

The Michigan Infectious Disease Fellow would have a truly unique opportunity to act as a member of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology team, with a special emphasis on respiratory and emerging infectious disease opportunities. He/she could choose among activity areas to tailor experiences leading to advanced skills in applied communicable disease epidemiology. Some policy and program development activities would be included too. The Fellow would directly participate in investigations of acute outbreaks of respiratory and/or emerging diseases requiring immediate public health response. Based on complexity and scope of the outbreak, the Fellow could serve either as a coordinator of an investigation or as a member of an interdisciplinary investigation team. Opportunities would include development of hypotheses and hypothesis-testing questionnaires, descriptive and analytic studies of the data, and recommendations for intervention and control strategies. Creating and delivering presentations of investigative methods and findings would also be supported.

Michigan has a robust state health reference laboratory with highly trained staff scientists; interactions with laboratory staff occur on a daily basis. Michigan currently has 45 local health departments throughout the state, from very rural to highly urban settings. Approximately 10/45 have on-site epidemiologists. There are diverse opportunities to provide all levels and formats of technical consultations to these agencies regarding outbreaks and other special investigations guidance.

A surveillance system evaluation planned for the Fellow will be to evaluate completeness of reporting of Michigan's unique school-based Influenza-like Illness surveillance system. This system provides critical information that is added to sentinel physician, hospital, laboratory and other community-based information about influenza activity in the state. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that Michigan has recently developed and is currently implementing a NEDSS (National Electronic Disease Surveillance System) compliant, web-based disease reporting system called MDSS. The system supports direct reporting by local health departments, physicians and laboratories. The school-based Influenza-like illness reporting has been incorporated into this new web-based reporting system.

A potential project for the Fellow will be to further develop Michigan's Influenza Pandemic Plan, to further update the state's SARS Guidelines, and to integrate these 2 plans; also to accommodate other emerging respiratory pathogens (i.e. avian influenza). The working group for this endeavor draws staff from Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Immunization, Laboratory, Office of Preparedness, and Surveillance Systems. These activities are directly related to Michigan's overall Emergency Preparedness activities. This project illustrates one example of the continuous close working relationship that our office has with the Office of Preparedness.

Numerous opportunities to attend trainings and conferences for epidemiology staff will be extended to include the Fellow too.

Assignment Location: Lansing, MI

Primary Mentor: Mary Grace Stobierski, DVM, MPH
Chief, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section

Advanced Degrees: DVM, Michigan State University (1983)
MPH, University of Michigan (1989)

Secondary Mentor: Matthew Boulton, MD, MPH

State Epidemiologist and Director, Bureau of Epidemiology (1998-present)

State of Michigan Chief Medical Executive (2004-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, University of Nevada School of Medicine (1987)
MPH, University of Michigan School of Public Health (1991)