



## California Department of Public Health Cal-EIS Fellows 2016-17



### **Marissa Abbott, MPH**

Marissa is a second year Cal-EIS Fellow with the Safe and Active Communities Branch at the California Department of Public Health. During her first year in the fellowship, she primarily supported the California Essentials for Childhood Initiative, a child maltreatment prevention project. Prior to Cal-EIS, Marissa completed her MPH as a part of the 3-2 Program at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry. For her thesis, she examined the breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices of HIV positive women in India. Her primary research interests include maternal/child health, and injury epidemiology and violence prevention. In the future, Marissa plans to return to graduate school and to work as a public health professional at the state/national level, at an academic medical center, or at a non-profit organization.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Safe and Active Communities Branch. Preceptor – Steve Wirtz, PhD*



### **Kurtis Anthony, MPH**

Kurt will complete his Cal-EIS Fellowship at the Environmental Health Investigations Branch at the California Department of Public Health. He is interested in environmental justice, the health effects of the built environment, and climate change vulnerability. Prior to the fellowship, Kurt received his MPH in epidemiology/biostatistics from UC Berkeley. His master's thesis examined the effect of wildfire smoke on asthma exacerbation in the San Diego Medi-Cal population during the 2007 California wildfires. During graduate school, he also analyzed data for a study about the health effects of an active transportation project in students in Marin County, CA. In the future, he is planning to apply to doctoral programs in epidemiology and would like to work as an epidemiologist for a state agency.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Chronic Disease Control Branch. Preceptor – Sumi Hoshiko, MPH*



### **Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH**

Rebecca is placed in the Veterinary Public Health Section within the Infectious Diseases Branch at the California Department of Public Health. Prior to the fellowship, she received her DVM degree from Tufts University and MPH degree in Epidemiology with a certificate in Global Health from UCLA. She has worked with the CDC and multiple local health departments and traveled abroad to research avian influenza in Indonesia and foodborne diseases in Brazil. After the fellowship, she hopes to pursue a career as a public health veterinarian or infectious disease epidemiologist and become a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Veterinary Public Health Section. Preceptor – Curtis Fritz, DVM, MPVM, PhD*



### **Kelly DeBaene, DVM, MPH**

Kelly DeBaene is beginning her second year at Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency. She graduated from the University of Illinois with Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees. During her MPH, she concentrated in epidemiology and worked on several projects including an epidemic model of a hypothetical avian influenza outbreak at an urban zoo as well as a survey of Illinois physicians and veterinarians and their communication regarding zoonotic diseases. Prior to Cal-EIS, she worked in small animal clinics in Chicago and most recently, shelter medicine in Santa Barbara.

During her first Cal-EIS year, she worked with the Emergency Preparedness program and Communicable Disease Unit where she led the development of preparedness plans for emerging infectious diseases, assisted in surveillance, and created an infectious disease investigation manual. For her major project, she conducted a survey on parents' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to childhood vaccinations and personal belief exemptions. She was involved in revising rabies reporting procedures and tools and conducting a CDPH survey of Valley Fever knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs in an endemic community. During her second year, she will continue to work in emergency preparedness and infectious diseases. Her second major project will focus on opioid misuse in Santa Cruz County while she is a member of the Safe Rx Santa Cruz steering committee. Kelly's career goals include becoming a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and serving as an infectious disease epidemiologist or public health veterinarian at the local or state level.

*Stipend provided by the County of Santa Cruz, Health Services Agency. Preceptor – Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH*



### **Elizabeth Dingbaum, MPH**

Elizabeth will be completing her Cal-EIS Fellowship with the Chronic Disease Control Branch at the CDPH. She is interested in preventive medicine, chronic disease surveillance systems, and health education. She has just completed her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at the University of California, Davis. For her practicum project, she created a conceptual framework for a statewide pre-diabetes and diabetes surveillance system as a part of goal three of the California Wellness Plan: to create accessible and usable data. This project was completed in the Chronic Disease Control Branch of CDPH. During graduate school she also volunteered at Clinica Tepati, a student-run clinic at UC Davis, where she assisted with the creation and implementation of a health education program for diabetes management. She plans to continue volunteering at Clinica Tepati during her time in Sacramento. Elizabeth's career goal is to become a physician and apply her epidemiology and public health skills to serve her community at both the individual and population level.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Prevention First Advancing Synergy for Health. Preceptor - Jessica Núñez de Ybarra, MD, MPH, FACPM.*



### **Melissa Ibarra, MPH**

Melissa received her MPH at the University of California, Davis. During the course of her studies, she completed her practicum with the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Her capstone project involved the study of hand hygiene biosecurity practices of fairgoers at California county fairs. Additionally, she spent the 2015-2016 academic year working as a Graduate Student Assistant at the Cal-EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment. Here she worked on risk assessment, including preparation of Hazard Identification Documents, literature review, summarization and synthesis of data. Her primary interest lies in the relationship between human health and environmental health. Melissa looks forward to addressing her interest as a member of the Climate and Health Team at the CDPH.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Office of Health Equity. Preceptors – Solange Gould, DrPH, MPH and Jaqueline Chan, MPH*



### **Jennifer Lam, MPH**

Jennifer obtained her MPH in Epidemiology from Oregon State University in 2016. She is currently placed at the Los Angeles County Public Health Department in the Veterinary Public Health program. Her coursework in biology and public health, in addition to prior experience as a veterinary assistant, has led to an enthusiasm for infectious disease epidemiology, zoonoses and the interdisciplinary nature of public health. She completed an internship in summer of 2015 with Oregon's public health department, assisting with the state's enhanced food-borne illness surveillance program. She administered surveillance and outbreak interviews, and identified clusters/outbreaks for state epidemiologists. She enjoys coding, data management and analysis, and looks forward to gaining experience in both human and animal public health during her time with LA County. Following the end of her fellowship, Jennifer would like to work as a local, state or national infectious disease epidemiologist.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Chronic Disease Control Branch. Preceptor – Karen Ehnert, DVM, MPVM, DACVPM*



### **Danielle Lippert, MPH**

Danielle will be completing her fellowship with the Chronic Disease Surveillance and Research Branch at the CDPH. She is interested in better understanding how epidemiological work impacts public health program planning at the state level. Prior to this placement, she completed her MPH at the University of California, Davis. For her thesis, she examined the causes and potential prevention strategies of K-12 chronic absenteeism within the American Indian and Alaskan Native population of Sacramento, Ca. Her primary research interests include groups that experience health disparities and program evaluation. In the future, Danielle hopes to work as an epidemiologist at the state or federal level.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Chronic Disease Surveillance and Research Branch. Preceptor – Kurt Snipes, PhD*



### **Asundep Ntui, DVM, MS, DrPH**

Asundep obtained his DVM from University of Nigeria, Nsukka and his DrPH in Epidemiology from the University of Alabama Birmingham's School of Public Health. His doctoral dissertation was on Antenatal Care Attendance and Pregnancy Outcomes among women; a study he designed and conducted in Kumasi, Ghana. Asundep is a second year Cal-EIS Fellow currently placed with the Los Angeles County Department of Veterinary Public Health. He is working on syndromic disease surveillance in animals believing that an early detection of disease outbreak in animals could prevent a similar occurrence in humans. He has also been working on rabies control and animal importation at the Los Angeles International Airport. While his emphasis is on zoonotic diseases and disease outbreaks in animals, he was part of the team investigating the recent measles outbreak in Los Angeles County. Asundep is interested in acquiring the knowledge and skill set needed in addressing issues of public health importance in general and infectious diseases in particular. He will be completing the Cal-EIS Fellowship in September 2016 and has accepted an Epidemiologist position at the Solano County Public Health.

*Stipend provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Preceptor – Karen Ehnert, DVM, DACVPM*



### **Sean O'Malley, MPH**

Sean received his BA in Biology, Psychology from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL and his MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Iowa College of Public Health. As a graduate student, he assisted with various research projects including studies related to antibiotic-resistant *S. aureus* among Iowa farmers and hand hygiene practices among anesthesiology staff in the operating room setting. After graduation, he worked in Denver, CO on a study evaluating respiratory mask protective effectiveness among healthcare personnel before moving to Los Angeles, CA to become a research associate at the UCLA Center for Clinical AIDS Research and Education. Sean is placed at the Healthcare-Associated Infections Program within the Center for Health Care Quality at CDPH. After the fellowship, he is interested in serving as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the local or state level.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Healthcare-Associated Infections Program. Preceptor- Erin Epson, MD*

### **Jessica Parry, MPH, CHES**



Jessica received her MPH in Community Health Sciences from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. She completed her MPH field study with the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control at CDPH, where she was involved in program planning and evaluation for the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program and an occupational safety train-the-trainer for home child care providers. Following her field study, she continued to work with the Environmental Health Investigations Branch at CDPH on environmental justice related projects. Her interests include nutrition and chronic disease prevention, maternal and child health, and occupational health and safety. Jessica is currently placed at the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program at CDPH, where her primary research will involve better understanding the infant and early childhood obesity trends for WIC participants. In the future, Jessica hopes to continue working as a research scientist at the state or local level.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Women, Infants and Children Program. Preceptors – Pat Gradziel, PhD and Susan Sabatier*

### **José Rangel-Garibay, MPH**



José received his MPH in Health Education and Communication from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He completed his practicum at the Louisiana Public Health Institute where he collaborated with another graduate student to write a report outlining recommendations for the adaptation of an evidence-based sexual and reproductive health curriculum to fit the needs of Latino adolescents living in the greater New Orleans area. His research interests include chronic disease prevention, and infectious disease surveillance. He is currently placed with the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention at the Los Angeles Department of Public Health. His career goal is to work as an applied epidemiologist for a state or local health department or an infection control epidemiologist for a hospital system.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Chronic Disease Control Branch. Preceptor – Tony Kuo, MD, MSHS*



### **Katherine Schmarje, MPH**

Katherine received her MPH, with a focus in epidemiology, from the University of California, Davis. Prior to her fellowship, Katherine interned with the Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP) in San Diego, Ca. During her time at DHAPP, Katherine collaborated with epidemiologists and public health workers to develop and promote HIV/AIDS prevention programs for high risk countries in Africa and South America. Katherine recently worked with the CDPH in Sacramento, CA. There she developed and administered a survey to assess use of the Provider Portal within the CalREDIE surveillance system. Katherine is currently a CalEIS Fellow placed with the County of Napa where she is working on a Chronic Disease Burden Report for Napa County. In addition to chronic disease, Katherine will contribute efforts towards Zika, local communicable disease, and emergency preparedness. After her fellowship, Katherine plans to pursue a career in applied epidemiology, with a focus on low income and/or high risk populations.

*Stipend provided by the Napa County Public Health.  
Preceptor – Jennifer Henn, PhD*



### **Miriam Siegel, DrPH, MPH**

Miriam graduated with her Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree in Epidemiology at the University of Kentucky in 2016 with an occupational epidemiology focus. Her dissertation assessed neurobehavioral outcomes associated with pesticide and organic solvent exposure in agricultural workers. Additionally, she holds an MPH in Leadership, Management, and Policy from the University of Cincinnati and has been involved in work with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Miriam is placed with the CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch where she will be involved in various projects evaluating environmental hazards and associated health outcomes in California.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Environmental Health and Investigations Branch. Preceptor – Sumi Hoshiko, MPH*



### **Shaniqua Smith, MPH**

Shaniqua received her MPH from the University of Georgia College of Public Health, concentrating in Epidemiology. During the course of her studies, she completed her practicum at the Georgia Department of Public Health working with the Georgia site of the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) System. Using data from the NHBS, she produced a capstone project describing the risk of homelessness, given HIV status, among Heroin using injection drug users in the Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical Area. Shaniqua is a second year Cal-EIS Fellow and is currently placed with the Contra Costa County Public Health Communicable Disease Programs. She hopes to use this experience to begin a career in applied epidemiology at the local or state level, here in California.

*Stipend provided by Contra Costa County Public Health Department. Preceptors – Erika Jenssen, MPH and Paul Leung, MPH*



### **Jenna Tucker, MPH**

Jenna will be completing her fellowship with the Food and Drug Branch at the CDPH in Sacramento. She is interested in food and drug regulation and foodborne outbreak investigation. She completed her MPH, with concentration in Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology, at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. During graduate school, Jenna worked as a research assistant with the California Emerging Infections Program in Oakland and served as a graduate student instructor for public health laboratory courses. Her comprehensive project involved linking data collected by the California Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) with Census population estimates to explore trends in campylobacteriosis incidence across poverty and age groups. Following completion of the fellowship program, Jenna hopes to work in the field of applied epidemiology at the state or local level.

*Stipend provided by CDPH Food and Drug Branch. Preceptor – Laurence R. Upjohn, Pharm. D.*



### **Nichole Watmore, MPH**

Nichole received her MPH in Epidemiology from San Diego State University Graduate School of Public Health. She is currently placed in the Safe and Active Communities Branch at the CDPH. Nichole has interned in the Safe and Active Communities Branch in the past. She was involved in program planning and evaluation of teen dating violence prevention programs as well as injury surveillance pertaining to child maltreatment. She has also interned at the Sacramento County Department of Public Health assisting with investigations of West Nile Virus and TB. For her Master's thesis, she examined the geo-spatial relationship between homeless persons and homeless services throughout San Diego County by examining the proximity and clustering of homeless individuals near shelters and feeding services using GIS mapping and analytics. Nichole hopes to work as an epidemiologist at the state or local level after completing her fellowship.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Safe and Active Communities Branch. Preceptor – Steve Wirtz, PhD*



### **Kira Watson, MPH**

Kira completed her MPH in Urban Public Health at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. During the course of her studies, Kira served as a graduate student intern with the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center (PAETC) and DHHS, Office of Minority Health, Preconception Peer Educators Program (PPE). Through internship experiences she collaborated with a myriad of Public Health and Medical Professionals committed to curtailing maternal and infant health disparities. Kira's keen interest in infant and women's health care, motivated her to become an Office of Minority Health, certified Preconception Peer Educator and Charles R. Drew University, PPE Liaison. For her MPH culminating exercise, Kira drafted a grant proposal for a 2013 March of Dimes Community Award to fund the community outreach endeavors of the Charles R. Drew PPE Program. Through collaborative efforts with Charles R. Drew University and the UMMA Community Clinic, the PPE Program was selected to receive funding to address infant mortality rate disparities and adverse maternal health outcomes among African Americans in South Los Angeles communities. Kira completed her practicum with the Charles R. Drew University, PAETC where she was involved with analyses of LA County AIDS/HIV data and select impact trends among MSMs residing in South Los Angeles. She is currently placed with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health, Research, Evaluation, and Planning Unit. Her career plans are to work as an Epidemiologist at the local, state or national level.

*Stipend Provided by the CDPH Chronic Disease Control Branch. Preceptor- Shin Margaret Chao, PhD, MPH*



### **Carolyn Zambrano, PhD**

Carolyn's second year Cal-EIS Fellowship placement is in the Healthcare Outcomes Center at the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. During her first year, she was placed in the Chronic Disease Control Branch at the CDPH. As her major project last year, she completed a Progress Report for the California Wellness Plan, California's chronic disease prevention and health promotion plan. She is interested in the development and prevalence of chronic diseases, especially diabetes and cardiovascular disease. She received her PhD in Sociology at the University of California, Irvine, where she utilized the Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health to complete her dissertation research on immigration and health. Specifically, she examined the prevalence of obesity and diabetes among Mexican American adolescents and young adults, as well as family protective factors and nutritional behavior during adolescence. Upon completion of her fellowship, Carolyn would like to pursue a career as an epidemiologist at the state or national level.

*Stipend provided by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. Preceptor – Merry Holliday-Hanson, PhD*