



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.

Celeste L. Davis, REHS, MPH - Celeste is the Director for the Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) and the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Indian Health Service (IHS), Portland Area. The IHS is an operating division of the US Department of Health and Human Services. As the DEHS Director in Portland, Celeste is responsible for the total administration, management, and supervision of a comprehensive program and staff that deliver environmental public health services to over 100,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives in 43 tribes in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Commander Celeste Davis began her IHS career as a Commissioned Officer with the Public Health Service in 1996. Since then she has served in a variety of Environmental Health Officer positions in Alaska and New Mexico, having risen through the ranks from the field. Her broad work experience includes assessment and inspection, environmental and epidemiological investigations, training, policy development, and program evaluation and management. Celeste is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist who earned a Bachelor of Science degree from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Celeste is a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. She enjoys visiting her family and friends in Oklahoma, but prefers being with her family and friends in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, where she can still watch Sooner football games.

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.

Thomas Dunlop- Tom has been involved in local Environmental Public Health in Colorado since 1970. His first job was with Larimer County as an Environmental Health Officer. He then created the Environmental Health Department in Aspen in 1976, and concluded his career as Director of the Pitkin County Environmental Health Department. His retirement in 2001 from public service launched a new career as President of Dunlop Environmental Consulting, Inc. He received a BA in Biology from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and a Master of Public Health from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. His concentration of study was Public Health Practice. He is also the appointed Env. Public Health Advocate for Pitkin Co. Tom champions for the profession through volunteer service to various local, state and national associations and agencies. His interests include fostering a working relationship between environmental public health academics and actual practice of the discipline. His motivation is to continue contributing for the betterment of human health and a sustainable environment.

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.

John Tilden

Food Safety Epidemiologist
Food and Dairy Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Epidemiology Instructors-

Kate Colby, MPH - Kate Colby earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology from Mount Holyoke College, a certificate in culture, health, and science from the Five College Consortium, and a Master of Public Health degree from Emory University in international health with a concentration in infectious disease. She worked with the National Center for Infectious Disease at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta in the hepatitis laboratory and as a program manager for the Partnership for Social Sciences in Malaria Control in the malaria branch. She completed her Master's thesis work on a malaria information, education, and communication project with ethnic minorities in Southeast Asia with the World Health Organization in Laos. She also worked as an infectious disease surveillance officer for the Georgia Emerging Infections Program in Atlanta. She is currently the Cumberland District Field Epidemiologist with the Maine CDC investigating infectious disease cases and outbreaks in Maine. Her office is located in Portland.

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- C.P. Kanwat worked as a Foodborne Epidemiologist and Supervisor for 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 worked with regional staff to investigate outbreaks of foodborne disease and provided subject matter consultation to local Outbreak Response Teams during investigations of enteric disease cases and outbreaks. He also provided training to local staff on foodborne disease, including foodborne outbreak tabletop exercises and Epi-Ready Workshops. CP is currently in the process of further pursuing his medical career.

Bela Matyas, MD, MPH- Bela T. Matyas is currently Health Officer and Deputy Director of Health and Social Services for Solano County in California. He served as Chief of the Communicable Disease 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.

Amie May, PhD(c), MSBS, MPH - Amie is the enteric epidemiologist for the Indiana State Department of Health. She is NEHA certified and is an active trainer on the Indiana Epi-Ready Team. She is also an Adjunct Professor in epidemiology at the University of Indianapolis. Her public health experiences include working as a district epidemiologist in metro-Atlanta, followed by work as a surveillance epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) for Enteric Bacteria program. Amie received her BA in Biology from DePauw University, MSBS in biochemistry and molecular biology from the Medical College of Ohio, MPH in epidemiology from Emory University, and is a PhD candidate in Public Health/epidemiology from Walden University.

Warren McDougale, 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.

Roshan Reporter, MD, MPH - Roshan received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from the University of California at Berkeley. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of California at San Diego and received her Master of Public Health degree from UCLA. Dr. Reporter has worked as a clinic physician in pediatrics and communicable disease. She has worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services for 20 years and for the last 5 years, has been the Head of the Foodborne Disease Unit of the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program. In this role, she has much experience working with Environmental Health and the Public Health Laboratory, state and federal agencies. Her experience has allowed her to publish numerous articles and present at many conferences on the subject of food borne illness outbreaks.

Julie Schlegel, MSP -

Foodborne Epidemiologist
SC Department of Health & Environmental Control
Acute Disease Epidemiology

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.

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 - Sharon has worked for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resource's Bureau for Public Health for over 10 years, 4 years as a microbiologist at the West Virginia Public Health Office of Laboratory Services, where she did enteric pathogen testing, as well as rabies virology testing. She has worked the last 6 years as an Epidemiologist, four years with the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program and the last year as an Epidemiologist with the Health Statistics Center. Sharon has conducted several food borne outbreak investigations while working as the Zoonotic Epidemiologist with the Infectious Disease Program. Currently, Sharon works with the West Virginia Office of Community Health Systems and Health Promotion conducting surveillance for the Asthma Education and Prevention Program.

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- Sue is currently the Planning and Competency Evaluation Unit Manager with the Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). Her responsibilities include the oversight of the sub-recipient accountability system for the CDC Public Health Emergency Response Cooperative Agreement, managing the risk communication team and local public health liaison, and acting as alternate to the Department's Emergency Management Coordinator. As the former OPHP Laboratory Training Coordinator, she was responsible for training laboratorians in

the State of Michigan Regional Laboratories that serve in the capacity of reference labs in the National Response Network as well as coordinating statewide training for public health and clinical laboratories with the National Laboratory Training Network. Her experience includes 23 years as a microbiologist in the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) at MDCH having been responsible for Lyme disease culture, parasitology and foodborne illness testing.

Denise Toney- Denise received her Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry and in Chemistry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and her Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her pre- and post-doctoral research focused on the biochemical and molecular characterization of virulence factors encoded by the pathogenic protozoa *Naegleria fowleri* and *Acanthamoeba* spp. Dr. Toney is currently employed as a Lead Scientist at Virginia's Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) and serves as one of the state's experts and consultants for infectious disease and molecular biology testing. Dr. Toney is particularly interested in initiatives which focus on foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response at the local, state and national level. She actively serves on the Virginia Food Safety Task Force, APHL's Foodborne Disease Capacity Assessment Working Group, the Food Emergency Response Network's Methods Working Group and CDC's PulseNet Steering Committee. Dr. Toney has been the recipient of numerous federal grants and cooperative agreements in support of her work at DCLS and a recipient of several personal awards for her dedication and efforts towards improving public health. Dr. Toney's other interests include the development of methods for the rapid identification and genotyping of respiratory pathogens including *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, Influenza virus and *Bordetella pertussis*. During her tenure, Dr. Toney has supervised and trained hundreds of scientific and public health professionals as well as grade-school, medical and graduate students in scientific research projects, including mentoring several Emerging Infectious Diseases Fellows, pre- and post-doctoral graduate students and university interns. In addition, Dr. Toney maintains a faculty appointment at Virginia Commonwealth University in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and has an excellent rapport with public health and scientific colleagues locally, statewide and nationally.

Additional Instructors-

Donald Sharp, MD, DTM&H- Donald is currently the Deputy 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. He leads the CDC support for the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response, CIFOR, and has been the Epi-Ready Project Office since 2003. Dr. Sharp received 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-

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And many more!