

This Environmental Epidemiology Fellowship will be housed in the Division of Environmental Health, Office of Environmental Public Health Medicine, Florida Department of Health at department headquarters in Tallahassee and will provide the Fellow with a broad range of environmental epidemiology and public health experience. The Division of Environmental Health houses the bureaus of Community Environmental Health, Radiation Control, Water Programs, and the bureau of Onsite Sewage and Wastewater Management. The focus of this internship will be to develop Environmental Public Health Indicators for the Division of Environmental Health and for the State of Florida and to integrate this work with CDC's Environmental and Public Health Tracking (EPHT) initiatives. The fellow will work with a team of environmental epidemiologists, GIS specialists, and biostatisticians and a variety of other disciplines to develop systems and methodologies to track and link public health outcomes with environmental exposures. Specific areas of study and activity may include:

- Identifying environmental contaminants and related health outcomes; performing environmental epidemiological surveillance
- Developing Environmental and Occupational Public Health Indicators
- Interpreting Environmental Health, Epidemiology surveillance data
- Assisting with identifying future databases for EPHT linkage
- Identifying potential environmental health databases for linkage
- Assisting with data linkage, statistical analysis
- Providing epidemiological technical expertise
- Assisting with developing methodologies and reports
- Assessing environmental health outcome data quality for linkage
- Participating in EPHT Program Marketing
- Guiding surveillance and intervention activities
- Utilizing GIS in epidemiological environmental applications
- Developing strategies for communicating data outreach and education strategy
- Writing Proposed EPHT Legislation
- Authoring articles for publications

Developing Environmental Health indicators and EPHT activities may involve collaboration with the following programs/activities in the Division of Environmental Health:

- the childhood lead and adult blood lead surveillance program,
- Superfund community health and exposure risk assessment
- heavy metal environmental and fish contamination
- radiation control through environmental monitoring, personnel monitoring devices and bioassays in hospitals, universities, labs and industries,
- birth defects surveillance,
- cancer cluster investigation,
- monitoring water quality and associated environmental disease
- air quality monitoring
- toxic release data sets

- zoonotic and vectorborne disease surveillance and management.
- food and waterborne disease epidemiology (surveillance, investigation and intervention),
- the surveillance and classification of exposure to pesticides,
- chemical and radiation emergency preparedness and response

The fellow will gain valuable broad based knowledge and experience by working with the various program areas and will gain an understanding of the general operation of these programs from the perspective of environmental epidemiology.

The fellow's day to day activities may involve attending meetings, working on teams to address environmental public health issues, outbreak investigations, designing & conducting health surveys, analysis of various data sets, health records and surveillance data, linking existing environmental surveillance data with existing health effects surveillance data, reviewing and writing environmental reports, working with GIS technology, developing educational material, and analyzing data to evaluate the relationship of known environmental exposures to the adverse health effects.

The fellow will be encouraged to participate in the Florida EIS service conference calls, training and educational meetings. The potential for broad exposure to environmental issues from the perspective of an epidemiologist and the opportunity to tailor work experience on specific projects and outbreak investigations in the program areas described above are the strengths of this applied epidemiology fellowship program.

Assignment Location: Tallahassee, FL

Primary Mentor: David R. Johnson, MD, MS, DABT, FACOEM
Executive Medical Director, Division of Environmental Health

Advanced Degrees: MD, Wright State University School of Medicine (1983)
MS, University of Cincinnati (1991)

Secondary Mentor: Prakash S. Patel, MBBS, MPH
Supervisor, Office of Environmental Public Health Medicine (May 2002-present)

Advanced Degrees: MBBS, Baroda Medical College, India (1980)
MPH, University of Alabama at Birmingham (1988)