

CDC/CSTE FELLOWS

The Future of Applied Epidemiology

CLASS OF 2007



**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:

- Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
- Chronic Disease
- Environmental Health
- Infectious Disease
- 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.



Andrea Alvarez, MPH

Program Area: Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University

Host Site: Virginia Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Derek Chapman, PhD

Secondary Mentor: Caroline Stampfel, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

I believe the Fellowship offers an unparalleled opportunity for the fellow to develop personally and professionally through the acquisition and expansion of applied epidemiologic skills via a mentorship model. In addition, I have been impressed with the high caliber of research and range of public health activities in which current and past fellows have been involved. I also strongly support the advancement of CSTE's mission and vision to increase epidemiology capacity at the state and local level and to use epidemiologic data to guide public health practice.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

My long-term career goal is to conduct state-level public health surveillance in the fields of maternal and child health or injury to monitor changes in health outcomes over time, develop hypotheses, and use data to inform public health prevention initiatives.



Tina Arcomone, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease-Quarantine

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, University of Florida

Host Site: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Miami Quarantine Station and the Miami-Dade County Health Department

Primary Mentor: Kiren Mitruka, MD

Secondary Mentor: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

The Fellowship was appealing because it provides the experience of mastering a core set of epidemiological skills and it also allows the fellow to pursue his or her own interests in the field of epidemiology. I was particularly interested in the Infectious Disease-Quarantine subject area because the fellow gains experience in unique public health issues at both the county and federal level. Furthermore, the Fellowship has an edge over others in the sense that each fellow is encouraged to conduct research and produce manuscripts that will enhance the amount of knowledge of the individual as well as the public health community as a whole.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

After the Fellowship is complete, I would like to continue working in infectious disease epidemiology at either the state or federal level.

***Danielle L. Broussard*, PhD, MPH**

Program Area: Maternal and Child Health

Highest Degree Obtained: PhD, Epidemiology,
University of Miami

Host Site: Division of Family Health Services, Florida
Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Bill Sappenfield, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Dave Goodman, PhD, MS



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

Prior to entering the Fellowship, I spent six years working in an academic setting. While this experience was invaluable, my desire to influence public health practice was going unrealized. I applied for the Fellowship because the mentored training experience afforded by the Fellowship will provide me with an excellent opportunity to integrate my background in epidemiologic research with an expanded skill base in public health practice. This is a combination that I will need to function as a well-rounded epidemiologist and to achieve a leadership role in a health department.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

My goal is to find a balance between the worlds of academia and public health practice. I would like to serve in a senior level role at a health department or other public health institution while maintaining an appointment at an academic institution. I also intend to pursue my interests in describing the underpinnings of racial/ethnic health disparities and advocate for the elimination of the considerable adverse health status seen among African American women.

***Christine N. Dao*, MPH**

Program Area: Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Saint Louis University

Host Site: Influenza Division, National Center for
Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention

Primary Mentor: Joseph Bresee, MD

Secondary Mentor: Lyn Finelli, DrPH, MS



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

The Fellowship provides the perfect opportunity for me to gain tangible public health experience that will supplement my academic training. The Fellowship provides the opportunity to acquire valuable skills and knowledge beyond my previous experiences and coursework from the complex projects in which I will be involved and the individuals with whom I will be working.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

After the Fellowship I plan to pursue additional higher education in public health or medicine with the possibility of becoming an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer. I plan to continue my work in infectious disease epidemiology, and I look forward to gaining a variety of research and public health practice experiences. I would also like to eventually pursue international public health opportunities related to infectious diseases.



Maryann Delea, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease-Quarantine

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Global Environmental Health, Emory University

Host Site: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention San Diego Quarantine Station and the San Diego County Office of Public Health

Primary Mentor: Stephen Waterman, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Michele Ginsberg, MD

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

I chose the Fellowship because it provides a unique opportunity for recent graduates to gain hands-on experience in applied epidemiology. The Fellowship's core competencies equip fellows with the skills necessary to work as an epidemiologist in the field of public health. In addition, the provision of two highly trained mentors provides fellows with additional guidance as they make the transition from an academic setting to the work force.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

After completing the Fellowship, I plan to pursue a doctoral degree in either medicine or epidemiology. Ultimately, I would like to work as an infectious disease epidemiologist at a local, state, or federal public health agency.



Hillary B. Foulkes, MPH

Program Area: Maternal and Child Health

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

Host Site: Texas Department of State Health Services

Primary Mentor: M. Aaron Sayegh, PhD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Brian Castrucci, MA

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

The Fellowship provides a great opportunity to help me prepare for a career in epidemiology at a health department. Though I have learned a great deal in the classroom, I am eager to apply these skills and to further develop them for use in public health practice. The Fellowship presents an opportunity to build on my knowledge of epidemiologic methods through practical experience.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

After completing the Fellowship, I would like to pursue a career in a state or local health department focusing on women's reproductive health and sexually transmitted infection prevention. In the future, I hope to obtain a PhD in epidemiology.

Paola Gilsanz, MPH

Program Area: Maternal and Child Health

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, Berkeley

Host Site: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Primary Mentor: Robert Leibowitz, PhD, MBA

Secondary Mentor: Teresa Anderson, PhD, MSW



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

I chose the Fellowship because it will provide numerous opportunities to develop a wide range of skills in different sectors of public health. The Fellowship will provide the opportunity to grow professionally in a “real world” setting and will also provide me with the support and guidance of two advisors. The Fellowship is the ideal setting for my transition from graduate school to a long-term career in epidemiology.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

After the Fellowship, I plan pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology. Upon completion of my degree I hope to conduct epidemiological research either at the state, national or international level.

Kimberly Glenn, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Georgia State University

Host Site: Tennessee Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Marion Kainer, MD, MPH, FRACP

Secondary Mentor: Allen Craig, MD



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

The Fellowship provides a unique opportunity to connect theory from my academic education to the practice of epidemiology. The Fellowship will allow me to gain a hands-on view of public health and the issues in infectious disease epidemiology.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

After the Fellowship, I hope to continue to gain valuable training in infectious disease epidemiology at the local level. Eventually, I hope to obtain a doctoral degree in epidemiology.



Rebecca Dorothy-Zima Greeley, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology,
University of Michigan

Host Site: New Jersey Department of Health and
Senior Services

Primary Mentor: Christina Tan, MD

Secondary Mentor: Corey Robertson, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

The Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for a Master's level graduate to work in the field of applied epidemiology. Through this Fellowship, I will gain invaluable hands-on experience under the mentorship of experts who work with communicable diseases. The different competencies that I will gain through the Fellowship will equip me in my future career in the public health sector as an epidemiologist. I am looking forward to gaining specialized knowledge and training surrounding various infectious disease outbreaks and exposures. This, combined with my experience at a local health department, will provide me with important perspectives of the public health infrastructure and enable me to better serve our public in the future.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

Following the Fellowship, I plan to apply my skills and knowledge to continue working as an epidemiologist. I hope to work as an infectious disease epidemiologist at a state or local health department.



Jessica Hagan, MPH

Program Area: Environmental Health

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, University of
Michigan

Host Site: New Mexico Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Barbara Malczewska-Toth, PhD,
DABT

Secondary Mentor: Michael G. Landen, M.D., MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

I chose the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship program because it provides a strong transition from my education to the professional world. I am eager to further my experience and to use the skills that I have gained through my education working independently in a state health department. The core competencies of the Fellowship program combined with having two knowledgeable mentors throughout the duration of the Fellowship will be extremely beneficial in providing the experience necessary for a successful career as an epidemiologist working in a state or federal agency.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

Upon completion of the Fellowship program, I hope to utilize the skills that I have gained through my education and the Fellowship experience by obtaining an epidemiology position with a state or a federal health agency. I also plan to pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology.

Rebekah Kunkel, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease-Quarantine

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

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

Primary Mentor: Francisco Averhoff, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: Mary Agocs, MD, MSc



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

I was attracted to the Fellowship because of opportunity to learn through hands-on experiences. Receiving practical training under the guidance of experienced mentors will expand upon the skills I gained during my graduate education. Working through the required core competencies of the Fellowship will ensure that I obtain a well-rounded understanding of epidemiology within public health practice, including aspects of surveillance, outbreak investigation, statistical analysis, and data presentation.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

After the Fellowship program, I hope to obtain a PhD in epidemiology, specializing in vector-borne diseases. Eventually I would like to obtain a position at a state health department and work collaboratively with the department of natural resources to help tackle vector-borne disease threats from a multi-disciplinary level.

Elizabeth M. Levin, MPH

Program Area: Chronic Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, University of Michigan

Host Site: Georgia Division of Public Health

Primary Mentor: Dafna Kanny, PhD

Secondary Mentor: John Horan, MD, MPH



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

I chose the Fellowship because it will allow me to gain valuable experience in public health epidemiology at the state level while working under the guidance of experienced mentors. This Fellowship will allow me to build upon the knowledge and skills that I acquired throughout my graduate training. The opportunity to be involved in such a broad range of activities including surveillance system evaluation, bioterrorism preparedness planning, and outbreak investigation combined with the interesting projects within my own division make this Fellowship ideal for transitioning from the classroom to a meaningful career in applied epidemiology.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

After completing the Fellowship, I plan to pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology. Ultimately, I would like to have a career as an epidemiologist at the state or federal level and teach biostatistics or epidemiology at a university.



Emily Locke, MPH

Program Area: Maternal and Child Health

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, University of Washington

Host Site: Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit, Alaska Section of Women's Children's and Family Health

Primary Mentor: Bradford Gessner, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: K. Janine Schoellhorn, MS, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

I chose the Fellowship, because I wish to work collaboratively within a public health setting toward the common goal of improving population health. My goal through the mentorship piece of this program is to build upon my work experiences and the epidemiologic skills developed through my education and put them into practice. I feel that the practical skills and core competencies that I develop from this Fellowship will aid me in achieving my goals in maternal and child health epidemiology.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

I hope to attain a leadership position in maternal and child health epidemiology. As a leader in the field, I hope to work collaboratively to use data to implement policies that will improve the health of women and children. I am particularly interested in ending disparities in birth and pregnancy outcomes. As an epidemiologist I hope to elucidate the causes attributed to prenatal health disparities and to use this knowledge towards eliminating these disparities through policy and government programs. It is my goal to obtain a doctorate in epidemiology so that I may most effectively address these issues.



Cara J. Person, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Drexel University

Host Site: New York State Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Barbara Wallace, MD, MSPH

Secondary Mentor: Joshua Schaffzin, MD, PhD

Secondary Mentor: Geraldine Johnson

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

The Fellowship affords me the opportunity to have experiences that are not available in a traditional entry level job setting. The mentoring aspect of the program is unique and unparalleled and provides the opportunity to work directly with leading researchers, physicians, professors, and epidemiologists. In addition, the skills gained from hands-on exposure to a variety of aspects of public health such as outbreak investigations and disease surveillance are invaluable and will benefit me and the public I will serve in my future work.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

I plan to work as an epidemiologist at the state level soon after completing the CDC/CSTE Fellowship. Eventually, I plan to obtain a doctoral degree in infectious disease epidemiology in order to become a senior level epidemiologist. I want to be able to combine research with practice, and I look forward to making a positive impact on the control of infectious diseases in surrounding communities.

Daniel Rubado, MPH

Program Area: Environmental Health and Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Oregon Health and Science University

Primary Mentor: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH

Secondary Mentor: John Wiesman, MPH



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

The Fellowship is a perfect opportunity for me to explore environmental health and infectious disease epidemiology in the trenches. Two years of practical experience investigating outbreaks and analyzing data from my community will provide the best education in public health available. The Fellowship is essentially the Master's level version of CDC's well known Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS). In my fellowship placement, I will be able to explore the links between environmental factors and health. I am eager to begin investigating outbreaks and identifying environmental precursors to infectious illness.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

I plan to continue my work in the field at a local and or state health department. I look forward to finding opportunities to continue researching the many environmental precursors to infectious disease outbreaks and changes in incidence. As we begin to see the effects of climate change, novel organisms will emerge to cause disease in humans and old ones will pose new challenges. To protect the public's health, we will need to determine the effects of specific environmental factors on disease incidence.

Nicole Standberry, MPH

Program Area: Chronic Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University

Host Site: North Carolina Division of Public Health

Primary Mentor: Sara Huston, PhD

Secondary Mentor: Rosemary Ritzman, PhD

Secondary Mentor: Scott Proescholdbell, MPH



Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

The appeal of the Fellowship is the opportunity to gain applied epidemiology experience through cross-cutting projects under the umbrella of well-qualified and established epidemiologists who share my interests. Most importantly, the Fellowship allows me to solidify my academic training and gain new skill sets that are relevant to the field. Additionally, the Fellowship sets a standard of accountability and focus through the plan of action, quarterly reports, and competency-based training, allowing for improved effectiveness and efficiency throughout the 2-year assignment.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

I plan to continue working in chronic disease epidemiology with a focus on cardiovascular disease, which is the first and third leading cause of death in the US. I believe my experiences during the Fellowship will help me to determine what direction to take after completing the Fellowship.



Melissa Wong, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Columbia University

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

Primary Mentor: Sharon Balter, MD

Secondary Mentor: Vasudha Reddy, MPH

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

My graduate studies provided me with a solid foundation in both public health and epidemiological methods. It is my hope that the Fellowship will provide me with “hands on” experience with mentors in a public health setting. The applied experiences I will gain during the Fellowship will provide me with opportunities to advance and mature my epidemiological skills. Additionally, the breadth of topics researched at the New York City Department of Health is such that I will be exposed to infectious disease epidemiology and to other major fields of public health.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

In the future I hope to further my academic knowledge of epidemiology by entering into a doctoral program. I will also use the skills I gain from this Fellowship to secure employment as an epidemiologist at the state or local level in infectious disease.



Kimberly Yousey-Hindes, MPH

Program Area: Infectious Disease

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

Host Site: New York State Department of Health

Primary Mentor: Millicent Eidson, MA, DVM, DACVPM

Secondary Mentor: Barbara Wallace, MD, MSPH

Secondary Mentor: Perry Smith, MD

Why you chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship:

I chose the Fellowship because it provides high-quality epidemiology training along with the support and guidance of qualified mentors. I also value the opportunity to explore a wide range of topics while fulfilling the Fellowship's core competencies. I think that this program will help me to become a better public health leader and a more skilled epidemiologist.

Future plans after the Fellowship:

After the Fellowship, I plan to work as an infectious disease epidemiologist at a state or local health department. I hope to be able to pursue my interest in infectious disease surveillance both in the capacity of outbreak investigation as well as in more formal research.

CSTE

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