



*In 1998, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) joined with the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) to develop the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) Program as a national resource for pediatricians, other health care providers, and communities. The Program is designed to (1) reduce environmental health threats to children, (2) improve access to expertise in pediatric environmental medicine, and (3) strengthen public health prevention capacity. The key focus areas of the units are medical education and training, clinical consultation, and clinical specialty referral for children who may have been exposed to hazardous substances in the environment. Five units are fully operational. By the end of 2000, a total of nine units are scheduled to be in operation in the United States.*

### **Pediatric Environmental Health Center Children's Hospital Boston, Massachusetts**

The Pediatric Environmental Health Center was established in 1998 as a regional center for pediatric environmental health, with support from ATSDR and AOEC. The Center is a joint program of the Children's Hospital in Boston; the Occupational and Environmental Health Program at Cambridge Hospital; Harvard Medical School; and the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program, Harvard School of Public Health.

The Center at Children's Hospital offers multi-disciplinary evaluation and management of children with known or suspected exposure to environmental toxins. Staffed by pediatricians, medical toxicologists, nurses, and resource specialists, the Center provides medical management for illnesses or intoxications resulting from heavy metals, indoor air pollutants, outdoor pollutants, and adolescent occupational exposures. The Center also provides consultative services by telephone; publishes articles advancing the field of pediatric environmental medicine; and conducts educational activities for medical students, residents, and other health care providers. Recently, the center staff developed a teaching tool entitled the "Pediatric Environmental Health History." This tool is available in a CD-ROM format.

The Director of the Center is Michael Shannon, MD, MPH. Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, and Rose Goldman, MD, MPH, serve as Co-Directors. Howard Hu, MD, MPH, ScD, is affiliated with the Center.

The Pediatric Environmental Health Center can be contacted by phoning 888-Child14.

### **Mt. Sinai-Irving J. Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine New York, New York**

The Pediatric Environmental Health Unit was established in 1998 as a regional center for pediatric environmental health, with support from ATSDR, the National Center for Environmental Health, and the American College of Preventive Medicine. It is a multi-disciplinary program of research, education, clinical service, and community partnership.

The major purposes of the Unit are to

- provide clinical services to children with diseases of toxic environmental origin and to children who have sustained toxic exposures in their environment. The clinical services provided by the Unit are available on-site at the Mt. Sinai-Irving J. Selikoff Center for Environmental and Occupational Medicine.
- serve as a regional source of referral and consultation in environmental pediatrics
- increase pediatricians' knowledge of environmental threats to children's health. (This is being done through unit-sponsored special education opportunities such as grand rounds and seminar series, by holding conferences such as "Environmental Influences on Children: Brain, Development, and Behavior," by publishing articles, and by training health fellows under the supervision of faculty of the Departments of Pediatrics and Community and Preventive Medicine, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Mt. Sinai Medical Center.)

Philip Landrigan MD, MSc is the Principal Investigator at the Mt. Sinai PEHSU.

The Mt. Sinai Unit can be contacted by phoning 212-241-6173.

**The Southeast Pediatric Environmental  
Health Specialty Unit  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia**

The Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Unit was established in Fall 1999 as a regional center for pediatric environmental health, with support from ATSDR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and AOEC. The Unit links Emory University's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Rollins School of Public Health, and the Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine; the Georgia Poison Center; the Marcus Institute; and a variety of Emory University-affiliated clinical facilities, including Children's Health Care of Atlanta and the Hughes Spalding Children's Hospital.

The objectives of the Unit are to

- develop a variety of educational materials on children's environmental health;
- provide information and carry out health education activities for families, communities, and health care providers throughout the Southeast (Region IV) regarding environmental hazards and the most effective ways to protect children's health;
- provide clinical consultation to agencies and health care providers in the region;
- create an infrastructure for delivering pediatric environmental health care, including maintaining a database of conditions linked to environmental hazards and consulting with government agencies to formulate solutions; and
- provide clinical pediatric environmental health services, including evaluation of children, referral of those needing treatment, and establishment of a network of expert clinicians.

Howard Frumkin, MD, DrPH is the Principal Investigator for the Southeast PEHSU. Robert Geller, MD; Leslie Rubin, MD; and Gerald Teague, MD, are Co-Investigators. Janice Nodvin is the Project Administrator.

The Southeast Unit can be contacted by phoning 877-33PEHSU (877-337-3478).

**The Center for Children's  
Environmental Health  
Cook County Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois**

The Center for Children's Environmental Health was established in 1999 as a regional center for pediatric environmental health, with support from ATSDR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and AOEC. The Center is a joint program of the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the Department of Pediatrics at Cook County Hospital. The Center is affiliated with the Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health at the University of Illinois and Chicago's Toxikon Consortium. The Center works closely with the Illinois Poison Control Center; local, state, and federal environmental and public health agencies; and local health care institutions.

The Center exists to

- evaluate, treat, and prevent environmental illnesses in infants, children, and adolescents. The Center has a multi-disciplinary staff with experts in environmental medicine, pediatrics, clinical toxicology, and industrial hygiene.
- train pediatricians and other health care professionals in pediatric environmental health issues. The Center offers a monthly lecture series at Cook County Hospital as well as continuing educational programs and workshops throughout Region V. The Center is also developing interactive, web-based case presentations that can be accessed through the Center's website at [www.uic.edu](http://www.uic.edu). The future website address is [www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/kids](http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/kids).
- expand the knowledge of children's environmental health problems through research. The Center's faculty includes clinical and public health scientists who conduct research on the most effective ways to diagnose, treat, and prevent children's environment-associated illnesses.
- promote children's environmental health in communities. The Center is part of the Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program which investigates health hazards in communities through environmental monitoring, epidemiology, and clinical evaluations.

The Center's Director is Daniel Hryhorczuk, MD, MPH, FACMT. The Associate Directors are Jay Mayefsky, MD, MPH, and Carl Baum, MD, FAAP, ACMT.

The Center for Children's Environmental Health can be contacted by phoning 312-633-5310.

**Pediatric Environmental Health  
Specialty Unit  
Harborview Medical Center  
Seattle, Washington**

The Harborview Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) was established in 1998 and currently serves as a regional center for pediatric environmental health, with support from ATSDR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and AOEC. This PEHSU was created by the University of Washington's Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program, together with the Washington Poison Control Center and Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center.

The PEHSU's goal is to provide expertise on childhood environmental health risk to health care providers, educators, communities, and families. The PEHSU staff provide

- clinical consultations with experts at the Washington Poison Center for those concerned about childhood environmental exposures. Callers' concerns have included the consumption of well water contaminated with pesticides and solvent exposures from painting a child's bedroom. The Poison Center experts address some 2,000 such inquiries every month.
- clinical services on a case-by-case basis to see children and their families. Providers are specifically trained in both pediatrics and environmental medicine. Clinic visits are available at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center.
- training for health care providers as well as the public on childhood environmental health issues. Much of the training curriculum is based on results from an environmental health survey completed by school nurses, physicians, parents of children in Head Start Programs, Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) leaders, and others. The topics of greatest concern reported were air

pollution, allergens, food-related hazards, and drinking water quality.

To learn more about training opportunities, visit the PEHSU website at <http://depts.washington.edu/oemp/pehsu/index.html>.

The Director of the Harborview PEHSU is C. Andrew Brodtkin, MD, MPH. William O. Robertson, MD, is the Co-Director.

The Harborview PEHSU can be contacted by phoning 877-KID-CHEM (west of the Mississippi River) and 206-526-2121.

**University of California - San Francisco  
(UCSF)/University of California -  
Irvine (UCI) Pediatric Environmental  
Health Specialty Unit**

The University of California Pediatric Environmental Health Unit was established in the winter of 2000 as a regional center for pediatric environmental health, with support from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC). As a joint collaborative project providing services in both the northern (UCSF) and southern (UCI) areas of the state, the unit links the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Programs at the respective campuses with the UCSF-Mount Zion Hospital and UCSF-San Francisco General Hospital, California Poison Center and the Departments of Pediatrics at UCSF and UCI.

The objectives for the UC-PEHSU are

- to provide consultative services to health professionals, governmental agencies and the California Poison Control System through an effective network of pediatrics specialists in collaboration with the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program at both sites;
- to conduct educational activities;
- to provide clinical and diagnostic services either on site or through the Department of Pediatrics; and
- to coordinate program evaluation activities for the PEHSU.

John Balmes, M.D. is the principal investigator and Dean Baker, M.D., MPH is the co-principal investigator. Denise Souza, MSN, C-NP, COHN-S is the project coordinator. Mary Koebler, RN, COHN-S serves as the UCI liaison for the project components.

The University of California - San Francisco/ University of California - Irvine PEHSU can be reached at 415-206-4320 (for both sites).

## **Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health University of Texas Health Center Tyler, Texas**

The Southwest Center for Pediatric Health began operation on September 1, 2000, and is a collaboration between UTHCT's Occupational Medicine Program and the Departments of Pediatrics and Allergy. It was established with support from ATSDR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and AOEC.

In addition, the Southwest Center has assembled a team that includes the Texas Poison Center Network and its North Texas Poison Center, the New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center and the Program of Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of New Mexico. The specific aims for the SW-CPEH are to

- develop materials and present training to health professionals and public health officials on environmental health issues and their impact on children's health.
- answer requests for information regarding pediatric environmental health and risk communication from health care professionals, public health agencies, and concerned parents.
- provide clinical consultation services for patients and their health care providers.

The toll-free number for the Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health is (888) 901-5665. Jeffrey Levin, MD, MSPH, and Larry K. Lowry, PhD, serve as co-principal investigators. Dr. Levin can be reached directly at (903) 877-5900 or e-mailed at [jeffrey.levin@uthct.edu](mailto:jeffrey.levin@uthct.edu). Dr. Lowry can be

reached at (903) 877-5919 or e-mailed at [larry.lowry@uthct.edu](mailto:larry.lowry@uthct.edu). Both Dr. Levin and Dr. Lowry can be faxed at (903) 877-7060.

## **George Washington University Medical Center Washington, DC.**

The George Washington University specialty unit will be starting on October 1, 2000. The unit is a project of the George Washington University Medical Center (GWUMC) and the Children's National Medical Center, and includes collaboration between the GWUMC Division of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology and the Department of Pediatrics. It was established with support from ATSDR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and AOEC.

In addition, they have assembled a team which includes the Howard University College of Nursing and faculty from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Medical College of Pennsylvania.

The goals of the George Washington University PEHSU are to

- increase the cooperation and exchange of information between pediatricians and occupational and environmental health professionals.
- conduct educational activities that will assist both health professionals and communities in addressing environmental risks to children.
- improve the recognition, evaluation, and management of environmental health problems in children.
- develop new knowledge about communications between clinicians, parents, and patients about environmental health issues.
- reduce the environmental health disparities among children in EPA/ATSDR Region 3.

John Balbus, MD, MPH, Jerome Paulson, MD, and Benjamin Gitterman, MD, MPH, will serve as co-principal investigators. Questions concerning the PEHSU can be directed to Dr. Paulson at (202) 994-9914, faxed to (202) 994-4861, or e-mailed at [hcsjap@gwumc.edu](mailto:hcsjap@gwumc.edu).

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**Additional information on the PEHSU Program can be obtained by calling Katherine Kirkland, MPH, Executive Director, AOEC, at 202-347-4976 or Christine Rosheim, DDS, MPH, Project Officer, ATSDR, at 404-639-6351. For more information about ATSDR contact ATSDR's toll-free information line at (888) 42-ATSDR...that's (888) 422-8737 or website at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov).**

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