

## Curriculum Vitae

**Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH**

### Personal Data:

#### Home

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

#### Business

Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Qualifications:

B.S. (1998), M.P.H. (2000)

### Language Training:

English (native), Spanish

### This document current as of:

22 January 2012

### Employment History:

2005-Current

**Executive Director**, Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN), Washington, DC. Responsible for direction and oversight of national non-profit organization focused on protecting the fetus and child from environmental hazards impacting their health. Serve as a national spokesperson for child health advocacy.

2004-2005

**Interim Executive Director**, Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN). Supervised Headquarter Office, organized programs, and directed staff for national non-profit dedicated to protecting children's health.

2001-2004

**Assistant Director**, Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN). Duties include management of staff, grant writing, public speaking, and facilitation of Education and Outreach Program.

2000-2001

**Communications Specialist**, Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN). Duties include coordination of all outreach and education campaigns directed toward health care professionals, community-based, faith-based,

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and grass-root organizations. Assisted with grant writing and moderated CEHN professional listservs for over 800 public health professionals. Organized the work of the School Health Minority Outreach, and Certification Task Force of the Education Committee.

- 1999-2000                    **Research Associate**, NIH-DC Initiative to Reduce Infant Mortality at the George Washington University School of Public Health, Washington, DC. Moderated focus groups to assess depression, partner abuse, smoking, and reproductive risk among minority populations in DC.
- 1998-2000                    **Membership Services Coordinator**, Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO), Washington, Communication liaison between 40 national/international Chapters, Transplant Centers, and Organ Procurement Organizations. Organized activities associated with Annual Conference, Membership, and Scholarship Committees. Performed grant writing and maintained database of over 4,000 national and international members.
- 1998-1999                    **Public Health Volunteer**, The Washington Free Clinic, Washington, DC. Researched immunizations and breastfeeding compliance.
- 1998 (Oct-Dec)              **Contract Research Assistant**, The American Psychological Association, Washington, DC. Editing of HIV educational brochure and literary review.
- 1998 (Jan-August)            **Medical Assistant**, General Motors Engine Plant Medical Department, Buffalo, NY. Organized physical exams, medical data, and communication with outside **contracts**.

### **Education:**

- 1998-2000                    Graduate student. The George Washington University School of Public Health, Washington, D.C. Included training in maternal and child health specifically. Special Project” “Assessing Adolescent Knowledge and Attitudes Related to Emergency Contraception.” Developed Adolescent Risk Survey on HIV, STDs, and Teen Pregnancy for Advocates for Youth. Graduate study leading to M.P.H. degree.

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1993-1998            Student, graduating with B.S. in Biological Sciences from Siena College, Loudonville, NY.

### **Professional Honors:**

2009                    Inducted into Stanford Who's Who and Strathmore's Who's Who

2008                    Recipient of Distinguished Service Award by the Environment Section of the American Public Health Association

2005                    Recognized as a leader in environmental health by the Minority Leadership Development Initiative.

2003                    Selected as an Environmental Leaders Program Fellow by the Environmental Leadership Forum.

1998-2000            National United Methodist Church Merit Scholar

1997                    Received the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award from the Conference Council on Christians and Jews.

1994-1997            Selected Summer Research Assistant for National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute sponsored projects at the Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

### **National and Regional Conferences Organized:**

2012                    Contributions to Epigenetics and Pediatric Environmental Health, San Francisco, CA

2010                    Health Disparities Symposium, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC

2010                    DC Environmental Health Community Forum

2009                    Environmental Health National Conference, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia

2007                    Environmental Health National Conference, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia

2007                    Chemicals Safe Policy Meeting for Health Care Professionals, March 2005, Washington, DC

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- 2005 Environmental Health National Conference, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta Georgia.
- 2006 National Radon Summit, December 2005, Washington, DC
- 2005 Health Professional Training and Chemicals Safe Policy Meeting, March 2005, Washington, DC
- 2002 National Lead Safe Housing and Indoor Environmental Health Conference
- 2001 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, “One World: Global Health.” Environment Section Scientific Program.
- 2004 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, “Public Health and the Environment.” Environment Section Scientific Program.
- 2005 and American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, “Evidence Based Policy Practice.” Environment Section Scientific Program.
- 2001 Children’s Environmental Health II: A Global Forum for Action. 8-11 September Washington, DC.

**Advisory Working Groups:**

- 2010-Current Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health Board
- 2009-Current Institute of Medicine Environmental Health Sciences Roundtable
- 2008-2010 Intersection Council, American Public Health Association
- 2008-2010 Expert Panel Member, Healthy Homes Guidance Manual
- 2008-Current Environmental Quality Technical Panel Member, *Caring for our Children*, Review of health and safety child care standards
- 2008-Current National Advisory Committee Member, National Eco-Healthy Child Care Program
- 2008-Current Materials Content Working Group, National Eco-Healthy Child Care Program
- 2008-2009 Executive Board Member, American Public Health Association
- 2008-2009 Chair, Intersection Council, American Public Health Association

- 2007-Current EPA Children's Health Advisory Committee Member
- 2007-Current National Association of Environmental Health Council Member
- 2007 NIEHS Pediatric Research Center Review Panel Member
- 2007-Current Steering Committee Member, DC Asthma Collaborative – DC Department of Health
- 2006-2010 Coordinator, NIEHS Public Interest Partners
- 2006-Current Advisory Committee, Healthy Schools Network
- 2005-Current Environmental Working Group, Society of Public Health Education
- 2001-2004 Executive Committee Member, DC Asthma Coalition

### **Publications:**

American Academy of Pediatrics *Green Guide*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Editor of Child Care Chapter, 2011.

“*Are We Really Addressing the Core of Children's Environmental Health?*” Environ Health Perspectives. doi:10.1289/ehp.0901441 available via <http://dx.doi.org> [Online 25 September 2009].

Witherspoon NO. Global Climate Change and Children's Health; Chapter for book, *The way we will be 50 years from today: 60 of the worlds greatest minds share their vision of the next half century*. Edited by Mike Wallace. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008.

EJ in America and Children's Environmental Health; Background Paper for EJ in America Conference, March 2007.

Indicators of Children's Environmental Health; Background Paper for the Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Program, 2006.

McCurdy LE, Roberts J, Rogers B, Love R, Etzel R, Paulson J, Witherspoon NO, Dearry A. Incorporating environmental health into pediatric medical and nursing education. Environ Health Perspect 112:1755-60(2004). □

School and Environmental Health; Policy paper for Second People of Color Summit on the Environment, 2004.

Childhood Asthma Policy Recommendations; Policy paper for Second People of Color Summit on the Environment, 2004.

Witherspoon CV

**Teaching Experience:**

- “Environmental Justice and Children’s Environmental Health” – Ward 8D Environmental Task Force Community Workshop, April 2001.
- “Digital Divide and Health Information Access” – Guest Lecturer for Children’s Environmental Health Class at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, June of 2001 and 2002.
- “The Anacostia River and Issues of Environmental Justice” – Guest lecturer for the University of the District of Columbia Environmental Ambassador Training of DC Science and Social Studies Teachers, July and August, 2001.
- “What About Our Children?: An Ethical, Economic Scientific, and Political Discussion Around Children’s Environmental Health” – Environmental Studies 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lecture, Siena College, April 2003.
- EPA Student Environmental Development Program (SEDP) – Served as the Coordinator for youth education and empowerment program for DC middle school students, Summers 2002-2006.
- CEHN Healthy Environments for Child Care and Preschools (HECCP) Program – California, February 2006.
- CEHN Healthy Environments for Child Care and Preschools (HECCP) Program– Georgia, 2007 and 2008.
- “Introduction to Children’s Environmental Health” – Lecture for Introduction to Maternal and Child Health class at The George Washington University School of Public Health, April 21 2008.
- CEHN Healthy Environments for Child Care and Preschools (HECCP) Program – Washington, DC, 2008 through 2010.
- Eco-Healthy Child Care Program – Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health and the Environment Conference, Washington, DC, September, 2010
- Eco-Healthy Child Care Presentation to licensed child care providers in Prince Georges County, MD, April 2011.

**Presentations and Seminars:**

- “Healthy Community Environments and Healthy Behaviors – Making the Link Between Environment and Healthy Schools” – CDC DASH Conference, January 2001.
- “How to Develop Effective Educational Materials for Minority Populations” – National Lead Safe Housing and Indoor Environmental Health Conference, May 2001.
- “Children’s Environmental Health and Issues of Environmental Justice” – United Church of Christ (UCC) National Conference, May 2001.
- “Empowering Our Communities Through Our Children” – DC Environmental Network Panel, June 2001.
- “Children’s Environmental Health” – Kawanis Club of Leisure World, June 2001.
- “Children’s Environmental Health and Training of Our Health Care Professionals” – *Healthy Horizons For Today’s Youth* Conference, September 2001.
- “Disparities in Environmental Health Outcomes and Education: Barriers Before the Community” – American Public Health Association 2001 Annual Meeting, October 2001.

- “Disparities in Environmental Health Outcomes and Education: Barriers Before the Community” – Public Health Students of African Descent (PHSAD) Conference at the University of Michigan, March 2002.
- “Pediatric Environmental Health Education, Issues of Disparities, Role of Advocacy Among Health Care Providers and Community Leaders” – Washington State Environmental Health Association Conference, May 2002.
- “Pediatric Environmental Health” – Quality Education For Minorities (QEM) Network Summer Internship Program, July 2002.
- “Environmental Health and Children of Color” – Workshop at Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Spring Seminar, April 2003.
- “The Harmful Impacts Power Plant Emissions Have Upon Our Children’s Health” – Press Conference on National Report *Lethal Legacy*, released by Maryland Public Interest Research Group, October 2003.
- “Climate Change, Clean Energy, and Public Health” – DC Energy Forum, January 2004.
- “Children’s Environmental Health” – Northeast Environmental Health Conference, Columbia University, 2004.
- “Environmental Justice and Public Health” – Moderated plenary session at APHA Annual Conference, November 2004.
- “Outreach and Education Efforts around the National Children’s Study” – National Children’s Study Steering Committee Meeting, September 2005.
- “Announcement of the National Children’s Study Vanguard Sites” – Press conference, September 2005.
- “Precautionary Health Summit” – Facilitator for session at conference, June 10, 2006.
- “Public Interest Response to the NIEHS Strategic Plan” – Institute of Medicine Roundtable Meeting, June 19, 2006.
- “Designing Healthy Communities: Improving the Built Environment to Address Health Disparities” – Hill Briefing sponsored by APHA, Congresswoman Solis, and Senator Barack Obama, September 2006.
- “Training Health Care Providers Around Children’s Environmental Health” – National Hispanic Medical Association Annual Conference, March 2007.
- “Health Disparities in Children’s Environmental Health: Implications of Poverty, Race, and Culture” - Eastern Queens Alliance Environmental Health Conference, May 19, 2007.
- “Protecting Children’s Environmental Health in School Settings” – National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference, July 28, 2007.
- “Building Capacity to Protect Children’s Environmental Health” – National Association of Hispanic Nurses 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, July 18, 2007.
- “Initiative for Healthy Environments in Child Care Settings” – Georgia Radon Conference, August 22, 2007.
- “Healthy Environments in Child Care Facilities and Preschools” – American Public Health Association Annual Conference, November 7, 2007.
- “What’s New in the Field of Children’s Environmental Health” – Healthy Schools Summit, December 5, 2007.
- “Children’s Environmental Health Policy and Action” – National Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Policy Symposium, April 5, 2008.

- “Children’s Environmental Health and Active Living” – Robert Wood Johnson Active Living Research Annual Conference, April 10, 2008.
- “Becoming an Effective Advocate for our Children” – National Hispanic Medical Association Annual Conference, April 18, 2008.
- Pediatric Environmental Health Awareness and Education” – Environmental Justice in America Annual Conference, May 22, 2008.
- “Becoming an Effective Advocate for our Children” – National Medical Association Annual Conference, July 26, 2008.
- “The School Nurse as a Key and Influential Children’s Environmental Health Advocate - National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference, June 30, 2008.
- “Reducing Environmental Factors that Affect Preschool Children in the District of Columbia” – American Public Health Association Annual Conference, October 2008.
- “Becoming an Effective Advocate for our Children” - Advancing Climate Justice: Transforming the Economy, Public Health, and Environment, January 29, 2009.
- The 2011 Indiana Healthy Homes and Child Care Conference, Keynote speaker at Annual Conference for state public health leaders and child care providers, October 5, 2011
- “Protecting our most vulnerable and promoting healthy child care” – American Public Health Association , November 1, 2011.

### **Professional Coalitions:**

Environmental Public Health Partners

National Healthy Schools Campaign

DC Department of Health Asthma Collaborative

- Co-Chair of Environment and Occupational Health Committee, 2003-2005

DC Asthma Coalition (Chair of the Environment Committee, 2002-2005)

Childproofing our Schools Campaign (Air Quality Committee)

Energy and Ecology Working Group

Environmental Health Forum (Steering Committee Member, 2004)

Friends of School Health

Advisory Board, Childhood Lead Poisoning Program, DC Department of Health

Ward 8D Environmental Task Force, Washington, DC

### **Professional Associations:**

American Public Health Association (APHA), 1998 – Current

- Executive Board, 2008-Current
- Chair, Intersection Council, 2008-Current
- Chair-Elect, Intersection Council Steering Committee, 2007-Current
- Environment Section, Intersection Council Steering Committee Member, 2006-Current
- Environment Section Treasurer, 2006-Current
- Environment Section Chair, 2003-2005
- Environment Section Policy Coordinator, 2001-2002
  - Environment Section Program Planner, 2000-2001

George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services Alumni Association, 2000-Current

- Board member, 2001-2004



National Association of Health Services Executives, 2000-2003  
Siena College Alumni Association, 2000-2004

**Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Witness Disclosure Form**

Clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires non-governmental witnesses to disclose to the Committee the following information. A non-governmental witness is any witness appearing on behalf of himself/herself or on behalf of an organization other than a federal agency, or a state, local or tribal government.

Your Name, Business Address, and Telephone Number:

Nse Obot Witherspoon, MPH

Executive Director

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1. Are you appearing on behalf of yourself or a non-governmental organization? Please list organization(s) you are representing.

The Children's Environmental Health Network, a 501 (c) 3 organization

2. Have you or any organization you are representing received any Federal grants or contracts (including any subgrants or subcontracts) since October 1, 2007?

Yes       No

3. If your response to question #2 is "Yes", please list the amount and source (by agency and program) of each grant or contract, and indicate whether the recipient of such grant or contract was you or the organization(s) you are representing.

CDC: CEHN recipient \$50,000/years, 2011-2016

Program: Health in All Policies Project

U.S. EPA Office of Air & Radiation: CEHN recipient, \$90,000, 2006-2008

Program: GA Child Care Training Program

ATSDR: CEHN subcontract (Association of Occupational & Environmental Health Clinics recipient), \$125,000, 2007-2009

Program: GA Child Care Training Program

CDC: CEHN recipient, \$366,000, 2007-2010

Program: DC Child Care Training and Environmental Assessment Program

U.S. EPA Region VI: CEHN recipient, \$50,000, 2008-2009

Program: TX Child Care Training Program

U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice: CEHN subcontract (Coalition for Environmentally Safe Communities recipient), \$10,000, 2008-2009

Program: DC Environmental Health Collaborative

Signature:

Date: March 5, 2012

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Please attach a copy of this form, along with your curriculum vitae (resume) to your written testimony.