

Washington DC-Cote

Statement of Need

Cancer disparities in the District of Columbia can be grouped into four categories:

- Incidence rates that are far in advance of the national average (i.e. age-adjusted all-cancer incidence rates are 242.2 for DC, 199.8 for the US, and several major individual cancers have wider differences).
- Diagnoses of a smaller proportion of cancers at earlier stages of disease and a larger proportion at later stages (particularly notable for breast cancer).
- Lower rates of survival for DC residents diagnosed at a given stage of cancer compared to US patients diagnosed at the same stage of cancer, and
- A near-total lack of available personnel to document these disparities in a manner that is scientifically sound and practically useful for cancer control.

Assignment Description

The incumbent's work will focus on the DC Cancer Registry, established in 1993 and recognized with "Gold and Silver Certification for Data Quality" by the National Association of Centralized Cancer Registries (NAACCR) for the five most recent years of data. This assignment offers special opportunity to work with both government epidemiologists at the DC DOH and academic epidemiologists at the George Washington School of Public Health (GWSPH). Conditional upon funding resources, DC DOH will fund two GWSPH courses in cancer epidemiology cost-free to the incumbent as a supplement to direct mentoring.

The work will emphasize analyses and the creation of reports which:

- Are directly useful to DC DOH efforts in cancer control
- Shed light on racial and ethnic disparities in the cancer experience among a diverse population of DC residents and
- Demonstrate sufficiently rigorous analyses and use of scientific language to merit publication in the peer-reviewed public health literature.

This is a rare opportunity to continue involvement under academic mentorship while fully enmeshed in the workings of a busy urban health department. The ideal applicant will enjoy analytic tasks and scientific writing.

Assignment Location: Washington, DC

Primary Mentor: Timothy Cote, MD, MPH

Senior Federal Advisor, CDC Assignee to DC Health Department

Advanced Degrees: MD, Howard University College of Medicine (1987)

MPH, Harvard School of Public Health (1987)

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Secondary Mentor: John Davies-Cole, PhD, MPH
State Epidemiologist

Advanced Degrees: MPH, George Washington University School of Public Health (2000)
PhD, University of Sierra Leone (1992)