

# PEDIATRIC PULMONARY CENTERS

MCH Training Program

## PROGRAM HISTORY AND STRATEGY

For much of this century, children with respiratory disorders did not live beyond infancy. As more children survived because of improved treatments, training was required to ensure that children with respiratory conditions were diagnosed appropriately and received the best care possible. To provide children with respiratory disorders with effective treatment and ongoing care, the federal government funded 13 pediatric pulmonary centers (PPCs) in 1967. In 1973, the federal Office of Maternal and Child Health (OMCH) took over the administration of the PPC grants. OMCH recognized the importance of training multidisciplinary teams to address the complex needs of children with pulmonary conditions, and it changed the grants' focus to include multidisciplinary training of physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, nutritionists, and social workers. Another area of emphasis added to the PPCs was a population-based, public health focus.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, several additional shifts occurred in the field of pediatric pulmonary medicine. Newborns were now surviving as a result of technological interventions. Chronically ill children were entitled to receive an education in the same settings as their peers. Comprehensive care moved from hospitals into homes and schools. In response to these shifts, PPCs changed their emphasis as well. Rather than focusing exclusively on medical interventions, centers now provide family-centered, culturally appropriate, developmental, and psychosocial support of children and their families. Interdisciplinary team members also work with the public health system at local, regional, and national levels to achieve these goals.

Currently, more than 7 million children in the United States have lung-disabling conditions, including asthma and cystic fibrosis. Respiratory conditions are the cause of most hospitalizations for children ages 1 through 9 in the United States and are also responsible for many days of missed school. The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) pediatric pulmonary centers training program is designed to do the following: (1) improve the health status of children with acute and chronic respiratory conditions; (2) develop and sustain community-based systems of care; and (3) advance knowledge in the pediatric pulmonary field.



## PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The purpose of the interdisciplinary pediatric pulmonary centers training program is to prepare health professionals for leadership roles in the development, enhancement, or improvement of community-based care for children with chronic respiratory diseases and for their families. These PPCs provide interdisciplinary training of health professionals, engage in active partnerships with state and local health agencies and health professionals, and serve as models of excellence in training, service, and research related to chronic respiratory conditions in infants and children.

## HIGHLIGHTS

*Faculty/Trainees.* PPC traineeships are available in pulmonary medicine, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy,

respiratory therapy, and social work. The program trains at both the graduate and postgraduate levels in the primary program setting as well as in diverse community settings. Faculty engage in relevant research. Both faculty and trainees provide consultation and technical assistance to develop or to improve community-based services. Additionally, the program collaborates with state Title V programs to improve community capacity by integrating services and resources, conducting needs assessments, and jointly developing continuing education and consultation efforts.

*Curriculum.* The program prepares trainees for leadership by providing not only clinical training, but also curriculum that includes a broad public health perspective consisting of, among other things, the development and implementation of systems of care, advocacy, public policy formulation, and legislation. PPCs also provide ongoing continuing education activities through community-based workshops and seminars, conferences, and other activities designed to enhance skills or disseminate new information.

### PROGRAM PROFILE

- In FY 1999, MCHB funded seven PPCs, with annual grant awards totaling \$2.2 million.
- The grant awards range from \$282,000 to \$349,000 per year, with a mean award amount of \$308,000.

### Present Grant Recipients

STATE	GRANTEE
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham
FL	University of Florida
LA	Tulane University
NM	University of New Mexico
NY	Mount Sinai School of Medicine
WA	University of Washington
WI	University of Wisconsin–Madison

For additional information about the PPCs, please visit <http://salud.unm.edu/asthma/ppc.htm>.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. n.d. *Maternal and Child Health Bureau Division of Systems, Education and Science Maternal and Child Health Training Program Announcement of Grant Availability: Pediatric Pulmonary Centers*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

