

Infectious Disease

Assignment Description:

The fellow would be assigned to the Bureau of Immunization within the NYC DOHMH. The Bureau is responsible for assuring that all New Yorkers are age appropriately vaccinated. The Bureau is responsible to surveillance and control of vaccine preventable diseases in NYC. The Bureau regularly responds to outbreaks of measles and mumps and in 2010 had one of the largest mumps outbreaks in the United States since 2006. Housed within the Bureau is the Citywide Immunization Registry, a mature population based registry which maintains the immunization records of all New Yorkers under 19 years of age. In addition, The Bureau has emergency preparedness, adult immunization, clinical services, and assessment units. The fellow would on arrival meet with the Unit Chiefs of each Unit to explore possible projects and activities to participate in.

Day-to-Day Activities:

The fellow will spend the bulk of their time working on their agreed upon projects. In addition, the fellow will participate in vaccine-preventable disease surveillance unit activities such as weekly case classification, unit meetings, and intake and investigation of reportable disease cases, as well as intermittent analyses of surveillance data. The fellow will also be incorporated into any outbreak response and control activities. The fellow will attend other meetings (e.g. NYC Childhood and Adult Immunization Coalition meetings, and Unit Chief's meetings) within the Bureau to gain exposure to all aspects of the Bureau's work.

Potential Projects:

Potential project would include the following: A surveillance system evaluation of our Invasive Pneumococcal Disease Surveillance System. Such an evaluation is important given the recent introduction of a new 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine and BOI's participation in a CDC sponsored evaluation of the vaccine efficacy of the new vaccine. There are a number of projects that could be done making use of the large dataset which is the CIR, specifically projects to better define populations of under immunized children in NYC. Additional projects might include trying to determine the current burden of varicella disease in NYC and help the Surveillance Unit to determine the practicality of moving to case based varicella surveillance. We are currently beginning a program to offer pertussis vaccination to parents at birthing hospitals as a way to decrease pertussis disease in infants. Evaluating the success of this program would offer the fellow an excellent opportunity to conduct a program evaluation. NYC has the second largest program to prevent the transmission of Hepatitis B from mother to infant in the country. Surveillance and case management data on the approximately 2,000 mothers and their newborns that the program works with each year is now a large source of data for analysis and presentation.

Preparedness Role:

The fellow will have the opportunity to participate in Agency Emergency Preparedness activities. The Agency has had regular opportunities for mass vaccination activities which the fellow would

participate in. For example our current CSTE Fellow attended H1N1 mass vaccination planning meeting and worked at our mass vaccination events.

Assignment Location: New York, New York

Primary Mentor: Christopher Zimmerman, MD, MPH
Medical Director
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Secondary Mentor: Jane Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene