

Infectious Disease

The Communicable Disease Branch is responsible for the surveillance, investigation, and recommendations of control measures for communicable diseases. The Surveillance and Medical Consultation are two units of this Branch, and the latter includes sub-units for foodborne diseases, vectorborne diseases and tuberculosis control. Existing staff within these two units include 3 physician epidemiologists, 2 public health veterinarians, 7 nurse consultants (4 of them for TB), a public health epidemiologist for syndromic surveillance, a coordinator for the newly introduced NC EDSS electronic surveillance system, and clerical and administrative support personnel. Along with and as part of developing program competencies, the Fellow's anticipated day-to-day activities will be to participate in the communicable disease call schedule, assist in outbreak investigations, including role-based participation in the Public Health Coordination Center operations when activated, and to be assigned to special projects. Some potential projects include syndromic surveillance in hospitals, enhanced influenza surveillance, arbovirus disease surveillance and control, food chain safety and security, and analysis and enhancement of NC EDSS collected data. Each of these projects offers opportunities to work with interdisciplinary teams including the Departments of Agriculture and Environmental and Natural Resources, UNC School of Public Health, NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine, the State Laboratory for Public Health, public health regional surveillance teams, and local health departments.

Within the Communicable Disease Branch, the Fellow will have the opportunity to evaluate ongoing surveillance systems. The communicable disease passive surveillance system contains a data set with over 70 reportable diseases and conditions and goes back many years. Diseases of particular interest include arboviral infections, tickborne diseases with surge in case reports in recent years, influenza surveillance which combines data from several surveillance systems, antimicrobial resistant bacterial infections. Two data streams of the syndromic surveillance system started in 2003 have reached maturation, with data collected in near real time from over 100 hospital emergency departments and from calls to the state Poison Center. Animal health data are being added, from NCSU veterinary laboratories and from a Wildlife regional center. Ambulance data is gradually expanding. The Fellow will have the opportunity to evaluate this project as well. Also, NC is deploying in 2008 its NEDSS-based statewide surveillance and reporting system for communicable diseases reports from physicians and laboratories. A Fellow with an interest in informatics and public health may choose this project.

The Fellow will be able to participate in deployment or training exercises offered by the Office of Public Preparedness and Response headed by Dr. Julie Casani. This will include tabletop exercises, field exercises, and Strategic National Stockpile deployment exercises. The seven Public Health Regional Surveillance Teams are also available to augment training at a more local level. The Fellow will assist in activation and operation of the State Public Health Coordination Center in the event of a public health emergency that demands surge capacity.

Assignment Location: Raleigh, NC

Primary Mentor: Jean-Marie Maillard, MD, MSc
Medical Consultation Director, Communicable Disease Branch
(2002-present)

Advanced Degree: MD, Paris, France (1983), MSc, London Sch. Hygiene & Trop.
Med. (1991)

North Carolina position description for a CSTE Fellow - 2008

Secondary Mentor:	Carl Williams, DVM NC Public Health Veterinarian, Communicable Disease Branch (2004-current)
Advanced Degrees:	DVM, NC State University (1997)