

As the 4th largest state in the nation, with a significant and diverse immigrant population and a large tourism industry, Florida offers many unique opportunities for disease transmission and epidemiological studies. The Department of Health headquarters are located in Tallahassee, FL. The Department also staff 67 County Health Departments throughout the state. The fellow will be assigned to the Zoonotic and Vector-borne Disease and Toxicology Section (ZVDT), of the Bureau of Community Environmental Health in the Division of Environmental Health in Tallahassee. The ZVDT consists of four epidemiology programs including the Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease Program, the Pesticide Surveillance Program, The Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program and the Aquatic Toxins Program. The fellow will also work with the Food and Waterborne Disease Program, the Chemical Terrorism Preparedness Program and the Birth Defect Surveillance Program. These epidemiology programs offer a wide variety of projects for an epidemiologist interested in gaining additional field experience.

Projects may include (depending on the interests of the fellow):

- Surveillance program activities (data collection, database management, analysis, report writing).
- Program evaluation activities (e.g. Pesticide Surveillance Program)
- Disease outbreak investigations (design of questionnaire, data collection, analysis, outbreak investigation report writing)
- Prevention and control activities (consultations, prevention and control guideline development, oral and written presentations)
- Database development for data collected by the Chemical Terrorism Preparedness Program
- Policy development (Guideline documents for vector-borne diseases and rabies, lead certification legislation, response plans for red tide and blue green algae blooms)
- Statistical analysis of Florida's Birth Defect Registry Data (Registry has been in place since 1999)
- Oral presentations to County Health Departments, health professionals and the public
- Written publications in newsletters, and local and peer-reviewed journals.
- Development of educational materials for print or the web
- Participation in the design, execution and evaluation of epidemiology studies (including, but not limited to, studies looking at the health effects of aquatic toxin exposure)

Primary Mentor: Carina Blackmore DVM, PhD, Acting State Public Health Veterinarian, Manager for the Zoonotic and Vector-borne Disease and Toxicology Section, Florida Department of Health

Secondary Mentor: Roberta Hammond, PhD, Food and Waterborne Disease Program Coordinator. Florida Department of Health

Together Dr Blackmore and Dr Hammond have more than 25 years of experience in epidemiology and public health. They have given numerous presentations at state and

national conferences, published multiple articles in peer-reviewed journals and participated on national advisory committees in their fields of expertise.