

Quarantine

The CSTE fellowship will be based in Miami, Florida, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Miami Quarantine Station and the Miami-Dade County Health Department-Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control. The fellow will have an opportunity to live in an esthetically beautiful, multicultural, and dynamic city, and experience as well as explore an interesting range of conventional and unique public health issues. A few examples of daily field activities will include inspecting animal and human products posing threat to human health; responding to reports of illnesses on cruises and airplanes, including threats of bioterrorism; collecting, distributing and managing medical information of immigrants, and refugees; conducting surveillance as well as case and outbreak investigations of reportable diseases/conditions; and participating in public health preparedness activities at the port and in the community. The opportunities to investigate important questions related to these activities are immense and implementation of studies related to prevention and control of infectious diseases at our borders is greatly needed.

Miami is one of the United States' major ports of entry, with busy maritime (cruise and cargo) and airline traffic. The CDC Miami Quarantine Station (MQS) is physically located at the Miami International Airport, which yearly serves approximately 32 million passengers, of which about 15 million arrive on international flights. In addition to Miami, the CDC MQS is responsible for the prevention and control of communicable diseases at all ports of entry in Florida and the Bahamas. The CDC MQS is one of eighteen field quarantine stations operated by the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ), National Center for Infectious Diseases. The mission of DGMQ is "to make and enforce regulations necessary to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries into the United States." In order to enforce the legal and regulatory authority of DGMQ in support of its mission, the CDC MQS works closely with a variety of federal (e.g. Customs and Border Protection, Coast Guard, Federal Bureau of Investigations, etc.) and local partners (county health departments, police, fire rescue, aviation and maritime industries, etc.). The CDC MQS has responded to special public health challenges posed by several immigration emergencies involving Cuba and Haiti, as well as global emerging infectious diseases outbreaks, such as SARS. In order to better prepare for future public health emergencies, the CDC MQS has developed strong partnerships with state, local and other federal public health agencies, along with first responders. Together, they have conducted, and are actively planning, field and table top exercises in order to develop a well-coordinated response to public health threats.

The Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) is one of sixty-seven county health departments under the Florida Department of Health. The staff at the MDCHD-Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control are engaged in a wide array of activities, some of which including surveillance and reporting of communicable diseases/conditions; field investigation of cases and outbreaks; analysis and distribution of public health data via publications, presentations and reports; bioterrorism preparedness and response; and asthma, viral hepatitis and lead surveillance and control. The fellow will gain a well-rounded field epidemiology experience by the unique setting of the CDC-

Miami Quarantine Station, as well as the conventional public health environment of the MDCHD-Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control

Some examples of potential projects include:

- 1.Enhancing methods for detection and prevention of the introduction and spread of communicable disease at the ports of entry, by analyzing trends of imported diseases in the community
- 2.Assessing the risk of transmission of communicable diseases on conveyances such as airplanes and cruise ships
- 3.Exploring and implementing active and passive surveillance methods for communicable diseases in passengers, crew and cargo on international and domestic conveyances
- 4.Assessing knowledge, attitude, and practices towards infectious diseases prevention of Visiting, Friends and Relatives (VFRs) travelers to Latin America
- 5.Developing surveillance and prevention protocols for influenza like illness on cruise ships
- 6.Developing and refining protocols and procedures for public health surveillance and responses to communicable diseases on airplanes and ships
- 7.Develop methods for field testing the port public health response plans
- 8.Developing and delivering trainings on public health emergency response protocols; communicable diseases surveillance and response; and other CDC MQS and MDCHD activities for various federal, state and local partners

Assignment Location: Miami Quarantine Station
Miami, FL

Primary mentor: Kiren Mitruka, MD, Medical Officer
CDC-Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Miami Quarantine Station

Secondary mentor: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, Chief Physician
Miami-Dade County Health Department-
Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control