

VERONICA VICTORIA URDANETA, MD, MPH

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EDUCATION:

June 1997 - July 1997

Principles of Epidemiology. Graduate Summer Course of Epidemiology. The Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health. Baltimore, MD.

July 1996 - May 1997

Master of Public Health - Epidemiology. The Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health. Baltimore, MD.

March 1992 - August 1992

Master of Public Health - Epidemiology. Zulia University. Maracaibo, Venezuela.

January 1991 - December 1991

VI Basic Course in Malaria and Other Tropical Infectious Diseases. Malariology and Environmental Health School "Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldon". Maracay, Aragua State.

November 1989 – December 1990

Rural Practice. Rural Hospital I (Municipal Hospital) "La Concepcion". Zulia state, Venezuela.

July 1983 - October 1989

Medical Doctor. Zulia University. School of Medicine. Maracaibo, Zulia state, Venezuela.

July 1982 - June 1983

General studies (First requisite to enter Medical School) Zulia University, School of Science. Maracaibo, Zulia State, Venezuela.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

October 1st, 2005 to Present:

State Epidemiologist and Division Director

Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, **Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology**

Duties:

- Directs a multi-faceted public health surveillance and assessment program involved in the identification and investigation of the causes of disease and injury, and in the design and assessment of needed intervention strategies.
- Directs the following sections within the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology:
 - o **Surveillance Section:** Responsible for the development of the award-winning web-based laboratory and physician reporting, and disease cluster/outbreak investigation system PA-NEDSS; analysis of electronic laboratory reporting (PA-ELR) received from providers and laboratories; Influenza Sentinel Surveillance Program; West Nile Virus Program; Hepatitis C Virus Prevention Program; Antimicrobial Resistance Program. Analysis and evaluation of Syndromic Surveillance data received thru PA-RODS.
 - o **Investigation Section:** Responsible for the direction and investigation of disease reports and outbreaks as well as to establish appropriate disease containment strategies. Works directly with the field staff (Communicable Disease Nurses, Epidemiologist, etc).

- o **Planning and Preparedness Section:** Responsible for the implementation of several preparedness activities within the Commonwealth of PA.
- o **HIV/AIDS Surveillance and HIV/AIDS Investigation Sections:** Responsible for the implementation of surveillance systems in PA for the control and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Implementation of several CDC-funded programs targeting the HIV/AIDS population.
- o **Western and Eastern Section:** Professional staff located in the Western and Eastern part of the state. Responsible for the day to day activities related to the identification and control of possible disease outbreaks, as well as participation in some of the preparedness activities conducted in that part of the state.
- o **Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Section:** Responsible for monitor, evaluate, and analyze the patterns of healthcare-associated infections and make evidence-based recommendations for their reduction. This section also monitors antimicrobial-resistant organisms in the healthcare and community settings and make evidence-based recommendations for their prevention and control.
- Establish partnerships with state and federal agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Environmental Protection Agency; as well as, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Protection, Game Commission, Fish Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and other entities in the direction of public health programs like West Nile, Pandemic Influenza, Foodborne disease outbreaks, rabies, and other infectious and zoonotic diseases.
- Direct a workforce of 64 public health staff: public health physicians, veterinarians, PhD Epidemiologist, Master level Epidemiologist, two federal assignees from the CDC, and other administrative staff in the prevention and control of diseases:
 - o identify case clusters and/or suspected disease outbreaks;
 - o identify disease trends, and to learn disease causation;
 - o implementation of disease control measures
- Responsible for inviting and directing any **Epi-Aid request with the CDC.**
- Chair of the BioWatch Advisory Committee for the PA BioWatch Program.
- Member of the BioWatch Epidemiology Workgroup from the Department of Homeland Security. Responsible for the creation and revision of the BW Outdoor Guidance Guideline before its approval by DHS.
- Appointed member of the **Governor's Advisory Council on Pandemic Influenza.**
- **Chair of the Isolation and Quarantine Workgroup for the Commonwealth Pandemic Influenza Preparedness efforts.**
- Appointed member of the **Pennsylvania Planning Ethics Workgroup for Pandemic Influenza.**
- Directly responsible for implementing the following **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness activities:**
 - o Conduct training of rapid respond teams, both for public health and for animal health
 - o Work with the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) to develop appropriate response plans (Poultry Worker Protection Plan, PDA Avian Influenza Response Plan)
 - o Work with the PA Game Commission to develop a notification protocol for identified wild life testing results for AI.
 - o Implementation of rapid response and identification of suspected novel influenza cases by strengthening human surveillance and early disease warning systems, including active syndromic surveillance and sentinel surveillance.
 - o Assist vaccine manufactures in PA to strengthen their Pandemic Influenza response plans.
 - o Work with the PA Bureau of Laboratories to implement a rapid transport system and notification protocol of any novel influenza case.
- CSTE representative to the Epi-X Editorial Board.

- Member of the Davies Award Committee.
- Appointed member, **Commonwealth of PA Public Safety Communications Council**: To provide for the creation and to define the duties of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public Safety Communications Council (PSCC). This Council will have advisory responsibility with all public safety communications within the Governor's jurisdiction and will provide guidance and direction to the Commonwealth's Office for Information Technology/Office of Public-Safety Radio Services.
- Appointed member, **Advisory Panel on Nosocomial Infections, Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council**.
- Write and prepare articles for lay publications and peer-reviewed journals.
- Peer review:
 - o NIAID Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance (CEIRS). July 2006
 - o Waterborne Disease Outbreak Surveillance System – EPA. October 2006
- Prepare grants to obtain federal funding:
 - o Principal Investigator: Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Disease Grant (CDC)
 - o Co-PI: HIV/AIDS Core Surveillance Grant (CDC)/ Incidence Surveillance Project.
 - o Co-PI: Morbidity and Risk Behavior Surveillance for HIV/AIDS (CDC)
 - o Preparedness Grant from CDC
 - o Hospital Preparedness Grant from HRSA
- Provision of consultation/ advice to public health community
- Provision of training to public health staff and partners
- Responsible for the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Manual.
- Responsible for introducing changes to Chapter 27 of the PA Code of Regulations for the Communicable Disease Regulations to maintain reportable conditions issues up-to-date in the Commonwealth of PA.
- Member of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE).
- Member of the Association of Professional of Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

January 2002 to October 1st, 2005:

Epidemiologist

Pennsylvania Department of Health. Bureau of Epidemiology. Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology.

Duties:

- **Planning and Preparedness Section Leader:**
 - o Supervision of one public health physician, one epidemiologist, two-epidemiologist research associate, and one administrative assistant.
 - o Chair, PA-NJ BioWatch Advisory Group
 - o Focus Area leader for Focus Area B and E, CDC Emergency Preparedness Grant 2004-2005.
 - o Leader for the CDC Preparedness Goals/ Outcomes: 2-2A; 2-2B; 4-4B; 5-5B; 6-6A; 6-6D; 6-6F; 8 and EWIDS in the 2005-2006 CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant Application.
- **Eastern Support Team Leader:**
 - o Responsible for assembling the eastern support team to expertly and rapidly perform emergency public health surveillance, investigation, intervention, follow-up and quarantine work using the Incident Management System
- **Health Alert Network Coordinator:** Implementation of a statewide emergency notification system for public health, hospitals, EMS, providers, and other public health partners, including the creation of the PADOH 800 MHz Radio Subsystem.
- Responsible for:
 - o Establish and maintain a response communications network.
 - o Implement communications interoperability plans and protocols.

- o Ensure communications capability using a redundant system that does not rely on the same communications infrastructure as the primary system
- o Have access to a system for 24/7/365 notification/alerting of the public health emergency response system that can reach at least 90% of key stakeholders and is compliant with the CDC Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Preparedness Functional Area *Partner Communications and Alerting*
- **Bioterrorism Epidemiologist**
- Implementation of a state-of-the-art surveillance, epidemiology and Public Health programs in Pennsylvania
- Assist in the investigation of infectious disease outbreaks.
- Participate in the surveillance and control of reportable and communicable infectious diseases in the Commonwealth of PA
- Appointed member, Advisory Panel on Nosocomial Infections, Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council.
- Write and prepare articles for lay publications and peer-reviewed journals.
- Prepare grants to obtain federal funding.
- Provision of consultation/ advice to public health community
- Provision of training to public health staff and partners (i.e., Forensic Epidemiology)

May 2001 – November 2001:

Director, Quality Management

SemperCare Hospital of Lancaster. Lancaster, PA

Duties:

- Quality Improvement
- Risk Management Coordinator
- Medical Safety Coordinator
- Infection Control Coordinator
- Employee Health Coordinator
- Corporate Compliance Coordinator
- Education Coordinator
- Supervisor: Medical Records Coordinator and Medical Records Clerk

April 1999 – May 2001:

Director, Employee Health/ Infection Control Department

Maryland General Hospital. Baltimore, Maryland.

Duties and major accomplishments:

- Develop and maintain surveillance system for continuous monitoring of the following: Nosocomial Urinary Tract Infections, Surgical Site Infections, Nosocomial Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Multidrug-resistant organisms, Aspergillosis, other.
- Epidemiological investigation of outbreaks.
- Established a surveillance system for health care workers in hospital setting towards the prevention of occupational transmission of blood-borne infections, vaccine-preventable diseases, tuberculosis and other occupational hazards.
- Established a follow-up protocol for management of exposures to bloodborne pathogens, including post-exposure prophylaxis treatment according to CDC guidelines.
- Prepare technical reports
- Design, conduct and analyze epidemiological studies.
- Provide consultation to health care providers in the area
- Compliance with CDC-Hospital Guidelines, and other federal and state regulations.
- Policy review and development.
- Quality Improvement.
- Training and education for employees and physicians
- Department management.

March 1996 - March 1999:

Director, Infection Control / Employee Health Department

Community Hospital of Lancaster. Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Duties and major accomplishments: Employee Health:

- Develop and maintain surveillance system for continuous monitoring of the following: Nosocomial Urinary Tract Infections, Surgical Site Infections, Nosocomial Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Multidrug-resistant organisms, Aspergillosis, other
- Established a surveillance system for health care workers in hospital setting towards the prevention of occupational transmission of blood-borne infections, vaccine-preventable diseases, tuberculosis and other occupational hazards.
- Established a follow-up protocol for management of exposures to bloodborne pathogens, including post-exposure prophylaxis treatment according to CDC guidelines.
- Training and education for employees and physicians
- Policy review and development.
- Research.
- Provide consultation to health care providers in the area.
- Epidemiological investigation of outbreaks.
- Compliance with CDC-Hospital Guidelines, and other federal and state regulations.
- Quality Improvement.

November 1994 - May 1996:

Residential Advisor, Clinical Assistant and Job Coach.

ACADIA, Inc. 1861 William Penn Way. Lancaster, PA 17601.

Duties and accomplishments:

- Rehabilitation therapy for neuro-compromised patients.

February 1992 – December 1992

Chief of the Epidemiology and Vital Statistic Department of the Chiquinquira Hospital; and Chief of Epidemiology and Vital Statistic for the III Programmatic Area of Zulia State, Venezuela. Chiquinquira Hospital, Ministry of Health and Social Assistant. Maracaibo, Venezuela.

Duties and Accomplishments:

- Implementation of the following Prevention and Control Programs:
 - Infectious diseases in general, HIV/AIDS, STDs, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, Rabies, Nosocomial Infections, Mental Health Programs.
- Work with international agencies (PAHO, WHO, etc) for the institution of prevention and control of infectious diseases programs in the Zulia State.
- Prevention and Control of Cholera:
 - Implementation of the program designed by the WHO.
 - Act as a spoke-person for the Zulia State Department of Health.
 - Dissemination of information towards the prevention of the disease.
 - Direct epidemiological investigations in the field with the medical team for the individual patient treatment, Identification of patient's contacts, prophylaxis of the community, etc.
- Childhood immunization program against Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough (Massive immunization campaign and hospital-based availability)
- Develop and maintain surveillance systems for continuous monitoring of the following infectious and chronic diseases in the community:
 - Cholera, Dengue, Hypertension, Cardiovascular diseases, Hepatitis, Parasitic infections and other.
- Design, conduct and analyze epidemiological studies.
- Prepare and present findings to scientific audiences.
- Policy development and review.
- Prepare technical reports.
- Supervision of the following departments:
 - Medical Records, Anatomy Pathology, Sexually Transmitted diseases, Social Work,

Food control & Sanitation.

- Supervision of eight (8) care centers, located in the III Programmatic Area, Zulia State.

January 1991 - December 1991

Rural doctor assigned to the XV Zone (Zulia state) of the Malariology and Environmental Health General Direction, Rural Endemic Service.

Malariology and Environmental Health General Direction, Rural Endemic Service.

Duties and Accomplishments:

- Supervision of sanitary inspectors (7) in the Sucre District of Zulia State.
- Design and implementation of the following community-based programs for prevention and control of:
 - + Intestinal Parasitic Infections
 - + Dengue
 - + Malaria
 - + Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis
- Design and implementation of the Prevention and Control of Cholera Program.
- Provide consultation to health care providers in the area.
- Assistant to the Chief of the XV Zone, Rural Endemic Service.
- In charge of the presentation of the Annual Report of the State Zulia, Trujillo and Merida, during the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors and Chief of Services of the Malariology and Environmental Health General Direction. Maracay city, Aragua state.
- Design, conduct and analyze epidemiological studies.
- Prepare technical reports.
- Prepare and present findings to scientific audiences.

November 1989 – December 1990

Rural Doctor ad-honoree.

Rural Hospital I “La Concepcion”. Urdaneta district, Zulia State, Venezuela.

Duties and Accomplishments:

- In charge of a Diagnostic and Treatment Center (4 employees under my supervision), which cover a population of approximately 2,500.
- Design and implementation of the following community-based programs:
 - Primary Care. - Prenatal care. - Childhood immunization program. - Health of Preschoolers, Schoolchildren and Adolescents.
 - Maternal and Infant nutrition. - Family Planning
- On call once a week, at the Hospital’s emergency room.

General Doctor.

Private clinic “La Inmaculada”. Urdaneta district, Zulia state, Venezuela.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:

1999 - Present

Consultant. Infectious diseases, Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, Hospital Epidemiology, Employee Health, JCAHO standards, OSHA compliance, CDC guidelines, etc. Clients: Nursing homes, Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation centers, etc.

December 1998 – November 2006

Contributing writer, Lancaster Newspaper, La Voz Hispana . Bi-monthly column discussing different health topics, with emphasis on Prevention.

March 1998 – November 2006

Anchor for “La Salud es el Tema” (Health is the Subject). WLCH 91.3 FM. Radio Centro. Public Radio. Bilingual radio show that airs, live, once a week. General topics on health with emphasis on Prevention with one or two guests per show.

RESEARCH/PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS:

Multi-state measles outbreak associated with an international youth sporting event—Pennsylvania, Michigan and Texas, August–September, 2007. Tai-Ho Chen, L. Lowe, P. Kutty, V. Urdaneta. 2007 EIS Conference. Atlanta, GA

Salmonella Typhimurium outbreak associated with raw milk and cheese consumption—Pennsylvania, 2007. Tai-Ho Chen, L. Lind, A. Weltman, M. Moll, W. Chirdon, E. Campagnolo, V. Urdaneta, S. Ostroff. 2007 EIS Conference. Atlanta, GA

A Case of Naturally Acquired Inhalational Anthrax: Clinical Care and Analyses of Anti-Protective Antigen Immunoglobulin G and Lethal Factor. Walsh, Pesik, Urdaneta; et. Al. Clinical Infectious Diseases. 2007; 44:968-71.

Inhalational Anthrax Associated with Dried Animal Hides. Pennsylvania and New York City, 2006. MMWR Weekly. March 17, 2006 / 55 (10); 280-282.

Public Health Dispatch: Vancomyn-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus. Pennsylvania 2002. MMWR Weekly. October 11, 2002/ 51(40);902.

Redundant Communication for the HAN in Pennsylvania: 800 MHz Statewide Radio System. Presented at the 3rd Annual Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Conference. May 12, 2005. Atlanta, GA.

Needlestick Exposure to Hepatitis Viruses Among Health Care Workers. Prospective multicenter observational study. Principal Investigator: Dr. David Oldach.

Epidemiology, Public Health and Socio-Economic Aspects of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic. Bibliographic revision. Presented during the VIII Annual Meeting of the School of Medicine, Zulia University “Dr. Marco Tulio Torres Vera”. Maracaibo, Venezuela. October 20-24, 1997.

Emergent and Re-emergent Diseases. Prevention Strategies. Presented during the VIII Annual Meeting of the School of Medicine, Zulia University “Dr. Marco Tulio Torres Vera”. Maracaibo, Venezuela. October 20-24, 1997.

Experiences of the Occupational Health Program at the Community Hospital of Lancaster. Descriptive study. Community Hospital of Lancaster. Presented during the VIII Annual Meeting of the School of Medicine, Zulia University “Dr. Marco Tulio Torres Vera”. Maracaibo, Venezuela. October 20-24, 1997.

Nosocomial Urinary Tract Infections and the new Silver-Coated I.C. Foley Catheter. Non-randomized clinical trial. Community Hospital of Lancaster. January to May 1997.

Latina Women and HIV/AIDS. Descriptive study. Presented during the annual conference of “Latinas Profesionales” (Professional Latinas). Lancaster. April 25, 1998.

Needlesticks and its consequences. Community Hospital of Lancaster. January 1992 to December 1996. Descriptive study: data collection, review and abstraction from records of the Community Hospital of Lancaster.

Indicadores de Salud. Parroquia Francisco Eugenio Bustamante. (Health indicators in the Parish Francisco E. Bustamante) 1987-1991. Maracaibo city, Zulia State. Presented during the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Prevention and Social Medicine Department of the Zulia University. Maracaibo, July 1992. Community Health Profile. Community survey.

Diagnóstico de Salud del Municipio Gibraltar. (Health Diagnosis of the Gibraltar County) 1987-1990. Sucre District, Zulia State. Presented during the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, Chief of Services and Rural Doctors of the Malariology and Environmental Health General Direction. Maracay, Aragua State. December, 1991. Community Health profile. Socio-Demographic-Sanitary and Health study: Community survey. Prevalence study of parasitic infections through the collection of stools, before and after the treatment.

Educación Sexual y la Mujer Embarazada. (Sexual Education and the Pregnant Woman). Prospective analytic study carried out in the patients of the Castillo Plaza Maternity. Maracaibo, Zulia State, 1987.

MEMBERSHIPS:

2005 to present	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE)
1998 to present	Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
1997 to present	Johns Hopkins Alumni Association
1996 to present	American Public Health Association
1992 to present	Venezuelan Association of Epidemiology
1991 to present	Zulia University Alumni Association
1989 to present	State of Zulia Medical Association
1989 to present	Venezuelan Medical Federation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Bilingual: Spanish/English, full working knowledge of both.

Computer skills: IBM and Macintosh platforms, Microsoft Office, Corel Word Perfect Suite 8.0, Windows 95, Epi Info, Excel, Access, Power Point, Internet browsers, etc.

Volunteer: Former School Director – School District of Lancaster (Elected Official 4 years Term)
Emeritus Board Member – Lancaster Osteopathic Health Foundation
Former Board Member – United Way of Lancaster County
Former Board Director – Civil Service Commission Safety and Security. Lancaster County
WLCH 91.3 F.M. Radio Centro
Former Board Member of The Leukemia Society – Central Pennsylvania Chapter
Former Member of the Advisory Board Committee for the Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Service Agency
Former member Lancaster Healthy Communities
American Red Cross Association

REFERENCES: Available on request.