Background

The CDC Experience is a 1-year fellowship in applied epidemiology for third- and fourth-year medical students; the program aims to increase the pool of physicians who can approach problems from an individual and a population health perspective.

Fellows gain an in-depth understanding of applied epidemiology, the role of epidemiology in medicine and health, and the role of physicians in the public health system, which is invaluable to physicians regardless of career path.

The CDC Experience Fellows in Action

The CDC Experience offers unique opportunities for fellows to build invaluable research skills that will aid them throughout their medical training and career. Fellows work closely with highly trained epidemiologists who mentor and teach; the fellows learn while working and participating in a variety of learning experiences. In addition they:

- Take part in one or more surveillance activities
- Work on an analytic epidemiology project
- Write a scientific manuscript
- Lead a journal club on a public health topic
- Design public health interventions
- Obtain field experience by assisting in an outbreak investigation
- Deliver an oral scientific presentation

Fellows attend interactive seminars on scientific writing, health risk communication, and policy development.

Eligibility

Applicants to The CDC Experience must meet the following criteria:

- Be a medical student in second or third year of medical school
- Be enrolled in a medical school accredited by one of the following:
  - Liaison Committee on Medical Education
  - American Osteopathic Association
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident

How to Apply

Applications are accepted online from September through December.

Check us out online:  
http://www.cdc.gov/CDCExperienceFellowship/

The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship is made possible by a public-private partnership supported by a grant to the CDC Foundation from External Medical Affairs, Pfizer Inc.
The fellows’ work has important benefits for public health. For example:

- A fellow partnered with an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer on The Healthy and Sustainable Food Plan for National Parks Initiative, which included a baseline evaluation and analysis of food and beverage offerings. This work provided critical data for the Initiative, which is expanding to more than 50 national parks.

- Another fellow served as the lead for the case-series component of a multi-state case-control investigation of *Acanthamoeba* keratitis, which identified use of a single contact lens solution as the primary risk factor for infection.

- A fellow working in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion published two *MMWR* reports on the state-based prevalence of heart disease and stroke, providing comparative data for decisions regarding interventions.

- Since inception of the fellowship in 2004, 58 *CDC Experience* fellows have published 41 peer-reviewed manuscripts (including 23 as first-authors), 15 *MMWR* reports (including 9 as first author), and have presented abstracts at 45 national scientific meetings (as of November 2011).

Recent *CDC Experience* alumni accomplishments:

- One graduate was awarded a 2011 Helping Hands grant from the American Psychiatric Foundation.

- One graduate is now participating in the Baylor Pediatrics AIDS Corps in Africa.

- Another graduate is a member of the 2011 class of CDC’s Epidemic Intelligence Service.

“*The CDC Experience changed my life.*”

**Selected Publications**


