

An occupational epidemiology fellow will be housed in the Division of Environmental Health, Office of Environmental Public Health Medicine, Florida Department of Health at department headquarters in Tallahassee. The Occupational Fellow will be provided with a broad range of Occupational Health/Environmental Public Health experiences. 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 opportunities for Occupational Health/Environmental Public Health experiences are broad in the Division depending on the fellow's interest.

Key activities for the occupational fellow will include working on the development of a statewide surveillance program for Occupational Health indicators aimed to build core capacity for occupational health surveillance in Florida. The surveillance program is intended to focus on the CSTE/NIOSH work-related health effect and exposure indicators to include the categories of acute and cumulative injury, work related illness, and elevated adult blood lead levels. Indicator data will be extracted from various sources including hospital discharge data, death certificates, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Florida Cancer Data System, the Florida Poison Control Center, and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Maintenance and utilization of these indicators will serve to educate and inform the public and responsible agencies leading to prevention activities in Florida. Specific areas of study and programs of occupational health interest within the Division of Environmental Health that the fellow will be involved with include:

- 1) the adult blood lead surveillance program and work related lead exposures
- 2) the surveillance and classification of occupational exposure to pesticides
- 3) Superfund health assessment and exposure risk determination at industrial sites
- 4) biological waste management
- 5) radiation control through personnel monitoring devices and bioassays in hospitals, universities, labs and industries
- 6) worker safety and health in the food and waterborne disease surveillance and investigation program, and
- 7) worker terrorism preparedness.

The fellow will be specifically assigned to and mentored in the various program areas and will gain an understanding of the general operation of these programs from the perspective of worker health and illness potential. The fellow will also evaluate one of the above surveillance systems using the CDC report, *Updated Guidelines for Evaluating Public Health Surveillance Systems* (CDC, 2001). Additionally, the fellow will apply epidemiological skills in the investigation and management of specific outbreaks and exposure occurrences and in the analysis of surveillance data. The fellow will be trained in bioterrorism preparedness and response. The broad potential for occupational and environmental experiences in the division will allow for adaptation of the fellowship program to meet the specific interests of the Applied Epidemiology Fellow.

The fellow will be encouraged to participate in the Florida EIS service conference calls, training and educational meetings. The potential for broad exposure to occupational 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

Title (dates): Chief, Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology (1999-present)

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

Secondary Mentor: Prakash S. Patel, MBBS, MPH

Title (dates): 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)