

Academic Partnerships to Improve Health

The Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development Program Office (DSEPD) in the Center for Scientific Education and Professional Development (CSELS) manages the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) cooperative agreements with academic associations to build public health workforce capacity and improve health outcomes of individuals and communities. These cooperative agreements offer opportunities for CDC to engage with academic partners to

- Strengthen academia's linkages to public health practice
- Enhance teaching of population health concepts and their full integration into health professionals' education
- Align academic approaches (curricula, teaching materials, or methods) and field experiences with ground-level public health priorities and practice needs
- Provide opportunities for hands-on experience for students working with communities and public health partners

CDC partners with four national associations that represent colleges and universities for the education of public health professionals, physicians, and nurses:

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR)
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)

Major Components of the Cooperative Agreements

Centers for Innovation for Improving Health (CIHs)—CIHs are a new concept, under development, for virtual or physical centers managed by academic institutions to focus on educational activities that develop a workforce with the skills to improve the public's health. With health as the overall goal, CIHs will foster interprofessional collaboration and interaction with the multiple disciplines needed to have an impact on health. CIHs will also engage in partnerships with local public health agencies and other community-based organizations, and will move students out of the classroom into the community. By providing real-life experience for students and facilitating interprofessional teams, CIHs will assist communities in addressing their pressing health issues.

Workforce Improvement Projects (WIPs)—WIPs encourage a focus on workforce development while furthering CDC's public health mission. WIPs are a mechanism for CDC programs to fund domestic or international projects with the academic partner associations or their members (e.g., schools or programs of public health, and schools of medicine or nursing). Examples of WIPs include creation of a curriculum to implement in academic settings, training courses for the existing workforce, a project to introduce public health to young students or attract new talent to public health careers, faculty development in applied public health, or a community-level activity that supports public health practice.

Fellowship Programs—Fellowship programs provide opportunities for applied public health experience at CDC's domestic and international locations. In the future, fellowships will also be available in state, tribal, local, or territorial health departments, or other community-based settings. Fellowships are typically 2 years in length. Opportunities are offered for recent master's or doctoral-level graduates and early career physicians of

- Schools or programs of public health through ASPPH or APTR
- Schools of nursing through AACN
- Medical schools, major teaching hospitals and health systems through AAMC

Information on fellowships is available on the following websites:

- ASPPH—<http://www.aspph.org/>
- APTR—<http://www.aptrweb.org/>
- AACN—<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/>
- AAMC—<http://www.aamc.org/>
- CDC DSEPD—<http://www.cdc.gov/ophss/csels/dsepd/academic-partnerships/fellowships.html>

For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ophss/csels/dsepd/academic-partnerships/>