

Infectious Disease

The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Control Services (SFSTD) is to provide comprehensive services to prevent and reduce the STD morbidity and mortality in San Francisco. The four primary activities of STD are to promote sexual and reproductive health, to provide STD diagnosis and treatment, to reduce STD incidence and complication, and to prevent transmission of STDs. More information about SFSTD can be found at <http://dphdev/sfcityclinic/>.

The Fellow will work within the Epidemiology, Research, and Surveillance (Epi) Unit of SFSTD and will be involved in a broad range of activities that will provide hands-on experience in public health practice. The Epi unit closely collaborates not only with other units within SFSTD, but also with the San Francisco Department of Health Office of AIDS, Hepatitis Prevention, local community based organizations, as well as state and federal agencies. The Fellow will be involved in a variety of activities of SFSTD including:

1. Given large increases in syphilis among men who have sex with men (MSM), SFSTD has been on the forefront of syphilis prevention efforts. A variety of interventions have been instituted including large media campaigns (Healthy Penis), enhanced syphilis screening at commercial sex venues, online partner notification (www.inspot.com), and the addition of online syphilis testing (www.stdtest.org). The Fellow will be involved in a comprehensive examination of the global prevention efforts and evaluation and the production of reports and manuscripts describing successful and less successful interventions for syphilis prevention.
2. STDtest.org is a website that allows persons who live in San Francisco to log in, print a lab requisition, and bring that requisition to a LabCorp facility to be tested for syphilis. In short, STDtest.org allows for regular syphilis screening without the need for a clinic visit. SFSTD is currently in the process of expanding STDtest.org to include gonorrhea and Chlamydia testing (at urogenital, rectal, and pharyngeal sites), herpes simplex virus type II serologic testing, and possibly HIV testing. The Fellow will be involved in the development of data systems and evaluation plans to assess the success of these expanded services.
3. SFSTD is currently beginning a pilot project to assess the added value of providing financial incentives for naming sexual partners among syphilis cases diagnosed through the San Francisco Municipal STD clinic. Syphilis cases will receive a \$10 gift card for participating and be given ten 'partner cards'. When partners bring their cards into the STD clinic for testing they will receive a \$10 gift card, and the original patient will receive additional \$10 gift cards for each of their partners who is tested. The Fellow will be the primary epidemiologist involved in the analysis and evaluation of this pilot program.
4. SFSTD is funded as a sentinel site by the CDC as a SSUN (STD Surveillance Network). The first activity funded under SSUN is community surveillance for gonorrhea cases, which involves the interviewing of gonorrhea patients not diagnosed in the Municipal STD clinic to assess the added value of more diffuse disease surveillance.

The second SSUN activity is the development of genital warts surveillance to be utilized in the future to assess the effectiveness of the new licensed HPV vaccine. The Fellow would be involved in the day to day administration of these activities and either could serve as subjects for the surveillance system evaluation.

5. The Infertility Prevention Project (IPP) funds chlamydia screening and treatment services for low-income, sexually active women attending family planning, STD, and other women's healthcare clinics. The Fellow would act as the primary epidemiologist for the SF IPP and be responsible for the technical assistance to the screening sites as well as data analysis and interpretation.

6. The SFSTD Epi Unit conducts a weekly STD journal club which included web conferencing with colleagues at the California STD Prevention and Control Branch and the CDC. The Fellow will be involved in the journal club.

7. The Community Based Screening Unit of SFSTD conducts street based STD testing and outreach. The Fellow would act as the primary Epi Unit liaison to the Community Based Screening Unit and be involved in the development of systems for data collection, identification of 'hot spot' screening sites, data analysis and interpretation. Opportunities for cross-training will also be available which would allow the Fellow to join the Unit in outreach and testing.

Assignment Location:

San Francisco, California

Primary Mentor:

Kyle T. Bernstein, PhD, ScM
Chief, Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Research
STD Prevention and Control
San Francisco Department of Public Health

Advanced Degrees:

PhD, Johns Hopkins University (2004)
MS, Johns Hopkins University (1999)

Secondary Mentor:

Jeffrey David Klausner, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer
Director of Sexually Transmitted Disease
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Advanced Degrees:

MD, Cornell University (1991)
MPH, Harvard (1995)