

**Laurel Berman, Ph.D.**  
4250 N. Marine Dr. Unit 1802  
Chicago, Illinois 60613  
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 (2019), which is a Certificate Program training for environmental and planning professionals in collaboration with the National Environmental Health Association. Trained 200 virtual and 800 online participants in the first year.
- Lead the [National Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Program](#) for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to assess environmental contamination, regulations, policy, and community health issues related to land reuse/brownfields.
- Develop and teach public health and environmental health courses at undergraduate and graduate levels at University of Illinois at Chicago and DePaul University (Chicago).
- 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.
- Created 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 related to land reuse and redevelopment to local and state health agencies, municipalities, communities, and tribes.
- Create environmental public health models, tools, and resources, including training modules, policy overview documents, certificate course materials, publications, and presentations.
- Created 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 in 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.
- Developed curriculum for South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois: “Brownfields, Land Reuse, and Public Health,” Summer 2013.

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- 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.
- Coordinated the *Arts-Medicine Project* at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health to educate and serve 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 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 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting.
- Evaluated sewer systems and made rehabilitation recommendations.
- Sampled effluent, groundwater, and soil to comply with environmental regulations.

## Publications

- Berman, L., Morar, C., DeGrane, L., Unkart, S., & Erdal, S. (2022). Brownfields in Romania and the United States: A Visual Tour. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 85(5), 28-38.
- Berman, L., Morar, C., Unkart, S., & Erdal, S. (2022). An Overview of Brownfields Redevelopment in the United States Through Regulatory, Public Health, and Sustainability Lenses. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 84(9), 8-14.
- Morar, C., Berman, L., Unkart, S., & Erdal, S. (2021). Sustainable Brownfields Redevelopment in the European Union: An Overview of Policy and Funding Frameworks. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 84(4), 24-31.
- Berman, L. (2021). Beautiful Ruin: Creating Healthfields. In C. Fernandez & G. Corbie-Smith (Eds.). *Leading Community Based Changes in the Culture of Health in the US – Experience sin Developing the Team and Impacting the Community* (pp. 271-285). Princeton, NJ: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program.
- Berman, L. (Ed.) (2020). *Land Reuse and Redevelopment: Creating Healthy Communities*. Atlanta, GA: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.
- Black, J.R., Penn, M., & Berman, L. (2020). Evolution of Federalism in Environmental Health: Federal, State, and Local Government Control. *Journal of Legal Medicine*, 40(2), 195-228.
- Berman, L.; Hall, E.; Omo, E. (2019). Public Health Indicators Associated with Land Reuse and Redevelopment: Results of a 40-community Analysis. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 82(5), 34-37.
- Berman, L., Whitehead, S., & DeFlorio-Barker, S. (2019). Integrating Public Health in Land Reuse and Redevelopment: Assessing Local Health Agency Capacity to Integrate Environmental Health and Land Reuse Work. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 81(9), 36-39.

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- Berman, L., Ballogg, M., & Erdal, S. (2019). Integrating Public Health in Land Reuse and Redevelopment: 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.
- 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*.

## Honors and Awards

- 2023 Silver Circle Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Illinois Chicago
- 2021 ATSDR Excellence in Program Delivery Award, Environmental Health and Land Reuse Classroom Certificate (Team Lead)
- 2016 – 2019 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leaders Program
- 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

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- 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 Assistant Professor
- DePaul University Master of Public Health Program, Adjunct Assistant Professor
- Andrews University

### **Memberships**

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leaders Alumni Network
- Brownfields & Reuse Opportunity Working Group (Founder)
- Federal Partners Brownfields Working Group
- Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group
- NCEH-ATSDR Built Environment Workgroup
- US-Central-Eastern Europe Brownfields Working Group (Founder)

### **Employment History Related to Career**

#### **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.

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

#### **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; produced 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.

### **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.