

The fellow will be assigned to the Zoonotic and Vectorborne Disease Program (ZDP), in the Division of Environmental Health, Florida Department of Health. The program collects and analyzes surveillance information on 21 reportable zoonotic and vectorborne conditions in Florida. The staff members design case investigation tools, develop recommendations for disease prevention and control and develop educational materials for medical providers, county health department staff and the public. The State Public Health Veterinarian chairs Florida's Rabies Advisory Committee, Arbovirus Interagency Taskforce and Tick-borne Disease Studies Group.

The ZDP also works closely with other programs within the Division including the Food and Waterborne Disease Program, the Pesticide Surveillance Program, Terrorism Preparedness and the Office of Environmental Health Medicine.

The fellow will be involved in all aspects of the ZDP activities. Day to day duties will include: CDC case report form reviews, answering calls from the public, working with partners including the State Epidemiologist, the Food and Waterborne Disease program, county health departments and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) on case investigations and outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, serve as a consultant for county health departments on questions regarding prevention and control of zoonotic and vectorborne diseases, data analysis, report writing for our weekly newsletter Epi Update, web site development and web postings. The fellow will also get opportunities to develop and present zoonotic disease training programs and participate in the process of developing guidelines, policies and legislation on zoonotic disease surveillance and control related issues.

A fellow working with the ZDP will have the opportunity to work on a variety of potential projects depending on his or her interests including:

- Develop and evaluate an animal bite prevention campaign working with partners in the Department of Health's Office of Communication, the Humane Society of the United States, Florida Veterinary Medical Association and Florida Animal Care Association.
- Develop training on rabies prevention and control and evaluate the appropriateness of recommended rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Develop better data collection tools and evaluate risk factors for zoonotic disease in Florida.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the animal disease surveillance strategies currently used for West Nile virus, including the effectiveness of predicting human disease.
- Identify high-risk foci for tick-borne disease transmission in Florida, to include working with Florida tick researchers to test ticks from these sites, and the development of educational materials on tick-borne disease prevention targeted to the population likely to visit the sites.
- Evaluate the short-term and long-term effects of pesticide exposure after aerial spraying for mosquito control in collaboration with CDC (NIEHS) and the Pesticide Surveillance Program in the Florida Department of Health.
- Develop strategies for animal sentinel surveillance for bioterrorism events. The fellow will work with partners from DACS and United States Department of Agriculture to identify animal populations that may be used as sentinels for airborne or waterborne bioterrorist agents.

Assignment Location: Tallahassee, FL

Primary Mentor: Carina Blackmore, PhD, MS Vet. Med. (DVM)
Acting State Public Health Veterinarian
Vector-Borne Disease and Zoonoses and Toxicology Manager (2003-
present)

Advanced Degrees: MS in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) , Swedish University of Agricultural
Sciences (1989)
PhD, University of Notre Dame (1996)