



Epi Ready Team Training - Cadre of Trainers

Environmental Instructors-

Bill Adler, MPH, RS- Bill has been with the Minnesota Department of Health for 31 years and in that time has been a field sanitarian, trainer and local program evaluator. His BS is in Environmental and Public Health from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and he also has an MPH. Bill was a senior contributing editor of Safe Foods in Different Languages from 1989 through 1994, where he developed food safety manuals in Vietnamese and simplified Mandarin Chinese. Between 2002-2003, Bill taught English in China and would like to get back there to work in food safety and training when he retires.

Vickie Church, REHS, MPA- Vickie is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) with a passion for public health and promotion of environmental health programs. She worked as a Supervising Environmental Health Specialist with the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health, Food and Housing Division. She has over 27 years of experience with food safety, epidemiology, emergency response, environmental assessments, and other environmental health programs. Vickie also served as an Environmental Health Officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Medical Services Corps.

Michele DiMaggio, REHS- Michele graduated from California State University at Hayward (now CSU East Bay) with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. During her studies she was a Research Assistance working in the Entomology Laboratory. After graduating, Michele was employed with California Department of Food and Agriculture as a Seasonal Agricultural Inspector. Thereafter, she found her first passion as a Vector Control Technician with Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. Michele then discovered her current passion in environmental health. In 2005, Michele rediscovered her love of vectors and became an Associate Public Health Biologist with California Department of Public Health Vector-borne Disease Section. Currently Michele is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist employed with Contra Costa County, Environmental Health Division. She is an Environmental Health Specialist II who greatly enjoys her position in the following programs: Division Emergency Preparedness, Division Safety Officer, Division Vector Specialist, and part of the Department's Epidemiological Team. Twice a month, she teaches Food Safety as an Administrator for National Registry of Food Safety Professionals. Michele is a Certified Safety Specialist and is 40-Hour Hazwoper certified. Michele also is looking forward to being part of California's Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) Team in the fall of 2009.

Ricardo Encarnacion, MPH, REHS- Ric began his career in Environmental Health while serving in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman where he received specialized training as a Preventive Medicine Technician (PMT). As a PMT, Ric conducted environmental health inspections and industrial hygiene surveys on board ships and shore facilities. After the Navy, Ric joined the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health (DEH). As a supervisor within DEH's Food and Housing Division, he leads a team of REHS staff who are responsible for various environmental health regulatory programs involving retail food activities, swimming pools and public housing. A main component of his job includes the management of environmental health investigations for food borne illness outbreaks, as well as effectiveness checks for food safety recalls. Ric went on to complete his Master's Degree at San Diego State University's Graduate School of Public Health, where he was recognized as the Environmental Health Outstanding Student for his graduating class. Ric's main body of graduate work involved the development of a Food Safety System for a local school district. Ric has also served as the South West Chapter President for the California Environmental Health Association (CEHA), where he has been an active member for the last 10 years. Ric married his childhood sweetheart, Joy, and lives next to the church they were married in. Every Sunday, they hear the mission bells that rang on their wedding day.

Allen Gelfius- Allen Gelfius is a trainer for the FDA State Training Team in the Division of Human Resource Development. He develops training courses and educational materials, primarily for state and local regulators, on food safety issues ranging from HACCP principles and the National Voluntary Program Standards to the Food Code and other regulatory and industry initiatives designed to reduce the risk of foodborne illness. He also coordinates the delivery of these training courses in various states across the country and participates in the instruction and presentation of the course materials. Prior to joining FDA, Allen completed his B.S. degree in Public Health at Indiana University and then worked for 12 years in the Hawaii State Department of Health's Food and Drug Branch as a field inspector (for the first 4 years) and then as the Data & Training Manager. His work included management of inspection data; the promulgation of laws and regulations to regulate foods, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices sold in Hawaii; and the development and implementation of training programs and educational materials on various public health issues. Allen was awarded the 1995 National Achievement Award from the Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO) for his efforts in providing training and education to regulators, industry representatives, and the general public on food safety and other public health issues. His training efforts have covered issues such as seafood HACCP principles; food microbiology; nutrition labeling; leaching lead in ceramics; and safe foodhandling practices, for which he led the Hawaii Food Safety Advisory Council in the development of a training video and education program targeted at newly-hired foodhandlers in retail food and food service operations. Allen has been an active member and served on

various boards and committees of the Association of Food and Drug Officials, the Conference for Food Protection, and the Institute of Food Technologists.

Ken Pearson, Ed. D. CFSP- Ken works for Professional Food Safety Solutions and performs a wide variety of food safety training classes. Ken was previously employed by the Knox County Health Department in Knoxville, TN as an Environmental Specialist Trainer. He worked in the field for 12 years doing regular health inspections as well as teaching numerous food safety classes for a wide variety of populations. Ken really enjoys teaching to special populations such as the mentally challenged, visually impaired, elderly caregivers, wheelchair disabled, church volunteers and especially children. He regularly teaches food safety classes for the University of Tennessee and numerous other corporations. Ken has been known to brew moonshine, grow mushrooms and chase leprechauns for fun when not participating in time travel experiments.

Michele Samarya-Timm, MA, CHES, REHS

Health Educator
Franklin Township Health Department

John Tilden

Food Safety Epidemiologist
Food and Dairy Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Epidemiology Instructors-

Roberta Hammond, PhD, RS- Roberta Hammond received her Ph.D. from Temple University in 1993. She has been working in Environmental Health for 20 years and became a Registered Sanitarian in 2006. She began her career in environmental health in 1989 as Environmental Specialist and then Environmental Health Director at the Franklin County Health Department in Florida. In these jobs she functioned as inspector of septic tanks, restaurants, sanitary nuisances, dog bites, rabies, wells and other programs. After 2 ½ years as Environmental Health Director, she moved to the Office of Restaurant Programs in Tallahassee, helping to oversee the state's restaurant inspection program. In 1994, she became Statewide Coordinator of the Food and Waterborne Disease Program. She has received several awards including: the Commissioner's Special Citation (FDA) – NFSS project, 2001 team award; the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service (FDA) – 2002; the Billy G. Tennant Award – FEHA 2003; and the Leveraging Collaboration Award – FDA 2007. Her non-professional work, which helped her get through college, includes many years in the food industry from harvesting, to processing to food service. The Food and Waterborne Disease Program with the Florida Department of Health,

Bureau of Community Environmental Health is responsible for surveillance and investigation of food and waterborne disease outbreaks, gives technical assistance to county health departments and develops and provides training to county health departments and other interested groups.

C.P. Kanwat, MD, MPH- CP is a Foodborne Epidemiologist and Supervisor of the Food Surveillance and Response Section in the Division of Food Protection, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC). He obtained his medical degree from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and his Masters in Public Health from The Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina. At DHEC, he works with regional staff to investigate outbreaks of foodborne disease and provides subject matter consultation to local Outbreak Response Teams during investigations of enteric disease cases and outbreaks. He also provides training to local staff on foodborne disease, including foodborne outbreak tabletop exercises and Epi-Ready Workshops. C.P. is also a certified “Serv Safe” food safety manager.

Bela Matyas, MD, MPH- Bela is currently Acting Chief of the Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response Branch of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), after briefly serving as Chief of the Disease Investigations Section of CDPH. He previously served for thirteen years as the Medical Director of the Epidemiology Program in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Prior to that he served for four years as the Medical Director of Disease Control and State Epidemiologist for the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDH), after serving for three years as the Chief of Environmental Health Risk Assessment for the RIDH. Dr. Matyas received his medical degree from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and completed a residency in Occupational Medicine/Preventive Medicine at the Harvard School of Public Health, where he also received a Master of Science Degree in Epidemiology and a Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree.

Whitney Mauer, DVM, PhD

Warren McDougle, MPH- Warren is the Epidemiology Program Manager for the Hillsborough County Health Department, Tampa, Florida. He functions as the regional team leader for the all hazards epidemiology strike team for deployment after any disaster for the Florida Department of Health. He has 31 years of Public Health experience. Prior to becoming the Epidemiology Program Manager he was in the environmental health field from 1977 to 1986 and was Environmental Health Director from 1986 to 2003. Warren began his career as an environmental specialist in the United States Air Force where he received extensive training in environmental health as well as biological and chemical

response to terrorism. He has worked a large portion of the 31 years in food protection and epidemiological investigation of foodborne illness. He has completed the Epi Ready Course as a student and felt so strongly about the course he has chosen to be an instructor.

John T. Redd, MD, MPH, FACP- John is Chief of the Infectious Diseases Branch of the Indian Health Service Division of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention. He attended Harvard College, obtained his MD at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, and then completed a residency in Internal Medicine and a Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology at Columbia University. After serving as a clinical internist in IHS for five years in Shiprock, NM, he completed the Epidemic Intelligence Service training program at CDC in 2002. He worked for the Division of Viral Hepatitis at CDC for six years before moving to IHS. Dr. Redd was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Physicians in 2002 and is the co-author of sixteen publications.

Mark Schmidt, PhD, MPH- Mark is currently as Research Associate with the Center for Health Research/Kaiser Permanente Northwest, where he is involved in the national Vaccine Safety Datalink project as well as influenza, hepatitis, and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* research activities. Prior to this, he had been the Surveillance Officer for the Active Bacterial Core surveillance component of the Emerging Infections Program at the Oregon Public Health Division as well as working as a communicable disease epidemiologist in various capacities with the Michigan Department of Community Health. Mark received his MPH in Hospital and Molecular Epidemiologist and his PhD in Molecular and Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Michigan. Mark has enjoyed working with the NEHA Epi-Ready Training program since its inception in 2003.

Dana Thomas, MD, MPH- Dana serves as a Commander in the US Public Health Service, billeted to the US Coast Guard. Stationed at Coast Guard Headquarters in Southwest Washington DC, CDR Thomas has been the Chief of Occupational Medicine since July 2005. Her number one priority is keeping the Coast Guard mission ready. Prior to her current position, she served 11 years as a commissioned officer in the US Army. Dr. Thomas completed her residency with the US Navy in Aerospace Medicine. She is boarded in Aerospace, Occupational and Disaster Medicine. She has a strong interest in prevention, wellness and preparedness - from the individual to the community. Commander Thomas is a graduate of the George Washington University School of Medicine and Public Health, where she earned her Medical Degree and Master's in Public Health in 1998.

Laboratory Instructors-

Robyn Atkinson, PhD- Robyn is currently the Director of the Knoxville Regional Laboratory for the Tennessee Department of Health Division of Laboratory Services. She also serves as the Deputy Director for the state laboratory system. Dr Atkinson holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry from Clemson University in South Carolina. She continued her education by completing a Doctorate of Philosophy Degree in Microbial Pathogenesis at the University of Tennessee – Health Sciences Center. Her research focus was antimicrobial resistance in *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, one of the leading causes of ear infections in children. Her research laboratory was based at St Jude Children's Research Hospital and during her years there, she was exposed to the career of clinical microbiologist which joins classical research with clinical practice. Therefore, she completed a fellowship in Medical and Public Health Microbiology at Washington University in St Louis School of Medicine. During this fellowship, Dr Atkinson was introduced to public health and public health microbiology. After spending 2 years with the New York State Department of Health, she was recruited to her current position in TN. While in TN, she has continued her focus on food safety by becoming a member of the Tennessee Food Safety Task Force and a member of the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Food Safety Committee. Through APHL, she has also been given the opportunity to begin to streamline standards of practice across all state and local public health laboratories by working with subject matter experts to draft Best Practices Guidelines for the isolation and characterization of several infectious organisms of public health significance.

Elizabeth Bugden, MS- Elizabeth is a Food Scientist and Food Safety Consultant. She is a NEHA Epi-Ready Instructor, was a Senior Training Specialist for Paster Training, and project manager for a CDC Food Allergy project in Rhode Island. She worked at Kids First and the RI Department of Education to create CDC Food-Safe Schools to prevent foodborne illness in schools throughout the United States. Elizabeth received the 2008 NSF Leadership Award for Food Safety Education. When Elizabeth was a Quality Scientist at Ocean Spray Cranberries, she invented Ruby Red Grapefruit Juice, headed the Technology Transfer Committee to eliminate risks during product, process, and packaging changes, and designed and managed their laboratories. Elizabeth has a Bachelor's Degree in Food and Nutrition and a Master's Degree in Business Management.

David Carpenter, PhD, MBA- David is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, IL. His current teaching responsibilities focus on infectious diseases education of medical students and graduate students, with special emphasis on diseases of public health significance. From 1986 to Jan, 2000 he was Laboratory Director for the Illinois Dept of Public Health. Prior to

that he worked for BAXTER Healthcare, where he conducted microbiological evaluations on medical products. At the US Army Natick R&D Labs, he conducted research on processes to mitigate the microbial spoilage of food rations used during military maneuvers. Dr. Carpenter's education is a BS in Biology from the Univ. of Vermont, a PhD in Microbiology from the Univ. of New Hampshire, and an MBA from Lake Forest College Graduate School.

Sharon Hill

Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist
Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program
West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources

Michelle Markley, MS- CDR Michelle Markley is the Biosafety Officer for FDA Center for Food Safety and Nutrition. In her position, she manages the biosafety and biosecurity program and coordinates the commissioning and certification of biocontainment laboratories. Prior to working for the FDA, CDR Markley was the Safety Training and Outreach Program Manager in the Division of Occupational Health and Safety at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) located in Bethesda, Maryland. CDR Markley is also an Officer of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. CDR Markley has over twenty four years of experience in areas of safety and occupational health, training, clinical research and laboratory safety. She has made contributions to several publications in the field of safety training, including the World Health Organization Biosafety Train the Trainers Manual, as well as several online training courses. She has given presentations at National Environmental Health Association, American Biological Safety Association, and has served as a President for the Virginia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, and is a member of the Commissioned Officers Association, the American Biological Association and the Chesapeake Biological Association. CDR Markley holds a Master's Degree in Safety and Environmental Management from West Virginia University and a B.S. in Medical Technology from Radford University. She is also a graduate of the University Of Virginia School Of Medical Technology and is a certified Medical Technologist.

Jennifer Meredith, PhD- Jenny is the Director of the Microbiology Division at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Bureau of Laboratories. She holds a Bachelors of Science from Clemson University in Microbiology and a Ph.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina in Microbiology and Immunology, with post-doctoral studies in Vaccinia virus genetic regulation. She began working at DHEC in April 2003 as the Deputy Director, Microbiology Division. In June, 2006 she assumed the duties of Bioterrorism Coordinator and Division Director, and currently oversees the operations of eight diagnostic laboratory sections: Clinical Microbiology, Virology, Serology, Mycobacteriology, Molecular Microbiology, Milk and Dairy,

Medical Entomology, and Special Pathogens (Food Micro and Bioterrorism). She is currently leading the USDA/FSIS cooperative agreement project “Enhancement of Laboratory Testing Capability for Microbiological Threat Agents in Food.” Jenny has served as a member of the Infectious Diseases Committee for the Association of Public Health Laboratories for the past two years.

Sue Shiflett- For the last six years Sue has been employed as the Laboratory Training Coordinator with the Office of Public Health Preparedness at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). She is responsible for training laboratorians in the State of Michigan Regional Laboratories that serve in the capacity of reference labs in the National Response Network. Sue is also the state training coordinator for the National Laboratory Training Network bringing many training events to public health and private sector laboratories in Michigan. Now in working in public health preparedness, she serves as the back-up Emergency Management Coordinator for the department responsible for public health issues at the State Emergency Operations Center. She is responsible for reviewing, editing and updating all the hazard response plans for the department. Sue’s experience includes 23 years as a microbiologist in the microbiology section of the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) at MDCH. While in microbiology, she was responsible for the Lyme disease culture, parasitology and foodborne illness testing having the opportunity to publish and present frequently on these topics. She helped initiate the BOL quarterly newsletter, the *LabLink*, on which she continue as editor thirteen years later.

Additional Instructors-

Donald Sharp, MD, DTM&H- Don is currently the Associate Director, Food Safety Office, at the CDC. He has been with the Office since 2002 and has been involved in numerous activities related to assessing and building food safety surveillance and outbreak response capacity at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Dr. Sharp received his BS and MD degrees from Tulane University and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from Mahidol University in Bangkok. Dr. Sharp served as a Navy Undersea Medical Officer, practiced in family medicine and occupational health clinics, and worked with refugees in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. He joined the CDC in 1992 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer and completed the CDC Preventive Medicine Residency in 1995.

Additional Supporters-

Beth Johnson
Katie Crysop
Stacey Kinney

Helen Rogers
Susan Cole
Tammy Gordon
John Marcello
Richard Michelback
Larry Pong
Mark Bergtholdt
Stuart Capper
Sharon Green
Seema Jain
Jeff Kornacki
Manoj Menon
Ann Schmitz
Nicholas Gaffga
Jeanette Stehr-Green
Joyce Theard
Mike Thomas
Wences Arvelo
Stephanie Delong
Gwen Ewald
Richard Skibicki
And many more!