

Environmental Health

Assignment Description

The Office of Environmental Health and Food Protection (OEHFP), within the Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), is the principal environmental public health and food protection program in the state's public health system. It has four primary responsibilities: (1) environmental and occupational health surveillance; (2) food protection and consumer safety; (3) control of environmental health hazards not otherwise regulated in the state; and (4) emergency response and preparedness. The Fellow will participate in all of these activities in a team that includes the program director, a biostatistician, informatics specialists, and other program personnel. Within the DHMH Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration, OEHFP works very closely with the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response (OIDEOR) on food- and waterborne disease outbreaks, as well as on zoonoses and vector-borne diseases. The fellow will also have the opportunity to participate in cancer cluster investigations in conjunction with the Center for Cancer Surveillance and Control, and in the use and development of the state's Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) system.

Day-to- Day Activities

On a daily basis, the fellow will have an independent long-term project, work on a short-term, supervised competency-related assignment that will vary, depending on which organizational unit the fellow is assigned to, meet with the mentors (weekly), meet with the project supervisor, for the short-term project, attend seminars (periodically) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and respond to short-term, as needed assignments..

Potential Projects

Typical projects involving data analysis will include analysis of environmental and health data within the EPHT system, development of community and county profiles of environmental issues, and the analysis and development of data and data displays for specific populations or issues such as children's environmental health issues. There will also be an opportunity to participate in field investigations through local environmental health agencies across the state. In addition, the fellow could participate in the collection and analysis of surveillance reports from the occupational health and safety surveillance system recently launched in Maryland. There are numerous opportunities for surveillance system evaluation; a recent fellow conducted an evaluation of the state's *Vibrio* surveillance system. Other surveillance systems of interest include pesticide poisoning surveillance, harmful algal bloom surveillance, or surveillance of other environmental/occupational diseases.

Preparedness Role

The Center for Environmental Health Coordination works closely with the Office of Preparedness and Response on a wide variety of preparedness issues, particularly involving radiological and chemical preparedness and response. The Fellow will participate in some of these activities, and may also spend several months working with the Office of Preparedness and Response on specific projects.

Assignment Location:	Baltimore, Maryland
Primary Mentor:	Clifford Mitchell, MD, MPH, MS Assistant Director for Environmental Health and Food Protection MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Secondary Mentor:	Katherine Feldman, DVM ,MPH State Public Health Veterinarian MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene