

The Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program (IDEP) deals with all non-programmatic infectious diseases such as foodborne, hepatitis, zoonotic diseases, invasive bacterial diseases, antimicrobial resistance, etc. IDEP is housed in the Division of Surveillance and Disease Control; so collaborative projects in Immunization, HIV/STD/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Cancer Epidemiology can easily be arranged.

The fellow will participate in usual program activities such as: consultation and case investigation, education and training of local health personnel, and outreach projects to hospitals and health departments. The fellow will be a team member initially and progress to be a leader in outbreak investigation.

Potential projects include:

- Development and evaluation of surveillance for community-acquired Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (with assistance from new and existing staff)
- Development and implementation of an ongoing case-control study to identify risk factors among patients with drug-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- Assessment of hepatitis C counseling, screening and treatment practices in West Virginia's drug treatment and correctional facilities
- Multiple projects involving the hepatitis C registry: assessment of the proportion of infected individuals who have received appropriate immunizations or medical work-up, for example.
- A variety of outbreak investigations - West Virginia investigated 28 outbreaks in 2003

The CSTE Fellow will also have opportunities to:

- Evaluate the GET SMART campaign and other educational efforts to reduce inappropriate use of antibiotics
- Evaluate completeness of reporting of invasive bacterial diseases
- Evaluate an ongoing statewide project to improve timeliness and completeness of reporting using surveillance indicators. See our most recent report at: http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/sdc/PDFs/IDEP/2002LHD_Surveillance_Assessment.pdf
- Participate in ongoing trainings, workshops, exercises, and drills in bioterrorism preparedness.

Assignment Location: Charleston, WV

Primary Mentor: Danae Bixler, MD, MPH
Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program (2000-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, University of Louisville (1983)
MPH, Tulane University School of Public Health (1993)

Secondary Mentor: Jane Rooney, DVM
State Public Health Veterinarian (2001-present)

Advanced Degree: DVM, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (1993)