

**Laurel Berman, Ph.D.**  
3150 N. Lakeshore Drive Unit 15E  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
773-841-4310  
[laurel.berman@gmail.com](mailto:laurel.berman@gmail.com)

## **Education**

**Ph.D., Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences**, University of Illinois School of Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Chicago, Illinois, with specialty in industrial hygiene, human exposure and risk assessment, and toxicology. **September 2005.**

**M.S., Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences**, University of Illinois School of Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Chicago, Illinois, with a special focus on the AIHA-accredited Industrial Hygiene Program. **June 2002.**

**B.Sc. Civil Engineering**, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.

## **Professional Experience: Environmental and Occupational Health Science**

- Created an Environmental Health and Land Reuse curriculum, which is a Certificate Program training for environmental and planning professionals in collaboration with the National Environmental Health Agency.
- Developed and teach “Local Citizenship and Community Health Initiatives, PUBH 360” at University of Illinois at Chicago in the undergraduate program in public health.
- Lead and coordinate the [National Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Program](#) for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to assess environmental contamination and regulations and address community health issues related to land reuse/brownfields.
- Provide programming and initiatives to increase skills and knowledge among state, local, tribal, and territorial health agencies to engage in environmental health and land reuse practice.
- Supervise several environmental and public health graduate students annually.
- Created and coordinated Team Healthfields, a multi-sector team of leaders advancing a “Brownfields to Healthfields” national project, funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Develop strategic plans to promote public health improvements and address health inequities and disparities.
- Provide consultative assistance regarding environmental concerns and land reuse and redevelopment to local and state health agencies, municipalities, communities, and tribes.
- Evaluate environmental policies and participate in environmental policy initiatives.
- Create environmental public health models, tools, and resources, including training modules, policy overview documents, certification course materials, publications, and presentations.
- Created and facilitate a national network of environmental and public health experts, the [Brownfields & Reuse Opportunity Working Network](#) (BROWN).
- Provide free environmental consultative assistance through BROWN and the ATSDR Land Reuse Team to seven [Community Partnership](#) communities located throughout the United States.
- Supervised and collaborated with 39 ATSDR land reuse and community health grantees.
- Provide technical assistance to 25 communities throughout the U.S. in projects ranging from environmental site assessment to community health improvements.

## Laurel Berman, Page Two

- Developed curriculum for South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois: “Brownfields, Land Reuse, and Public Health,” Summer 2013.
- Developed and taught “Impacts of Environment on Public Health” at DePaul University Public Policy Studies Division, Adjunct Appointment, Winter Term, 2012.
- Completed a unique doctoral research project to assess the exposures of artist welders to welding fume under field and laboratory-controlled conditions.
- Provided consultation services to private industry regarding environmental exposures, toxicology of welding fume and welding fume exposures, and development of grant applications and research papers for publication.
- Assisted in the research, design, and construction of a welding exposure chamber through a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) funded project.
- Served as staff for the *Arts-Medicine Project* at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health to develop workshops, participate in grant applications, and conduct research and outreach within the arts community regarding environmental exposures and occupational injuries and illnesses.
- Developed an emissions inventory to evaluate environmental contamination of the Great Lakes Basin by a class of persistent chlorinated compounds (PCBs) (funded by the Joyce Foundation).
- Organized Great Lakes Basin community groups to develop grass roots environmental strategies.
- Created environmental planning programs with Native American councils.
- Managed a \$250,000 project for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to conduct Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) compliance inspections on Indian Lands.
- Conducted Environmental Site Assessments throughout the Midwest.
- Characterized the storm water drainage basin for a California Navy facility to comply with an impending National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- Evaluated sewer systems and made rehabilitation recommendations.
- Sampled effluent, groundwater, and soil to comply with environmental regulations.

## Publications

- Berman, L., & Whitehead, S. (Eds.) (2019). *Land Reuse and Redevelopment: Creating Healthy Communities*. Denver, CO: National Environmental Health Association.
- Berman, L., Whitehead, S., & DeFlorio-Barker, S. (2019). Integrating Public Health in Land Reuse and Redevelopment: Part 2: Assessing Local Health Agency Capacity to Integrate Environmental Health and Land Reuse Work. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 81(9), 36-39.
- Berman, L., Ballogg, M., & Erdal, S. (2019). Integrating Public Health in Land Reuse and Redevelopment: Part 1: A 5-step Land Reuse and Redevelopment Model: Resources to Spur Local Initiatives, *Journal of Environmental Health*, 85(2), 36-38.
- Perlman, G., Berman, L., et al. (2018) ATSDR Land Reuse Screening Tool Cohorts: Creating Land Reuse Site Inventories, *Journal of Environmental Health*, 81(2), 40-43.
- Numerous publications, modules, toolkits, fact sheets, and white papers provided on the ATSDR Land Reuse Health Program website: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields).
- Berman, L., & Forrester, T. (2012) An Indicator Framework to Measure Effects of Brownfields Redevelopment on Public Health, *Journal of Environmental Health*, 76 (1), 50-55.
- *Continued*

## Laurel Berman, Page Three

- Berman, L., Desousa, C., Linder, T., & Misky, D. (2012). From Blighted Brownfields to Healthy and Sustainable Communities: Tracking Performance and Measuring Outcomes in Hula, R., Reese, L., & Jackson-Elmore, C. (Eds.), *Reclaiming Brownfields: A Comparative Analysis of Adaptive Reuse of Contaminated Properties* (pp. 311-339). Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing Limited.
- Perlman, G., Berman, L. & Bing, K. (2010). Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Brownfields/Land Reuse Site Tool. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 75(5), 30-34.
- Berman, L., Orr, D., and Forrester, T. (2009). *Improving Community Health: Brownfields and Health Monitoring*. *Environmental Practice* 11(3), 190-195.
- Boelter, F.W., Simmons, C., Berman, L., & Scheff, P. (2009). Exposure Assessment and Application of a Two-Zone Model for Shielded Metal Arc Welding. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*.
- Erdal S.; Berman L.; & Hryhorczuk, D. (2008). Multi-media Emissions Inventory of PCBs for the U.S. Great Lakes States. *Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association* 58(8).
- Erdal, S., & Berman, L. (2006). Occupational Exposure Environment, Risk Factors, and Hazard Awareness of Metal Sculptors and Artist Welders in the U.S. *Journal of Environmental Health Research*.
- American Public Works Association Research Foundation. (1991). *Water Quality: Urban Runoff Solutions.*, Chicago, Illinois. Berman L., Hartline C., Ryan N., & Thorne J.D.
- American Public Works Association Research Foundation. (1990). *Summary of the USEPA NPDES Storm Water Regulations*. Chicago, Illinois. Berman L.

## Honors and Awards

- 2016 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leaders Program (3-year grant)
- 2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Policy Academy
- 2016 ATSDR Clearmark Award (ATSDR Action Model Toolkit)
- 2015 National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)-ATSDR Honor Award, Excellence in Frontline Public Health, ATSDR Brownfields & Reuse Opportunity Working Network
- 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Illinois School of Public Health
- 2011 National Center for Environmental Health and ATSDR Honor Award, Excellence in Service to the Community, promoting community health in brownfields/land reuse projects across the nation
- 2010 Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development Impact Award, SMARTe Development Team
- April 2010, Delta Phi Omega Honoree
- December 2009, Excellence in Service to the Community Award, ATSDR Brownfields/Land Reuse Initiative
- May 2008-May 2010 University of Illinois School of Public Health Alumni Board Member
- May 2008 National Notable Achievement Award, Environmental Protection Agency Team Award: Sustainable Redevelopment in the Ohio River Valley
- May 2004, American Industrial Hygiene Foundation Scholarship, local (Chicago) section
- May 2004, \$10,000 NIOSH Pilot Project small grant to fund proposed doctoral research
- Spring 2002, Paul Q. Petersen Award, University of Illinois School of Public Health
- 2001 Phi Kappa Phi Honoree
- January 2000 University of Illinois School of Public Health Scholarship (Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division)

## **Faculty and Adjunct Faculty Appointments**

- University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health Undergraduate Program, Faculty
- University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health Environmental and Occupational Health Studies Division, Adjunct
- DePaul University Public Policy Studies Division, Adjunct (2012)
- South Suburban College, South Holland, Illinois, Adjunct

## **Memberships**

- Brownfields & Reuse Opportunity Working Group
- Federal Partners Brownfields Working Group
- Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group
- NCEH-ATSDR Built Environment Workgroup
- US-Central-Eastern Europe Brownfields and Public Health Working Group
- Chicago Section Society for Risk Analysis (Officer)

## **Employment History**

### **June 2006 – Present**

#### **National Brownfields Coordinator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

Direct the National Land Reuse Health Program to incorporate public health in redevelopment plans through supervision of a Land Reuse Team; developing environmental and community model frameworks; creating public health indicators related to redevelopment; supporting site assessment; conducting environmental health education; reviewing environmental policies; providing technical assistance to communities and agencies on redevelopment issues; and coordinating a national partners group to expand agency strategy on land reuse initiatives.

### **July 2004 – September 2006**

#### **Environmental Scientist/Consultant, Boelter and Yates, Inc., Chicago, IL.**

Conducted research on welding fume exposures; developed sampling protocols for welding fume experiments; prepared manuscripts regarding asbestos and welding fume exposure assessments for publication; and prepared grant applications for environmental research opportunities.

### **September 1999 – December 2005**

#### **Student/Research Assistant, School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago.**

Developed Health in the Arts Conference and conducted research on occupational illnesses and injuries encountered by artists; researched technical literature to produce literature reviews on environmental toxins and welding fume exposures; taught Air Pollution Training Institute and Environmental Calculations courses; and participated in various industrial hygiene research studies, such as monitoring of welders and swine confinement workers, collecting demolition dust from building tear-downs, and assessment of allergens in animal research workers.

### **March 1993 – August 1999**

#### **Independent Wellness Consultant, Student Preparing for Graduate Studies, and Hospitality Services Employee**

Worked in a variety of occupations while preparing for graduate studies to save money for graduate school.

**April 1991 – February 1993**

**Environmental Engineer/Consultant, PRC Environmental Management, Inc., Chicago, IL**  
Conducted Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) inspections throughout the Great Lakes area; managed a USEPA Indian Lands project to conduct RCRA inspections of facilities housed on tribal lands; characterized storm water drainage systems for government facilities; and performed environmental assessments and inspections of hazardous waste sites.

**September 1990 – April 1991**

**Researcher/Engineering Writer, American Public Works Association, Chicago, IL**  
Wrote environmental materials and publications to educate members about new environmental legislation; developed, moderated, and taught storm water management workshops in several regions of the U.S.

**January 1988 – June 1990**

**Researcher/Technical Liaison, Greenpeace USA**  
Developed environmental research strategies; educated and organized community groups throughout the Great Lakes Basin to develop grass roots environmental strategies; worked with Native American councils to create environmental planning programs; and conducted and published research on organochlorine pollution of the Great Lakes.