



## California Department of Public Health Cal-EIS Fellows 2015-16



### **Marissa Abbott, MPH**

Marissa will be completing her fellowship with the Safe and Active Communities Branch at the California Department of Public Health. She is interested in better understanding how child maltreatment prevention works on the state level. Prior to this placement, she 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. During graduate school, Marissa also worked on a project examining the national epidemiology of recreational ice skating injuries presenting to US emergency departments. Her primary research interests include maternal/child health and injury epidemiology. In the future, Marissa hopes to return to graduate school and to work as an epidemiologist at the state/local level or at an academic medical center.

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



### **Adam D'Amico, MPH**

Adam received his MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from UC Berkeley School of Public Health. During his course of study he analyzed data collected by San Francisco Department of Public Health for the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance survey. His master thesis examined the relationship between venues where MSM meet in San Francisco and their HIV serodiscussion practices. Adam is currently placed with the Healthcare-Associated Infections Program at CDPH in Richmond. Adam's career goal is to become an applied epidemiologist working in infectious disease for a state or local health department.

*Stipend provided by CDPH Healthcare-Associated Infections Program. Preceptors – Dr. Jon Rosenberg and Lynn Janssen, MS, CIC, CPHQ*



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

Kelly DeBaene is placed at Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency in Santa Cruz. She graduated from the University of Illinois with Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees. During her public health education, 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 her Cal-EIS placement, she worked in small animal private practice in Chicago and most recently, private practice and shelter medicine in Santa Barbara, CA. 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.

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



### **Amina Foda, MPH**

Amina completed her MPH in Epidemiology with a certificate in the Social Determinants of Health at Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health. For her master's thesis she investigated whether residence in an ethnic enclave similarly protected against adverse birth outcomes among Arabs and Latinos in the state of Michigan between 1989 and 2013. Amina completed her practicum at the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau where she was involved with analyses of national infant mortality data and select impact estimates. She is currently placed in the Epidemiology, Assessment and Program Development Section of the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Program in the Center for Family Health at CDPH.

*Stipend provided by CDPH Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program. Preceptor – Mike Curtis, PhD*



### **Kimberly Foster, MPH**

Kim is currently placed with the Live Healthy Napa County Program at Napa County Public Health. During her first year, her major project involved the creation of a variety of maps including maps of social determinant of health indicators and health outcomes with a neighborhood-level focus. She also participated in the CASPER study following the South Napa Earthquake as well as a GIS training grant opportunity. In her second fellowship year, she will continue to build upon her major project. She will also work on a burden of chronic disease report, participate in the upcoming Statewide Medical and Health Exercise and participate in a project involving a survey of Valley Fever knowledge, attitudes and behaviors. Prior to the fellowship, she received her MPH in Epidemiology from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Her career goal is to be an applied epidemiologist working in government here in California.

*Stipend provided by Napa County Public Health.  
Preceptor – Dr. Jennifer Henn*



### **Justine Hutchinson, PhD, MPH**

Justine completed her PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology at Dartmouth Medical School in 2012. For her doctoral dissertation, she examined the genetic regulation of mammary development and its relationship to breast cancer. Next, she studied public health at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. Her practicum was at CDPH's Occupational Health Branch, where she conducted a survey with the California Safe Cosmetics Program on salon worker exposure to formaldehyde from professional styling products. Upon completing her MPH in 2014, she joined Cal-EIS, serving with CDPH's Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB). During the first year of her fellowship, she produced a report on the burden of damp and moldy housing conditions among adults with asthma and other vulnerable populations. She also conducted a study of thyroid cancer incidence using age-period-cohort models, and analyzed trends in emergency department visits for type 1 diabetes in California by region. She is continuing as a fellow with EHIB for a second year. Her major project seeks to measure the impact of a large wildfire event on vulnerable populations and on the health care system by linking Medi-Cal claims to modeled smoke exposure data. She is currently involved in a survey of Valley Fever knowledge, attitudes and behaviors in a community in an endemic region. Justine's goal is to serve as an epidemiologist at the state or local level.

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



### **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 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 plans to continue his career as an Epidemiologist at the Local, State and National level.

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



### **Eloycsia Ratliff, MPH**

Eloycsia received her MPH from San Francisco State University. During the course of her studies, Eloycsia interned with the Communicable Diseases Program at Contra Costa Health Services, working alongside Epidemiologists conducting disease investigations and cleaning/reviewing data. In her last semester, Eloycsia was a Teacher's Assistant for an undergraduate Epidemiology course, where she assisted with the development of curriculum, taught lessons on disease investigations, and assisted with research. Her thesis focused on increasing rates of Sepsis and other Healthcare Associated Infections among the African American population. Eloycsia is currently placed with the Epidemiology Planning and Evaluation Department and Contra Costa Health Services. Her career plans are to work as an Epidemiologist at the Local, State or National level.

*Stipend Provided by Contra Costa Health Services  
Preceptor- Abigail Kroch, PhD, 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 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 – Abigail Kroch, PhD, MPH and Erika Jenssen, MPH*



### **Julia Wei, MPH**

Julia received her MPH in Epidemiology/Biostatistics from the University of California, Berkeley. During her MPH, Julia worked at the Cancer Prevention Institute of California where she participated in systematic review of the relationship between volume of cancer surgeries performed at a facility and patient outcomes. For her MPH internship, she worked at the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative, analyzing data on newborn infants requiring critical care in California. For her thesis, she examined the association between usage of antenatal steroids prior to preterm delivery and the incidence of intraventricular hemorrhage in newborns. Julia is placed in the Safe and Active Communities Branch at the California Department of Public Health. Julia hopes to continue working as an epidemiologist at a state or local health department in California.

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



### **Carolyn Zambrano, PhD**

Carolyn's fellowship placement is in the Chronic Disease Control Branch in the California Department of Public Health, in the California Wellness Plan Implementation Program. She is interested in the development and prevalence of chronic diseases, especially diabetes. As a part of the CWPI, she will report on the progress made on California Wellness Plan objectives to date. 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 CDPH California Wellness Plan Implementation Program. Preceptor – Jessica Núñez de Ybarra, MD, MPH, FACPM*



### **Patricia A. Zíalcita, MHS**

Patricia received her MHS in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Patricia has had a variety of experiences since completing her degree. She completed an internship with the National Center for Environmental Health at the CDC, worked as a Latino Outreach Coordinator for the Area Agency on Aging in Napa and Solano, and was most recently working as a Communicable Disease Control Investigator at the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Patricia is currently placed with the Science and Education section of the CDPH Food and Drug Branch in Sacramento. She will be working on various projects related to food, drug and medical device safety this year, and she plans to work in the field of applied epidemiology after completing her fellowship.

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