Organization Name:
Office of the Associate Director for Science, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Address:
1600 Clifton Road, Mail Stop D-50, Atlanta, GA 30333

Mailing Address (if different):
Same as above

Phone: 404-639-4690
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Web site: http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/integrity/phethics/

Internship Supervisor/Contact:
Drue Barrett, Ph.D.
Lead, Public Health Ethics Unit
Office of Science Integrity
Office of the Associate Director for Science
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Organization’s Mission Statement:
The mission of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability. To accomplish this mission, CDC monitors health, investigates health problems, and promotes sound public health policies and programs. CDC core values—respect, integrity, and accountability—serve as the foundation for all activities at the agency.

The Office of the Associate Director for Science (OADS) is responsible for ensuring integrity and excellence in science at CDC. In 2005, OADS launched a public health ethics initiative that established the CDC Public Health Ethics Committee (PHEC). The mission of PHEC is to provide leadership in public health ethics at CDC and to work with CDC staff to integrate the tools of ethical analysis into decisions and day-to-day activities across CDC.

Summary of Organization’s Primary Programs and Services:
PHEC is responsible for managing and implementing public health ethics at CDC. PHEC has been working with CDC programs to develop procedures for conducting public health ethics consults and to develop educational material to strengthen CDC staff members’ knowledge of basic principles of public health ethics. PHEC also works with
academic and professional ethicists (members of the Ethics Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to the Director) to develop ethics documents that address a number of specific public health issues (e.g., emergency preparedness and response, pandemic influenza, distribution of ventilators during a severe pandemic, use of travel restrictions for control of infectious diseases). Currently, PHEC is spearheading an effort to develop a public health ethics consortium that will facilitate collaborations between academic public health ethicists and state and local public health officials in order to further public health ethics in the arena of public health practice.

Intern’s Title:
Pubic Health Ethics Intern

Internship Project/Job Description:
This placement will provide hands-on experience in day-to-day public health ethics activities at the nation’s premiere public health agency. The intern will work with the Public Health Ethics Unit on a variety of activities, including participating in ongoing ethics consults on public health topics, assisting with the activities of ongoing workgroups developing ethics documents, and helping with the planning of the Joint Meeting of the Ethics Subcommittee and PHEC to be held June 16-17, 2011. The intern will also have the opportunity to shadow the Public Health Ethics Lead during staffing of Ethics Desk in CDC Director’s Emergency Operations Center should the Center be activated either for an emergency or for a simulated emergency. Efforts will be made to find a project that can serve as the focus of the intern’s activity and that will reflect both the intern’s interests and the current needs of CDC.

Qualifications:
The position is open to graduate level students enrolled in either a master’s or doctoral level degree program who have an interest in the intersection of ethics and public health. Knowledge of basic ethical and health/science concepts, good critical reasoning and analysis skills, and ability to communicate well both verbally and in writing are important for this position. Some experience with public health practice is desirable but not required.

Preferred Work Days/Hours:
Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Will the internship require that the student have a car?
No

Is placement site accessible by public transit or other transportation options?
Yes