

The Clackamas County Department of Public Health offers a broad experience in applied epidemiology with emphasis in Environmental Health and Communicable Diseases. The fellow would have the opportunity to develop comprehensive skills through participation in program design, implementation and evaluation, investigative fieldwork, statistical analysis and interdisciplinary teamwork.

Day-to-day activities would include collaboration with other county health departments in the Portland metropolitan area, the Oregon Department of Human Services - Health Services and various local and state agencies and research institutions that are involved in the monitoring and control of infectious diseases and environmental health hazards. The Fellow will be a member of the Clackamas County Public Health communicable disease/epidemiology team, and will participate in investigation and control of Notifiable diseases, including foodborne and waterborne outbreaks. The Fellow will work with the Health Officer and Epidemiologist in developing the Public Health Division's capacity to detect and respond to bio-terrorism. In addition, under the supervision of the Health Officer and the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager, the Fellow will participate in the development of the Clackamas County Public Health GIS application. Day to day activities will include updating health datasets, incorporating new datasets (including environmental health data) into the application, and developing the analysis and presentation capabilities of the application.

The following list of potential projects, which are designed to provide maximum rigor and breadth of training, also allow significant flexibility to accommodate the specific interests and talents of the fellow:

1. Outbreak Investigations – Participate in local outbreak investigations; design questionnaires and other data collection tools, conduct interviews, analyze data; write reports and present results at local and regional meetings.
2. Environmental Public Health Tracking – Work with county, regional and state interdisciplinary teams to improve tracking, storing and integrating electronic information about environmental hazards, exposures and health outcomes.
3. Geographic Information Systems – Update and expand existing Clackamas County Public Health Geographic Information System application. Datasets currently available for analysis include census (denominator) data, perinatal data, cancer registry data, immunization registry data, WIC data, ambulatory (FQHC clinic) data and notifiable disease data. The Fellow will assist with health research using inferential and spatial statistics and prepare reports and graphical presentations for public and professional meetings.
4. Health Data - Evaluate local health databases and make recommendations for improvement. Provide staff training to enhance quality, collection procedures, comprehensiveness and ease of georeferencing/linking data.
5. Emergency Preparedness – Assist with an assessment of health department policies, procedures and implementation efforts. Participate in local, regional and state emergency response exercises and drills. The primary mentor is a member of the Oregon Health

Preparedness Advisory Committee, the Portland metro area Health Preparedness Organization Steering Committee and the Portland Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) and will involve the Fellow in these planning activities.

Assignment Location: Oregon City, OR (Clackamas County Health Division)

Primary Mentor: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH
Director of Research, OHSU Department of Family Medicine (2004-present)

Clackamas County Health Officer (1996-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, Tufts University School of Medicine (1977)
MPH, University of Washington, School of Public Health (1994)

Secondary Mentor: Eric Bohard, MLA
Computer Services Manager (1998-present)

Advanced Degrees: MLA, Texas A&M University (1987)