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TRANSLATING SCIENCE: OUTREACH IN DARTMOUTH'S TOXIC METALS
RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Outreach in Dartmouth's Toxic Metals Research Program is built on the principle that communication is fundamental to research. We believe outreach adds value to the knowledge we produce, and our program is designed to facilitate communication between scientists in our program and members of the public. The goals of our program are: to make our expertise and research findings public, so this knowledge can be applied to public health; to become a regional resource on environmental health; to develop models for outreach and that can be adopted by programs in other parts of the country; and to establish relationships of trust and credibility with individuals and groups in the region. We are in our fourth year of a collaboration with the Montshire Museum of Science to design and pilot an experiential middle school environmental science curriculum. For the past two years we have been working with communities near the new Elizabeth Mine Superfund site to produce and maintain two community-designed web sites. The New Hampshire Arsenic Consortium we organized in 2000 is another example of how our research is tightly linked to regional public health concerns. In addition to these community projects, we have ongoing initiatives aimed at science translation. We produce brochures and graphics that illustrate our research and the way our research projects fit together, and we are continuing to add to a comprehensive toxic metals web site that explains our research, placing it within a broad perspective.