

The combined Maternal and Child Health and Chronic Disease Epidemiology Fellowship at the Maine Bureau of Health will provide an outstanding opportunity for applied and academic epidemiology within a unique team setting. The epidemiology team at the Bureau of Health is comprised of staff that are both state employees and employees of the University of Southern Maine's Department of Applied Medical Sciences. The team is led by the Maternal and Child Health Medical Director who is committed to supporting innovative ways to measure and analyze health outcomes and to framing them in ways that will result in policies and systems that advance the health and safety of Maine's citizens.

The fellow would join this team to undertake individual projects and to participate in ongoing surveillance activities in a broad range of programmatic areas. The team works together to support the various program areas, providing each member with the opportunity for data analysis and individualized research. Academic consultation occurs with the University of Southern Maine, the University of New England, and the Harvard School of Public Health.

The time would be evenly divided between chronic disease and maternal and child health areas of focus. In the chronic disease area, ongoing surveillance systems in diabetes, tobacco, asthma and cardiovascular disease as well as the cancer registry are in place. New surveillance systems are being established for oral health and injury prevention, including a new suicide surveillance system. In maternal and child health, surveillance of birth defects and newborn bloodspot and hearing screening are currently underway. The WIC program collects a wealth of data that will be linked with appropriate MCH databases for analysis to inform program planning and priorities. New surveillance systems include development of an ongoing tracking system for child abuse and neglect and linking newborn screening data files with appropriate MCH databases, including children with special health needs, for analysis. In addition, the Bureau of Health is working in conjunction with the Department of Education and the Harvard Prevention Research Center to develop a youth obesity surveillance system.

An major project that the fellow could undertake is in the area of social capital with respect to designing and implementing a study that would measure the capacity of a particular program to achieve outcomes related to social capital.

The fellow would have the opportunity to evaluate our State early childhood comprehensive systems development project, which is a two-year planning effort to enhance systems and policies for advancing the health and safety of young children, based on the *Neurons to Neighborhoods* book by Jack Shonkoff.

Our entire epidemiology staff is part of our "core" bioterrorism response team in Maine. The fellow would be incorporated into that overall team. We have an ongoing continuing education program that offers ITV training every two weeks for the core team, based on periodic educational needs assessment surveys of our involved staff. The fellow would have an opportunity to complete a BT competencies self-assessment and be directed to past ITV trainings and other materials as needed, as well as participate in our ongoing training program throughout the duration of the fellowship.

Assignment Location: Augusta, ME

Primary Mentor: Richard Aronson, MD, MPH
Maternal & Child Health Medical Director (September 2002-present)

Maine Aronson.doc

Advanced Degrees: MD, University of Rochester School of Medicine (1974)
MPH, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1988)

Secondary Mentor: Paul Kuhnert, MS
Director, Division of Disease Control (June 1999-present)
Associate Director for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (March 2002-present)

Advanced degree: MS, University of Illinois, Chicago (1991)