

The Fellow will assist Dr. Goodwin in developing a SC Public Health Research Institute (PHRI) within SC's Dept of Health and Environmental Control. The Fellow will research existing PHRIs to identify models for a proposal for a legislation-based SC-PHRI, and work with stakeholders throughout SC to gain and document their support. The Fellow will assist in developing a presentation of the proposal to SC-DHEC's Executive Committee. The proposal is to include an activity plan, time line, staffing and resources for year-1, an organizational chart, and a budget, to include plans for external complimentary funding from the private sector.

Additionally, the Fellow will work with Khosrow Heidari and the SC-BRFSS Coordinator to help analyze the 2003 SC-BRFSS database. In 2003, the SC-BRFSS survey included a CDC-developed pilot module to assess perceptions of racism among adult S. Carolinians. These questions will enable analyses for correlations between perceptions of racism and behavioral risk factors, particularly where health disparities exist. The results will be shared with CDC (Dr. Camara Jones, Research Director on Social Determinants of Health, Division of Adult and Community Health) and be presented during the annual BRFSS and chronic disease conferences. The fellow would have an opportunity to review the BRFSS Surveillance System and to participate in the establishment of the environmental tracking surveillance system, including development of the evaluation component of the surveillance system.

Further, the Fellow will work with the Bureau of Epidemiology's Technical Support Services Division to assist in coordinating efforts to study ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in SC. Funds have been requested to support a multiagency review (that will include CDC-ATSDR) to plan a prospective epidemiological study. The Fellow will also participate in evaluating reports of environmental factors that may be contributing to adverse health in SC -- The Bureau of Epidemiology routinely works with EQC/PHSIS/the SC Cancer Registry/Bureau of Labs/USC, MUSC, et al in these such investigations.

The fellow will be able to participate in agency bioterrorism preparedness and response and, to the degree interest is expressed, be able to support enhancement of this system.

Assignment Location: Columbia, SC

Primary Mentor: Donald J. Goodwin, DrPH, MS
Director, Bureau of Epidemiology/State Chronic Disease Epidemiologist
(September 1998-present)

Advanced Degrees: DrPH, University of California, Los Angeles (1978)
MS, California State University, Long Beach (1973)

Secondary Mentor: Khosrow Heidari, MA,MS, MS
Manager, Epidemiology Technical Support and Services Division
(February 2000-present)

Advanced Degrees: MS, University of South Carolina (1986)
MS, University of South Carolina (1984)
MA, Wichita State University (1979)