

**Postdoctoral Fellow:
Environmental Health Scientist for Transdisciplinary Environmental and Social Science Team**

We are seeking a candidate with doctoral training in an environmental health-related discipline such as exposure assessment, molecular or computational toxicology and biology, environmental chemistry, statistics, bioinformatics, or epidemiology. In addition, this fellowship is part of a unique environmental science-social science collaboration, and the candidate should have an interest in working in a public health context and receiving training in community-based participatory research and the social context of environmental science. This two-year appointment will be part of the new NIEHS Training Program, “Transdisciplinary Training at the Intersection of Environmental Health Science and Social Science” (EH+SS), co-directed by Silent Spring Institute and Northeastern University’s Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute. This Training Program will prepare environmental health scientists to be future leaders in social science-environmental health science collaborations and community-based research.

The postdoctoral fellow will spend 2/3 of her/his time at Silent Spring Institute and 1/3 at Northeastern. The fellow will collaborate with Silent Spring Institute scientists to contribute to ongoing research in environmental health and engage with social scientists at Northeastern working at the intersection of social science and environmental health.

The postdoc will collaborate on one or more of several active grants, depending on training and experience. Examples of work include literature review, field work, data analysis, and manuscript development for projects such as these:

- Our team is leading efforts to develop Adverse Outcome Pathway models for breast cancer. This research is part of an international effort using bioinformatics, computational biology and toxicology approaches to [identify biological pathways in cancer etiology](#). Data sources include EPA’s ToxCast, NIH’s Tox21, and our own RNA-Seq and high content screening experiments. Results will contribute to chemical safety tests and identify early effect markers for epidemiology.
- In studies of women firefighters, office workers, and truckers, we are developing novel approaches to [biomonitoring and exposure assessment](#), including collaborations with laboratories conducting metabolomics and non-targeted chemical analysis.
- We are using exposure studies and intervention studies to develop a knowledge-base for reducing exposures to endocrine disruptors from building renovations, consumer products, institutional purchasing, and fire safety rules. Study settings range from public housing in Boston and New Orleans to college dorms and classrooms. Fellows might develop and follow study protocols, operate sampling equipment, develop sample tracking systems, interact with study participants, and analyze data.
- We are developing a new technology for home exposure assessment using passive air sampling and seek to develop and field test a variety of new tools for exposure tracking and citizen science.
- To develop ethical practices for the big data era, we are analyzing privacy risks associated with [online data sharing](#) of environmental health data.
- What should researchers tell study participants about their own results biomonitoring and personal exposure studies when the links between exposure and health are uncertain? The Silent Spring – Northeastern team has pioneered the development and evaluation of [methods for reporting personal chemical exposures](#). Our ongoing efforts include 1) report-back in a study of preterm birth in the [PROTECT Superfund](#) center in Puerto Rico, 2) a study of [women’s workplace exposures](#) among office workers and firefighters, and 3) a study of puberty in girls in Chile.
- Our research team collaborates with environmental and health advocacy groups to integrate the best science into environmental public health strategies. For example, we catalyzed a recent change in the California foam flammability standard and are working to extend that policy nationwide, already with success in Massachusetts.

Our positions require great versatility and transdisciplinary thinking. Researchers work in teams and are also involved in public communications and proposal development. This training program will integrate environmental health and social science and prepare trainees for careers at the intersections of environmental health science, social science, and science studies.

Trainees will be equipped to improve environmental health, particularly among underserved populations, by being introduced to: 1) coursework, 2) a dedicated seminar series, and 3) community-based organizations that use participatory research and novel tools for exposure. The fellow will have ample opportunity to be part of publications.

Silent Spring Institute, with a staff of about 20, celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2014 as the nation's leading scientific research organization focused on achieving breast cancer prevention through environmental research and outreach programs. Our research focuses on breast cancer and environmental pollutants, especially hormone disruptors and animal mammary gland carcinogens. We develop and apply new technologies to identify safer chemicals and measure exposures. This is an opportunity to be part of a nationally recognized, innovative, mission-driven team. Our publications list is [here](#).

The Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute, at Northeastern since 2012, continues the legacy of the Contested Illnesses Research Group at Brown University, which began in 2000, trains graduate students and postdocs in community-based participatory research aimed at transforming and improving environmental health. By linking environmental health science, sociology, science and technology studies, and work with CBOs, SSEHRI develops novel approaches to studying environmental health questions. It currently has 5 faculty members, 1 postdoc, 12 doctoral students, 2 MA students, and 1 MPH student. Both Silent Spring Institute and Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute have extensive collaborations with many breast cancer, environmental health, and environmental justice organizations.

Applicants should demonstrate an excellent academic record; math, statistics, biology, toxicology, chemistry, computer science, and informatics coursework an asset. R programming an asset. Relevant work experience preferred. High energy, creativity, curiosity, attention to accuracy, ability to work independently within a multidisciplinary team.

This position offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

To apply, please do ALL of the following:

1. Send an application packet containing a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, writing samples (published or unpublished), and graduate and undergraduate transcripts to Professor Phil Brown by email at p.brown@neu.edu AND to careers@silentspring.org (put "T32 postdoc" in subject line).
2. Send three letters of reference, including one from the dissertation advisor, to Professor Phil Brown by email at p.brown@neu.edu.
3. ALSO go to <https://neu.peopleadmin.com/postings/36352> and complete the application there. Candidates should be prepared to attach a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, and writing samples (published or unpublished).

We are currently seeking applicants for two positions, one to start no later than June 1, 2016, and one to start September 1, 2016. Review of applications will begin immediately, and the search will remain open until the positions are closed or filled. Questions? Write to Phil Brown at p.brown@neu.edu.