

**Inventory of UT-SPH Center for Biosecurity & PH Preparedness Practicum Projects
Summer Semester 2009**

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS PRACTICUMS SUMMER 2009

Contact: john.r.herbold@uth.tmc.edu for additional information

**The following opportunities for students in a public health degree program within the University of Texas
System are available through the
UT- SPH Center for Biosecurity & Public Health Preparedness
for the 2009 summer semester.**

A 50% graduate assistance appointment is included.

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Project Title	Project Details	Faculty & LOCATION	# of Actual Hours	Qualifications of Extern	Learning Objectives
Medical Needs Assessment Evacuation Study	3000 door to door surveys were completed with randomly selected households in three counties of the Lower Rio Grande Valley to assess evacuation needs, particularly of those with medical special needs. Analysis of these data are needed to examine questions around factors influencing readiness to evacuate and the influence of responses because of Hurricane Dolly striking the area during data collection.	HOUSTON or BROWNSVILLE DSHS Region 11 Belinda Reininger UT-SPH Brownsville Regional Campus 80 Fort Brown, SPH Bldg. Room N2.200 Brownsville, Texas 78520 Belinda.M.Reinger@uth.tmc.edu +1 (956) 882-5161	20 hours per week over three months	Student with at least two courses in biostatistics	Learning objectives 1. Gain experience in working with state health department 2. Assess factors influencing readiness for hurricane evacuation 3. Develop data analysis skills 4. Assess a current public health issue

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Faith Based Community Opportunities and Limitations in supporting disaster response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Document opportunities and requirements for becoming pre-qualified for support of local disaster response. 2) Support learning opportunity in conjunction with Operation Lone Star for observers to explore the structure, organization, etc of this operation 3) Develop an outline for a workshop on how any faith based group needs to be pre-prepared/certified to be productive volunteers as part of the response team/structure. 	BROWNSVILLE DSHS Region 11 Belinda Reininger UT-SPH Brownsville Regional Campus 80 Fort Brown, SPH Bldg. Room N2.200 Brownsville, Texas 78520 Belinda.M.Reininger@uth.tmc.edu +1 (956) 882-5161	20 hours per week over three months	Public health graduate student with at least one class in epidemiology and at least a course in administration or policy development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain experience in working with a state health department. 2. Assess a current public health issue. 3. Develop questionnaire/survey instrument skills. 4. Gain experience in the limitations and challenges of doing operational public health research.
Assessment of Operation Lone Star	Documentation of Medical Services Delivered by OLS - Dr (COL) Chuck Bauer would like to collect data on the extent of services delivered during OLS. Apply principles of ‘rapid epi assessment to assess needs of Lower Rio Grande Valley community being served by OLS.	BROWNSVILLE DSHS Region 11 Belinda Reininger UT-SPH Brownsville Regional Campus Brownsville, Texas 78520 Belinda.M.Reininger@uth.tmc.edu +1 (956) 882-5161	20 hours per week over three months	Public health graduate student with at least one class in epidemiology and at least a course in administration or policy development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain experience in working with a state health department. 2. Assess a current public health issue. 3. Develop questionnaire/survey instrument skills. 4. Gain experience in the limitations and challenges of doing operational public health research.

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Border Health	<p>This practicum will also provide an opportunity to gain further understanding of the importance and operations of public health surveillance systems, the inter-relation between such systems with disease prevention and control programs, issues of international health as they relate to the US-Mexico border, public health preparedness and outbreak investigations. The student will work under the supervision of the program director and will interact on a daily basis with other professionals in the staff of DSHS PHR 9/10. Tasks: The following are the specific deliverables for this practicum opportunity: 1) Provide a revised version of the protocols for the study of reportable conditions and outbreak investigations in compliance with state and federal guidelines, with input from the director of PHR 9/10, other PHR 9/10 epidemiology staff and UT SPH faculty in El Paso; 2) Participate in the training of public health personnel in the protocols, and their application to every-day public health; and 3) Participate in outbreak investigations across the region.</p>	<p>EL PASO Texas DSHS Public Health Regions 9/10</p> <p>DSHS point of contact: Luis G. Escobedo, MD, MPH tel 915-834-7681 fax 915-834-7799 luis.escobedo@ds.hs.state.tx.us</p> <p>Faculty Mentor: Victor Cardenas UT-SPH (El Paso Regional Campus) 1100 North Stanton, Suite 110 El Paso, Texas 79902 Victor.Cardenas@uth.tmc.edu +1 (915) 747-8503</p>	20 hours per week over three months		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain experience in working with a state health department. 2. Assess a current public health issue. 3. Gain experience in the limitations and challenges of doing operational public health research.

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Food Safety and Public Health: The <i>Salmonella</i> Threat	Student will assist DSHS and local health departments in investigating clusters of salmonellosis identified in the laboratory through genetic fingerprinting. A recent example of such an outbreak is the multistate outbreak associated with peanut products. The student will assist with cluster tracking, specimen and results tracking, administration of questionnaires, collation and analysis of data, communication of findings, and other tasks as indicated. The student will participate in information sharing (including conference calls) statewide and with federal partners, including the CDC, FDA, and USDA.	AUSTIN Linda Gaul, PhD, MPH John Herbold, DVM, MPH, PhD, DACVPM, FACE University of Texas School of Public Health john.r.herbold@uth.tmc.edu tel: 210-562-5509	20 hrs/wk over three months	Basic course in epidemiology; microbiology experience helpful	To participate in and learn the practices of infectious disease outbreak investigations in the new era of outbreak identification through genetic fingerprinting of bacterial pathogens.
Influenza Immunization Practices in Long term Care Facilities	<p>Influenza immunization effectiveness among the elderly has variable effectiveness. The older person who is at risk of dying from influenza either directly or from complications will often have conditions that prevent the person from receiving immunization or mounting an effective immune response. Thus a strategy to protect the older person in long term care facilities is to immunize the staff and visitors with whom they have contact and establish a type of protective cocoon of immunized people around the vulnerable person.</p> <p>Health Services Region 7 needs baseline information on current influenza immunization practices within long term care facilities. The intern will be expected to review and summarize</p>	TEMPLE and some time in AUSTIN Russ Jones, MPH Email: Russ.Jones@dshs.state.tx.us Sandi Henley, RN, CIC Email: Sandi.Henley@dshs.state.tx.us John Herbold, DVM, MPH,	300-360 hours estimated over three months	Public health graduate student with at least one class in epidemiology and statistics. The student should have some knowledge or understanding in developing questionnaires and interview tools.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain experience in working with a state health department. 2. Assess a current public health current issue – influenza immunization practices in long term care. 3. Develop questionnaire/survey instrument skills. 4. Gain experience in the limitations and challenges of doing operational public health research.

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	<p>current requirements and recommended practices for influenza immunization in long term care. The intern will select a representative sample of long term facilities within Region 7, develop and test a survey/interview instrument to ascertain current practices, conduct the survey and interviews in sampled facilities. Data collected will then be used to describe influenza immunization practices in long term care facilities and compare to recommended practices. The summary report generated from this study will be shared with DSHS immunization and epidemiology programs. Information from the report will also be shared with stakeholders such as the Department of Aging and Disability (DADS) and long term care industry associations.</p> <p>Health Services Region 7 (Temple TX with sub office in Austin) is comprised of 30 counties in central Texas. The intern will be provided with a computer/laptop with MS-Office, Epi-Info and SPSS software, desk space at the regional office. The intern can work for part of the project in Austin.</p>	<p>PhD, DACVPM, FACE University of Texas School of Public Health john.r.herbold@uth.tmc.edu tel: 210-562-5509</p>			

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<p>Strengthening Disaster Epidemiology Approaches</p>	<p>DSHS desires to strengthen the capacity to conduct disaster-related epidemiology activities. Four parts are envisioned for this project, that can be worked concurrently.</p> <p>a) Improving Disaster related Mortality Surveillance (~ 100 hours)</p> <p>Assistance is needed to further strengthen DSHS' capacity to timely monitor deaths related to a disaster, specifically to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve the data collection instrument and access data entry screen; and develop standardized report templates b) Explore opportunities to obtain information through the electronic death registration system c) Assess and compare data obtained from the Hurricane Ike disaster mortality surveillance with the data obtained through the routine death registration process d) Provide recommendations on disaster related mortality surveillance procedures <p>b) Advancing Community Assessments for Public Health Response (CASPER) (~120 hours)</p> <p>Assistance is needed to further strengthen DSHS' ability to conduct these community (household) assessments, specifically to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review and update the standard 	<p>AUSTIN</p> <p>David Zane, MS (DSHS- Austin)</p> <p>Email: david.zane@dshs.state.tx.us</p> <p>Tracy Haywood, GIS Analyst</p> <p>Email: tracy.haywood@dshs.state.tx.us</p> <p>John Herbold, DVM, MPH, PhD, DACVPM, FACE University of Texas School of Public Health john.r.herbold@uth.tmc.edu tel: 210-562-5509</p>	<p>240 - 360 hours over three months.</p>	<p>Public health graduate student with graduate level courses in at least one epidemiology and one statistics classes. Student should have at least basic understanding surveillance, access and epi info, familiarity with the death registration process, community assessments, mapping, survey development, and research skills.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain experience dealing with different public health agencies and groups (federal, state, regional and local) 2. Experience public health field work that has direct implications for improving public health emergency response. 3. Understand the challenges of public health surveillance. 4. Use data collection and analysis skills that will assist in assessing a public need.

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	<p>questionnaire template</p> <p>b) Develop an access/epi info database and screen for the standard questionnaire</p> <p>c) Review CASPER publications, prepare a summary of methodologies, prepare Powerpoint presentation of those methods and catalog the public health actions taken</p> <p>d) Provide suggestions on developing a Texas CASPER toolkit and suggestions on the DSHS CASPER website</p> <p>c) Exploring the Spatial Analysis of Vulnerable Populations in Texas (~ 60 hours) Assistance is needed to further explore strategies, specifically to:</p> <p>a) Assist in defining vulnerable populations</p> <p>b) Identify and evaluate the information contained in appropriate databases</p> <p>Assist in mapping vulnerable populations in selected geographical areas of the state</p> <p>d) Assessing Disaster Epidemiology Capacity at State Health Departments (~ 35 hours) Assistance is needed to survey injury programs in state health departments across the country on their capabilities, experience, interests, and needs in disaster epidemiology, specifically to:</p> <p>a) Develop web-based survey</p> <p>b) Pre-test survey</p> <p>Develop recommendations on data analysis approaches</p>				

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