

CDC/CSTE FELLOWS

The Future of Applied Epidemiology

CLASS OF 2006



**CSTE
APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY
FELLOWSHIP**

A two-year fellowship program that provides hands-on training in the field of applied epidemiology at a state or local health agency under the guidance of experienced mentors.

CSTE Fellowship

The CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship was created to strengthen the workforce in applied epidemiology at state and local health agencies. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), established the two-year Fellowship program to give recent graduates from schools of public health advanced training opportunities and preparation for successful careers as state or local epidemiologists.

Using a mentorship model, the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship offers an opportunity for graduates to acquire rigorous preparation and to develop applied epidemiologic skills during a high quality, on-the-job training experience. Recent graduates who are interested in the practice of public health at the state or local level are eligible for this two-year Fellowship.

Fellows are matched to a state or a local health agency based on their career aspirations and available host positions.

Program Areas Include:

- Infectious Disease
- Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
- Chronic Disease
- Environmental Health
- Infectious Disease/Quarantine
- Injury
- Maternal and Child Health
- Occupational Health

Under the guidance of experienced mentors, Fellows will be expected to achieve competencies related to:

- Epidemiologic Methods
- Communication
- Public Health Practice, Policy, and Legal Issues

Fellows demonstrate acquired core competencies by participating in prescribed activities.

Adam Allston, MSW, MPH

Program Area: Maternal and Child Health

Highest Degree Obtained: MSW, MPH,
Maternal & Child Health,

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

PhD Candidate, Johns Hopkins University

Host Site: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Ronald Tringali, PhD, MS

Secondary Mentor: Gene Weinberg, DrPH, MPH



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: I chose the Applied Epidemiology Fellowship to serve as a mechanism to build upon the knowledge and skills I have gained through my education. It is through the meaningful mentoring relationships that the Fellowship provides that I hope to gain an increased awareness of my strengths and weaknesses as a public health professional, as well as guidance in developing the skills and qualities that will maximize my potential to be an effective leader in efforts to address the needs of maternal and child health populations.

Future plans after the Fellowship: Ultimately, I would like to attain employment as a senior level maternal and child health epidemiologist at the state level. I hope to engage in research directed toward elucidating the multiple mechanisms underlying socioeconomic and racial disparities in perinatal health. In addition, I hope to work toward eradicating such disparities and improving the general health status of all maternal and child health populations.

Janelle Anderson, MPH

Program Area: Quarantine

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology of
Microbial Diseases, Yale University

Host Site: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
New York City Quarantine Station

Primary Mentor: Paul Edelson, MD

Secondary Mentor: Jane Zucker, MD, MSc



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The appeal of the Fellowship is the opportunity to apply my knowledge of epidemiology in a real world setting, while at the same time being able to rely on the guidance of two qualified mentors. The Fellowship's required competencies provide a variety of experiences that will allow exposure to many aspects of public health practice. This opportunity is an ideal stepping stone for my transition from academics to working as a competent epidemiologist.

Future plans after the Fellowship: Following the Fellowship, I hope to secure a position as an epidemiologist at the state or local level in the area of infectious disease epidemiology.



Jennifer C. Boyce, MPH

Program Area: Environmental Health

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Saint Louis University

Host Site: Wisconsin Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

Primary Mentor: Henry Anderson, MD

Secondary Mentor: Marni Bekkedal, PhD

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: I chose the Fellowship because it offers an optimal opportunity to expand my knowledge and experience in the field of public health, preparing me for a long-term career in epidemiology. I am excited to engage in the cross-training opportunities and to gain practical experience in emergency and outbreak response and bioterrorism preparedness. The host site will also provide a unique learning environment that involves extremely challenging realities, such as funding cuts and strong political influences.

Future plans after the Fellowship: In the future, I plan to earn a doctoral degree in epidemiology and pursue a career as an epidemiologist at a local, state, or federal agency. In addition, I would like to be an adjunct faculty member, teaching epidemiology and biostatistics courses at a School of Public Health.



Ryan Burke, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Saint Louis University

Host Site: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Primary Mentor: Elizabeth Begier, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Kyle T Bernstein, PhD, ScM

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The broad spectrum of core competencies selected for the Fellowship allows Fellows to become well-rounded and experienced in a variety of areas. In addition, working under the supervision of two mentors trained in epidemiological methods provides further training that other jobs would not provide.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I plan to return to school to pursue a doctorate in epidemiology. Upon completion of my degree, I hope to obtain a position at a local, state, or federal government agency and teach part-time at a School of Public Health.

Erin Chester, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Hospital and Molecular Epidemiology, University of Michigan

Host Site: Washington State Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Jo Hofmann, MD

Secondary Mentor: Chas DeBolt, RN, MPH



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

The Fellowship is a unique opportunity because it allows both a depth and breadth of exploration into fascinating public health topics. I will have the chance to be involved in many areas of infectious disease epidemiology and simultaneously complete specific projects in detail. The Fellowship's focus on professional development and practical experience will be very valuable in building my skills and capabilities as an epidemiologist.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I plan to work as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the state, regional, or local level after the Fellowship. My goal is to utilize the tools I acquire during the Fellowship in my next position in applied epidemiology.

Shannon DeVader, MPH

Program Area: Chronic Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Saint Louis University

Host Site: Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Primary Mentor: Katie Meyer, ScD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Erika Lichter, ScD, MS, MA



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: I chose the Fellowship because of the exceptional quality of practical training, that the Fellowship offers. I was especially drawn to the Fellowship because of the program structure that provides guidance by two experienced mentors. I will be able to grow professionally in all areas of epidemiology including methods, communication, policy, and practice.

Future plans after the Fellowship: My goal is to pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology upon the completion of the Fellowship and eventually be affiliated with a state health department that has a strong research component. Eventually, I hope to become an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer. I believe that this will provide valuable experience that will help me achieve my goal of becoming an epidemiologist at a state or municipal health department.



Aimee Ferraro, PhD, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: PhD, Health and Behavioral Sciences, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

Host Site: Pennsylvania Department of Health, HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Section

Primary Mentor: Benjamin Muthambi, DrPH, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Joseph M. Pease, MS, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: I chose the Fellowship because it provides a unique opportunity to develop a range of competencies in applied epidemiology. The training in epidemiologic methods, disease surveillance, program design and evaluation, and the translation of research into policy will facilitate the transition from my academic career into the “real-world” of public health practice. The Fellowship will enable the expansion of my skill set concerning the practical application of infectious disease epidemiology as it relates to my research interests in drug use and other risky behaviors.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I plan to obtain an applied public health position that directly informs the development of policy and programs at the state, national, or international level. I would like to focus my career on conducting research at the intersection of public health and sociology, public policy, geography, and communication, among other important disciplines.



Kathleen Fitzsimmons, MPH

Program Area: Environmental Health

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Boston University

Host Site: California Department of Health Services

Primary Mentor: Daniel Smith, MSc, DrPH

Secondary Mentor: Robert Harrison, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The Fellowship provides the chance to work with a multidisciplinary team of professionals on a variety of health and policy issues, which an entry-level job in a similar setting might not provide. Furthermore, with the guidance of experienced mentors, I will be able to refine my career interests and develop my epidemiologic skills and knowledge base through work that will directly contribute to efforts of the department to improve the health of the community.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After completing the Fellowship, I hope to pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology. Ultimately, I would like to combine epidemiologic research and practice in a career at a local, state, or federal public health agency.

Carrie Huisingh, MPH

Program Area: Injury

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Indiana University-Indianapolis

Host Site: Massachusetts Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Holly Hackman, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Victoria Ozonoff, PhD



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The Fellowship provides the perfect opportunity for me to gain valuable work experience through the completion of the required competencies. The Fellowship provides the opportunity to work under the guidance of an experienced mentor, exposure to a broad range of public health perspectives, and the opportunity to apply epidemiologic methods to real world projects.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I will continue my work at a state or local public health department and pursue a PhD in epidemiology.

Katherine B. Hutchinson, PhD, MSPH

Program Area: Maternal and Child Health

Highest Degree Obtained: Doctorate in Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh

Host Site: Washington Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Cathy Wasserman, PhD

Secondary Mentor: Riley Peters, PhD, MPA



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The program will provide an invaluable opportunity to gain fundamental skills involved in state practice within the context of specific training in maternal and child health. The collaborative nature of the Fellowship will allow a greater understanding of how local, state, and national organizations interact to address MCH issues. This Fellowship will provide a strong foundation in state MCH practice and will provide the skills necessary to become an effective state MCH epidemiologist.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I plan to continue to promote the integration of MCH epidemiology into state practice, significantly contribute to MCH research, and work to become a leader in state MCH epidemiology.



Krista Kornylo, MPH

Program Area: Quarantine

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology,
San Diego State University

Host Site: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Atlanta, GA

Primary Mentor: Francisco Averhoff, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Gabrielle Benenson, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The Fellowship is unique, in that it offers the Fellow training in a diverse number of areas such as emergency outbreak investigation, field investigation, surveillance, program evaluation, descriptive and analytic statistics, presentations, and report generation. The Fellowship will help me to develop investigative and problem solving skills in applied epidemiology through the guidance of a seasoned epidemiologist.

Future plans after the Fellowship: In the near future, I aspire to gain a position as an epidemiologist in a federal or state health department working with underserved minority populations. Eventually, I am interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in Genetic Epidemiology or Infectious Disease Epidemiology.



Heidi Purcell, MPH

Program Area: Injury

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology
and Biostatistics,

Oregon Health and Science University

Host Site: Oregon Office of Disease Prevention
and Epidemiology,

Injury and Violence Prevention Program

Primary Mentor: Xun Shen, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Mel Kohn, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The Fellowship will provide the opportunity for me to gain a wide range of experience. I believe that the Fellowship will prepare me for any position within the field of epidemiology. I am looking forward to learning more about surveillance techniques and honing my analytical skills, which will provide an increase in my knowledge of statistical methodologies that contribute to epidemiological research.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I hope to gain a diverse range of skills and experiences that will prepare me to become a leader in epidemiological research. I am interested in work that focuses on issues such as infectious disease, traumatic injury, addiction, women's health, and social justice in health care. I aspire to work in a more proactive, hands-on way with the public, advocating prevention and health education.

Jeanette M. Sample, MPH

Program Area: Birth Defects and

Developmental Disabilities

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, George Washington University

Host Site: Minnesota Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Myron Falken, PhD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Daniel Symonik, PhD



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The

Fellowship is a rigorous and respected program that will provide the practical training in epidemiology and work experience needed to achieve my career goals. The required competencies will provide the opportunity to develop my skills to a greater degree than other master's-level graduates entering the workforce at the same time. The program will facilitate professional development by encouraging participation at professional meetings, publication of research findings, and public presentation of epidemiologic data.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I will use the knowledge and skills gained from the Fellowship to continue to work as an epidemiologist at the state level. I also would like to pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology.

Michelle Sandoval, MPH

Program Area: Quarantine

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Boston University

Host Site: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
El Paso Quarantine Station

Primary Mentor: Miguel Escobedo, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Todd Wilson, MS, CHES



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The

Fellowship program offers a real life opportunity to learn about the daily work of an epidemiologist within a state or local health department. The Fellowship will provide the opportunity to learn how to develop public policy in order to improve border health. Since the CDC/CSTE program contains academic rigor as well as guided apprenticeship, it will help secure my future as an effective epidemiologist.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After completing the Fellowship program, I hope to work as an infectious disease epidemiologist at either a state or local health department with a focus on border and immigration health. I would also like to further advance my education by obtaining my doctoral degree in epidemiology.



Katie Sheline, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Hospital and Molecular Epidemiology, University of Michigan

Host Site: Michigan Department of Community Health

Primary Mentor: Mary Grace Stobierski, DVM, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Sally A. Bidol, BSN, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The CDC/CSTE Fellowship provides an opportunity to make

a meaningful contribution to public health while honing skills and gaining practical experience in epidemiology. I appreciate the emphasis on practical training and attaining competencies in skills that will be important in my position as an epidemiologist. Active participation in the interdisciplinary processes that serve to improve health offers a level of engagement that will greatly support the development of collaborative skills that are essential to the practice of public health. Additionally, the mentorship aspect of this Fellowship provides a beneficial resource that will provide a strong basis from which to begin my career as an epidemiologist.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I plan to dedicate my career to improving the health of populations by working as an epidemiologist in a state or local health department. My primary interest is in the field of infectious disease epidemiology.



Lauren Wooley, MPH

Program Area: Chronic Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University

Host Site: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Primary Mentor: Zi Zhang, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Bruce Cohen, PhD

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship: The Fellowship offers a way to gain practical experience

and training in epidemiology with a “hands-on” method of learning. The Fellowship is a well rounded opportunity because it allows the Fellow to participate in a wide range of activities such as bioterrorism preparedness planning, infectious disease outbreak investigation, and surveillance evaluation.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I would like to secure employment as an epidemiologist at the state or local level and continue to study chronic disease with a focus on obesity. I am also planning to pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology.

Current Fellow Projects

Fellows are currently undertaking a variety of projects that offer an exceptional learning experience while providing valuable information to their host health agencies. Listed below are just a few examples of projects that current and former Fellows have led:

- Assessing changes in the availability of obstetrical providers performing deliveries
- Evaluating the surveillance of maternal behaviors prior to and during pregnancy and during the child's early infancy using the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
- Assessing the circumstances surrounding fatal fall injuries in the elderly
- Evaluating an HIV-exposure and partner notification surveillance system
- Conducting an analysis of exposure patterns after a release of methylmercury
- Evaluating a poison control center to determine if the data can predict carbon monoxide poisonings.
- Creating a cumulative exposure index for workers in the World Trade Center Registry and characterize their exposures
- Conducting surveillance of passengers arriving on international flights, goods, and other methods of conveyance to prevent the importation and spread of communicable diseases of public health significance
- Conducting tuberculosis surveillance system for migrants (immigrants, refugees, and asylees)
- Investigating cancer clusters among firefighters
- Conducting a seroprevalence and behavioral study of intravenous drug users
- Utilizing the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to determine gambling patterns among youth
- Evaluating a childhood lead poisoning surveillance system
- Linking data to assess birth defects to infants born to women with diabetes
- Examining the relationship between socioeconomic and demographic factors and type of treatment for colon cancer

CSTE

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