

Chronic Disease

The California Diabetes Program in the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is interested in hosting a CSTE fellow located in downtown Sacramento, California to work primarily in areas of diabetes surveillance and epidemiology.

California is a dynamic, progressive state, and a world leader in public health policy. Californians number 37 million and form one of the most racially and linguistically diverse societies in the world. Sacramento, the state capital of California, is known for its pleasant climate and growing diversity and sophistication. Sacramento is wonderfully positioned to access some of the great destinations in northern California including: San Francisco, Lake Tahoe, the Napa/Sonoma wine country, and the Monterey/Carmel area.

The California Diabetes Program, one of five top-performing state diabetes programs in the nation, is currently participating in several national/international diabetes prevention and control projects that have strong components in epidemiology research and disease surveillance. The fellow's daily activities will involve designing studies, accessing large health surveillance systems, conducting data analysis with SAS statistical package, making professional presentations, and publishing peer-reviewed papers. The fellow will have opportunities to work with other chronic disease programs within the CDPH including heart disease and stroke prevention, Alzheimer's disease, nutrition and physical activity, and oral health.

The CSTE fellow will have the opportunity to participate in activities of an applied epidemiology program in CDPH, the California Epidemiologic Investigation Service (Cal-EIS). The mission of Cal-EIS is to prepare epidemiologists for public health leadership positions in California. The CSTE fellow will have the opportunity to participate in the yearly Emergency Preparedness Office Statewide Exercise, Golden Guardian, as do our Cal EIS fellows and Preventive Medicine residents. The fellow will be invited to participate in a yearly training in the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), which incorporates the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The fellow will be able to participate in disease outbreak investigations, as do our Cal EIS fellows. In addition, the fellow will be able to attend the Preventive Medicine Residency Seminar Series, in which current public health topics and case studies are discussed.

Potential projects in primary program area for the CSTE fellow:

1. Diabetes Burdens in California Counties Report. The report will provide information on the diabetes burden in California including diabetes related mortality, major complications, and costs at state and local levels using large statewide surveillance systems including the U.S. census, death records, and hospital discharges. The fellow will lead the project in evaluating and selecting surveillance data sources and statistical procedures, conducting data analyses, and writing the report. Meets requirements for leadership, epidemiology methods, surveillance systems, evaluation, analyses, health-risk communication, and writing.
2. Translating Research Into Action for Diabetes (TRIAD) project. TRIAD is a national multi-center study that was created to determine how managed care systems influence the processes and outcomes of diabetes care. The study will describe and

evaluate the quality of care and life among people with diabetes through the help from ten health plans provider groups. The fellow will participate in evaluation and dissemination of TRIAD results including developing a communication package for health practitioners, evaluating and validating health outcome measures based on the TRIAD results, and communicating TRIAD results to health professionals. Meets requirements for evaluation, analyses, writing, and could lead to the development of an abstract for oral or poster presentation.

3. Diabetes Primary Prevention Initiative (DPPI). DPPI is a CDC-funded national project aimed to develop and plan for feasible, public health-oriented projects that build and enhance state and CDC capacity in primary prevention. One of the goals of DPPI is to recommend a state-based diabetes primary prevention surveillance system to identify and monitor populations with prediabetes or at-risk-of diabetes, including exposure to screening and interventions. The fellow will participate in evaluation and dissemination of a diabetes risk surveillance and assessment toolkit, and participate in publishing peer-reviewed journal papers. The fellow will lead development of a web-based interactive online diabetes risk-assessment tool. Meets requirements for surveillance systems, evaluation, analyses, and could lead to the development of a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
4. Diabetes and Smoking Cessation (DSC). DSC is a multi-agency collaborative project to increase use of the California Smoker's Helpline (CSH) by people with diabetes who smoke. One of the proposed components of DSC is to increase awareness of diabetes risks and the availability of diabetes screening test referrals. The fellow will lead development of the questionnaire, data analysis, and report writing. Meets requirements for study design, epidemiology methods, data collection, analyses, evaluation, writing, and could lead to the development of an abstract for oral or poster presentation.
5. California Diabetes Emergency Preparedness Plan. The plan will address the needs of people with diabetes and set solutions in place for proper diabetes management in emergency situations such as earthquakes, floods, wildfires and other disasters affecting communities throughout the state. The fellow will lead development of this Emergency Preparedness Plan. Meets requirements for study design, epidemiology methods, health-risk communications, graphic software, cultural sensitivity issues, and writing a field investigation report.

Assignment Location:

Sacramento, California

Primary Mentor:

Gary He, PhD
Epidemiology and Surveillance Lead and
Biostatistician
California Diabetes Program
California Department of Public Health

Advanced Degrees:

PhD, University of California, Davis (1999)
MS, University of Texas, El Paso (1989)

Secondary Mentor:

Caroline Anne Peck, MD, MPH, FACOG
Assistant Director, Preventive Medicine Residency
Program

Co-Director of California Epidemic Intelligence
Service Program
California Department of Public Health

Advanced Degrees:

MD, George Washington University (1995)
MPH, University of California, Berkeley (2004)