

Infectious Disease

This fellowship position is located in San Diego, California and is a partnership of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) San Diego Quarantine Station and the Division of Community Epidemiology, County of San Diego Office of Public Health, and will focus on infectious diseases.

The Quarantine Station is part of the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ), National Center for Preparedness, Detection and Control of Infectious Diseases, CDC. DGMQ's mission is to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries into the United States. DGMQ oversees the medical examination of aliens abroad and in the United States, screens arriving international passengers for illness of public health importance, and coordinates with state and local public health agencies to ensure that immigrants receive needed follow up and treatment. It also provides travelers with essential health information through publications and the Internet, responds to immigration emergencies, and collects worldwide health data. Among the Division's most important current activities are surveillance for quarantinable diseases such as tuberculosis and avian influenza, and developing plans, procedures, and relationships with state and local health departments to respond to outbreaks of these and similar diseases. The DGMQ is actively involved in preparation for bioterrorism response through collaboration with other CDC components, public health agencies, and the Department of Defense.

The San Diego Quarantine Station also provides leadership and coordination for the Division's Border Infectious Disease Surveillance (BIDS) activities. BIDS is a collaborative project with border states and counties and Mexico to foster binational cooperation and carry out enhanced surveillance for infectious diseases of mutual public health importance to the U.S. and Mexico. Surveillance to date has focused on fever and rash illnesses such as measles, rubella, and rickettsial disease, viral hepatitis conditions (A-E), encephalitis/West Nile Virus, and influenza. In addition projects on foodborne disease intervention and surveillance for bioterrorism compatible syndromes are underway or in planning.

The San Diego County Community Epidemiology Branch conducts surveillance and disease investigations of approximately 80 notifiable conditions according to State of California health regulations. The Epidemiology program also works closely with Environmental Health Food and Housing, Vector Control and Hazardous Materials programs. Opportunities are also available to work on epidemiology projects with the County Tuberculosis Control, Immunization, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases programs.

The public health activities of the two sponsoring agencies are complementary and collaborative, and will give the fellow experience with a broad range of federal and local programs. In addition, DGMQ and San Diego County are committed to giving the fellow an experience that would address each of the required competencies including participating in outbreak investigations, evaluating a surveillance system and presenting findings in an oral or written format to appropriate audiences.

Fellow day-to-day activities would entail project protocol writing, data analysis, field work for surveys and investigations, preparedness exercises, participating in weekly epidemiology and quarantine meetings and teleconferences, report writing, and travel to training and conferences.

Examples of potential projects:

- Food-borne, zoonotic, vaccine-preventable disease, cruise-ship-related, and tuberculosis-related outbreak investigations (Previous year's outbreaks include measles, cyclospora associated with a convention, Methicillin resistant Staph aureus in the San Diego Wild Animal Park)
- Piloting and evaluation of educational interventions in border populations for pandemic influenza
- Development and evaluation of border surveillance systems including antibiotic resistance and foodborne diseases using pulse-field gel electrophoresis
- Listeria surveillance and analysis
- Multi-site projects done in coordination with DGMQ headquarters in Atlanta, GA

Program/surveillance system evaluation possibilities:

- Assessment of surveillance for severe acute respiratory illness including influenza and other respiratory agents
- Evaluation of electronic reporting of vaccine preventable diseases in San Diego County
- Evaluating integration of laboratory and epidemiologic data to detect in a timely manner clusters of foodborne illness
- Assessment of illness reports from U.S. Border Patrol
- Health status of Iraqi refugees in San Diego County
- Evaluation of multi-drug resistant border TB treatment program
- Cost-benefit of giardiasis and campylobacter investigations

Emergency Preparedness:

The fellow will receive training and experience in all hazards and bioterrorism preparedness and response through DGMQ's CDC activities, and extensive work in San Diego County and along the US - Mexico border, including all California and Arizona land ports of entry.

Assignment Location: San Diego, CA

Primary Mentor: Stephen Waterman, MD, MPH

Senior Medical Epidemiologist/Quarantine Medical Officer

Team Leader, US-Mexico Border Infectious Disease Surveillance

CDC

Advanced Degrees: MPH, UCLA School of Public Health (1981)

MD, University of Cincinnati (1977)

Secondary Mentor: Michele Ginsberg, MD

Chief, Community Epidemiology, San Diego County, Office of Public Health,
Health and Human Services Agency

Advanced Degrees: MD, State University of New York (1971)