

This CDC/CSTE fellow will be housed in the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology (BEOE), Center for Environmental Health, New York State Department of Health. The BEOE, one of the largest bureaus in the Center, studies, monitors, and evaluates the health effects of exposure to toxic substances at home, at work, and in the community. The fellow will have the opportunity to work with a strong and multidisciplinary team that includes environmental epidemiologists, statisticians, and GIS specialists, and will gain experience in a broad range of topics and methods in environmental epidemiology and public health. The fellow's activities will be in the areas of community health and environmental surveillance and epidemiologic research. The fellow's tasks may include:

Community health investigation and environment surveillance

- Assisting in an exposure and health investigation using the NYS Volatile Organic Compounds Exposure Registry
- Assisting with surveillance and epidemiologic follow-up activities of the Environmental and Public Health Tracking initiatives.
- Providing technical support on surveillance activities of congenital malformations monitored by the NYS Congenital Malformation Registry.
- Implementing process and outcome evaluations of the NYS Healthy Neighborhoods Program and assisting with the data analysis and preparation of the final report

Epidemiologic Research

- Participating in the research activities of the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS) funded by the National Centers for Birth Defects Research and Prevention.
- Providing expertise in data management and analysis design in the "Asthma in the School Environment" component of the NYS Asthma Initiative. The specific task may include the analysis of the School Building Manager Survey to learn more about school environmental policies.
- Develop a plan to translate the research findings from several ongoing and completed school studies into public health practice. Also, this fellow may assist in using the study findings to design possible health or environmental interventions to present to policy makers or school staff.
- Participating in several projects to study the relationship between environmental exposures and including urban air toxics, ambient air pollutants, traffic or residential proximity to airports and childhood asthma.
- Participating in follow-up activities to estimate persistent health effects of the World Trade Center disaster.
- Providing support to research activities related to the Love Canal Follow-up Health Study.
- Assisting with several studies to examine the health effect of environmental exposure to PCBs and PBDEs.

In summary, the fellow will gain valuable broad-based knowledge and experience by working on the projects described above. The potential for exposure to real public health and environmental issues at the level of a large health department is the strength of this applied epidemiology fellowship program.

Dr. Lin and Hwang will work with the fellow being placed in this assignment to determine projects of mutual interest in two or three of the areas listed in above. To continue his or her formal education, the Fellow would also have the opportunity to take courses at the University at Albany's School of Public Health (SPH) and to consult with SPH faculty, as well as attending the annual CSTE conference.

Assignment Location: Troy, NY

Primary Mentor: Syni-An Hwang, PhD
Director, Bureau of Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology
(2004-present)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, Carnegie-Mellon University (1984)

Secondary Mentor: Shao Lin, PhD, MD, MPH
Research Director, Bureau of Environmental & Occupational
Epidemiology (2004-present)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill (1990)
MD, Sun-Yet Sen University of Medical Science, PRC (1982)
MPH, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1988)