

Meet the Fellow

Jayvon McKinney

Host Laboratory: Ohio Department of Agriculture Laboratories

Degree of Study: Master of Science

Graduation: May 2023

School: New York University



Tell us about your educational background?

I completed my Bachelor of Science in human biology in Dayton, Ohio. I received my Master of Science in biology with a concentration in immunology at New York University. I also studied abroad for a semester in Abu Dhabi studying molecular genetics, specifically working with long non-coding RNAs and RNA interference.

What brought you into laboratory science?

I've always had an interest in biology and human anatomy. Medicine and research have been my passion from day one.

How did you hear about the Public Health Laboratory Fellowship Program?

After I graduated from NYU in 2023, I began looking for postgraduate opportunities. I was searching through the various science fellowships and stumbled upon APHL's program on the CDC website.

How did this fellowship match or exceed your expectations?

My fellowship in quality management has broadened my career outlook. I was not familiar with quality management, but I've grown to love it. The Fellowship Team has been a great resource during my professional development, and they have been extremely supportive every step of the way.

Tell us what you learned from your mentor.

As mentioned above, I was interested in quality management but unfamiliar with it. My mentor has taught me all about the laboratory, accreditations, standard operating procedures, and so much more. I can honestly say, when my fellowship is complete, I believe I will have all the necessary tools to succeed in the quality-assurance workforce.

Tell us about your project assignments/laboratory roles.

My primary objective is to modernize and improve the existing procedures and training program within the laboratory's Quality Management System (QMS). The project scope has expanded to creating

a structured internship program, designing a molecular inventory system, writing code for the laboratory's internal control chart, conducting internal audits, writing corrective action preventative action (CAPA) reports, and documenting lab staff training authorization records. I am also working with lab supervisors and administration to finalize asset preparations for our move into a new building.

How has your fellowship experience inspired you?

The fellowship has prepared me to 'keep the fight' going for public health. It has been inspiring seeing the different public health leaders and groups persevere in this time of uncertainty.

How would you describe the Fellowship to other students?

The fellowship provides students an opportunity to further their postgraduate careers by opening doors to many fields in public health. It is an amazing learning experience that will help you grow professionally.

Aside from the laboratory and the science, did you gain any other beneficial life experiences?

Yes. I had the pleasure of attending multiple conferences, allowing me to network and expand my professional relationships. I also had opportunities to pursue courses and certificate programs that I was able to list on my resume. Lastly, I even attended an Automated External Defibrillator/ Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (AED/CPR) training class!