

CSTE Fellowship Position 2005-2007

CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, New York, NY
New York State Department of Health, Albany NY

This position is offered in partnership by the State of New York Department of Health (DOH) and the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) to give trainees an opportunity to expand their understanding of the role of epidemiology in public health practice and in the development of effective public health policy. This position will therefore expose trainees not only to advanced techniques in epidemiologic analysis but also to current issues in public health policy at the local, State and national levels.

The Division of Global Migration and Quarantine is a component of the CDC's National Center for Infectious Diseases and takes principal responsibility for immigrant and refugee health problems of public health significance. The New York Quarantine Station processes admission of persons with notifiable health conditions at the nation's busiest port and works closely with state and local health departments to assure appropriate evaluation and follow-up. Cases of TB in foreign born residents and citizens of the US now account for more than half of all new cases. Consistent with the national goals for TB control stated in the Public Health Service's Healthy People 2010, we are eager to examine how effective our process of state notification of persons with TB conditions is. The trainee will have the opportunity to take advantage of electronic data bases in the DGMQ, the CDC Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, and the NYS DOH as well as data collected by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (which incorporates the former Immigration and Naturalization Service), the National Center for Health Statistics, and other government agencies. This initial descriptive work will then be followed by analytic examination of both institutional and personal factors which are predictive of successful follow-up and treatment. The aim of this work is to examine ways that the notification system can be better aligned with modern approaches to the control of tuberculosis in high-risk populations.

The Division has also been involved in developing and carrying out policy for the surveillance and prevention of SARS, Avian Influenza, other zoonotic diseases like Monkeypox, and viral hemorrhagic fevers like Lassa and Ebola fevers. The Division is also responsible, in collaboration with other agencies, for developing programs for response to attacks with biological agents which may be brought from abroad, and trainees will have the opportunity to participate in these activities in conjunction with other federal, state and local partners.

The State of New York DOH has a strong tradition of public health action and offers opportunities to learn and to apply advanced epidemiologic techniques to a broad range of important public health issues. The Bureau of Tuberculosis Control, within the Division of Epidemiology, includes both TB Control and Refugee Health. In this position, the fellow will participate in activities within the Bureau, and have access to the broad resources provided within the DOH and the School of Public Health, SUNY Albany. The specific initial focus for the fellow will be the TB follow-up of immigrants

and refugees by local health departments throughout the state; this will involve analysis of data from the state TB and refugee databases and travel to local health departments to observe and describe local procedures.

Trainees are expected to gain competency in each of the required areas including outbreak investigation, maintenance and evaluation of surveillance systems, and oral presentations and publication of their findings to professional and governmental audiences.

Location: The trainee will be based at the New York State Department of Health offices in Albany NY, but office space, including computer and telephone support will also be provided at the NY Quarantine Station which is located at JFK International Airport.

Primary Mentor: Margaret Oxtoby, MD
Director, Bureau of Tuberculosis Control
NYS Department of Health
Albany, NY

Secondary Mentor: Paul J Edelson, MD
Medical Officer
CDC NY Quarantine Station

Associate Mentor: John Grabau, Ph.D., MPH
Assistant Director, Bureau of Tuberculosis Control and Director,
Refugee Health Program
NYS Department of Health
Albany NY