

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Jeremy Corrigan, MS, PHM II

Bioterrorism Coordinator / Laboratory Manager / ELAP Laboratory Director
Humboldt County Public Health Laboratory



Jeremy Corrigan is the Laboratory Manager of the Humboldt County Public Health Laboratory (HCPHL). Originally from Alaska, Jeremy moved to California in 1999 to attend Humboldt State University. In 2004, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology with a minor in Chemistry. Thereafter, he volunteered at the Child Family Health International (CFHI) Global Health Education Program in South Africa where he received his first exposure to

the core mission and functions of public health and field experience in global health. Jeremy came back to California to train as a Public Health Microbiologist and obtained his certificate in 2007. He was hired at Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory and worked there as a microbiologist for 3 years.

In 2010, Jeremy returned to Humboldt State University to get his Master of Science degree in Biology where he wrote his thesis on, "Investigation of Spotted Fever Group *Rickettsia* in Dogs and Ticks in Northern California." Subsequently, Jeremy was hired at Humboldt County Public Health Laboratory where he now serves as its Laboratory Manager, ELAP Laboratory Director, and Bioterrorism Coordinator.

Jeremy is an active member of CAPHL. He has served on the Training Committee and currently serves as CAPHL's Comptroller, a member of the Program Planning Committee and is CAPHL's CEU Coordinator. He has a strong interest in molecular diagnostics and laboratory bioterrorism preparedness and has developed several assays including multiplex *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) PCR assay for the detection of pathogenic Vp in oysters, and microbial source tracking assays for monitoring recreational waterways. As a LabAspire fellow, Jeremy is on the Doctorate of Public Health Laboratory Science program at the University of South Florida. His goal is to obtain his Dr.P.H., become board certified, and become one of California's Public Health Laboratory Directors.

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Kristina Hsieh, Dr.P.H

PHM Supervisor

California Department of Public Health

Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory Branch

Zoonotic and Vectorborne Disease Section



Kristina Hsieh received her bachelor's degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology, Masters in Public Health and her Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) from the University of California, Berkeley. During her undergraduate studies, she conducted research on various viral and bacterial pathogens and its effects on various signal

transduction pathways in innate immune signaling.

Her MPH concentration focused on infectious diseases with a specialty in International Health. In 2008, she was selected as a LabAspire Fellow and conducted her doctoral research away from the bench and focused on developing an understanding of the administration and management of public health laboratories, specifically the feasibility of PHLs in California engaging in partnerships to help bolster California's public health laboratory network.

Kristina completed her PHM training in 2012. She worked as a microbiologist until 2014 when she was promoted to a PHM supervisor for the Laboratory Central Services Program for the California Department of Public Health (CPDH). In 2015, she became the PHM supervisor for the Zoonotic and Vectorborne Diseases section for VRDL. In addition to her work in the laboratory, Kristina is an active member of the Public Health Laboratory System Working Group (PHLSWG), a group established to strengthen the PHL system in California by enhancing disease surveillance and preparing and responding to public health threats.

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Harmeet Kaur, Ph.D., PHM, M(ASCP)CM

Senior Public Health Microbiologist / Bioterrorism Coordinator
Placer County Public Health Laboratory



Harmeet Kaur is a Senior Public Health Microbiologist at Placer County Public Health Laboratory and serves as their Bioterrorism Coordinator, a position she's held since 2015. She is also an American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP)-certified Clinical Microbiologist. She coordinates the Placer County Public Health Lab's Preparedness Testing Program which includes emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases work and has successfully implemented new testing in the laboratory such as Measles PCR, Trioplex RT-PCR, to name a few. She was recently accepted to the Association of

Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Emerging Leader Program Cohort 10. Harmeet received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Microbiology, with honors, from Panjab University, Chandigarh, India and a doctoral degree in Microbiology and Molecular Biology from Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh, India. She was one of the 5 candidates chosen to receive the Institute Fellowship that allowed her to pursue her doctoral training. After completing her Ph.D, she came to the U.S. in 2006 and joined the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio as a Postdoctoral Research fellow where she worked on National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant-funded projects studying the molecular biology of corneal wound healing process following Lasik surgeries

on rabbits and other invitro models. Harmeet made her way to the west coast at Touro University in Vallejo, CA where she worked as a Laboratory Manager/Staff Research Associate. Once again, she found herself working on NIH-funded research projects, and this time, on developing assays for the detection, evaluation, and development of fusion inhibitors that prevent the binding of Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to human immune cells. Subsequently, she also worked as a Postdoctoral research fellow at U.C. Davis on several research projects studying the disease pathogenesis of vascular biology of metabolic syndrome and diabetes. Harmeet has authored/coauthored several publications in internationally renowned journals.

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Denise Lopez, MS, PHM

Public Health Laboratory Manager / ELAP Laboratory Director
Tulare County Public Health Laboratory



Denise Lopez completed her undergraduate and graduate work at Fresno State University where she was awarded US EPA's Greater Research Opportunities Fellowship and named the Dean's Medalist of her graduating class for the Department of Science and Mathematics. She joined the Tulare County Public Health Lab in 2006 and, as a Public Health Microbiologist, has performed testing in the areas of molecular

diagnostics, serology, bacteriology, virology, mycology, parasitology, mycobacteriology, and blood chemistry. As the Training Coordinator and Safety Officer, she developed the facility's plans for biosafety, security, incident response, and chemical hygiene, in compliance with DSAT regulations. She became the Public Health Laboratory Manager in 2011 and the ELAP Director in 2012.

She was awarded the Fresno State University Biology Department Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2016 and serves on the Biology Department Advisory Board. She serves on the CPHLD Program Planning Committee and as co-chair of the Training Committee.

Denise is also a certified Lean Leader and an active member of APHL. She is a graduate of the Emerging Leader Program, has led pre-conference workshops, breakout sessions, and roundtables at APHL annual meetings, and has participated in on-site Lean consultation exercises in local and state laboratories. She currently serves on the APHL Laboratory Systems and Standards (LSS) Committee, on the LSS Return-onInvestment taskforce, and as Member-at-large of the Governing Board for the APHL Network of Laboratory Leadership Alumni.

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Shantelle Lucas, PhD, CMS, M(ASCP), PHM
Assistant Laboratory Director
San Mateo County Public Health Laboratory



Shantelle Lucas is the Assistant Laboratory Director for the San Mateo County Public Health Laboratory (PHL). She was a former LabAspire Post-Doctoral Fellow at the California Department of Public Health in 2012. Upon completion, Shantelle moved to San Diego, CA in 2013 and worked as a public health microbiologist for the San

Diego County PHL for nearly three years. During this time, she also worked at Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp) as a clinical microbiologist.

In February 2016, Shantelle made her way back to northern California and was appointed Clinical Microbiology Supervisor at Sutter Health Mills Peninsula Medical Center affiliate in Burlingame, CA. As a supervisor, Shantelle was responsible for all administrative tasks, routine culture investigations, while also

performing moderate to high complexity tests.

Shantelle is now ready to continue her experience in public health as an Assistant Director. Her passion is to help protect the overall health of the community. When she is not working, she has several hobbies that help her keep a good work-life balance that she thoroughly enjoys: traveling, shopping, trying different restaurants, going to concerts, dancing, movies, and various cultural events.

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Lydia Mikhail, PHM, MBA

Laboratory Manager

Orange County Public Health Laboratory



Lydia Mikhail is the Laboratory Manager for the Orange County Public Health Laboratory (OCPHL). She received her Bachelor's degree in Biology with a Minor in Chemistry from California State University, Fullerton. In 1990, she joined the OCPHL as Laboratory Assistant, and obtained her Public Health Microbiologist (PHM) Certificate in 1992. As a PHM I, she rotated through all the major laboratory departments: Bacteriology, Virology/Serology and TB/Mycology/Parasitology in six years. In 1998, she was promoted to PHM II and to Supervising PH Microbiologist for the TB/Mycology/Parasitology sections in 2000. In 2002, she participated in the lab planning and upgrade of OCPHL's BSL 3 suite, to meet the Select Agent

Program requirements, and has served as the laboratory's Alternate Responsible Official.

She became the Administrative Supervisor and was promoted to Laboratory Manager in 2006. As a Laboratory Manager, she supervised five laboratory technical supervisors, oversaw the day-to-day operations of the lab, including but not limited to, quality assurance, regulatory requirements, budget, contracts, facility, personnel and safety. She also served as the Project Manager for the Cerner-LIS implementation and lab liaison for the ground-up build of the Water Quality Lab. Between 2010 and 2015, she took on two promotional roles outside of the lab but within the Agency – as the Disease Control and Epidemiology Division Manager and the Health Disaster Management Division Manager.

In 2015, Lydia returned to her former position as the Laboratory Manager of the OCPHL where she continues to oversee daily lab operations including lab strategic planning, staffing retention, shortages, hiring, and quality assurance. She works very closely with their network of laboratory partners and clients in coordinating OCPHL testing services pertaining to major outbreaks and surveillance.

Lydia's educational and professional achievements include two master's degrees while working full time – an MBA in Health Care Management in 2002 and very recently, in March 2017, a Master of Arts in Ethical Leadership (MEL). In 2005, she participated in a study and co-authored the "*Reduction in turnaround time for laboratory diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis by routine use of a nucleic acid amplification test*", one of the first studies published on this subject.

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Pepper Stockton, PhD, PHM

Public Health Laboratory Assistant Director
Shasta County Health & Human Services Agency



Pepper Stockton is the Assistant Director of the Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency Public Health Laboratory. Shasta County Public Health Lab is a small lab employing 3 microbiologist that serves a small population base, but a large geographic region.

Pepper received a B.S. in Biotechnology from the University of California, Davis and a PhD in Biology from the University of California, San Diego. Pepper completed the Public Health Microbiologist training in 2013. He has been working as a Public Health Microbiologist in Shasta County since 2014 and was promoted to Assistant Director in May of 2017.

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Brandon J. Bonin, MS, PHM
Senior Public Health Microbiologist
Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory



Brandon is the Senior Public Health Microbiologist for the Virus, Molecular, Mycology, PFGE, and WGS departments at Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory. Brandon received his BS in Molecular Biology from the University of California, Riverside and his Masters of Science from the University of Florida. Brandon started at Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory in June 2004 as a PHM trainee. He is a graduate of the APHL Emerging Leaders Program Cohort 9 and also working towards his doctoral degree from the University of South Florida with expected graduation in summer 2020. Brandon is also a veteran of the United States Navy with one tour in the Persian Gulf. When not doing science, Brandon enjoys big mountain snowboarding and mountain biking.

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Beatrix Kapusinszky, PhD, PHM

Public Health Laboratory Assistant Director

Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin County Public Health Laboratory



Dr. Beatrix Kapusinszky is a Microbiologist with specialization in Human and Animal Virology. She received her PhD in Microbiology (Summa Cum Laude) in 2010 from Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary. For more than a decade, she worked as a Public Health Microbiologist at the Hungarian National Center for Epidemiology, Department for Virus Diagnostics and was also a Chief of the WHO accredited Poliovirus and Enterovirus National Reference Laboratory in Budapest, Hungary. She has trained in world class laboratory environments throughout Europe (Germany, Greece, Italy, Czech Republic), Canada and in the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has extensive training in infectious disease agents and expertise in high containment laboratory environments (BSL3/4).

Between 2010 and 2016, Beatrix pursued her postdoctoral career in new virus discovery, using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) tools

at the Blood Systems Research Institute, an affiliate of University of California, San Francisco Department of Laboratory Medicine. She also worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Stanford School of Medicine Department of Pathology, focusing on NGS detection of BK polyomavirus variants in pediatric kidney transplant recipients.

Beatrix has a solid publication record in molecular epidemiology of viruses and new virus discovery, and experience with submission of grant proposals, scientific presentations, journal peer review, mentoring graduate and doctoral students, and training postdocs and guest researchers. Her interests include implementing novel tools for pathogen detection and molecular epidemiology of infectious agents. She completed Public Health Microbiologist training in 2017, and is currently the Assistant Director of the Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin County Public Health Laboratory.

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Stephanie Trammell, MPH

Senior Microbiologist

San Francisco Department of Public Health Laboratory



Stephanie Trammell is currently a Senior Microbiologist at the San Francisco Department of Public Health Laboratory, leading the molecular diagnostics and specimen receiving sections. She received her Public Health Microbiologist training and experience at the Contra Costa Public Health Laboratory in Martinez, CA, attaining certification in 2008.

Stephanie received her BS in Microbiology at the University of California, Davis and later earned her MPH from the University of California, Berkeley, with an emphasis in Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology. While attending Berkeley, she was accepted to the LabAspire program where she

pursued opportunities to work with different types of public health organizations. Her MPH internship was conducted at the Public Health Research Institute in Mysore, India, evaluating a *Trichomonas vaginalis* point-of-care assay for clinical use in populations that are hard-to-reach and have low access to healthcare. After completion of her MPH, Stephanie returned to Contra Costa County PHL as a Public Health Microbiologist until transferring to San Francisco PHL in 2015.

Stephanie's long-term goal and focus in the LabAspire program is to work on staff development and retention as well as provide opportunities to introduce staff to new technologies and research.