



CALIFORNIA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

LabAspire California's Public Health Laboratory Directors Training Program

A collaborative partnership among the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California public higher education institutions (University of California Berkeley, University of California Davis, University of California Los Angeles), county and state public health laboratories, and the California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors (CAPHLD).

The LabAspire Program was highly successful during its 5 years of operation and due to the State of California budget crisis has been permanently closed as of July 1, 2012.

Mission

To create a pipeline of qualified candidates for public health laboratory directorships by providing fellowship support for assistant laboratory directors, post-baccalaureate traineeships and advanced-degree education in microbiology.

Established in 2006-2007 and eliminated on July 1, 2012

- Initially \$2.5 million in General Funds to CDPH annually for local assistance grants to subsidize training and fellowships; later reduced down to \$2.25 million
- \$265,000 to University of California, Davis over three years from The California Wellness Foundation for Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator position.

Strategic Objectives

- Address through educational opportunities the critical shortage of qualified professionals to direct California public health laboratories.
- Increase the number and diversity of candidates who meet stringent federal and state mandates to meet current professional workforce shortage.

Recruitment Objectives

- Increase awareness of public health laboratory appointments and educational pre-requisites among students in California's public higher education institutions.
- Recruit qualified candidates along the educational pipeline to pursue state-subsidized trainings and internships, doctoral fellowships, post-doctoral fellowships, and professional vacancies.
- Ensure that the cultural and ethnic diversity of the pipeline at every level mirrors the rich diversity of California.

Results 33 qualified trainees were supported over the life of the program

- Alumni in CA: 2 now local public health laboratory directors; 7 working in local public health laboratories; 2 in hospital labs; 2 in academic clinical labs; 3 at private labs (one out of state); 1 at CDC (out of state); 2 recent doctoral graduates
- Still in pipeline: 10 doctoral students and 4 post doctoral fellows

For additional information please contact:

Jessica M. Núñez de Ybarra, MD, MPH at Jessica.NúñezdeYbarra2@cdph.ca.gov