

Infectious Diseases

Assignment Description:

The fellow will work as a member of Public Health - Seattle & King County's Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Immunization Section (CD-EPI), which serves a population of 1.9 million people in metropolitan and rural settings. The fellow's primary supervisor will be Dr. Jeff Duchin, the program's Section Chief and a former EISO who currently serves on CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) and is a member of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Forum on Microbial Threats and the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness. The secondary supervisor will be Dr. Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, a pediatrician who has served as the team's medical epidemiologist since 2006 and oversees the day to day work of the communicable disease team and the fellow.

The Communicable Disease Team also consists of three senior epidemiologists, two junior epidemiologists, and four public health nurses. The primary responsibility of the team is to conduct communicable disease surveillance, including notifiable condition case and outbreak investigation, influenza surveillance, syndromic surveillance, and response to public health emergencies. The team works closely with the department's Environmental Health Division, which includes a public health veterinarian and restaurant sanitarians.

CD-EPI is a friendly and cohesive team that has enjoyed hosting many trainees, including University of Washington MPH practicum students, PhD candidates, residents, CDC PMR fellows, and currently its fourth consecutive EISO fellow.

The program is located in Seattle, Washington, a city known for its vibrant culture, high technology, global health impact, natural beauty, and quality of life.

Day-to-Day Activities:

The fellow will work as an integrated member of CD-EPI, doing communicable disease case and outbreak investigations as well as data analysis projects. The week starts with a didactic session for the team every Monday morning presented by staff members on a voluntary basis. The fellow would be expected to make at least one presentation on a topic of their choosing. The fellow will also participate in the section's afternoon report, a daily review of open investigations.

Potential Projects:

The fellow will receive training on case and outbreak investigation, and work as a disease investigator in our program. Potential data analysis projects include enhanced surveillance for chronic hepatitis B and chronic hepatitis C infection, analysis of perinatal hepatitis B reporting, enhanced surveillance for travel related illness, and evaluation of syndromic surveillance ambulatory care data. The fellow will also have an opportunity for projects with other Department programs including chronic disease, injury prevention, environmental health, and the TB and STD/HIV programs.

Preparedness Role

The department has an Emergency Preparedness Program, with which projects can be arranged depending on the fellow's interests.

Assignment Location: Seattle, WA

Primary Mentor: Jeff Duchin, MD

Section Chief, Communicable Disease Epidemiology
Public Health - Seattle & King County

Secondary Mentor:

Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH
Medical Epidemiologist, CD-EPI
Public Health - Seattle & King County