

Wisconsin Anderson

Staff in the Wisconsin Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health (BEOH) is currently engaged in a number of projects through the CDC supported Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) program. The general purpose is to improve our capacity for linking health concerns with environmental hazards. Priority areas of interest include childhood cancers, asthma, mercury exposure from fish consumption, multiple sclerosis, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Current efforts are focused on improving surveillance for these health effects, including the development of electronic reporting systems with capacity for integration with the state's comprehensive Public Health Information Network. BEOH personnel currently work closely with staff from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to compile data for air and drinking water quality. As with the health data, ongoing work includes the development of web-based applications to facilitate the exchange of data between agencies particularly for use in epidemiological investigations. The development of tools for linking the datasets, analyzing the data, and displaying the information is ongoing. Opportunities are available for contributing to all levels of technical application development and evaluation, and utilization of the tools for public health programs.

The fellow will be assigned to the EPHT program, and have the opportunity to work in other BEOH programs including asthma prevention (childhood, adult, and occupational), lead poisoning prevention (childhood and occupational), occupational epidemiology, bioterrorism preparedness, and hazardous waste site assessments. The fellow can select from a number of activities including:

- Conduct surveillance of environmental and/or occupational risk factors and hazards
- Conduct a work-related asthma surveillance program
- Develop analytical techniques for linking environmental exposures with health outcomes (ex: ozone and asthma). Develop analytical techniques for estimating potential risk of exposure to environmental contaminants.
- Conduct epidemiologic investigations linking environmental hazard data with health effect data to explore geographic, spatial and temporal trends to assist in hypothesis generation and policy development
- Evaluate applications under development for increasing web-based data exchange
- Develop policies for enhancing surveillance capabilities
- Link and analyze data for measures of air and drinking water quality, and chronic health effects
- Assist in the application of Environmental Public Health Indicators
- Assist in the preparation of Wisconsin Environmental Health annual report
- Present to local health departments, medical professionals, and other surveillance stakeholders
- Complete written documents to communicate bureau activities, provide outreach education, and publish in peer-reviewed journals

Assignment Location: Madison, WI

Primary Mentor: Henry A. Anderson, MD
Chief Medical Officer, State Epidemiologist (present)

Advanced Degree: MD, University of Wisconsin Medical School (1972)

Secondary Mentor: Marni Y. (Vanning) Bekkedal, PhD
Research Scientist/Project Manager (2003-present)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, Bowling Green State University (1997)