Ami Zota, ScD, MS

Founder and Director, Agents of Change in Environmental Health

Associate Professor, George Washington University Milken School of Public Health

https://www.agentsofchangeineh.com/
My work seeks to secure environmental justice and improve health equity through advancements in science, policy, clinical practice, and communication.

Research: mapping how social-structural processes shape the environmental exposome and related health disparities.
Maximizing impact through disruptive innovation
PROBLEM: THOUGHT LEADERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ARE PREDOMINATELY SENIOR, WHITE MEN?

SOLUTION: AMPLIFY NEGLECTED VOICES IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HELP FOSTER A NEW GENERATION OF MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE THOUGHT LEADERS
Collaborators and Funders

a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to driving science into public discussion and policy on environmental health issues, including climate change.

Brian Bienkowski, Senior Editor of Environmental Health News and Editor of Agents of Change in Environmental Health

All essays published on EHN in English and Spanish:

Funding: Marisla Foundation
PROGRAM GOALS

• Increase the **impact** of early career scientists from under-represented background.
  • training in next-generation science communication skills, a platform to test ideas, diverse cohort of colleagues, and a “digital megaphone”.

• Inject **new ideas** into the environmental health science and advocacy communities
  • We need bold, innovative ideas to push our planet in a healthy, more just direction

• **Representation matters.**
  • Environmental health is a predominately white field. To increase diversity and inclusion in the field, we need to broaden our perspectives and center non-white voices
Syndemic

Climate Change

COVID-19

Economic Collapse

Racial Injustice

Agents of Change
IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
OUR FELLOWS

• Early career scientists from backgrounds historically under-represented in science and academia.
• Doctoral students, post-docs, and research staff
• 8 fellows from 5 different institutions
• Disciplines: environmental health, ecology
Ans Irfan

New Country, same oppression: It’s time to bolster farmworkers’ rights
El’gin Avila

Beyond coffees and condos: Black and brown families displaced and erased

Credit: Kate DeCicco y Rose Jaime (artists), Department of Public Works MuralsDC project.
Mỹ Dzung Chu

Why housing security is key to environmental justice
Brenda Trejo

Health research and its problem with the "R" word
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• 10 essays/blogs published in Agents of Change series
• First blog published in January 2020
• Total views on EHN website: **991,920**
  • English: 874,418; Spanish - 117,508
  • Median: 13,500 views
  • Max: 779,730
We are growing the program!

Call for applicants this summer resulted in 83 candidates. We have selected 25 new fellows, divided between a fall and spring cohort.

Diverse social identities
• Race/ethnicity
• Gender identity
• Sexual orientation
• Country of origin
• Family background
• Disability
• Socioeconomic status
• Religion

Diverse research disciplines
• Environmental health
• Epidemiology
• Community health
• Environmental chemistry
• Urban planning
• Medicine
• Environmental sociology
• Engineering
• Environmental education

Sign up for our monthly newsletter:
https://www.agentsofchangeineh.com/