

Infectious Disease-Quarantine-Tuberculosis Control

Assignment Description

This Infectious Disease- Quarantine and Tuberculosis Control position offers a combination of grounded and practical epidemiologic experience for a fellow to be based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

- A. The fellow will join a dynamic team at the CDC Honolulu Quarantine Station that is engaged with a wide range of international, federal, state, and military partners on public health issues in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. This team provides support for point of entry screening and illness response in Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau). The team provides technical support to enhance disease surveillance and response in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands and has assisted with outbreaks of dengue and chikungunya in the region. Our current fellow has conducted a surveillance evaluation and epidemiology training in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- B. The fellow will work with two US-CDC staff at the Hawaii Department of Health Tuberculosis Control Program, providing epidemiologic support for screening and case-management for persons with tuberculosis in the state. The busy clinic screens over 25,000 residents each year, and provides most of the clinical care for 120 TB cases diagnosed in Hawaii annually. The fellow will also work on TB surveillance projects for the US Affiliated Pacific Islands, and, if funding permits, will assist with on-site TB Program capacity-building activities there. Our current fellow has provided assistance with TB Control surveillance for the Pacific Region, as well as several specific TB surveillance training activities for the Hawaii TB Program, including work in Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island.

Day-to- Day Activities

- 1) Develop familiarity with the regulations and procedures of CDC Quarantine Stations, including immigrant health screening review, responses to illnesses reported among arriving international travelers, CDC travel restriction activities, aircraft contact investigations, and emergency drug shipments for treatment of botulism, diphtheria, and malaria cases. Assist station staff with these activities.
- 2) Review regional epidemic intelligence information from internal CDC and public domain sources to develop a regularly updated Pacific regional communicable disease threat report to share with Hawaii Department of Health, other U.S. Affiliated Pacific Island health departments, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other airport partners.
- 3) Coordinate with Hawaii Department of Health to update clinical information for active HNL Quarantine Station cases on the Department of Homeland Security Do Not Board list.
- 4) Provide epidemiologic support to TB program for routine surveillance.
- 5) Prepare epidemiologic reports for quarterly program-wide TB Cohort Reviews.
- 6) Assist in the preparation of annual surveillance reports and activities for the State of Hawaii.
- 7) Work with CDC staff at the TB program to author at least one published paper in a peer-reviewed journal.

Potential Projects

- 1) Analysis of CDC Quarantine Station illness response data in the Quarantine Activity Reporting System.
- 2) Evaluation of communicable disease surveillance systems in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

- 3) Evaluation of a pilot electronic syndromic surveillance system in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- 4) Review the discrepancies between TB screening results in individuals immigrating from the Republic of the Philippines and the State of Hawaii.
- 5) Continue our current investigation to evaluate TB outcomes for patients with diabetes that are managed by the Hawaii TB Program. If funding allows, consider expanding this investigation to other Pacific Islands.

Preparedness Role

The fellow will assist the CDC Honolulu Quarantine Station Officer in Charge in reviewing and revising the CDC Honolulu Quarantine Station Response Plan. She/he will assist in developing point of entry response plans for sub-ports in the Pacific Islands. The fellow will participate in partner public health preparedness exercises involving the Quarantine Station.

Assignment Location: Honolulu, Hawaii

Primary Mentor: Tai-Ho Chen, MD
Supervisory Medical Officer, Quarantine Station

Secondary Mentor: Richard Brostrom, MD, MSPH
Hawaii TB Control Branch Chief