

The Fellow would work in the Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch (OEEB) whose responsibility is to monitor for, evaluate, and reduce health problems related to exposure to occupational or environmental hazards. This Branch has a broad variety of responsibilities and functions, including toxicologic evaluations of a variety of toxic compounds, medical evaluations of toxic exposures or unusual clusters of illness, evaluation and response to the emerging problems of waterborne pathogens including antibiotic resistant enteric bacteria, veterinary public health issues, compiling a list of existing occupational health surveillance systems and developing new surveillance systems for occupationally-related problems, and industrial hygiene evaluations of environments alleged to be harmful to human health. This Branch has recently been charged with developing a protocol for state agencies to deal with clandestine laboratories discovered in the state and the Fellow could choose to be a part of that initiative.

The Fellow would be expected to become familiar with all functions and capabilities of this Branch in order to understand the expertise necessary and available to evaluate and respond to problems. This would involve site visits with the different arms of the Branch as necessary to observe environmental settings from the standpoint of deciding how to evaluate and respond to a variety of problems. The Fellow would have the freedom to select to work on an existing program or could devise a new area of study. There are occasionally clusters of illness alleged to be caused by environmental or occupational exposures that need to be evaluated. Recent examples include a cluster of rash illness in a school and a cluster of students with alleged seizures in a school. A past example is a cluster of persons with Ciguatera poisoning traced to consumption of one fish. The Fellow could choose to work with response teams to evaluate and respond to these problems as interest dictates. The Fellow could choose to work on existing data sets or could develop new data sets for his or her project. There are existing surveillance systems in this Branch that need to be evaluated and improved, and there are focus areas for which surveillance programs need to be devised and implemented.

Existing data sets include chemical analysis of contaminants in drinking water, and medical evaluations of workers in the “dusty trades.” Surveillance programs that need development and implementation include pesticide poisonings, farm injuries, elevations of adult blood lead levels, and harmful blue green algae in estuarine and fresh water environments. There are other branches of state government involved with communicable disease epidemiology and bioterrorism readiness and response, and the Fellow could choose to do some work in those areas depending on interest.

Assignment Location: Raleigh, NC

Primary Mentor: Douglas S. Campbell, MD, MPH
Head, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch (2002-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, University of Hawaii (1977)
MPH, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1985)

Secondary Mentor: Rick L. Langley, MD, MPH
Medical Epidemiologist, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology (1998-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, Wake Forest University (1983)

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MPH, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1988)