Servant Leadership Summer Internship Placement Site
Job Description Information Sheet
Summer 2015

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

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

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

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

Secondary Supervisor:
Leonard Ortmann, Ph.D.
Senior Ethics Consultant
Office of Scientific Integrity
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Primary Supervisor’s contact information including e-mail:
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Atlanta, GA 30333
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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, the Public Health Ethics Unit within OADS launched a public health ethics initiative that established the CDC Public Health Ethics Committee (PHEC). The mission of the Public Health Ethics Unit and 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:**
The Public Health Ethics Unit collaborates with PHEC to identify, analyze, and resolve ethical issues that arise in public health practice. Activities include a consultation process for any CDC program facing an area of ethical uncertainty or conflict for which it seeks guidance. Other activities include educational trainings and seminars on both general and specific public health ethics topics that are open to all CDC staff. For staff at state and local health departments, the Public Health Ethics Unit has also developed a training manual, online training, and a repository of public health ethics case studies. In conjunction with case development efforts, we are in the process of publishing a global public health ethics casebook that will highlight global perspectives on the ethical challenges of public health. The Public Health Ethics Unit also staffs the Ethics Desk within the CDC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and has been engaged in providing consultation on ethical issues associated with the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

**Intern’s title:** Pubic Health Ethics Intern

**Number of interns requested by your organization?** One

**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 that may occur while the intern is at CDC, including participating in public health ethics consults. The intern will also have the opportunity to shadow the Public Health Ethics Lead on Ethics Desk activities relating to the Ebola response. Efforts will be made to identify a project that reflects both the intern’s interests and the current needs of CDC. This project potentially could include the development of a case study or the exploration of an ethical concern associated with one of CDC’s programmatic areas. The intern will be expected to present his or her project at the June 23, 2015 PHEC meeting. Expected work hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.
**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 an 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.

**If there are other requirements for this position (security check, drug screen, immunizations, etc.) please note them here:**
Security clearance is required

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

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