

Laboratory Leadership Service (LLS)

Laboratory Leaders Up Close



Zachary Weiner, PhD

I developed a strong interest in laboratory science while working on my PhD at the University of Virginia where I investigated the interaction between *Bacillus anthracis* and the immune system. This work was the start of my journey in public health. I began my laboratory work at CDC through the American Society of Microbiology (ASM) postdoctoral fellowship. Towards the end of my ASM fellowship, my supervisor sent me information about the Laboratory Leadership Service (LLS) fellowship. I applied, knowing that it would be a great opportunity to continue my laboratory work at CDC.



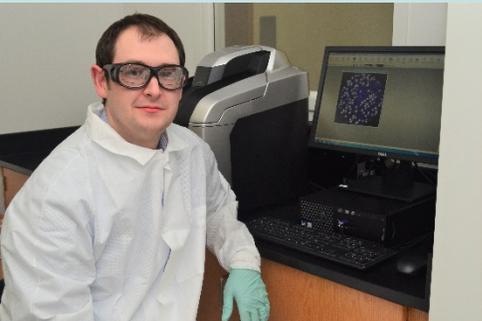
"I have taken part in many different fellowship programs during my career, and I can honestly say that the LLS fellowship is by far my best run."

—Zachary Weiner, PhD
LLS class of 2015

As an LLS fellow, I am currently assigned to CDC's Poxvirus and Rabies Branch in the Division of High Consequence Pathogens and Pathology. As part of my assignment, I have helped design and implement an occupational exposure tool leading to rapid and efficient response and reporting of occupational incidents by laboratory personnel, their supervisors, and the occupational health clinic. I also had the opportunity to visit Cameroon to conduct seminars and trainings on Monkeypox virus in response to an outbreak that occurred in 2016. Additionally, I provide technical assistance to public health laboratories in Central Africa as the first steps to building technology transfers for diagnostics and surveillance reporting.

The training I've gained as an LLS fellow thus far has afforded me to serve as the Acting Team Lead of the Quality and Compliance Team within the Poxvirus and Rabies Branch. I supervise and manage the day-to-day activities of multiple laboratory spaces, act as a biosafety officer, and design and implement quality management systems. I have taken part in many different fellowship programs during my career and I can honestly say that the LLS fellowship is by far my best run.

In addition to my studies in public health research, LLS has also given me the opportunity to network with a wide variety of experts within CDC and gain a greater understanding of how all aspects of the agency are interconnected. Most importantly, I will be able to use my laboratory leadership experiences to positively impact public health wherever my career takes me next.



Zachary Weiner is one of seven fellows representing the inaugural LLS Class of 2015. This class graduates in June 2017.

Learn more about LLS at
www.cdc.gov/lls

Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services (CSELS)
Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development (DSEPD)



April 2017