

The Fellow will be assigned to the Division of Occupational and Environmental Disease Control (DEODC) of the California Department of Health Services. This Division is the largest State-based public health program for the study and prevention of occupational and environmental health problems, encompassing birth defects monitoring, extensive laboratory capabilities, toxicology, childhood and adult lead poisoning prevention, environmental epidemiology, risk assessment, chemical terrorism prevention, and occupational health tracking and investigations. More information about DEODC can be found at <http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/ps/deodc>.

The Fellow will have the opportunity to work within two of the programs: the Occupational Health Branch (OHB) and Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB). These two programs have a broad array of projects that encompass data analysis, investigations of outbreaks, and working with interdisciplinary teams; examples include:

- NIOSH-funded programs for the tracking and investigation of work-related asthma, carpal tunnel syndrome, fatalities, pesticide poisoning, silicosis and construction falls.
- A major NIOSH-funded study is underway of work-related violence in California hospitals. A large dataset will be available for analysis in 2004.
- Prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses among high-risk occupations such as garment workers. A NIOSH-funded intervention study is underway among garment workers to determine the effectiveness of engineering controls in reducing the incidence of MSDs among garment workers. A large dataset will be available for analysis in 2004-2005.
- Prevention of toxic exposures and pollution prevention.
- Investigation of outbreaks of workplace injury and illness. Routine response and investigation of requests from employers, employees, health care professionals, or unions routinely lead to opportunities for health studies.
- EHIB, with partners in academia, government and local stakeholders, has a cooperative agreement with the CDC to support development of an Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Program.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has funded a five-year project in California to implement the *Statewide Strategic Plan for Asthma*. EHIB's many asthma-related projects include continuing the asthma surveillance program, and investigation of asthma near-deaths.
- Autism Spectrum Disorders are complex disorders of development that first become noticeable in early childhood. EHIB received a five-year grant from CDC to become a Center of Excellence in autism epidemiology, and to conduct public health research and autism incidence, and factors that contribute to it.
- EHIB has a number of studies examining cancer and reproductive outcome, and possible environmental causes, such as agricultural pesticide usage, water contaminants, etc.
- EHIB investigates a number of potential environmental hazards, including toxic exposures from consumption of non-commercial ocean and freshwater fish, molds and fungi, etc.

More information about the OHB and the EHIB can be found on-line, respectively, at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb> and <http://www.ehib.org>

The fellow will evaluate one of the following occupational health surveillance systems: work-related asthma, carpal tunnel syndrome, fatalities or pesticide illness.

The DEODC has been engaged in planning BT preparedness in the areas of chemical and radiological hazards. The fellow will participate in the BT team meetings and will assist in the preparation of chemical/radiological preparedness planning, implementation of response teams, and drills.

Assignment Location: Oakland, CA

Primary Mentor: Robert J. Harrison, MD, MPH
Chief, Occupational Health Surveillance and Evaluation Program (1995-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine (1979)
MPH, University of California, Berkeley (1983)

Secondary Mentor: Richard A. Kreutzer, MD
Chief, Environmental Health Investigations Branch (2000-present)

Advanced Degree: MD, University of Pennsylvania (1982)