

Subject Area: Chronic Disease

Assignment Description

This assignment is with the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI), a division of the Seattle Indian Health Board. Most of the UIHI's work fits best under the chronic disease umbrella. The UIHI has plans to partner with the Washington State Department of Health to support the fellowship outbreak training and field work.

Day-to-Day Activities

We anticipate some of the following will be included in the day-to-day activities of the Fellow:

- Surveillance work using vital statistics and other data sources
- Updates, as needed, to our surveillance data systems
- Pulling surveillance data to assist with data requests
- -Data analysis related to diabetes audit and cohort data for urban Indian populations
- Project-specific work related on projects of interest to the Fellow
- -Research on data visualization software
- -Piloting of data visualization software with UIHI data
- Assistance with designing primary data collection protocols for use in Urban Indian Health Organization studies
- Working with the UIHI team to create and fill in a template for individual urban Indian Community Health Profiles

Potential Projects

We hope to mentor the Fellow in conducting two large projects while at the UIHI:

1. Community Health Profiles Data Visualization: For this project, the Fellow will be mentored in an exploration of software to assist with online visual displays of data and create a short, written recommendation for a program appropriate for displaying several indicators used in our aggregate Community Health Profiles (CHP). Once a software package is selected, the fellow will work with information technology personnel to create appropriate and intuitive real-time data visualization functions for and online display of CHP indicators for individual Urban Indian clinics via the UIHI's website.

2. Design and analysis of diabetes data: The UIHI participates in an analysis of diabetes audit data provided by the Indian Health Service. While this work has added to a critical understanding of urban Indian health status, it is limited in its scope. Specifically, these data are cross-sectional and individual progress cannot be tracked over time. The absence of medical records, pharmacy records and documentation to enrich the findings of the audit have made it difficult to contextualize this work. Most recently, the UIHI has done an analysis of the co-morbidity of depression and diabetes. As a year 2 project, the UIHI would provide the fellow with an opportunity to expand upon the depression and diabetes analysis through our colleagues at the Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Health. The Center

has expressed an interest in partnering with the UIHI to expand the diabetes analysis beyond audit data alone. Currently, the UIHI currently has no staff to engage in this work. Liz Knaster, the UIHI Epidemiologist and lead on the Diabetes project, would mentor the Fellow in the design and analysis of an expansion of the diabetes audit analyses to include observational epidemiologic data. This work could be focused on our prior work in the area of depression and diabetes or focus on another aspect of the epidemiology of diabetes in urban American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Preparedness Role

Through the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) training in Seattle or elsewhere, the Fellow will receive emergency preparedness training. In addition to CASPER training, the Fellow would have the opportunity to participate in other trainings including one in outbreak response offered by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board.

Assignment Location: Seattle Indian Health Board
Seattle, Washington

Primary Mentor: Leslie Phillips, BA, SM, PhD
Scientific Director

Secondary Mentor: Elizabeth Knaster, BA, MPH
Epidemiologist