and evaluate health promotion and disease prevention programs, including disaster preparedness, designed to increase health literacy across generations of populations who experience health disparities; and disseminate health information to health care providers and the lay community on research-based interventions, health promotion/prevention programs, and behavior and lifestyle changes impacting populations who experience health disparities.

To achieve this goal, Hampton University School of Nursing will first form new partnerships with local churches to establish collaborative health education efforts and obtain informed consent from all participants. A questionnaire focused on demographic status, health history, and self-efficacy will be administered. The COHLI team will work with the health ministry members of the churches to provide forums and a series of workshops for public health information sharing. Health information will be disseminated in module format over a five-week period, each session lasting approximately two hours, and will be considered a baseline focus group to qualitatively discern whether congregation concerns are applicable or parallel to the school's faculty research interests.

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Howard University – Washington, D.C.

Consumer Genetics Education Network (CGEN) Project Workshops

The Howard CGEN project strives to improve the genetic literacy of the participant communities by integrating genetic research activities into the local and national communities of African-Americans and other people of color in order to facilitate their active participation in efforts to eliminate health disparities. The use of the NLM online resources will enhance the project by providing more educational resources for those who want to understand how their genetics and race play a role in their current health status. NLM database training in the form of workshops, one-half hour to two hours in length, will be provided to urban underserved minority populations to enhance their literacy and content knowledge of genetic and family health history concepts, increase their awareness of the importance of genetic and family health histories, and increase their skills to complete genetic-related tasks (e.g., family health history record).

Anticipated outcomes are to increase the genetic literacy of participants so they can make informed health and genetics-related decisions, increase access to and use of culturally appropriate programs, and promote lifestyle changes to reduce health risks.

Jackson State University – Jackson, MS

Enhancing Biomedical and Environmental Health Research and Education Through Utilization of the NLM Web-based Resources

Jackson State University (JSU) continues to enhance environmental health and biomedical sciences research and education at JSU and around the world through the continued organization and implementation of a pre-symposium workshop in conjunction with its annual International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research. Past workshops have been overwhelmingly successful and have attracted more than 50 participants, including international participants. Major emphasis will be placed on navigating through the NLM Toxicology Data Network (TOXNET) databases and related resources. Other resources covered will be PubMed (to train participants on how to retrieve scientific literature in the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, health care systems, preclinical sciences, and biomedical sciences) and MedlinePlus for information on clinical trials, therapeutic drugs, medical news, directories, and dictionaries.

The target audience will include JSU's 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 international symposium. It is anticipated that the continued implementation of this project will significantly enhance environmental health and biomedical research and education at JSU and at other institutions of higher learning in the U.S. and around the world.

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

Genomics Education & Outreach Program: DNA Ancestry Diversity Project & Health Promotion

The Medgar Evers College (MEC) Genomics Education & Outreach Program (GenEOP), begun in the fall of 2006 with support in part from the NLM, is currently conducting an educational and outreach initiative called the African Americas Diaspora Diversity Project (AADDP). The project involves determination of deep maternal and paternal ancestry through DNA analysis by the National Geographic Genographic Project (NGGP), a unique five-year international study begun in 2005 to understand the migratory history of the journey of humans out of Africa by analyzing DNA to determine deep maternal and paternal ancestry. GenEOP is a member of the educational network of NGGP.

The objectives of the AADDP are to: encourage and recruit broad college and community members' participation in NGGP in order to learn their maternal or paternal ancestry; promote multidisciplinary discussions and host seminars for the college and community about biology, human origins and migration, health, history, social implications, and cultural identity related to the African Diaspora in light of DNA ancestry findings; and use the AADDP DNA findings to provide information and to promote education and understanding of the 21st century science of genetics/genomics (i.e., to promote genetic literacy among minority communities).

Current funding will be used for the development and delivery of a genetics and health information seminar on the relationship of human variation to health, environment, and family health history, incorporating online Internet resources from the NLM and including a discussion on the NGGP results of AADDP participants in relationship to human diversity and genetic variation and environment. AADDP participants include MEC students, faculty, staff, community members, and students from the MEC Preparatory School, a public school affiliated with MEC. Among the community members are members of the Brooklyn Chapter of the African Atlantic Genealogy Society.

Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN

Health Literacy Faith-based Network

This project builds on the Health Literacy Network Capacity among six local community churches in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, developing faith-based collaborations with community-based public libraries that assist racial/ethnic minority communities in Nashville and Davidson County in accessing health information regarding prevention, early detection, disease management, and understanding the progression of chronic diseases. The focus activity will expand and build on existing health literacy information while identifying response information resources and services that will assist church communities in developing strategies for emergency and disaster preparedness.

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Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN

Health Literacy Faith-based Network

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Five learning sessions will be planned and held at each church in collaboration with the pastor and coordinator from each of the six churches and librarians from local public libraries and the Meharry Medical College Science Library. The network of pastors and coordinators will meet quarterly to share information, listen to speakers, and organize future meeting times/activities and challenges to project implementation. Participating librarians will demonstrate various health literacy and disaster preparedness Web sites, and health care professionals from Meharry Medical College will speak to a collective church-based group of teens and interested adults about health issues and how to improve health outcomes from knowledge gained. Oral health, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, sexuality, and HIV/AIDS will be integrated into the computer searches. Librarians will focus on reducing barriers and obstacles that are present in populations that are not familiar with computers and the use of specialized software.

Morehouse School of Medicine – Atlanta, GA

Disaster and Emergency Planning Outreach Workshops at Three Atlanta Area High Schools

This project builds on the previous year's project by presenting workshops on disaster and emergency planning for high school students, faculty, and staff, with the goal of making participants aware of the need to prepare for a disaster by having a disaster plan. The three selected Atlanta high schools collectively serve a population of 3300, and the project has the potential of reaching at least 1000 individuals, including relatives. The Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) already houses a Regional Coordinating Center for Hurricane Response and believes strongly in preparing people with the information they need to have in the event of a disaster or emergency.

Through a series of workshops to be held February through May 2009, MSM librarians will show participants where to go for disaster or emergency information, how to create a disaster or emergency plan, and how to share it with relatives not living with them. Promotional activities will include brochures, flyers, posters, e-mail, on-site demonstrations of NLM databases at each high school in a kickoff event, creation of resource manuals, and word of mouth.

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Oglala Lakota College – Kyle, SD

Taking Charge--Living Wisely (Ek'sabe' yah an unpi)--Phase V

In phase V of the project, Taking Charge--Living Wisely, the Department of Nursing of the Oglala Lakota College (OLC) will coordinate disaster activities for the college and participate in drills and meetings with other tribal organizations and other institutions on the reservation to increase the awareness of the importance of disaster preparedness. A secondary goal of the project is to increase student enrollment in the OLC Nursing Program.

As a result of project activities, each college center director and staff will be aware of disaster preparedness on the reservation and the role they will play should the need arise, students at the college centers and in the nursing program will be aware of disaster preparedness and the NLM databases, and all faculty and staff will be aware of disaster planning and drills. Secondary and college student contacts will be used for recruitment to the OLC Nursing Program.

Southern University A&M College – Baton Rouge, LA

Life After Hurricane Katrina: Putting Lessons Learned into Publication: A Description of Post-Disaster Information Needs Among Displaced African American Women

On August 28, 2005, Hurricane Katrina ripped into the Gulf Coast. Within two days, New Orleans was mostly under water, and thousands of people were displaced. One of the most devastating aspects of the storm and flooding was the complete destruction of the New Orleans health care system and the strain on Baton Rouge hospitals and clinics. In 2006, Louisiana ranked sixth in "percentage of overall population not covered by health insurance" (*United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings; Morgan Quitno Press, State Rankings 2007; 2006 National Alliance on Mental Illness report; LSU; Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals; October 2006 report to the Louisiana Legislature.*). A high number of residents without health insurance places stress on emergency medical services and hospital emergency rooms.

This project has two components, identifying post-disaster information needs of African-American women and writing post-disaster lessons learned for publication and dissemination. This investigator witnessed the disaster from four perspectives: as a displaced citizen, as a health professional and academician, as a community leader and first responder, and as a primary caregiver of elderly relatives. The use of NLM databases will be included in all education resource incentives culturally tailored for African-American women.

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

Outreach in Environmental Health Information and Health Literacy Project 2008-2009

The goal of this project is to reduce the inequality in the access to information related to health among minority groups, communities in disadvantage, and health students, as well as to increase the awareness of addressing health literacy among groups of students, librarians, school faculty, and community leaders. Training in the effective use of NLM online databases and resources (especially in environmental health) will be provided to the following groups:

- Graduate students admitted to the programs in pharmacy, nursing, and basic sciences (microbiology, anatomy, pharmacology and toxicology, biochemistry) and faculties of the Medical Sciences Campus
- Students of the ASPIRA Association's Alternative School (CASA--Spanish acronym for Help and Student Services Centers) in subjects related to health and environment that impact their lives (sexually transmitted diseases and HIV). CASA is a program that serves at-risk students and school dropouts
- Middle and high school teachers, middle and high school students, and school librarians
- Biology and premedical students at the University of Puerto Rico
- Elderly members in the communities of Carolina, Mayagüez, and Ponce relative to health issues that affect the elderly community
- Groups of women who need access to women's health information available through the Internet. Health status of women is partly attributable to lack of literacy and information access about women's health. In order to use that information, women should be able to identify, retrieve, and understand it. The participants will identify women's health sites; distinguish between consumer health, professional, educational, and commercial sites; and retrieve information from diverse health sites, including MedlinePlus, PubMed, and 4women.gov, among other sites