

The New York State Department of Health, Division of Family Health requests a fellow to conduct Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiologic and Surveillance activities. The Division of Family Health, the Title V agency for New York State, serves as the locus for maternal and child health activities. The Division is comprised of the Bureaus of Child and Adolescent Health, Women's Health, Dental Health, Early Intervention and the Indian and Migrant health programs. In addition to programs within the Division of Family Health, there are MCH programs in other parts of the Department, such as the Congenital Malformations Registry, based in the Center for Environmental Health. The fellow will be assigned to a project of mutual interest and benefit.

Of particular interest is a longitudinal data warehouse of child healthcare information linked anonymously and longitudinally across multiple data sources. This system known as Integrated Child Health Information System (ICHIS) was developed to help improve public health outcomes for children in NYS by providing program areas with a linkage of children's available health history data across data sets that allows for an unprecedented association of antecedents and outcomes. The data warehouse is populated with matched data from birth certificates, hospitalization discharge records, death certificates and vaccine preventable illnesses. The immunization registry, congenital malformation registry and lead tracking system are planned for addition to the data warehouse. The fellow could conduct analyses of many different projects utilizing ICHIS depending on interest.

Other possibilities include NYS specific analysis of the national Children with Special Health Care Needs Survey, the Child Health Survey and the NYS Pregnancy Risk assessment and monitoring system (PRAMS) data. The Congenital Malformations Registry offers a rich resource for studies related to birth defects, including studies of incidence and risk factors, and studies involving linkage to other data sources such as the NYS Cancer Registry, the Heavy Metals Registry, or AIDS Registry. Alternatively, the fellow could work with local county health department to develop Maternal and Child Health needs assessment and surveillance activities.

In NYS, over 65,000 children are enrolled in the Early Intervention Program, a program for children aged 0-3 with developmental delays. There are a number of important analyses possible within this dataset.

Depending on the fellow's interest, he/she would be expected to participate in programmatic activities to fully understand the impact and importance of particular analyses. He/she would be expected to present findings to program and where appropriate executive staff. The fellow would be encouraged to participate in educational opportunities through the department, the preventive medicine residency, the school of public health and other activities as appropriate. He/she will be expected to present his/her findings at an appropriate national meeting and will be encouraged to publish in peer-reviewed journal.

The fellow will be expected to conduct an evaluation of a maternal and child health program/data/ surveillance system using an appropriate methodology for the program/system and recommend changes and improvements if needed. He/she will be expected to be familiar with the updated CDC Guidelines for Evaluating a Public Health Surveillance System (2001).

The fellow will be expected to participate in bioterrorism training as it relates to maternal and child health. This training may include participation on workgroups addressing these issues in NYS and/or through more formal training through the NYS Department of Health Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response to Bioterrorism.

Assignment Location: Albany, NY

Primary Mentor: Mary Applegate, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Bureau of Women's Health (1996-present)
M.D., Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 1984
M.P.H., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, 1992

Secondary Mentors: Charlotte Druschel, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Congenital Malformations Registry (1988-present)
MD, University of Minnesota Medical School, 1974
MPH, Johns Hopkins University Sch of Hygiene & Public Health (1983)

Rachel de Long, MD MPH
Director, Bureau of Child & Adolescent Health
MD, University of Wisconsin (2001)
MPH, University at Albany School of Public Health (2003)

Michael G. Medvesky, MPH
Director, Public Health Information Group (1989-present)
MPH, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (1976)