

The proposed Fellow's position is located in the Infectious Diseases Branch (IDB) of the Division of Communicable Disease Control (DCDC) in Berkeley, California. IDB covers all infectious diseases in California that are not addressed by other existing programs, which include: the Tuberculosis Control Branch, Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch, or Immunization Branch or by the Office of AIDS. Through 61 local health jurisdictions, five IDB sections (Disease Investigations, Bioterrorism Epidemiology, Vector-Borne Disease, Surveillance and Statistics, and Veterinary Public Health) carry out activities which cover all aspects of infectious disease surveillance and control, ranging from routine surveillance to outbreak investigations and special epidemiologic studies.

The Fellow's anticipated day-to-day activities will include partaking in general public health activities of the Branch, focusing on assigned public health studies and projects, and interacting with Branch and Division staff as well as local and federal partners on infectious disease issues. Specific activities will include participating in regular Branch and Division meetings and in occasional branch-sponsored seminars, meeting with supervisors and consultants on planning and implementing epidemiologic studies to address selected infectious disease issues of public health importance, liaising with partners at the local, state, and federal levels regarding studies, collecting and analyzing data, interpreting results, communicating findings orally and verbally to all involved (affected populations, local public health partners, and medical community), and writing reports, summaries, and manuscripts for publications. All these activities require and provide experience involving science, service, and policy.

Potential projects that the Fellow can consider include 1) analyzing the California Hospital Discharge Data on pneumonias (not influenza-related) for burden of disease, trends, and associated costs; and 2) analyzing California MEDI-CAL data on liver disease evaluation and treatment to define the affected populations and trends. Other data sets available for the Fellow to analyze include State CDHS surveillance data on over 70 infectious diseases, death records, and surveillance data collected by the California Emerging Infections Program.

California is the most populous state in the nation and therefore, not surprisingly, has a variety and abundance of outbreaks of infectious diseases from foodborne to nosocomial. For example, in July 2003 we investigated a *Salmonella* foodborne outbreak implicating tomatoes, invited CDC to help investigate a hepatitis A outbreak associated with a traveling rock band, and were notified of a respiratory outbreak at a nursing home with a case fatality rate of 15%. The Fellow will be invited to participate or lead outbreak investigations depending on interest and availability. While we have routinely had EIS officers match with our program, there have been more than enough opportunities (outbreak investigations, epidemiologic studies, and analysis of large data sets) to spread around. There are also opportunities to work on interdisciplinary teams we have formed to address West Nile Virus, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, and Bioterrorism preparedness.

The fellow will evaluate the recently implemented West Nile Virus surveillance system in California using the CDC report, *Updated Guidelines for Evaluating Public Health Surveillance Systems* (CDC, 2001). Findings from this evaluation will assist us with improving, where needed, WNV surveillance in California.

Bioterrorism (BT) preparedness and response training for the Fellow will be included as part of the proposed fellowship with IDB. This will be facilitated by the fact that the Bioterrorism Epidemiology Section is a part of IDB and that BT preparedness and response training has been an ongoing major activity for all IDB and Division staff.

Assignment Location: Berkeley, CA

Primary Mentor: Duc Vugia, MD, MPH, FACP
Chief of Infectious Diseases Branch (1995-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, University of California, San Francisco (1981)
MPH, University of California, Berkeley (1990)

Secondary Mentor: S. Benson Werner, MD, MPH
Chief of Disease Investigations Section (December 1992-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis (1964)
MPH, University of California, Berkeley (1970)