

PREHS-SEED Mentored K12 Career Development Program

Emory University, in partnership with the Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), received funding to establish a Southeastern Environmental Exposures and Disparities (SEED) mentored career development scholars program, in response to the *Pediatric and Reproductive Environmental Health Scholars program (PREHS) (K12)*, RFA-ES-20-007. The **overarching goal** is to recruit junior clinical faculty scholars (Assistant Professor level, MD, PhD, PharmD) and mentor them in environmental health research in collaboration with communities experiencing environmental injustices in the Southeastern United States (US). In partnership with the Region 4 Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU), scholars will collaborate with community stakeholders who care passionately about reducing children's environmental health inequities.

The **objectives** of the PREHS-SEED program are to: 1) develop a research training program that produces leaders in pediatric and reproductive environmental health disparities research; 2) enhance existing infrastructure for individualized didactic training in research methodology as they relate to pediatric and reproductive environmental health; 3) identify and recruit a diverse cohort of promising scholars dedicated to careers in pediatric and reproductive environmental health research from Emory and MSM; and 4) expand existing multidisciplinary career development programs with mentorship from accomplished environmental health scientists. The Deep South bears the shame of some of the poorest health outcomes in US, such as high infant and maternal mortality rates among African Americans. Low-income communities of color face environmental health threats from extreme heat and climate-related weather events and dangerous air pollution conditions. Inequities are compounded by a legacy of unjust and systemically racist policies.

Thus, priority will be given to scholars who focus on **three areas** of research: 1) documenting the burden of environmental health disparities, particularly among Black, Latinx, and immigrant/refugee women and children; 2) engaging in community-based research with local organizations; and 3) addressing adaptive solutions to climate change. Applications for this program are due February 1, 2022. The K12 program will begin in Summer 2022, and will provide up to 2 years of release time (75% effort), research funding support, and mentored career development for 6-9 scholars over the 5 year funding period. The program leverages programs at Emory, including the T32 program in Environmental Health Sciences and Toxicology at the Rollins School of Public Health; the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance KL2 program at partner institutions (including Emory and MSM); and the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health program. The PREHS-SEED program will support scholars to advance the breadth and depth of their research skills with training in clinical studies, team science, community engagement and novel methodologies (e.g., exposure assessment, toxicology, metabolomics, mapping, informatics) relevant to environmental health. For more information, please contact Lisa Thompson, Program Director, at lisa.thompson@emory.edu or Becca Philipsborn, Scholars Director, at rpass@emory.edu.