

# BREAK THE CYCLE 13

## BREAK THE CYCLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

Reducing Children's Environmental Health Disparities and Promoting Health Equity for all Children



### A Program of Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at Emory University

The Southeast PEHSU invites students from a variety of disciplines in universities and colleges to participate in our 2017-2018 Annual *Break the Cycle*13 program focusing on social, economic and environmental influences on children's health, growth and development.

Children who grow up in circumstances of social and economic disadvantage are at greater risk for exposure to adverse environmental factors and are more likely to suffer consequent adverse health and developmental outcomes. *Break the Cycle* supports an interdisciplinary set of student-driven research projects that explore the environmental and social factors that adversely affect children's health and well-being, and creatively develop ways to reverse this situation to promote improved health and well-being for this group of children and, thereby, *Break the Cycle of Environmental Health Disparities* (see the diagram below).

Students are required to work with their academic mentors to submit a proposal on how they would develop a project to *Break the Cycle*. Proposals will be reviewed and a limited number will be selected based on relevance to the cycle of environmental health disparities, creativity, feasibility, and strength of the project plan. Those selected will have the opportunity to work with the *Break the Cycle* faculty and with other students from around the country and internationally to see the project through and present their research results and findings at an annual conference scheduled for the spring of 2018. There will be monthly conference calls to review projects and provide perspectives and guidance. During these conference calls, faculty and students will have the opportunity to communicate and collaborate with their counterparts in other disciplines at other universities. Students will also be required to write a scientific paper on their project which will be published in an international peer-review journal as well as a chapter in a book.

Since the inception of the Break the Cycle program in 2005, we have partnered with over 30 different university departments in 10 States in the USA as well as internationally, and have supported research for over 100 students. We have had 9 monographs published in international journals and 9 books. In 2012 we conducted a survey of past students who rated their experience with *Break the Cycle* valuable, and many continued to pursue career interests related to their work on their *Break the Cycle* projects.

#### BREAK THE CYCLE FACULTY

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Visit us at:  
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We invite students to submit a proposal abstract (form enclosed) by Wednesday **September 20<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. Proposals received will be reviewed by a *Break the Cycle* panel and decisions of the panel will be communicated to all applicants by **October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. We are looking forward to working with students and their mentors on the 13<sup>th</sup> annual *Break the Cycle* program and making this year another great success.

Costs of travel and lodging for the student and faculty mentor to the annual conference will be supported by *Break the Cycle*.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at [lrubi01@emory.edu](mailto:lrubi01@emory.edu) or our Project Coordinator, Nathan Mutic at [nathan.mutic@emory.edu](mailto:nathan.mutic@emory.edu) and we will be happy to discuss potential projects with you.

Please see the enclosed guidelines for further information.

Best wishes for success.

Thanks.

*Leslie Rubin*

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