

This is an application to host an environmental epidemiology fellowship that 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 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 environmental epidemiology and public health experiences are broad in the Division depending on the fellow's interest and can be tailored to meet interests of the fellow.

Specific areas of study and activity include:

1. the childhood lead and adult blood lead surveillance program,
2. the surveillance and classification of exposure to pesticides,
3. Superfund community health and exposure risk assessment
4. heavy metal environmental contamination
5. radiation control through environmental monitoring, personnel monitoring devices and bioassays in hospitals, universities, labs and industries,
6. food and waterborne disease epidemiology (surveillance, investigation and intervention),
7. terrorism preparedness and emergency response,
8. birth defects surveillance,
9. cancer cluster investigation,
10. monitoring water quality and associated environmental disease, and
11. zoonotic and vectorborne disease surveillance and management.

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 environmental epidemiology. 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 and be assigned to the investigation and management of specific outbreaks and exposure occurrences and the analysis of surveillance data. The fellow will be trained in bioterrorism preparedness and response.

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
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
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)