

Health & Environment

July 2008

www.neefusa.org/health/index.htm



Greetings!

Health & Environment News is a quarterly update on our activities designed to advance environmental health knowledge among health professionals. Please read on for our latest program news.

Children's Environmental Health Faculty Champions Achieve Tremendous Success

28 faculty members from medical, nursing, and physician assistant schools trained over 1,500 health professionals within a year after they participated in NEEF's [Children's Environmental Health Faculty Champions Initiative](#) Train-the-Trainer Workshop. The faculty champions also integrated pediatric environmental health content into the curricula and clinical practice at their institutions. PowerPoint presentations and other tools and resources successfully used by the faculty champions are available [here](#). This project demonstrates the potential of the Faculty Champions Initiative as a replicable model for integrating pediatric environmental health into healthcare. Funding was provided by EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection, The New York Community Trust, and Baxter Healthcare Corporation.



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Our Program

The goal of the Health & Environment Program is to advance environmental knowledge among health professionals in order to improve health care and public health, with a special emphasis on protecting children and other populations disproportionately impacted by environmental pollutants. Through the development of national agendas, trainings, curriculum integration, and strategic partnerships, NEEF facilitates the integration of environmental health into health care provider education and practice.

Integrating Environmental Management into Asthma Care

Five Pediatric Asthma Faculty Champions, who are pediatric faculty members at medical schools around the country, have trained 1700 health care professionals, including faculty members, residents, students and clinicians within 18 months. The Faculty Champions are promoting the integration of NEEF's [Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma: Guidelines for Health Care Providers](#) into the medical curricula and clinical practice. This project is funded by EPA's Indoor Environments Division, and supplemented by grants from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and Baxter Healthcare Corporation.



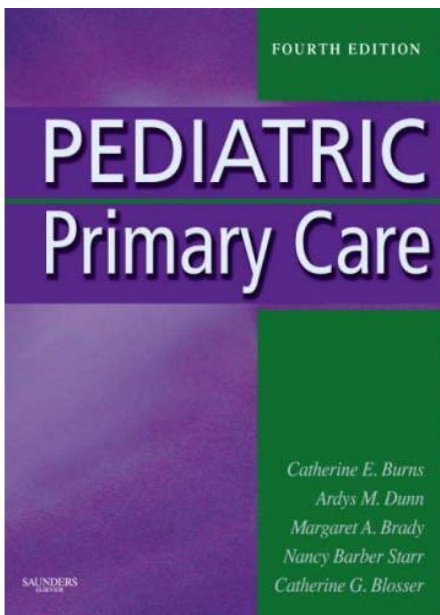
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History Forms Published in Pediatric Primary Care



NEEF's [Pediatric Environmental History Forms](#) and [Environmental History Form for Pediatric Asthma Patient](#) are featured in the fourth edition of Pediatric Primary Care by Catherine E. Burns, Ardys M. Dunn, Margaret A. Brady, Nancy Barber Starr, and Catherine G. Blosser published in March 2008 by Elsevier. This textbook is used in pediatric nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, medical, and physician assistant educational institutions. It is also used by experienced clinicians who want an up-to-date pediatric primary care resource with easy access to information. The text emphasizes prevention as well as management, and presents guidelines on assessing children from infancy through adolescence with the goal of providing a comprehensive

resource for health care students and a reference for clinicians.

Pesticide Practice Skills Guidelines Available in Spanish

The National Pesticide Practice Skills Guidelines for Medical and Nursing Practice were developed by NEEF under the [National Strategies for Health Care Providers: Pesticides Initiative](#), sponsored by the U.S. EPA in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders. The goal of the Initiative is improve the recognition, management and prevention of health effects from pesticide poisonings and exposures. These Guidelines were recently translated into Spanish by the Migrant Clinicians Network and can be found on the [NEEF](#) and [MCN](#) websites

SOBRE PESTICIDAS A NIVEL NACIONAL PARA LA PRÁCTICA MÉDICA Y DE ENFERMERÍA



1 Enero, 2003

Proyecto de las Estrategias Nacionales para los Proveedores de Servicios de Salud: Iniciativa de Pesticidas



Children and Nature Website Launched

A growing body of scientific evidence suggests that there are physical and mental health benefits of free, unstructured play outdoors for children. For example, being in a natural environment acts as a stress reliever and a coping mechanism for children with attention disorders. NEEF has launched a new initiative to reconnect children to nature for health benefits and has launched a new [website](#) for the effort. The website features resources and tools on health benefits of nature, such as a fact sheet and a PowerPoint presentation, as well as links to helpful resources, such as locations of parks, trails, and nature centers around the country, and ways healthcare providers, parents, and others can get involved on getting children outdoors.



Environmental Education for Health Professionals Continues To Gain Support

NEEF's Health Professionals and Environmental Health Education Position Statement, which documents the need for environmental health education and lists the specific actions necessary to successfully incorporate environmental health information into the education of health professionals, has been endorsed by 28 leading health care and public health organizations. These organizations represent approximately 2.5 million health care and public health professionals. To view the Position Statement and its endorsers, [click here](#). If your organization is interested in endorsing the statement, please [contact us](#).

New Health & Environment Staff

Leyla Erk McCurdy, Senior Director for the Health & Environment Program welcomes two new staff members.

Kimberly Grubb joined NEEF in March as the Program Assistant for the Health & Environment Program. Prior to joining NEEF, Kimberly served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia, coordinating HIV/AIDS education and gender empowerment programs. Kimberly received her B.A. in Government and History from the College of William & Mary in 2005.

Suril Mehta also joined NEEF in March as the Graduate Student Intern. Suril is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Health at George Washington University.



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