



**HARVARD**  
**T.H. CHAN**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# THE JPB ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

10th Anniversary Edition:  
Progress and Impact Report

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2014 - 2024



# FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Over the years, we have had the privilege of witnessing the transformation of our Fellows from junior scholars to influential leaders in their schools, agencies, and communities. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the JPB Environmental Health Fellowship Program, we are thrilled to share some of the milestones that have shaped our journey and to reflect on a decade of remarkable achievements.

As we look ahead, we are excited to witness the continued achievements of our Fellows and how their careers remain steadfast in upholding the principles of fairness, equity, and justice. We have no doubt that their contributions will further elevate the program's legacy and bring innovative solutions to the pressing challenges of health equity and environmental justice.

To all our supporters, partners, and community members, thank you for your unwavering commitment and for walking this journey with us, making these achievements possible. Together we have contributed to cultivating a new generation of modern environmental health scholars.

Warmly,

**JACK SPENGLER, PhD**

Founding Director

**GARY ADAMKIEWICZ, PhD, MPH**

Director

**MARC WEISSKOPF, PhD, ScD and LAURA KUBZANSKY, PhD**

Co-Directors

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# INTRODUCTION

10TH ANNIVERSARY 2014-2024

## OUR PROGRAM

Established in 2014, The JPB Environmental Health Fellowship was developed in response to the urgent need for a new interdisciplinary group of young environmental health leaders. The Fellowship aims to advance the careers of junior faculty from institutions across the U.S. whose research examines the influence of both the social and environmental determinants of health in under-resourced communities. Unique to the program is the inclusion of senior research scientists who are engaged in research, policy and practice at various federal agencies. This shared partnership among academic and agency Fellows serves as a catalyst for innovative research that responds to the health challenges in the communities they serve.

## OUR GOALS



**Support compassionate, rigorous scholars** who conduct research in/with communities that not only produces knowledge about the social and environmental factors that influence health, but also leads to increasing health equity.



**Promote a solutions-based research focus** that can open new lines of investigation and opportunities. Fellows are encouraged to take an action research approach that can inform policy and practices leading to a sustained change in health equity.



**Build a multidisciplinary network** of faculty and research scientists across the U.S. with diverse disciplines, experiences and expertise to address environmental health challenges best solved from multiple perspectives.



**Invest in the next generation** of environmental health leaders by developing a hybrid research field that blends disciplines in order to examine the social and environmental factors that affect health equity.

## OUR FELLOWS



### Multidisciplinary Researchers

Our Fellows represent a diverse range of fields, such as Anthropology, Epidemiology, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Economics, Psychology, and Urban Planning.

### Early Career Faculty

Fellows are early-career faculty in their first appointment period, frequently working in community-based research and committed to scholarship, creativity, and innovative ideas aimed at mitigating environmental and social health disparities.

### Federal Agency Collaborators

Unique to our program is the inclusion of senior research scientists from federal agencies, who, although not eligible for funding, participate in training programs and complement research project development. Along with the faculty Fellows, they form a valuable collaborative network.



“ I like to call the JPB EH Fellowship Program an investment in human capital. By supporting young junior faculty and scientists who do the critical work at the intersection of environmental health and the social determinants of health, they can begin to do the work that is sitting on their hearts and in their minds to advance health equity and justice. ”

Diana Hernandez, Cohort I, Senior Fellow Advisor  
Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences,  
Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health



“ "Epidemiologists are not typically trained to consider the experiences of communities. As one of these traditionally trained epidemiologists, I needed to reorient myself to the people behind the numbers. The JPB Fellowship gave me the chance to enhance my training, listen to the community, and build relationships that wouldn't have been possible without its support and mentoring." ”

Allison Appleton, Cohort I, Senior Fellow Advisor  
Associate Professor, Department Chair School of Public  
Health Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics  
State University of New York, at Albany

## FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

**Annie Belcourt**, Cohort I Fellow, is an American Indian Professor and Chair of Native American Studies at the University of Montana. A clinical psychologist by training, her work focuses on mental health disparities, post traumatic stress, and environmental public health within American Indian communities.

**As a JPB Environmental Health Fellow**, Annie has significantly contributed to advancing Environmental Public Health for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The fellowship enabled her to deepen her expertise in environmental science, international health, and science communication, while fostering interdisciplinary collaborations. Her media contributions and scholarship continue to impact indigenous public health, enhancing both academic and community outreach.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Coming from a challenging background on an Indian reservation, Annie found the experience of being a Fellow engaging, transformative and inspiring.
- The fellowship allowed her to align her scientific and personal values, emphasizing equity, health, and the intersection of culture and environment. As a Native person, she feels privileged to represent historically underrepresented voices in academia.



**Annie Belcourt** and Larry Campbell

- Memorable experiences as a Fellow included hosting a workshop in Montana, offering an immersive experience in indigenous spaces. Fellows learned about indigenous practices, environmental stewardship, and the interconnectedness of air, water, and land quality with cultural traditions. Highlights included visits to tribal lands, and engaging with local science initiatives.
- As chair of Native American Studies at the University of Montana, Annie aspires to continue illuminating indigenous voices and promoting nuanced approaches to understanding history, culture, and health. She hope their leadership inspires others to pursue roles in science and academia.

# KEY MILESTONES

# 10

**YEARS  
TIMELINE**

“We are excited to witness the continued achievements of our Fellows and how their careers remain steadfast in upholding the principles of fairness, equity, and justice. We have no doubt that their contributions will further elevate the program’s legacy and bring innovative solutions to the pressing challenges of health equity and environmental justice.”

Jack Spengler, Founding Director

10TH ANNIVERSARY 2014-2024

## **2013 The Fellowship Program Initiative**

The JPB Foundation and its leadership team began developing a proposal for a program designed to advance the careers of compassionate and socially aware junior faculty and federal agency research scientists focused on solving complex environmental health problems.



**Jack Spengler** and **Gary Adamkiewicz**, members of the leadership team.

## **2014**

### **Inaugural National Nomination Call**

The selection process for a Fellow involves nominations, followed by an application invitation for selected nominees, and interviews for chosen applicants. The inaugural national nomination call for Fellows was issued in 2014. Selected nominees were invited to apply, and those chosen were invited to Harvard University for a day of interviews.

## KEY MILESTONES



Harvard Faculty and **Cohort I** Fellows at the 1st Workshop held at Harvard University, Boston, MA.

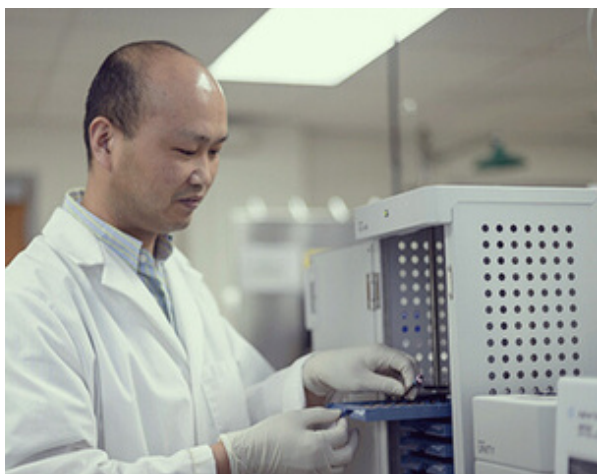
## 2014

**Fellowship Program Launch**

On October 1st, 2014, the inaugural cohort of nine assistant professors and three research scientists from government agencies, was officially announced. Fellows met at their first workshop held at Harvard University in November 2014.

2015 **First Mini Workshop: Climate Change and Indigenous Health**

Agency Fellow **Stephanie Moore** from NOAA took the lead and organized our first “mini” workshop in Seattle, WA. This event sparked interest in diverse topics, and became one of five focused mini-workshops that expanded the program’s scope.



**Chunrong Jia** directs the Environmental Health Laboratory, which is equipped with state-of-the-art instruments for environmental health research.

## 2016

**Support for New Research Facilities**

The Fellowship funded a cutting-edge environmental monitoring laboratory at the University of Memphis, further enabling advanced research, training, and data collection capabilities under the direction of **Chunrong Jia**. This is the first of several facilities funded.

## KEY MILESTONES

**2017 Fellows Secure Federal Awards**

The Fellows began receiving federal awards from agencies such as the NIEHS, EPA, and HUD, marking a significant milestone that opened new research opportunities.

**2017 Development of the Integrated Socio-Environmental Model of Health and Well-being**

Collaborative work among **Allison Appleton, Annie Belcourt, Christina Fuller** and **Hector Olvera** resulted in the creation of a research framework to study the interconnections between social and environmental stressors at various life stages, and their long-term impacts on health.\*

**2018 First Book Published during the Fellowship**

**Sara Wylie** published *Fractivism: Corporate Bodies and Chemical Bonds*,\*\* which garnered outstanding reviews across academic journals and earned the prestigious Diane Forsythe Prize for feminist work in the Social Studies of Science.



Program Leadership team and **Cohort II** Fellows at their 1st Workshop held at Harvard University, Boston, MA.

**2018****Launch of Cohort II**

The program expanded with its second cohort, comprising 15 Fellows, including 11 Faculty Fellows and 4 Agency Fellows, reflecting the growing interest and impact of the Fellowship.

**2019 Introduction of Collaborative and Special Project Funding**

The program began to offer funds for Special Projects and for Fellows to collaborate together across cohorts on unique projects and projects for pilot data.

\*Alvarez, H. A. O., Appleton, A. A., Fuller, C. H., Belcourt, A., & Kubzansky, L. D. (2018). An Integrated Socio- Environmental Model of Health & Well-Being: a Conceptual Framework Exploring the Joint Contribution of Environmental and Social Exposures to Health and Disease Over the Life Span. *Current Environmental Health Reports*, 1-11

\*\* Wylie, S. A. (2018). *Fractivism: Corporate Bodies and Chemical Bonds*. Duke University Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv11sn393>

## KEY MILESTONES

**2019 49 Peer-Reviewed Publications Supported by JPB Funds**

By 2019, the Fellowship had supported the publication of 49 peer-reviewed papers, accumulating over 200 citations and thousands of views, with 68 additional papers in progress.



Peter Dykstra, reporter for NPRs *Living on Earth* and **Annie Belcourt**.

**2020****1st Fellow Promoted to Full Professor**

**Annie Belcourt** was promoted to Full Professor at the University of Montana's School of Public and Community Health Sciences Department, marking a significant professional milestone within the Fellowship community.

**2020 First Online Workshop Due to the Pandemic**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fellowship adapted by hosting its first virtual workshop, ensuring continued engagement and collaboration among Fellows despite the global disruption.

**2021 Introduction of PaperCuts Online Sessions**

The Fellowship launched informal online sessions for Fellows to present and discuss their latest research and publications, fostering ongoing academic exchange.

**2021 First Fellow Appointed to Biden-Harris Administration**

**Tony Reames** took professional leave to serve as the Deputy Director for Energy Justice at the U.S. Department of Energy, highlighting the program's influence on national policy.

**2022 Fellows Join the Leadership Team**

**Diana Hernandez** and **Allison Appleton** joined the program's leadership team, bringing valuable expertise and perspectives to shape the Fellowship's strategic direction. Their contributions, especially in addressing social determinants of health, are vital for advancing impactful research and fostering collaboration within the program.

## **“I Can’t Breathe”: Examining the Legacy of American Racism on Determinants of Health and the Ongoing Pursuit of Environmental Justice**

ETHICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (M TONDEL AND M JONES,  
SECTION EDITORS)

[Open access](#) | Published: 04 March 2022

Volume 9, pages 211–227, (2022) [Cite this article](#)

### 2022

#### **Amplifying Voices: Addressing Social and Environmental Injustices**

Fellows published a powerful review tracing the deep historical roots of systemic anti-Black racism in the U.S., highlighting its links to environmental hazards disproportionately affecting BIPOC communities. The paper calls for bold solutions to achieve true environmental justice and create thriving, livable environments for all.



**Cohort III** Fellows at their 1st workshop held at Boston and Chelsea MA.

### 2022

#### **Launch of Cohort III**

Through a competitive multi-stage process, the third cohort was introduced, bringing together 17 Fellows, including 14 Faculty Fellows and 3 Agency Fellows, to further advance the program’s mission.

### 2022 **Second Fellow Promoted to Full Professor**

**Chunrong Jia** was promoted to Full Professor at the Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Environmental Health at the University of Memphis.

### 2022 **Socio-Environmental Research Group (SERG) Conference**

The Fellowship’s Socio-Environmental Research Group composed by JPB Fellows hosted an in-person conference in Portland, OR, focusing on the developmental origins of health disparities due to social and environmental exposures.

## KEY MILESTONES

**2022 Two more Fellows join the Biden Administration**

**Sara Wylie** took a leave from Northeastern University to serve as an Energy Justice Science, Technology, and Policy Fellow in the Office of Energy Justice Policy and Analysis. **Marccus Hendricks** joined the Executive Office of the President as Senior Advisor of Climate and Community Resilience for the Council on Environmental Quality.

**2024 10th Anniversary Celebration**

The Fellowship celebrates a decade of accomplishments and impact, reflecting on the progress made and setting ambitious goals for the next decade.



**Cohort III** Fellows at Harvard University listening to Fellow **Jennifer D. Roberts'** presentation during a workshop in Cambridge, MA.



“The JPB Fellowship has been transformative! The fellowship pivoted, but really broadened, my scholarship. I came in “green,” but left “for real green” in that I jumped feet first into the nature sandbox. Working with Fellows Greg, Viniece, Hector, Katie and all the nature folks catalyzed opportunities for more cross-disciplinary collaborations. I hope the fellowship continues to give other scholars what it gave me...more than what I imagined or even knew that I needed.”

Jennifer D. Roberts, Cohort II Fellow  
Associate Professor Director, Public Health Outcomes &  
Effects of the Built Environment Lab, Department of  
Kinesiology University of Maryland School of Public Health.



“My experience with the Fellowship has trained me in ways to thoroughly consider the manner in which all of the streams of my research are put into practice in partnership with communities, and in ways that serve community needs and contribute to a reduction in health inequities. This Program provided crucial support for my work, and helped to shape its direction in fundamental ways”

Greg Bratman, Cohort II Fellow  
Assistant Professor  
Environmental & Forest Sciences, College of the Environment  
University of Washington, Seattle

## FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

**Diana Hernandez**, Cohort I Fellow, is Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, with a joint appointment at the Center on Global Energy Policy. She has spent her career at the intersection of energy, equity, and healthy housing, with a focus on vulnerable populations and communities facing material hardship.

**As a JPB Environmental Health Fellow**, Diana validated the work she was eager to pursue early in her academic career. The program provided her with protected time to delve into research at the crossroads of energy insecurity, housing, and health inequities. The fellowship offered her critical financial support, ensuring stability in a soft-money environment, and allowed her to extend her dissertation research. This facilitated deeper community engagement, including visiting homes and neighborhoods to study the impacts of energy insecurity and housing policies on public health.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Diana's personal journey growing up in a disadvantaged community in the South Bronx significantly shaped her approach to research. Her work emphasizes embedding herself within communities, building relationships, and validating the lived experiences of residents.
- Her research highlights the lasting impacts of housing and neighborhood issues on communities, bridging the gap between science and community needs through studies on cleaner energy transitions and smoke-free housing policies.
- One notable project involved a collaboration with other fellows to explore the impact of smoke-free housing policies. This interdisciplinary effort combined social science and environmental health research, examining indoor air quality and social compliance dynamics.
- Beyond formal projects, she has built lasting relationships with fellows across cohorts, exchanging ideas and driving innovation in energy justice research.
- Over the years, Diana's role within the fellowship has evolved. From a young researcher exploring uncharted territory to a mentor and leader, she now finds immense joy in supporting others.



**Diana Hernandez**, and Ruth Santiago.  
lawyer and environmental health advocate

# IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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## FELLOWS

### Expanding Our Fellowship Community

Since 2014, we've grown to support support 44 Fellows (35 Academic and 9 Agency Fellows) across three cohorts, fostering a diverse network of scholars from disciplines such as Anthropology, Epidemiology, Environmental Science and Engineering, Environmental Economics, Psychology, and Urban Planning, all dedicated to creating healthier and more equitable communities.

### Bridging Academia and Agencies

Our Agency Fellows have provided their valuable expertise to enrich the program and enhance collaborative research. These senior research scientists have come from key federal agencies including the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, U.S Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



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## PROMOTIONS

## Professional Growth

Our program has proudly seen 17 Fellows promoted to Associate Professor and two to Full Professor, Professor Annie Belcourt (Aímmóniisiaki/Mdbogay-Otterwoman), who Chairs Native American Studies and is an American Indian Professor in the College of Health at the University of Montana's School of Public and Community Health Sciences Departments, and Professor Chunrong Jia, at the Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Environmental Health at the University of Memphis, a testament to their hard work and dedication.



“This Fellowship has been a transformative positive factor in my development as a scholar and professional representing Native Americans in science and academia. It has provided me with unique opportunities to reach a national audience to discuss Native American health and related topics. It also played a crucial role in helping me successfully secure my position as a tenured faculty member.”

Annie Belcourt, Cohort I Fellow  
Professor of Pharmacy Practice/Community & Public Health Science, Native American Studies Chair, College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Montana



“I gained not only support and opportunities in scientific research, but friendship and mentorship that will benefit me both professionally and personally throughout my lifetime. One of the key benefits of this fellowship was the funding to establish an environmental monitoring laboratory. This enabled me to conduct a series of environmental exposure assessment studies that have positively impacted communities.”

Chunrong Jia, Cohort I Fellow  
Professor of Environmental Health Science, Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, School of Public Health University of Memphis

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

## INFLUENCING NATIONAL POLICY

**Tony Reames** was selected to serve as Principal Deputy Director for State and Community Energy Programs, and Deputy Director for Energy Justice at the U.S. Department of Energy. He led the Office of Energy Justice Policy and Analysis in the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity for over two years. In this role, he spearheaded the agency's plan to implement President Biden's Justice40 Initiative, and was responsible for energy justice policy and analysis to ensure energy investments and benefits reached frontline communities and Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color. He deployed \$16 billion in support of energy efficiency measures and clean energy planning, aiding communities that bear the worst impacts of the climate crisis.



“The Fellowship helped stretch my understanding of the critical connections between residential energy disparities and the indoor and outdoor characteristics that contribute to environmental disparities. Expanding my research in this way allowed me to develop new studies, obtain external funding, and make major contributions to policy making at the local, state and federal levels”

[Tony Reames, Cohort II Fellow, Associate Professor; Tishman Professor of Environmental Justice; Director SEAS Detroit Sustainability Clinic, at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability](#)

**Sara Wylie** was selected for a two-year Fellowship in the Biden Administration to work on the Justice40 Initiative to ensure that 40% of clean energy investments go towards marginalized communities overburdened by the impact of pollution and climate change. Using expertise along with Equity and Justice measures, Sara had the opportunity to shape policy and decision making in a meaningful way.



“This Fellowship was a turning point in my career. It allowed me to develop novel interdisciplinary citizen science research while also establishing my reputation in anthropology of science”

[Sara Wylie, Cohort I Fellow, Associate Professor of Anthropology Social Science and Environmental Health Research Institute at Northeastern University](#)

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

## INFLUENCING NATIONAL POLICY (CONT.)

**Marccus D. Hendricks** was tapped to serve as a Senior Advisor for Climate and Community Resilience on The White House Council on Environmental Quality, in the Executive Office of the President. In his appointment through the Executive Office of the President he worked on the development of federal policies, initiatives and efforts that advanced place-based strategies and solutions related to water, hazard mitigation, disaster recovery and infrastructure.



“As an interdisciplinary scholar, the fellowship has been instrumental in nurturing the connection between urban planning and public health through my work. It has empowered me to collaborate with communities to gather empirical evidence on issues related to water risk and environmental justice, enabling them to advocate for themselves and their communities.”

Marccus D. Hendricks, Cohort II Fellow, Associate Professor Urban Studies and Planning Program School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland



## AMPLIFYING VOICES: ADDRESSING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES

The Fellows have contributed to critical conversations and shared insights on environmental health justice and inequities. Examples of this are the following publications:

- **The hidden health inequalities that American Indians and Alaskan Natives face.** The Conversation. By Annie Belcourt (2017, Dec. 13).
- **“I Can’t Breathe”: Examining the Legacy of American Racism on Determinants of Health and the Ongoing Pursuit of Environmental Justice.** Curr Envir Health Rpt 9, 211-227 (2022) By Roberts, J., Dickinson, K., Hendricks, M. et al.
- **“Heading Upstream: Strategies to Shift Environmental Justice Research From Disparities to Equity”,** American Journal of Public Health 112, no. 1 (Jan. 1, 2022): pp. 59-62. By Daniel Carrión, Annie Belcourt, Christina H. Fuller,
- **When green spaces displace residents, our cities' health suffers.** Next City. By Jennings, V., Rigolon, A., & Osborne Jelks, N.(2022, Feb. 7).
- **Climate change and chronic kidney disease.** Public Health Post, By Madeleine Scammell (2022, Mar. 30).
- **The lingering shadow of redlining: Fossil fuel power plants and air pollution.** The Science Breaker. By Cushing L. & Li. S (2022, Nov.. 9).
- **From Environmental Racism to Environmental Reparation: The Story of One American City.** Journal of Physical Activity and Health, 1(aop), 1-4. By Roberts, J. D. (2023).



## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



“I feel that the collaborations with Dr. Specht and Dr. Roper have expanded the possibilities of my research program. I am profoundly grateful to the directors of the fellowship and to these colleagues for providing a way to blend biochemical and behavioral research methods. This opportunity has pushed the boundaries of my imagination regarding my current and future research practice.”

Mike Anastario, Cohort III Fellow  
Assistant Professor  
Health Sciences Northern Arizona University



“The JPB project was instrumental in providing me with valuable feedback on proposal writing and project design, encouraging me to engage more actively in community-based research using innovative approaches. It also enabled me to secure funding to conduct my own study and support my students financially. In addition, I gained access to a remarkable network of colleagues, which proved to be an invaluable resource”

Colleen Reid, Cohort II Fellow  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geography  
University of Colorado, Boulder

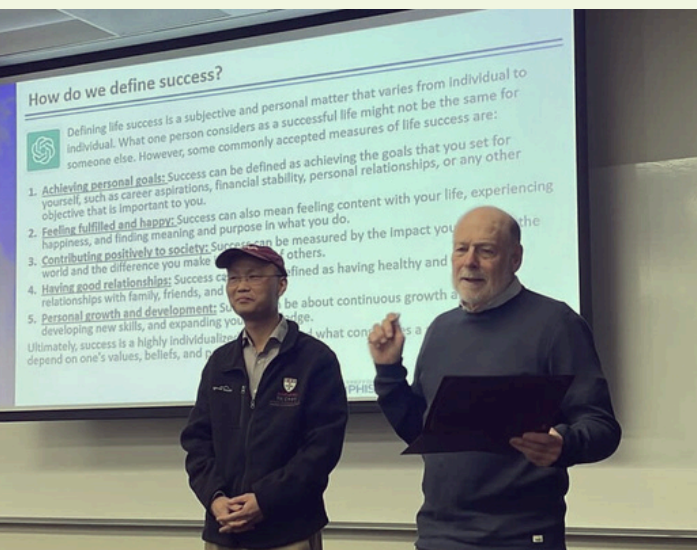
## FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

**CHUNRONG JIA**, Cohort I Fellow, is a Professor of Environmental Health Science, Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, School of Public Health University of Memphis. His research focuses on air quality, exposure assessment, and environmental health disparities.

**As a JPB Environmental Health Fellow**, Chunrong expanded his research on indoor and outdoor air pollutants, such as VOCs and particulate matter. His fellowship enabled him to develop a state-of-the-art environmental monitoring lab, facilitating studies that increased public awareness of air pollution in homes and schools. His outreach efforts also contributed to national environmental justice initiatives, addressing pollution exposure in under-resourced communities.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Chunrong Jia's environmental monitoring lab, equipped with advanced instruments like GC/MS and HPLC, supports his impactful collaborations and interdisciplinary research.
- Demonstrating his collaborative spirit, as a Fellow Chunrong partnered with Diana Hernandez to examine energy efficiency and indoor air quality in affordable housing. This study evaluated the impacts on energy security and health while engaging key stakeholders, including researchers, architects, and residents in low-income housing.



**Chunrong Jia** and Jack Spengler

- A key contributor across Fellowship cohorts, Chunrong collaborated with Diana Ceballos on NIH grant applications, including studies on nail technicians' nervous system health and VOC reduction through safer degreasers. He is also working with Courtney Roper on rural air quality's impact on asthma hospitalizations in the Mississippi Delta.
- Chunrong commitment to advancing environmental health research is amplified by his technical expertise and dedication to interdisciplinary teamwork, significantly enriching the Fellowship's collective impact.

# PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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### WORKSHOPS

In total, the Fellowship has organized 28 workshops, including 23 in-person sessions held in various locations such as Boston, Memphis, Missoula, Phoenix, Cambridge, Flagstaff, and Puerto Rico, as well as five online workshops. Additionally, fellows had the opportunity to participate in online writing retreats to further enhance their skills.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SITE VISITS

The Fellowship provided unique opportunities to learn firsthand about environmental health challenges that exist in some parts of the U.S., such as: Chelsea, MA; Santo Domingo Pueblo, NM; Karnes County Texas; Tempe Town Lake, Phoenix, AZ; Memphis neighborhoods; Flathead Reservation, Missoula, MT; and Loiza, community of Piñones, Puerto Rico.



## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## A DECADE OF RESEARCH & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### 50+ PROJECTS

The Fellowship has funded more than 50 research projects, advancing our understanding of the social and environmental factors affecting health in under-resourced communities in the following fields: **Environmental Health, Built Environment, Water and Air Pollution, Stress and Resilience, Environmental and Indigenous Public Health, Environmental Justice, Nature and Health, Occupational Health, Energy Insecurity, Chemicals and Health, Housing, and Citizen Science**

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### 120+ PEER REVIEW PAPERS

### 160+ STUDENTS SUPPORTED

As a result, over 128 peer-reviewed papers have been published. Fellows have engaged and supported over 160 students in their research projects, cultivating the next generation of scholars who will continue to drive positive change.

Fellows have also ensured that their research translates into meaningful, real-world impact through partnerships with community groups across our country such as **the Swinomish Tribal Community, Blackfeet Community College, Karnes Area Residents for the Environment in Texas, Clean Memphis, and GreenRoots in both Chelsea, MA and Denver, Colorado.**

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

**Empowerment and Advocacy**

The Fellowship empowers Fellows to move beyond aggregate data, focusing on individual and community experiences. It supports Fellows as both scholars and advocates, promoting inclusivity and amplifying the voices of under-resourced communities in environmental health sciences.

**Community Engagement**

Fellows actively collaborate with community groups through fieldwork, meetings, conferences, and workshops, fostering strong partnerships and bringing diverse perspectives to the research field. This commitment extends to their teams, including research assistants, students, consultants, and community collaborators, enhancing the Fellowship's impact.

**Community Support**

Strategic investments provide equipment, research materials, stipends for participants, and funding for community meetings and organizers, ensuring an inclusive research approach that empowers communities and enhances both direct and indirect engagement.

**Policy Advocacy**

Fellowship-supported research contributes to a deeper understanding of environmental and health challenges. These findings lay the foundation for policy recommendations, indirectly driving improvements and enhancing the well-being of affected communities.

**Educational Outreach**

Fellows use their advanced research skills to engage in educational outreach, sharing findings with the public to raise awareness and understanding of environmental health issues. This extends the Fellowship's impact to communities beyond those directly involved in their studies.

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**CO - INVESTMENT IN LAB FACILITIES**

Our Program has invested in lab facilities and equipment, training, course curriculums, and student research training across universities and communities in the U.S. Examples include a cutting-edge environmental monitoring laboratory at the University of Memphis, further enabling advanced research and data collection capabilities; a Mobile Lab at the University of Texas, El Paso; an Air Quality Lab in Amherst, MA; and the investment of an mobile XRF at the University of Northern Arizona's to be housed in the Center for Health Equity.



## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## COLLABORATIONS

Fellows have collaborated in research, presented in each other's classes, and organized sessions at conferences. And through their generosity enriched each other's lives. It is a marvelous thing to see."

Jack Spengler, Founding Director

The Fellows have fostered innovative collaborations across all cohorts, spanning fields from environmental science to social justice, leading to new approaches and solutions explored in classrooms, conferences, and peer-review publications. In addition to research projects, recent example of this are the following:

## 2021

- **Colleen Reid, Lara Cushing, Kate Dickinson, Marccus Hendrix, and Jennifer Roberts**, presented "Racism, Power and Justice: Achieving Population Health Equity" on the Environmental Racism and Health session at the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science annual meeting in 2021
- **Gregory Bratman, Christina Fuller, Hector Olvera, Jennifer Roberts, Katie Dickinson**, and **Veniece Jennings** presented "The color of nature: A workshop on the realities and impacts of structural racism on nature access and connectedness". A session organized for the EarthLab (University of Washington) Nature and Health Virtual Conference in 2021: "Generating Understanding Across Communities and Disciplines".

## 2022

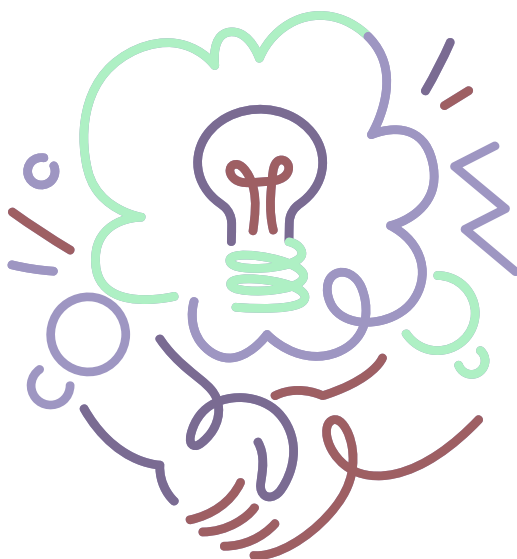
- The Socio-Environmental Research Group (SERG) had an in-person conference titled "Social and environmental exposures and the developmental origins of health disparities" in Portland, OR on April, 2022. This interdisciplinary event showcased cutting-edge research focused on the joint contribution of environmental and social factors in the developmental origins of health disparities. The conference was organized by **Allison Appleton and Hector Olvera. Annie Belcourt, Greg Bratman, Lara Cushing, Katie Dickinson**, and **Christina Fuller**, were part of the Organizing Committee.

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## COLLABORATIONS (CONT.)

## 2023

- At the inaugural Wekesa Earth Center Workshop, organized by founder **Jennifer Roberts** in 2023, several Fellows contributed to a collective effort to address environmental inequities and critically examine the racialization of nature.
- Most recently three Fellows, **Jennifer Roberts**, **Mike Anastario**, and **Hector Olvera** (one of each Cohort) participated together in a session at the American Anthropological Association's conference on Gardens, Trauma and Flourishing to examine the concept of flourishing through a multidisciplinary lens to help understand the various forms of human-plant relationships can play in processing trauma.



# FINAL THOUGHTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Through the years, we have gained valuable insights from our Fellows, allowing us to continually refine our Fellowship program to better meet their needs. The lessons learned over the past decade have shaped and will continue to enhance the program, ensuring that it not only fosters individual growth but also amplifies its collective impact on social and environmental health research.

We extend our deepest gratitude to **Barbara Picower**, Chair President Emerita, and **Dana Bourland**, former VP for Environment, at The JPB Foundation, who sponsored and supported the development of our Environmental Health Fellowship. Additionally, we truly cherished the guidance and input from Senior Program Officer **Ogonnaya Dotson-Newman** whose energy and inspiration continually helped us grow the program.

A special feature of our Fellowship was the co-leadership and dedication of **Marc Weisskopf**, **Laura Kubzansky**, and Senior Fellow Advisors **Allison Appleton** and **Diana Hernandez**. All shared a common purpose of creating a Fellowship Program with a focus on the combined influence of both the social and physical determinants of health.

It isn't easy to build a Fellowship Program when the Fellows aren't here. The administrative team of **Tracy Mark**, **Maria F. Martinez**, and **Joan Arnold** took this challenge head on, and they value each and every Fellow. Without their attention to all the details from the workshops, travel, funding, reporting and communications the program would not be the strong caring group it has grown to be.

To learn more about the JPB Environmental Health Fellowship Program, please visit: <https://hsph.harvard.edu/fellowship-special-program/ehfellows/>

# APPENDICES

- I. List of Cohort I Fellows, 2014-18
- II. List of Cohort II Fellows, 2018-22
- III. Lists of Cohort III Fellows, 2022-26
- IV. Other Resources: Projects and Publications

## List of Cohort I Fellows, 2014-18

**Allison Appleton**

State University of New York at Albany

**Annie Belcourt**

University of Montana

**Kofi Berko**

U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

**Diana Ceballos**

University of Washington, Seattle

**Chunrong Jia**

University of Memphis

**Christina Fuller**

Georgia State University

**Diana Hernandez**

Columbia University

**Stephanie Moore**

Northwest Fisheries Science Center,  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Hector Olvera**

Oregon Health & Science University

**Madeleine Scammell**

Boston University

**Jose Suarez**

University of California

**Sara Wylie**

Northeastern University

## List of Cohort II Fellows, 2018-22

**Raphael Arku**

University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Greg Bratman**

University of Washington, Seattle

**Ellison Carter**

Colorado State University

**Lara Cushing**

University of California, Los Angeles

**Matthew Cutler**

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

**Katherine Dickinson**

Colorado School of Public Health

**Marccus Hendricks**

University of Maryland

**Chandra Jackson**

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

**Kirk Jalbert**

University at Buffalo, SUNY

**Viniece Jennings**

Florida A&M University

**Leah Lozier**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Valerie Newsome Garcia**

National Healthy Start Association, Washington, DC

**Tony Reames**

University of Michigan

**Colleen Reid**

University of Colorado, Boulder

**Jennifer Roberts**

University of Maryland

**List of Cohort III Fellows, 2022-26****Katherine Alfredo**

University of South Florida

**Michael Anastario**

Northern Arizona University

**Max Aung**

University of Southern California

**Stephanie Eick**

Emory University

**Jose Cedeno Laurent**

Rutgers University

**MyDzung Chu**

Tufts University

**Michael Garvey**

U. S. Department of Energy

**Lauren E. Gentile**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Veronica Helms Garrison**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Betty Lin**

University at Albany, State University of New York

**Na'Taki Osborne Jelks**

Spelman College

**Courtney Roper**

The University of Mississippi

**Anais Roque**

The Ohio State University

**Leah Schinasi**

Drexel University

**Aaron Specht**

Purdue University

**Yoshira Ornelas**

Columbia University

**Ruzmyn Vilcassim**

University of Alabama at Birmingham

## Other Resources

To learn more about **JPB Fellowship projects** visit:

<https://hsph.harvard.edu/fellowship-special-program/ehfellows/projects/>

Explore the complete list of **publications supported by JPB** Funds at:

<https://hsph.harvard.edu/fellowship-special-program/ehfellows/research/>



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