

Superfund Basic Research Program Annual Meeting
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PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENTISTS

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Mount Sinai began its Superfund outreach program in 1993, collaborating with the New York City Department of Education to support the establishment of The High School for Environmental Studies in Manhattan. To date over 100 secondary school students have taken part in this program, which was designed to increase environmental health science literacy and help students explore their potential for a career in the environmental health sciences. The year-round curriculum explores the biomedical concepts and research techniques in environmental health science -- through classes, laboratory visits, seminars with Superfund Investigators, and internships that promote student interest and satisfy their curiosity about careers in the field of environmental health. All activities are generated from, and executed within the context of the Hudson River as a Superfund site. The curriculum is keyed to the basic science and related community issues stemming from the contamination and clean-up of the Hudson. One highlight of the SF Environmental Health Program was adoption of the curriculum by HSES as part and parcel of its regular course offerings. This adoption is the "first" of its kind: i.e., teachers' and scientists' efforts together bearing fruit for a wider audience. Also of significance was the establishment of a Zebra Fish laboratory and manual by the Superfund students. The Zebra Fish Lab will become the locus of student investigations about the developmental effects of PCBs on Zebra Fish breeding and embryo survival. Program-wide interactivity between the High School for Environmental Studies and the Medical Center has been established with the program's e-mail address, instant messaging, as well as the imminent Wi-Fi bi-directional connectivity between the HSES and Mount Sinai sites that will facilitate discussion among students and scientists.