

Washington_ Houck

CSTE Fellowship Position
CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Public Health-Seattle & King County
Seattle, Washington

This fellowship position is located in Seattle, Washington and is a partnership of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Seattle Quarantine Station and the Division of Prevention at Public Health-Seattle & King County (the city/county department of health).

The Quarantine Station is operated by the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ), which is part of the CDC National Center for Infectious Diseases. The DGMQ's primary responsibility is to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries into the United States. It 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 diseases such as SARS and avian influenza, and developing plans, procedures, and relationships with state and local health departments to respond to outbreaks of these and similar diseases. Avian influenza is of special concern in the Northwest because of the region's close ties to Asia. 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 Seattle-King County Division of Prevention includes programs to control and prevent both infectious and non-infectious diseases. Infectious diseases targeted by these programs include: TB, STDs, HIV/AIDS and general communicable diseases. Non-infectious diseases and risks targeted by these programs include: injury and violence, chronic diseases, tobacco use, and screening for breast and cervical cancer. The Department is very active in state and local bioterrorism preparedness.

The public health activities of the two sponsoring agencies are complementary and will give the fellow experience with a broad range of federal and local programs. The fellow will take part in inspections at the Seattle Quarantine Station, and attend emergency planning meetings of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport community, Seattle & King County, and the Washington State Department of Health. In addition, our program is 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. Attendance at staff meetings will ensure that the fellow is fully aware of current events and opportunities to become involved. Involvement in bioterror and pandemic planning activities at the University of Washington and the United States Public Health Service Region 10 Office will be encouraged. The possibilities for projects that a fellow could pursue are also broad. While the main emphasis of the position is infectious diseases, there will also be opportunities to explore chronic diseases and sociologic phenomena. These projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Assessment of tuberculosis follow up and treatment of immigrants
2. Assessment of malaria prophylaxis compliance among travelers seen in the Seattle-King County Travel Clinic
3. Active surveillance for respiratory and GI disease among airline and cruise ship passengers
4. Detailed description of illness of sick airline passengers
5. Description of immigrant return travel to home countries
6. Description of chronic diseases among immigrants
7. Description of social adjustment/assimilation of immigrant adolescents
8. Analysis of use of county health services by immigrants
9. Description of incidence and risk factors for new HIV infection among immigrants.
10. Participation in acute disease outbreak investigations carried out anywhere by DGMQ and locally by Seattle-King County.
11. Any projects being carried out by DGMQ headquarters in Atlanta, GA

The fellow will receive training and experience in bioterrorism preparedness and response through DGMQ's CDC activities and the intense work being performed by Seattle-King County. In addition, the fellow could participate in the collaborative work among DGMQ, the State of Washington Department of Health, and the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Location: DGMQ and Public Health-Seattle & King County offices at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and downtown Seattle, WA

Primary mentor: Peter Houck, MD
DGMQ Medical Officer
Medical epidemiologist 1988-present

Secondary mentor: Steven Helgersen, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Preventive Services
Public Health-Seattle & King County
Medical epidemiologist 1982-present

Associate mentors: Jeff Duchin, MD
Director, Communicable Disease Epidemiology
Public Health-Seattle & King County
Medical epidemiologist 1992-present

Gary Goldbaum, MD, MPH
Public Health-Seattle & King County
Medical epidemiologist 1984-present