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Dear PHEER Network,

Welcome to the **Fall 2025** edition of the PHEER Network newsletter, your source for updates, events, and stories from the community of public health disaster researchers. Please forward this message to other public health & disaster research colleagues!

Join PHEER



Public Health Extreme Events Research (PHEER)

is a public health researcher-led network that mobilizes rapidly, informs evolving disaster research agendas and funding decisions, and advances the field of public health disaster science.

PHEER is part of the broader [CONVERGE network](#), which strengthens relationships between disciplinary communities and advances the scientific rigor and ethical conduct of hazards and disaster research.

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Network Updates

PHEER Hyperspectral Rapid Research Awards

PHEER has another rapid research award request for proposals out now!

In response to the 2025 Southern California wildfires, PHEER mobilized to serve as a coordinating platform for the public health disaster research community of practice.

PHEER will fund one Rapid Research Grant, **totaling \$5,000 in costs**, to conduct analyses of environmental exposures using hyperspectral data collected by the NHERI RAPID Facility. Read more and apply [here](#).

If you are interested in applying or know someone who may be a good fit, please reach out to pheernetwork@gmail.com

PHEER Rapid Research Award Reports

In 2024, PHEER convened researchers to assess the use of location-based data in rapid surveillance following a disaster. Each project focused on the impacts of Hurricanes Beryl, Helene, and Milton. Five projects were funded with Rapid Research Awards, and six other teams joined PHEER's location-based data operations group to conduct this critical research. The Rapid Research Awardees' final reports are linked below. The final reports from the location-based data

operations group projects are forthcoming. You can read a project summary of all the projects [here](#).

Rapid Research Award Reports

Can Social Media Save Lives During Hurricanes? Using Location-Based Social Media Data to Evaluate Disaster Relief Efforts in Houston

Ivy Liu, University of Mississippi Chan Wang, Jacksonville State University

Quantifying Healthcare Facility Disruptions in Hurricane Beryl Using Cell Phone Location Data

Binbin Lin, Heng Cai, Hao Tian Texas A&M University

Uncovering Cooling Center Usage as an Adaptation Strategy for Hurricane-blackout-heat Compound Hazards during Hurricane Beryl

Tianle Duan, Purdue University Fengxiu Zhang, George Mason University Qingchun Li, Purdue University

Leveraging Population Mobility Data to Assess Health System Capacity after Hurricane Beryl

Anu Ramachandran, Stanford University

PHEER Rapid Research Awards

Upcoming Events

Data Versus COVID: The Story of NYC's Integrated Data Team

November 13th, 2025 12-1 pm PT / 3-4 pm ET

[Register for the link here](#)

During the earliest days of the COVID pandemic the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the country's largest public health department, mobilized its Integrated Data Team (IDT). Epidemiologists and data scientists from across the department brought their skills in data analytics, integration, and visualization to support the City's COVID response including: surveillance and laboratory data to illustrate transmission trends, academic modeling data to inform planning, and geo-located mobility data to better understand where people were gathering. This PHEER Webinar will explore what tools the IDT used, how it informed public health planning and research, and how the IDT transformed the agency's response.

This webinar will be useful for both public health practitioners and researchers as an illustration of the power of linked sensing and health data, and as a use case for PHEER researchers.

Community Spotlight

Would you like your work featured in our next newsletter? Send us your updates!



In this issue, we want to spotlight Dr. Arnab K. Ghosh, M.D., M.Sc., M.A., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine; Medical Officer Metro-NY DMAT, NDMS; Emergency Management Fellow, Health + Hospitals NYC.

Dr. Arnab Ghosh's work focuses on understanding the long-term impacts of extreme

weather events. He uses various epidemiological techniques including spatiotemporal econometric modeling coupled with sociological theories to build models that seek to rigorously capture these impacts across years and geographies. Funded by the NIH and NSF, his work is ultimately designed to build new risk models to understand the impacts of extreme weather not just in the immediate aftermath, but over time with the goal to build infrastructure and systems of identifying those most at risk to mitigate these impacts over time. This includes using machine learning algorithms with the CMS emPOWER program, develop novel metrics for disaster preparedness in healthcare systems, institutional care, and intermediaries (e.g., home health care).

Here are a few of Dr. Ghosh's recent publications:

[Hurricane Exposure and Risk of Long-Term Cardiovascular Disease Outcomes.](#)

JAMA network open. 2025.

[Long-term impacts of hurricanes on mortality among Medicare beneficiaries: evidence from Hurricane Sandy.](#) *Frontiers in public health.* 2025.

[Exploring Community Co-Creation in Tree Planting and Heat-Related Health Interventions: A Qualitative Study.](#) *International journal of environmental research and public health.* 2025.

Featured Publication

Would you like your work featured in our next newsletter? [**Send us your updates!**](#)

JAMA
Network | **Open**[™]



Original Investigation | Public Health

Health and Social Support in the Aftermath of the Maui Wildfires

Ruben Juarez, PhD; Krit Phankitnirundorn, PhD; Samia Valeria Ozorio Dutra, PhD, RN; Daniela Bond-Smith, PhD; Alison G. Lee, MD, MS; Alikea K. Maunakea, PhD

PHEER member Dr. Ruben Juarez and colleagues on the MauiWES team recently published “Health and Social Support in the Aftermath of the Maui Wildfires” in the JAMA Network Open, a journal of the American Medical Association.

This paper assessed the midterm health outcomes of wildfire exposure in the aftermath of the 2023 Maui wildfires, with a specific focus on respiratory and mental health outcomes and the interaction of social support with these health burdens. The authors found that higher social support was associated with improved mental health outcomes but did not buffer respiratory physiological outcomes.

Read the full paper [here](#).

Funding Announcements

Implementation and Evaluation Fellowship in Climate Change and Health

The University of Washington Research and Engagement on Adaptation for Climate and Health (REACH) Center is accepting applications to the Implementation and Evaluation Fellowship **until November 28**. The Fellowship provides teams of fellows with **\$60,000 of funding and training** to conduct an implementation science project to evaluate or improve the uptake of a climate and health-related project or program.

Fellows apply and participate as teams of 2-3 public health or healthcare practitioners and researchers. **Projects and practice partners must be based in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, and/or Oregon**. Learn more about the Fellowship, register for office hours, and access the application on the [REACH website](#).

Burroughs Wellcome Fund - Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grants

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund aims to stimulate the growth of new connections between thinkers working in largely disconnected fields, who, together, may change the course of climate change's impact on human health. Between Fall 2023 and Summer 2026, Burroughs Wellcome Fund will dedicate \$1 million to supporting **small, early-stage grants of \$2,500-\$50,000** toward achieving this goal. Successful

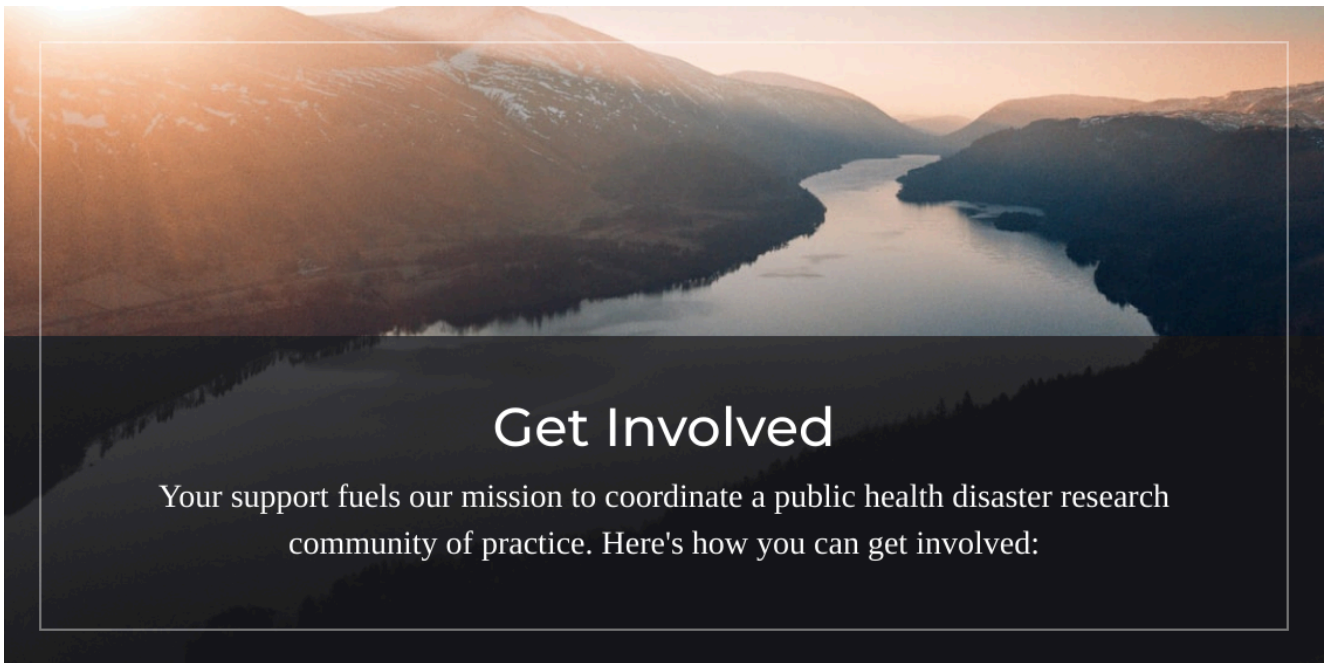
applicants include academic scientists, physicians, and public health experts, community organizations, science outreach centers, non-biomedical academic departments, and more.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis **through July 2026**. A review will be conducted quarterly. Read more about the award and how to apply [here](#).

Help Us Grow

We are always eager to welcome new members. Please consider connecting your colleagues engaged in public health and disaster research to our network by directing them to the PHEER Membership Application.

[PHEER Membership Application](#)



Keep Us Updated

Send us any recent publications or news features so that we can highlight your work to

Attend Events

Join us at our upcoming events and engage with fellow network members.

Join Us on Slack

Join the PHEER community on the **#pheer** thread within the [DesignSafe Slack](#)

our community. Please
mail updates to
pheernetwork@gmail.com

[channel](#). Members will
first need to sign up
for a Design Safe
account (register [here](#)).

**Warm regards,
The PHEER Leadership Team**



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