**Potential Preceptors for Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics MS PHMEID Field/Laboratory Experience and Final Project Courses**

Thank you for considering working with our George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health students seeking to complete their Master of Science in Public Health Microbiology and Emerging Infectious Diseases (MS PHMEID) practice requirement, the Field/Laboratory Experience (FLE). The FLE is a 2-credit, course which serves to provide supervised practical experience to reinforce the classroom and laboratory work in their academic program. The FLE, which should take a minimum of 120 hours, generally takes place in one of the following areas:

• Infectious disease research,

• Public health laboratories, or

• Qualifying public health entities (local, state or federal public health department, multilateral health organization, private contractor, etc.) to introduce them to epidemiologic research, particularly, surveillance and its tie-in with laboratories either in the United States or in an international setting.

Students choosing a laboratory-focused experience should gain concrete experiences in key laboratory functions. This includes but is not limited to gaining experience in specimen collection, use of test kits, specimen storage and transport, chain of custody procedures, specimen processing in the laboratory, Good Laboratory Practices, general quality control issues, use of basic lab instrumentation, issues of biosafety, and exposure to one or more key laboratory test methods.

Students seeking a more epidemiology-focused experience will carry out the field placement in contexts where they should be exposed to epidemiologic research, surveillance, and the relationship between the laboratory and public health epidemiology.

As a potential FLE Preceptor, you have chosen a project or set of tasks in your field of expertise for students to work on. You will be supervising their work and guiding them with respect to the practical application of epidemiologic and/or laboratory methods in your field. There are four products for the Field/Laboratory Experience: the student’s proposal/contract, time log, final report, and the evaluations Preceptors and students review and complete at the end of the course.

For more information on the Field/Laboratory Experience requirements, you can view our departmental MS PHMEID Field/Laboratory Experience Resource Page, http://publichealth.gwu.edu/departments/epidemiology-and-biostatistics/practice-experience-ms-phmeid, which contains descriptions of the FLE, course syllabi, frequently asked questions, and other resources. If appropriate, students can link their final project with their FLE, but this is not a program requirement.

The Final Projectis a graded course which consists of four elements that focus on the synthesis and summary of data acquired through epidemiologic and/or public health laboratory research. Students are required to formulate a research question and plan and conduct data analysis. The four elements are: (a) Concept Paper, (b) Proposal, (c) Final Report, and (d) Oral Presentation. As Final Project Preceptor you will supervise the student’s work on these four products and have input on the student’s final grade through the evaluation.

If you would like more information about the Field/Laboratory Experience or the Final Project, or need to talk to a faculty member for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Field/Laboratory Experience Co-Advisors:

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**Professor Schmitthenner advises students with last names A – G; Professor Goldman advises students with last names H-Z**.