

CDC/CSTE FELLOWS

The Future of Applied Epidemiology

CLASS OF 2003



**CSTE
APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY
FELLOWSHIP**

A two-year fellowship program that provides hands-on training in the field of applied epidemiology at state and local health agencies under the guidance of an experienced mentor.

The CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship was created to strengthen the workforce in applied epidemiology at state and local health agencies. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), established this two-year fellowship program to give recent graduates from schools of public health advanced training in preparation for a successful career as a state or local epidemiologist.

Using a mentorship model, The CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship offers an opportunity for graduates to acquire rigorous preparation and to develop applied epidemiologic skills during a high quality, on-the job-training experience. Recent graduates who are interested in the practice of public health at the state or local level are encouraged to apply for this two-year fellowship.

Fellows are carefully matched to a state or local health agency based on their career aspirations and available host positions.

- Program areas include:**
- Infectious disease
 - Chronic disease
 - Maternal and child health
 - Injury
 - Birth defects and developmental disability
 - Environmental health
 - Occupational health
 - Emergency response (bioterrorism) epidemiology

Under the guidance of an experienced mentor, fellows will be expected to achieve competencies related to:

epidemiologic methods, communication skills, public health practice, policy, and legal issues. Fellows will demonstrate acquired core competencies by participating in prescribed activities.

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Tanya Bobo

Place of Birth: New York, NY

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Infectious Diseases;
University of California- Berkeley

Placement: Virginia Department of Health

Subject Area: Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Mentors: Primary: Suzanne Jenkins VMD, MPH; Secondary:
Susan Davis MD

Future plans beyond the fellowship: After completing this fellowship, I would like to work with governmental agencies to establish and execute programs that control infectious disease. I would also like to pursue a PhD, possibly in Epidemiology to conduct research in Infectious Diseases.

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship: I chose the CSTE fellowship because I wanted more experience in Infectious Diseases surveillance and Emergency Preparedness Planning. The CSTE fellowship provides one with the opportunity to work within the state and/or local levels of public health, and develop one's skills in applied epidemiology. The program also provides its participants with enough flexibility in the development of a project so that particular interests can be pursued and further explored.

Barbara Frohnert

Place of Birth: Rochester, MN

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Maternal and Child
Health, University of Minnesota

Placement: Minnesota Department of Health

Subject Area: Birth Defects and Developmental
Disabilities Surveillance

Mentors: Primary: John Oswald PhD, MPH; Secondary:
Myron Falken PhD, MPH



Future Plans: My plans for the immediate future primarily focus on developing a birth defects surveillance program for the state of Minnesota. Through this fellowship, I hope to draw on my compatible interests in informatics, public health journalism, and public policy while strengthening my epidemiological skills. In the more distant future, I plan to pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology while continuing to work at a state health department. There are many interesting opportunities for leadership in public health; I need a little more exposure before I set my sights on anything specific, but I plan to get the groundwork done so that I am prepared for any possibility.

Why I Chose the CSTE Fellowship: The CSTE fellowship offered me an opportunity that was unique from other programs and fellowships I had seen. Most importantly, the CSTE fellowship focused specifically on applied epidemiology. I wanted to use the epidemiological concepts I had covered in my coursework so that I would truly understand how they functioned in real-life situations. By partnering with a state or local health department, I am able to experience a multitude of levels of surveillance and emergency preparedness and response. The CSTE fellowship's focus coincided with my needs perfectly and the mentor style structure was exactly what I was looking for. This is truly an ideal situation for all participants.



Robbie Madera

Place of Birth: Southfield, MI

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Hospital and Medical Epidemiology, University of Michigan

Placement: Michigan Department of Community Health

Subject Area: Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Mentors: Primary: Mary Grace Stobierski DVM, MPH;
Secondary: Matthew Boulton MD, MPH

Future Plans Post-CSTE Fellowship: I hope to continue my work at a state or local public health department while pursuing a PhD in Epidemiology.

Why I Chose the CSTE Fellowship: I believe the true and most thorough understanding of epidemiology is through public health practice. While my research in a pediatric infectious disease laboratory honed my investigative skills and my graduate public health program taught the basics of epidemiology, I felt an inadequacy in terms of my experience in applied epidemiology. Since I was interested in working in a public health department, the CSTE Fellowship was an excellent opportunity for a Master's level epidemiologist to gain quality experience in a public health department setting. I chose this fellowship because it was perfect meld of my interests, background, and desire to further my career goals. The expectations detailed in the CDC/CSTE Core Competencies demonstrated their dedication in training well qualified, public health department-oriented individuals. Both the mentor and fellow are responsible for living up to these standards. I admire the CSTE's motives to benefit health departments and epidemiologists and look toward the future of public health. I am excited to be at the Michigan Department of Community Health, Infectious Disease Section!

Kristen Malecki

Place of Birth: Milwaukee, WI

Degrees Obtained: MPH, Post Certified PhD candidate,
Environmental Health Policy, Johns Hopkins University

Placement: Wisconsin Department of Health
and Family Services

Subject Area: Environmental Health Epidemiology

Mentors: Primary: Henry Anderson MD; Secondary: Lynda
Knobeloch PhD



Future plans beyond the fellowship: In the future I would like to continue my work in applied public health practice and research in either a federal or state government position, and ultimately combine this with a faculty position in an academic institution.

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship: The CSTE fellowship is an excellent opportunity to gain skills and expertise regarding public health practice that cannot be obtained in the classroom. I am looking forward to applying the analytic tools and methodologies learned as part of my formal education to make real-life decisions that will make a difference in improving public health. In addition, I feel the CSTE fellowship will provide invaluable learning opportunities and insight into the public health practice field of applied epidemiology related to environmental health.



TaTisha McCainey

Place of Birth: Tacoma, WA

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Maternal and Child Health, University of Alabama- Birmingham

Placement: Michigan Department of Community Health

Subject Area: Chronic Disease Epidemiology

Mentors: Primary: Corrine Miller PhD; Secondary: Matthew Boulton MD, MPH

Future Plans: After completing the program, I'd like to secure employment in a state or local health department as an epidemiologist working with racial health disparities and maternal and child health research areas. I also plan on returning to school to receive a doctoral degree.

Why I Chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE/CDC Fellowship because of the wonderful opportunity that lies within this program. I'll be trained in the practical applications of concepts learned in graduate school and be exposed to advancements in the field. I also believe this program gives me the advantage of seeing how a state agency collectively functions to serve the local communities and the state as a whole.

Tierney Anne Murphy

Place of Birth: Astoria, NY

Degrees Obtained: MD, University of Massachusetts;
MPH, Emory University

Placement: New Mexico Department of Health

Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology

Mentors: Primary: Susan Nalder EdD, MPH, CNM;
Secondary: Ssu Weng MD, MPH



Future Plans: After the fellowship, I plan to continue my work as a medical epidemiologist in a state or local health department, advocating for the health of the most vulnerable.

Why I Chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE fellowship because of my desire to work at the local level in collaboration with other public health professionals and communities to improve the health of women and children. The fellowship provides a unique opportunity to work under the guidance of an experienced mentor to develop my epidemiology skills, to use my clinical background for health promotion and disease prevention in populations, and to apply evidence based knowledge to program planning and health policy.



Michelle D. Payne

Place of Birth: Agana, Guam

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology,
Texas A & M University

Placement: North Carolina Department of Health
and Human Services

Subject Area: Environmental Health Epidemiology

Mentors: Primary: Douglas Campbell MD, MPH; Secondary
Rick Langley MD, MPH

Future Plans: My future plans include continuing my education and becoming an Epidemiologist at the State or Federal level.

Why I Chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE fellowship because it offered me the chance to be active in the state public health system allowing participation in many levels and areas of public health while receiving guidance from a mentor. The CSTE fellowship is a great starting point for epidemiologists interested in the application of their professional degree.

Jamie Snow

Place of Birth: Watertown, SD

Highest Degrees Obtained: DVM, Iowa State University
MPH, University of Iowa

Placement: Wyoming Department of Health

Subject Area: Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Mentors: Primary: Karl Musgrave DVM, MPH; Secondary:
Scott Seys MPH



Future Plans: My future plans beyond this fellowship are to continue a career in public health and epidemiology. I will concentrate my efforts in infectious disease epidemiology. I would like to serve as a state public health veterinarian or work at a state health department in infectious disease epidemiology.

Why I Chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose this program because it provides on the job training with an opportunity to learn field epidemiology first hand. I also liked this program because it provides guidance from an experienced epidemiologist. Additionally, this program is unique in that it provides a vast range of opportunities so I am able to get a diverse background in public health.

**Nguyet Tran****Place of Birth:** Saigon, Vietnam**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Yale University**Placement:** Washington State Department of Health**Subject Area:** Chronic Disease Epidemiology**Mentors:** Primary: Juliet VanEenwyk PhD; Secondary: Riley Peters PhD

Future Plans: My long-term goal is to become a respected public health professional, ideally working as an Epidemiologist at the local or state level. I would like to continue to learn, to grow in a position of more responsibility and make a significant contribution to the practice of public health.

Why I Chose the CSTE Fellowship: The CSTE fellowship allows for hands-on training in a competency based structure, but at the same time gives fellows the flexibility to work with multidisciplinary teams and explore various inter-related topic areas. Placement at the local or state level offers more of an opportunity to work on the front lines of public health where science research and practice comes together.

Lee Anne Wallach**Place of Birth:** New York, NY**Degrees Obtained:** MD, State University of New York;
MPH, Harvard University**Placement:** Massachusetts Department of Health**Subject Area:** Environmental Health Epidemiology**Mentors:** Primary: Robert Knorr PhD, MPH; Secondary:
Martha Stelle MPH

Future Plans: Subsequent to the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship, I would like to work as an epidemiologist for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bringing medical and epidemiologic perspectives to a variety of public health issues. I hope that through my experience I will develop the knowledge and skills needed to be effective in a leadership role in some part of the public health system in Massachusetts.

Why I Chose the CSTE Fellowship: I am a physician with a degree in public health, seeking practical experience and training in epidemiology. I am returning to the field after several years away raising children. The Center for Environmental Health at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the agency hosting my fellowship, is providing me the opportunity to train and work with experienced epidemiologists and environmental scientists on topics such as the development of a surveillance system for systemic lupus erythematosus, the ongoing surveillance of childhood asthma and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/multiple sclerosis, investigation of identified clusters of disease, and investigations of indoor air pollution. The mentored practical experience and the well-defined expectations the CSTE fellowship offers, are exactly what I am seeking to become up-to-date, proficient and productive in the field.

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