



California Department of Public Health Cal-EIS Fellows 13-14



Brendan Darsie, MPH

Brendan has been placed with the Safe and Active Communities Branch of the California Department of Public Health. Before entering the fellowship, he received his MPH in Epidemiology from Oregon State University. During his time at Oregon State, he worked as a research assistant, and completed projects relating to chronic diseases and aging. He also completed an internship at the Benton County Health Department where he completed the Benton County Health Status Report, a comprehensive report on the health statistics of the county. Brendan's career goals are to work as an epidemiologist at the state or federal level.

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Steve Wirtz



Alexandra Lee, MSPH

Alex has been placed in the Chronic Disease Control Branch at the California Department of Public Health. She recently received her MSPH in Epidemiology from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. While in Atlanta, she worked at the CDC in the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. She also completed an internship at UCSF, where she analyzed healthcare utilization of diabetic patients in a self-management program. Her interests lie in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and nutritional epidemiology. Alex's career goals include pursuing a doctoral degree in epidemiology and serving as an epidemiologist at a public agency.

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Shannon Conroy



Monica Murphy, DVM, MPH

Monica is entering her second Cal-EIS fellowship year with Contra Costa Public Health Communicable Disease Programs. Prior to entering the fellowship, Monica was a writer and a practicing veterinarian. She received her MPH from Johns Hopkins in 2010. During the first year of her fellowship, Monica worked on a variety of projects including zoonotic and enteric disease investigation, rabies prevention, and tuberculosis (TB) program improvement. In her second year, Monica hopes to concentrate more deeply on her major project which uses TB genotyping data for retrospective program analysis. Following the fellowship, Monica hopes to practice public health at the state or local level.

Stipend provided by the Contra Costa County Public Health Department. Preceptors - Dr. Wendel Brunner & Erika Jenssen



Lauren Nelson, MPH

Lauren completed her MPH in Epidemiology at Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. While a student, she worked in the Developmental Disabilities Branch of the CDC on an autism study. For her thesis she did a spatial analysis of the combined effect of preterm birth and neighborhood socioeconomic level on developmental and educational outcomes of children in early elementary school. Lauren is placed in the Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB) of the California Department of Public Health. She is interested in learning how environmental factors influence health and contribute to health disparities. After this fellowship, Lauren hopes to continue working as an epidemiologist at a state or local health department in California.

Stipend provided by the CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch. Preceptors - Dr. Daniel Smith & Sumi Hoshiko



Mayuri Panditrao, PhD, MPH

Mayuri received her PhD in Epidemiology and her MPH in Infectious Diseases from the University of California, Berkeley. For her doctoral dissertation Mayuri studied the effect of in utero HIV exposure on postnatal growth in HIV-exposed uninfected children in India. Further, she also studied the barriers associated with utilization of continued HIV-related treatment in women who had previously received prevention of mother-to-child treatment (PMTCT) services in India. For her MPH internship, Mayuri carried out a population-based study to identify the risk factors for Chikungunya fever in Sewagram, India. As an MPH student, Mayuri also lead a team of graduate students to India to study the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in predicting malaria outbreaks. Mayuri's interests include the epidemiology of new and emerging infectious diseases, and the use of geospatial surveillance techniques in investigating disease outbreaks. Following the completion of her Cal-EIS fellowship Mayuri's goal is to pursue a career in infectious disease epidemiology at the state or federal level.

Stipend Provided by the CDPH Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program (IBTPP).

Preceptors - Dr. Stephen Arnon, Dr. Jessica Khouri & Jessica Payne



Elizabeth Roberts, DVM, MPH

Elizabeth completed her MPH at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and her DVM at the University of California, Davis. Her MPH concentration was in infectious diseases, with a project that examined the epidemiology of H5N1 in migratory birds. Following her MPH she worked in shelter medicine, including medical and surgical outreach in underserved communities. For the past two years she worked as a public health veterinarian for San Mateo County, primarily with the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Communicable Disease Departments. Her interests include all things public health, and her goals are to practice public health at the state or federal level.

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Curtis Fritz



California Department of Public Health Cal EIS Fellows 12-13



Sara Sowko, MPH

Sara is in her second fellowship year and has been placed with the Contra Costa County Public Health Communicable Disease Programs. Before entering the fellowship, she completed her MPH in Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases at Yale School of Public Health. During her first fellowship year, she worked on a wide variety of projects including: conducting outbreak and disease case investigations and outbreak investigations, helping generate relevant disease control and prevention suggestions, developing disease education materials and participating in infectious disease emergency preparedness planning activities. As an independent project, she conducted a retrospective review of all the reported pertussis cases in Contra Costa County during the California epidemic in 2010-2011. Sara's goals include furthering her academic knowledge in Public Health and serving as an Epidemiologist at the local or state level.

Stipend provided by the Contra Costa County Public Health Department. Preceptors - Dr. Wendel Brunner & Erika Jenssen



Tu My To, MPH

Tu My received her MPH in Epidemiology from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Her previous experience in public health includes interning at the Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory and working with the Parasitic Diseases Branch at CDC to subtype *Cryptosporidia* species in samples from a pediatric cohort study. For her master's thesis, she analyzed the effectiveness and clinical impact of using the GenoType® MDRTB_{plus} line probe assay (a rapid diagnostic test) to detect multi-drug resistant tuberculosis for routine testing in a mycobacteriology laboratory in Manila, Philippines. Tu My's goals include pursuing a career in infectious disease epidemiology at the state or federal level.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program (IBTPP).
Preceptor - Dr. Haydee Dabritz*



Roza Tammer, MPH

Roza has been placed in Acute Communicable Disease within the Division of Communicable Disease Control & Prevention (DCDCP) at the Alameda County Public Health Department. Before completing her MPH in Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases at the Yale School of Public Health, Roza worked for the Community and Economic Development Agency of the City of Oakland, and completed internships at the San Francisco and Berkeley Departments of Public Health. While at Yale, Roza completed research projects with practical applications in unintentional prescription opioid poisonings and hepatitis C surveillance and follow-up. Her work experience included assistantships at the New Haven Health Dept. and the Connecticut Emerging Infections Program. Roza's interests include harm reduction, vaccine-preventable disease, emerging infections, and field epidemiology. Her career goals include pursuing a DrPH in community health and infectious disease epidemiology, and serving as an epidemiologist at a public agency.

Stipend provided by the Alameda County Public Health Department.

Preceptors - Dr. Sandra Huang & Dr. Jane Martin

California Department of Public Health Cal EIS Fellows 11-12



Sharon Brummitt, MPH

Sharon is now in her second fellowship year and has been placed with Santa Cruz County Department of Public Health. She completed her MPH at the University of Texas School of Public Health. For her MPH thesis, she completed an epidemiologic study on cryptosporidiosis. She completed her practicum and was later hired as an epidemiologist with Dallas County Health and Human Services where she participated with case investigations of Cryptosporidiosis and West Nile Virus, outbreak investigations, and surveillance for the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. Sharon plans to earn her PhD in epidemiology and would like to become an EIS officer with the CDC.

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Poki Stewart Namkung



Abigail Kroch, PhD, MPH

Abigail completed her MPH at UC Berkeley concentrating in Epidemiology. Before that she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at University of California, San Francisco in the cellular and molecular biology. She did her doctoral work in biology and biophysics at Johns Hopkins University. She has worked for the Center for Weight and Health at UC Berkeley, carrying out data collection at California public schools and data analysis for several child nutrition intervention evaluations. She did her MPH thesis comparing nutrition and physical activity behaviors in students of varied acculturation. She plans to work in epidemiology and community health assessment.

Stipend provided by the Contra Costa County Public Health Department. Preceptor - Dr. Wendel Brunner



Danny Kwon, MPH

Danny Kwon completed his MPH at the Loma Linda University School of Public Health in Environmental/Occupational Health and Epidemiology. During his field practicum project, Danny worked on an epidemiologic study evaluating the use of Betel quid with Oral Cancer rates in Cambodia through spatial analyses of the exposure and disease. Prior to the start of the Fellowship, Danny worked as an Environmental Health Specialist with the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health. He is very interested in understanding how environmental factors affect health and disease, and would like to pursue a career as an Environmental Epidemiologist at a local or state health department in the state of California.

Stipend provided by the CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch. Preceptor - Dr. Daniel Smith



Alexander Marr, MPH

Alex completed his MPH in epidemiology at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. As a participant in Tulane's Masters Internationalist Program, Alex served with the US Peace Corps in Botswana from 2009-2011. His experience in Botswana focused on coordinating and planning HIV and AIDS programs with local organizations in the Kanye Administrative Authority. With his epidemiology background, he was able to strengthen district level data collection and management techniques which allowed the districts to use localized data in order to actively monitor activities and produce strategically targeted annual plans. After Fellowship, Alex is interested in pursuing a PhD in epidemiology and hopefully to work at a city/county-level health department or for the CDC. In the future, Alex would like to use his training and experience in international development and public health projects.

Stipend provided by the Alameda County Department of Public Health. Preceptor - Dr. Jane Martin



Mina Mohammadi, MPH

Mina is now in her second year of fellowship and has been placed with CDPH Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Mina obtained her MPH from UC Davis with a concentration in General Public Health. During her studies, she worked under the auspices of the Veteran Immigrant and Refugee Trauma Institute of Sacramento on a seed project conducting a mental health needs assessment of Afghan immigrants living in Northern California. Her previous experiences in public health include interning at a county health department, a non-profit organization and a community health clinic. Mina plans to work as a health program epidemiologist in the public or private sector.

*Stipend provided by the Healthy Communities Grant.
Preceptor - Dr. Neil Maizlish & Pam Ford-Keach*



Jaspreet Samra, MPH

Jaspreet is now in her second fellowship year and has been placed with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). She completed her MPH in Epidemiology & Biostatistics at USC. During her first fellowship year with CDPH Safe and Active Communities Branch, she worked in the Injury Surveillance & Epidemiology Section. While assisting with other Injury Control programs, her main project focused on monitoring and analyzing data for the FCANS (Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect Surveillance) Program's statewide Reconciliation Audit. Jaspreet's goals include advancing her academics in Public Health and being an epidemiologist serving at the state or national level.

*Stipend provided by the Office of Statewide Health & Planning Development.
Preceptor - Dr. Merry Holliday-Hanson*



Tamerin Scott, DVM, MPH

Tamerin completed her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, CA. She practiced small animal veterinary medicine in The Bay Area for two years while completing her Master's in Public Health from the University of Minnesota. Her interests are in zoonotic diseases, especially disease control and prevention in developing countries. Tamerin has also done a fair amount of international work in Morocco, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, Uruguay, and Mexico. After completing her Cal-EIS fellowship, she plans to get a fulltime veterinary public health job.

Stipend provided by the Los Angeles County Department Public Health. Preceptor - Dr. Karen Ehnert



Gail Sondermeyer, MPH

Gail completed her MPH from the University of California, Berkeley concentrating in Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology. Her previous experience in public health includes interning with an international medical non-profit in Uganda and working on an HPV and cervical cancer surveillance program with the CDPH STD Control Branch. For her MPH thesis, she analyzed the results of a statewide survey of CA physicians regarding the HPV vaccine. Gail's goals include becoming an EIS officer with the CDC and pursuing a career in infectious disease epidemiology.

Stipend provided by the Office of Statewide Health and Planning Department (OSHDP).

Preceptors - Dr. Merry Holliday-Hanson & Dr. Holly Hoegh



California Department of Public Health Cal EIS Fellows 10-11



Sharon Brummitt, MPH

Sharon completed her MPH at the University of Texas School of Public Health. For her MPH thesis, she completed an epidemiologic study on cryptosporidiosis. She completed her practicum and was later hired as an epidemiologist with Dallas County Health and Human Services where she participated with case investigations of Cryptosporidiosis and West Nile Virus, outbreak investigations, and surveillance for the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. Sharon plans to earn her PhD in epidemiology and would like to become an EIS officer with the CDC.

Start date 11-1-10

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Poki Stewart Namkung



Leah Carlon, MPH

Leah is now in her second year of fellowship and has been placed within Solano County Public Health. Before that, she completed her MPH in Epidemiology & Biostatistics at USC. During her first fellowship year, she has been working on a wide variety of projects within Solano County including H1N1 emergency response, outbreak investigations, infant mortality analysis, STD tracking and analysis, and intern supervision. She plans to continue working as an Epidemiologist at the local level before obtaining a PhD.

Stipend provided by the Solano County Dept of Public Health. Preceptors - Jill Cook & Dr. Michael Stacey



Mina Mohammadi, MPH

Mina obtained her MPH from UC Davis with a concentration in General Public Health. During her studies, she worked under the auspices of the Veteran Immigrant and Refugee Trauma Institute of Sacramento on a seed project conducting a mental health needs assessment of Afghan immigrants living in Northern California. Her previous experiences in public health include interning at a county health department, a non-profit organization and a community health clinic. Mina plans to work as a health program epidemiologist in the public or private sector.

Start date 11-1-10

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Cassius Lockett



Elizabeth Rodgers, MA, MSPH

Elizabeth Rodgers received her Master of Science degree in Society, Human Development and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her interests are in the social determinants of health, particularly obesity and chronic diseases. Prior to her public health graduate program, Elizabeth served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan where she developed and implemented nutrition-education and anemia-prevention programs for young pregnant women. She has also worked as a Peace Corps trainer in Washington, DC and as an administrator for a USAID maternal health program based in Afghanistan. She received an MA in philosophy at the University of Texas in 2008. Elizabeth is now settled in California, where she plans to pursue a career with the state in program planning and evaluation for chronic disease prevention.

Start date 11-1-10

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptors - Pam Ford-Keach & Dr. Jillian Martin



Jaspreet Samra, MPH

Jaspreet completed her MPH in Epidemiology & Biostatistics at USC. As part of her practicum, she assisted with research study design and analysis for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. She recently served as an intern with the Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where she managed data and conducted research on psychosocial outcomes among childhood cancer survivors. Jaspreet's goals include advancing her academics in Public Health and being an epidemiologist serving at the state or national level.

Stipend provided by the Public Health & Health Services Block Grant. Preceptor - Dr. Steve Wirtz



California Department of Public Health Cal EIS Fellows 09-10



Paul Adamson, MPH

Paul completed his MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UC Berkeley. He served as a Public Health Research Institute (PHRI) Intern in India, in which he performed data collection and conducted hospital-based chart reviews in the field. Paul has a strong interest in infectious disease epidemiology and his long-term goal is to work as a medical epidemiologist. [Start date 7-1-09](#)

Stipend provided by the San Francisco Dept of Public Health. Preceptor - Dr. Jeffrey D. Klausner



Leah Carlon, MPH

Leah recently completed her MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at USC, Los Angeles. During her time as a student she analyzed SEER data of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma for her research project. Leah plans to obtain a PhD and enter the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service. [Start date 10-19-09](#)

Stipend provided by the Solano County Dept of Public Health. Preceptors - Jill Cook & Dr. Michael Stacey



Catherine Gilmore Zarate, MPH

Catherine has a MPH from UC Berkeley, with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health. She worked for eight years with the Sacramento County Public Health Department in which she conducted epidemiologic surveys, program planning, community outreach and intervention evaluation and worked on various health issues. Catherine plans to work as an epidemiologist at a state or local health department. [Start date 10-1-09](#)

Stipend provided by the CDPH MCAH Division.

Preceptors - Dr. Michael Curtis & Dr. Chris Krawczyk



Kate Kelsey, MPH

Kate recently completed her master's degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UC Berkeley. During her time as a student she served as a Graduate Student Researcher with UC Berkeley's Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, where she analyzed complex survey designs. Kate's goals focus on becoming a biostatistician/epidemiologist at a local or state health department. [Start date 11-1-09](#)

Stipend provided by the CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch. Preceptor - Dr. Daniel Smith



Darryl Kong, MPH

Darryl completed his MPH with an emphasis on Infectious Disease at UC Berkeley. His past experience includes work as a Research Assistant with the California Emerging Infections Program where he gained first-hand experience with disease surveillance systems. Darryl also served as an intern with Thailand's Field Epidemiology Training Program where he engaged in outbreak investigations and fieldwork. Darryl plans to focus on a career in disease surveillance, either at the local, federal or international level. [Start date 7-1-09](#)

Stipend provided by the CDPH Tuberculosis Branch. Preceptor - Dr. James Watt



Sanaa Shabbir, MPH

Sanaa completed her master's degree in Epidemiology at UCLA. She has worked as a volunteer Diabetes Health Educator with the UC Davis Medical Center student-run Shifa Clinic. Sanaa served as an Intern with the Los Angeles County DPH where she conducted research and analysis on childhood obesity among Asian and Pacific Islander Students in Los Angeles County. Sanaa's goals include being an epidemiologist leader at the federal or international level. [Start date 10-1-09](#)

Stipend provided by the Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development (OSHDP).

Preceptors - Dr. Merry Holliday-Hanson & Dr. Tosenh Parker



Allison Stone, MPH

Allison completed her master's degree in Epidemiology at UC Davis and has a strong interest in infectious disease control and prevention and obesity. She has worked as a Staff Research Associate with the California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory (UC Davis) where she developed and validated a PCR assay for blue tongue virus in sheep. Alison desires a career in epidemiology at CDPH. [Start date 10-1-09](#)

Stipend provided by the CDPH Center for Infectious Disease. Preceptor - Dr. Gil Chavez



Casey Tsui, MPH

Casey completed his master's degree in Epidemiology & Biostatistics at UC Berkeley. He previously served as a Public Health Preparedness Intern with the City of Berkeley Public Health Division. Some of his duties included analyzing datasets for influenza and pneumonia emergency room cases to develop a baseline rate of hospitalization for pandemic influenza preparedness. Casey plans to eventually obtain his PhD in epidemiology and work in the public sector. [Start date 10-1-09](#)

Stipend provided by the Marin County Dept of Health & Human Services. Preceptor - Rochelle Eremam



Megan Wall, MPH

Megan completed her master's degree at Emory Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, GA. Her previous experience includes a summer practicum with CARE Sierra Leone (SL) Child Survival Project (CSP) in Kabala, in which she planned and conducted training; performed fieldwork and analysis for program evaluation. She has recently completed an internship with the CDC Physical Activity and Health Department. Megan has a strong interest in nutrition and physical activity. Megan's goals include obtaining a PhD in nutrition epidemiology and working for CDPH. [Start date 10-1-09](#)

Stipend provided by the CDPH Physical Activity and Nutrition Branch. Preceptor - Dr. Katie Tharp



California Department of Public Health Cal EIS Fellows 08-09



Catheryn Salibay, MPH

Catheryn's major project is the coordination of a statewide hospital medical records audit of prenatal records to evaluate screening and prevention for vaccine-preventable disease. Catheryn is in the second year of the Fellowship, having started in 2007.

Stipend provided by the CDPH DCDC Immunization Branch. Preceptors - Kathleen Winter & Dr. Howard Backer



Olympia Anderson, MPH

Olympia completed her master's degree in Epidemiology at Florida A&M University, and has a strong interest and prior public health experience in birth defects.

Stipend provided by the CDPH MCAH Division, Birth Defects Monitoring Program. Preceptors - Kate Cordell & Dr. Marcia Ehinger



California Department of Public Health Cal EIS Fellows 07-08

Jenny Brodsky, MPH

Jenny's major project at the CDPH MCAH was an analysis of hospitalization for asthma prior to pregnancy and perinatal outcomes. Jenny has obtained a job as an epidemiologist working for CDPH STD Branch.

Stipend provided by CDPH MCAH. Preceptor - Dr. Mike Curtis

Kathreen Khavari, MPH

Kathreen's major project within the CDPH VBDS was a survey of mosquito control and water treatment agencies for Cal Trans. Kathreen has obtained a job working as an epidemiologist for California Emerging Infections Program in the Bay Area.

Stipend provided by CDPH DCDC VBDS. Preceptor - Dr. Curtis Fritz



Christine Lee, MPH

Christine's major project is the updating and refining of the CDPH Food Drug and Radiation Branch Outbreak Database, including a GIS mapping component. Christine is investigating job opportunities in California and Boston.

*Stipend provided by the CDPH EH FDRB.
Preceptor - Dr. Jeff Farrar & Benson Yee*

Brian Malig, MPH

Brian's major project is a study of the health effects of exposure to air pollution at OEHHA; in particular, the impact of particulates on mortality. Brian would like to continue to work in this area.

Stipend provided by OEHHA. Preceptor - Dr. Bart Ostro

Sharon Minnick, PhD

Sharon's major project in the CDPH VBDS was field surveillance for nymphal ticks and creation of a spatial database of nymphal tick locations. Sharon has obtained a job as an epidemiologist working for Sutter County DPH.

Stipend provided by CDPH DCDC VBDS. Preceptor - Dr. Curtis Fritz



Catheryn Salibay, MPH

Catheryn's major project is the coordination of a statewide hospital medical records audit of prenatal records to evaluate screening and prevention for vaccine-preventable disease. Catheryn is pursuing fellowship opportunities for next year.

Stipend provided by the CDPH DCDC IZB. Preceptor - Dr. Kathleen Winter, Dr. Howard Backer



Nana Tufuoh, MD, MPH

Nana's major project in the CDPH Every Woman Counts Program was an analysis of breast cancer detection patterns and costs. Nana has obtained a job as a research scientist within the Every Woman Counts program.

Stipend provided by the CDPH CDIC CDS. Preceptor - Dr. Farzaneh Tabnak



Jackie Valle-Palominos, MPH

Jackie's major project in the CDPH Statistics and Surveillance Section is coordination of efforts between California and Mexico on food-borne diseases and the creation of a database of binational cases. Jackie is actively looking for employment in the Bay Area.

Stipend provided by CDPH DCDC SSS. Preceptors - Dr. Mark Starr & Dr. Ben Sun