

Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases RISE Fellowship

Mentor Information Session





Dr. James A. Ferguson EID

RISE Fellowship

- ❑ Dr. Ferguson was the fourth dean of Tuskegee University's School of Veterinary Medicine and first Tuskegee alumnus to serve in that capacity in 1991.
- ❑ During his tenure on the NCID Board of Scientific Counselors, Dr. Ferguson advocated for a fellowship to introduce medical and veterinarian students to the field of public health.
- ❑ An eight-week Summer Research Fellowship Program was instituted in 1989 at the CDC/NCID.
- ❑ Morehouse School of Medicine and Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine were the first schools to participate.
- ❑ The program was renamed in Dr. Ferguson's honor in 1999.

Ferguson RISE Fellowship Goals

- Promote knowledge of and commitment to careers in public health.
- Focus on graduate students who are in medical, dental, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, social science, and public health professions.
- Provide research and clinical experiences to develop critical thinking, leadership skills, **scientific presentations and publications.**
- Mentor and introduce students to public health fellowships and career opportunities at the CDC.

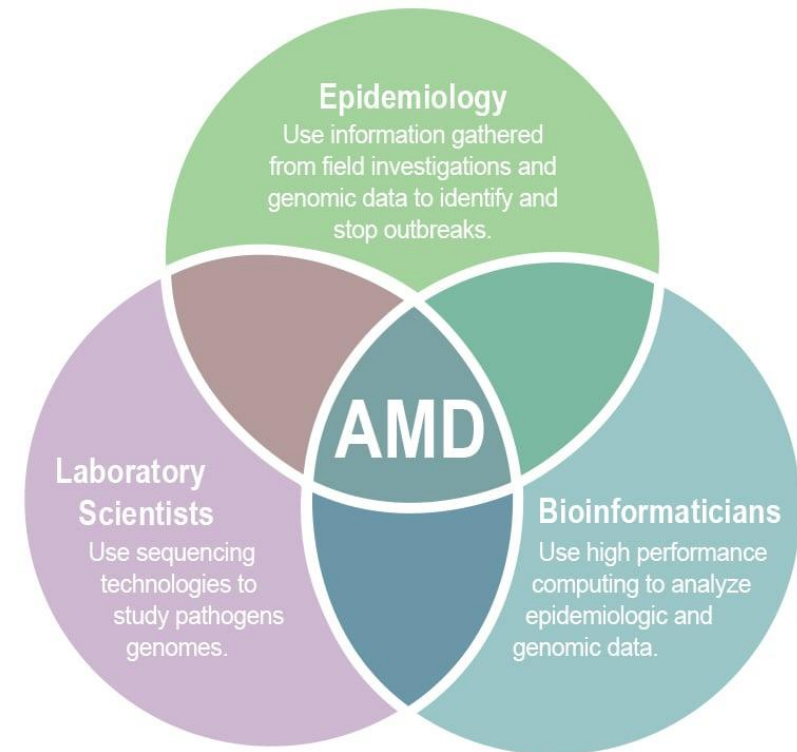


Educational Topics and Priorities

- ❑ Public health experiences focus on addressing public health challenges and promoting health for all individuals
 - ❑ CDC Optimal Opportunities for Prevention to Promote Health
 - ❑ Political and Social Determinants of Health
 - ❑ Infectious Diseases
 - ❑ Advanced Molecular Detection
 - ❑ Waste Water Surveillance
 - ❑ Developmental Disabilities/Neurodiversity
 - ❑ Maternal and Child Health
 - ❑ LGBTQI+ Health
 - ❑ Mental Health
 - ❑ Health Policy

Advanced Molecular Detection and Wastewater Surveillance

- **Newly CDC funded focus research areas with the Ferguson Fellowships**
- Advanced molecular detection (AMD) integrates traditional epidemiology with next-generation sequencing and bioinformatics to provide detailed information on disease-causing organisms.
- AMD allows public health agencies across the United States to identify and solve outbreaks that, in the past, would not have been detectable.
- AMD is now central to the U.S. public health system's efforts to identify, track, and stop infectious disease.
- Wastewater surveillance is a method to monitor for pathogens within a community. It involves the systematic sampling, processing, and analysis of wastewater to detect the genetic material of targeted pathogens.



Ferguson RISE Fellowship Dates

- RESEARCH Experience:
 - **Monday, June 1 – Friday, July 24, 2026 (Summer)**
 - **June 8, 2026 - May 21, 2027 (12-Month)**
- CDC Showcase and Expo –Summer Ferguson Fellows
 - **Monday, July 27 - Wednesday, July 29, 2026 (tentative)**
- Closing Ferguson RISE Summer Research Symposium
 - **Thursday, July 30, 2026 (tentative)**



Ferguson RISE Summer

- ❑ In-person Orientation: **Monday, May 25, 2026 – Friday, May 29, 2026**
- ❑ Research Experiences: **Monday, June 1, 2026 - Friday, July 24, 2026**
- ❑ Institutions
 - ❑ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - ❑ Kennedy Krieger Institute
 - ❑ Johns Hopkins University Medical Institutions
 - ❑ Howard University
 - ❑ Morehouse School of Medicine
 - ❑ Rollins School of Public Health at Emory
 - ❑ CUNY School of Public Health
 - ❑ Other health department and university sites are welcome
- ❑ Research presentation on **July 30** at the CDC (tentative)
- ❑ Submit research to a national scientific meeting (e.g., American Public Health Association)
- ❑ Peer-reviewed publication

Ferguson RISE-12 Months

- ☐ 12-month Ferguson RISE Fellowship: **May 25, 2026 – May 21, 2027**
- ☐ In-person Orientation **May 25 –June 5, 2026**
- ☐ Full-time **June 8, 2026-May 21, 2027**
- ☐ Institutions
 - ☐ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - ☐ Howard University
 - ☐ Kennedy Krieger Institute
 - ☐ Johns Hopkins University Medical Institutions
 - ☐ Morehouse School of Medicine
 - ☐ Rollins School of Public Health at Emory
 - ☐ CUNY School of Public Health
- ☐ Peer-reviewed publication

Ferguson RISE Fellowship

Public Health Training and Career Exploration

- Core Public Health Knowledge
 - Focus on Health Promotion
- Infectious Diseases Research Experience
- Research Accountability Groups (RAGS)-
 - Wednesdays- 7:30 AM-11:00 AM (Summer)
 - Thursdays- 8:00 AM-10:00 AM (12-month)
- Weekly Public Health Leaders
- Professional and Research Development through Mentoring
- Abstract Writing
- Presentation Experience
- Peer Reviewed Publications
- Leadership Experience (Near-Peer Mentoring)
- Networking/Employment Opportunities



Enhancing Mentoring



Mentor Readiness

Ferguson RISE Mentorship M³ Model

- Mentoring Team
 - Research Mentor
 - Ferguson RISE Faculty
- Research Accountability Groups
- myIDP  Public Health and Social Sciences – Individual Development Plan

Mentor Responsibilities

1. Meet regularly with the scholar to create a supportive and successful academic and research environment
2. Set academic and research expectations in collaboration with the scholar
3. Review progress with scholar
4. Ensure scholar is involved in networking activities
5. Prepare scholar for national research presentation
6. Encourage and collaborate on peer-reviewed publications

PHaSS-IDP

<https://www.careersinpublichealth.org/>



PHaSS-IDP



Assessments

Dashboard

Career Clusters

My Plan

About Us

Resources

My Profile

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Build a Better Public Health Career

PHaSS-IDP is a free online career exploration and planning tool for all early career professionals, graduate and undergraduate students in public health and social sciences. In recent years, the graduate education community has begun to respond to the need for trainees to take a structured approach to their career planning and professional development. Frequently, the recommended approach is described as an Individual Development Plan (IDP). An IDP is simply a written set of goals designed to answer two important questions with the help of mentors



Public Health and Social Sciences Individual Development Plan

- Self-Assessment
 - Skills
 - Tasks
 - Mission
 - Values
- Explore 20 Public Health Careers
- Develop SMART Academic and Career Goals
- Build Your Mentoring Team

Ferguson RISE Summer Schedule

Activity	Date	Time	Topic Area
Orientation	5/25/2026 to 5/29/2026	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM EASTERN	Registration and Health Screening, Health Promotion, Social Determinants of Health, Research Design and Biostatistics, Program Overview Professional Development: by 6/5 Mission Statement* Profile/Biosketch*
RAG Sessions			RAG Discussion Objectives
1	6/3/2026	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Blue Team] “Balancing Work and Wellness” Kathryn Van Eck, PhD	Research Question/Hypothesis/Study Procedures/Techniques Professional Development Mission Statement
2	6/10/2026	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Green Team] “How and When to Say No!” Harolyn Belcher, MD, MHS	Research Literature Review/Study Design/Methods/Data Collection Professional Development Biosketch due 6/12 PHaSS-IDP Completion 6/15
3	6/17/2026	8:00 AM-11:00 AM [Yellow Team] 9:00 AM: “My Career in Vaccine Development” Brittany Feijoo, MSN, PhD	Research Data Collection

5	7/1/2026	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Blue Team] “PreventionLink!” Ernest Carter, MD, PhD	Data Collection/Analysis/Tables/Figures Power Point Presentation *Submit Title 7/6
6	7/8/2026	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Green Team] “Respecting your life to respond to public health emergencies: Emory University 2014 norovirus outbreak” Juan Leon, PhD	Data Collection/Analysis/ Tables/ Figures/Discussion Power Point Presentation *Vote ONCE for the Ferguson RISE Fellow (it can be yourself) who exemplifies the characteristics described in the Hambie Pruitt Award description by July 13. Sign up for symposium practice session here
7	7/15/2026	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Yellow Team] TBD	Poster Draft for Research Mentor Review Complete Closing Evaluations *Submit Posters in PowerPoint format 7/17 Sign up for symposium practice session here
	7/22/2026		Upload Mentor APPROVED Poster Presentations Due
8	7/23/2026	8:00 AM-11:00 AM TBD 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM [Office Hours]	Presentation Review Complete Closing Evaluations

Mentor Agreement

We understand that there may be unforeseen public health emergencies that must be addressed; however, as you consider research mentoring, please reflect on the following:



1. Do you have a research project with available data that a Fellow can reasonably complete to the point of data analysis and data presentation within 8 weeks (for summer fellows) or 12 months full time?
2. If you are unavailable, is there a substitute mentor or preceptor who will be able to work with the Fellow?
3. Will all necessary data, equipment, reagents, IRB approval, etc., be available by June 1 for summer fellows?
4. Most importantly, do you have sufficient time to spend with the Ferguson Fellow, i.e., at least 30-60 minutes per week to meet individually with the Ferguson Fellow regarding the Fellows' research and professional development?

Please Note: Ferguson RISE Fellows are expected to produce a poster or oral presentation of their research at the close of their respective programs.

Demographic and Research Detail

Minimum Skills/Qualifications Required

	Required to complete the project	Willing to provide training
Bioinformatic workflows	☐	☐
Biostatistics - basic	☐	☐
Biostatistics - advanced	☐	☐
Descriptive statistics	☐	☐
Economics	☐	☐
Epidemiologic data visualization	☐	☐
Epidemiology	☐	☐
Genomic/molecular epidemiology	☐	☐
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (e.g., ArcGIS)	☐	☐
Health, life sciences, or social sciences informatics	☐	☐
Integration of laboratory and epidemiologic data or data visualization	☐	☐
Laboratory protocols - general (e.g., PCR, cell culture)	☐	☐
Laboratory protocols - complex (e.g., advanced molecular detection)	☐	☐
Literature review	☐	☐
Python	☐	☐
R	☐	☐

Data Collection Purpose

Consent for Research Participation

Please note that the information collected in this survey serves a dual purpose.

1. First, the information you provide via this survey is required by the funding agency for program evaluation.
2. Second, with your permission, the information you provide will be used for research purposes (i.e., to test hypotheses about the effectiveness of program curricula and activities).

Participation in this research is voluntary. Your permission (or lack of permission) in this research will have no effect on your current or future relationship with the Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership at Kennedy Krieger Institute. You may cancel your permission to use your information at anytime by contacting Dr. Harolyn Belcher (CenterforExcellenceNPH@kennedykrieger.org). Your cancellation will not affect information already collected. Only de-identified (or limited, e.g., including dates) data will be used in research publications. We will use the findings from this survey with other data, to evaluate and improve the program. This study has been reviewed and approved by the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutional Review Board [IRB00398423; Principal Investigator: Harolyn M.E. Belcher, MD, MHS]. If you have any questions regarding this survey study, please contact: Harolyn M.E. Belcher, MD, MHS Director, Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership at Kennedy Krieger Institute 716 North Broadway Baltimore MD 21205 Office:(443) 923-5933 CenterforExcellenceNPH@kennedykrieger.org

I agree that the information provided in this survey can be used for research in aggregate and de-identified (or limited, e.g., dates may be used) format.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Ferguson RISE Fellowship Partner Sites

- Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, School of Nursing, and Bloomberg School of Public Health
 - **Harolyn Belcher, MD, MHS, Director**
 - **Damani Piggott, MD, PhD, Co-Director**
 - **Sasha Greenspan, PhD, Administrator**
 - **Carson Peters, MPH, PhD (c), Program Manager**
 - **Joi Brownlee, MPH ATL-Coordinator**
 - **Ernest Carter, MD, PhD, Faculty**
 - **Kathryn Van Eck, PhD, Faculty**
- CUNY School of Public Health
 - **Lynn Roberts, PhD, Site Director**
- Howard University
 - **Terri Adams-Fuller, PhD, Site Director**
- Morehouse School of Medicine
 - **Rosanna Barrett, PhD, MPH, Site Director**
- Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University
 - **Juan Leon, PhD, Site Director**



Mentor Agreement

https://discover.kennedykrieger.org/jfe/form/SV_9sN3V7MSEGHazsq



LINKS to Know

IMPORTANT PROGRAM INFORMATION LINKS

1. <https://www.kennedykrieger.org/training/programs/center-for-excellence-in-public-health-leadership>
2. <https://www.kennedykrieger.org/training/programs/center-for-excellence-in-public-health-leadership/ferguson-rise>



MENTOR AGREEMENT LINK

https://discover.kennedykrieger.org/jfe/form/SV_9sN3V7MSEGHaZsq



Questions?

Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership

Center & Ferguson RISE Director: **Harolyn M.E. Belcher, MD, MHS**

Ferguson RISE Co-Director: **Damani Piggott, MD, PhD**

Ferguson RISE Fellowship Administrator: **Sasha Greenspan, PhD**

Ferguson RISE Program Manager: **Carson Peters, MPH, PhD (c)**

Ferguson RISE Faculty Mentor: **Ernest Carter, MD, PhD**

Ferguson RISE Faculty Mentor: **Kathryn Van Eck, PhD**

Ferguson-ATL Coordinator: **Joi Brownlee, MPH**

Center for Excellence in Public Health Administrative Operations Director: **Kelly Little, MHA**

CDC Ferguson RISE Fellowship Leadership: **Shantrice Jones, MPH** and **Angela Blackwell, DrPH, MPH**

Email: Ferguson_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org