THE COLLABORATIVE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We are seeking student interns for the Fall quarter of 2016. The title of this internship is **Student Research and Communication Specialist**. The document below outlines the deliverables and timeline for this internship. This internship will provide a unique opportunity for you to further develop skills in researching, communicating, and disseminating environmental health science for a range of audiences. The CHE Partner network includes almost 5,000 individual and organizational partners in all 50 states and 87 countries. As a student intern, your work will be viewed and used by our Partner network and beyond!

1. Primary Deliverable: As CHE converts to a new website format, we are taking this opportunity to update and streamline the information that is available to our partners. There are many resources pages that require the following tasks:

   A. Updating scientific findings based on a new literature reviews. The science is always emerging and how researchers interpret exposure data and how it may be linked to human health outcomes is constantly being reviewed and refined. We want our information to reflect the newest data and scientific thinking as to environmental exposure pathways and possible health impacts. Topics will focus on environmental contributors to: Asthma, Autism, Birth Defects, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes, Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, Obesity, Reproductive Health, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, etc, as well as chemical exposures known to have health effects (plastics, flame retardants, etc). (You do not need to have expertise in any of these topic areas.) You will learn how to discern the literature to clarify what is considered strong, good, and limited evidence of the exposure-health outcome relationship. The literature review will rely on well-circulated, peer-reviewed, and possible meta-analysis/review articles to answer the following questions:
      - What is the current incidence/prevalence of a particular disease or disability in the US and worldwide?
      - What are the relevant toxic chemical exposures and other environmental factors associated with this disease outcome (including weight of evidence)?
      - What are the vulnerable windows in human development when exposures? Who are the vulnerable populations?
      - What are the relevant ethical, historical, and current policy issues to consider in this context?

   B. Integrating the research in Toxipedia with our new webpages. Toxipedia is being absorbed into our new website, and we would like our webpages to reflect the information on Toxipedia that is related to each topic. This will require using our reference list to ensure the data on Toxipedia is transferred to the new webpages, streamlining the language to be accessible to a broad range of readers, and looking for data gaps that could be filled during the literature review.

   C. Taking the information from section a. and b. (above) and drafting the language for the new webpage that is concise, engaging, and informative. We will work with you to synthesize your research into a concise and easy to follow story. For some of your work, we may seek to turn it into a blog post.
D. Keeping an eye out for studies and reports that seem particularly significant to our Partners and collating those for consideration as CHE partnership call topics.

2. **Experience Gained:** Through this internship, you will gain experience discerning the literature, performing topic-specific literature reviews, synthesizing the science and crafting the language for a diverse readership, integrating data sources to tell a cohesive story, identifying hot topics related to this research that CHE will consider for partnership calls, becoming knowledgeable on the relationship between environmental exposures and specific health endpoints, understanding how to “connect the dots” using epigenetic mechanisms as an example, learn the tools to create your own graphics, and developing a systems approach to multifactorial exposures and prevention.

3. **Timeline:** You will meet via Skype/phone with CHE’s Research and Communication Specialist Nancy Hepp and CHE’s Program Manager Lorelei Walker before starting the research for each webpage in order to ensure we are on the same page. We are here to support your success! We will all be in communication by email and skype to answer questions that arise. Once you have completed each page, we will meet by Skype/phone again to review the work and provide feedback. This is a virtual internship.

4. **Recognition:** We will recognize your work on each page you provide significant input on. This will help people see the magnitude of your work. We will also list your name, program, and time of participation on our staff page for employers to view. We will also consider having you write an essay for our blog on a relevant topic.

Be entering a partnership with CHE, we agree to provide interns the guidance and support to accomplish the deliverables detailed above and to advertise each intern’s contributions on our website. This work will begin on September 26, 2016 and end on December 16, 2016 with the possibility of renewal. In addition to communications related to the deliverables, we will have a mid-point review in November to ensure each student is well supported and completing the deliverables in a timely fashion. Should the scope of work need to be revisited, the contract can be revised during the November check-in. We are committed to making this a successful partnership!

For more details, please contact Lorelei Walker.

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