

The Florida legislature recognizes the significant health burden of hepatitis in Florida. Since 1999, the Florida Department of Health has received funding for a comprehensive hepatitis prevention and control program, including enhanced surveillance, counseling, testing, vaccination, awareness, education, and outreach. In addition, Florida receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year for a hepatitis C coordinator. Since July 2001, the Hepatitis Program has been located within the Bureau of HIV/AIDS, Division of Disease Control, Florida Department of Health. This structure increases the program's ability to integrate hepatitis into HIV/AIDS programs and services, such as outreach, counseling and testing. In addition, the Hepatitis Program has active integration projects with other public health partners including: Sexually Transmitted Diseases (vaccine and laboratory testing), jails, immunization (vaccine and outbreak activities), Department of Corrections, Refugee Health, and others.

Potential Applied Epidemiology Fellow projects include:

- A comprehensive epidemiologic paper on hepatitis A in Florida
- A comprehensive epidemiologic paper on hepatitis B in Florida
- A comprehensive epidemiologic paper on hepatitis C in Florida
- An analysis of the surveillance system for one or more of the above diseases
- Assignment to a local county health department for outbreak field investigation training for a period of up to 3 weeks, one time per year
- Analysis of the TB/Refugee serosurvey data collected by the Bureau of TB/Refugee Health

The fellow will receive bioterrorism preparedness and response training in coordination with the Bureau of Disease Control, and participation as part of the Florida Preparedness and Response to Bioterrorism program.

Assignment Location: Tallahassee, FL

Primary Mentor: Linda M. Baldy, MPH
Epidemiologist, Florida Hepatitis and Liver Failure Prevention and Control Program (September 2002-present)

Advanced Degree: MPH, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1985)

Secondary Mentor: Sandra W. Roush, MPH, MT
Head, Florida Hepatitis and Liver Failure Prevention and Control Program (September 2000-present)

Advanced Degree: MPH, University of South Carolina (1989)