

Bioinformatics Leadership Program

June 15-18, 2026

APHL Headquarters | Bethesda, MD

DESCRIPTION

The Bioinformatics Leadership Program aims to advance leadership skills in early to mid-career bioinformaticians in public health laboratories. The introduction and use of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) in public health laboratories has added new personnel and skillsets to the public health laboratory workforce. With the influx of bioinformaticians into public health laboratories, there is a need for programs to build leadership skills and provide training on the unique aspects of bioinformatics in a public health context. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of bioinformatics, this program will build communication and leadership skills critical for careers in public health. In addition to building critical skills, emerging leaders will have an opportunity to build a network of public health bioinformaticians to connect with and learn from their peers.

The program will consist of a series of virtual meetings, a four-day in-person meeting and a cohort project. Participants should expect to spend three to five hours per month on program related meetings and projects.

AUDIENCE

This program is intended for early to mid career bioinformaticians working in public health laboratories looking to develop leadership skills and gain a better understanding of the complexities of bioinformatics in public health.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Support bioinformaticians' growth as leaders in public health laboratory settings.
- Enhance understanding of applications of bioinformatics in public health.
- Develop and refine leadership and collaboration skills to work effectively within interdisciplinary teams.
- Build community among public health bioinformaticians.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Deadline: February 14, 2026

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant or nominee must be a bioinformatician currently working in a public health laboratory.
- Applicant or nominee should demonstrate potential for leadership and commitment to advancing bioinformatics in public health.
- Priority will be given to applicants or nominees that have been working in public health bioinformatics for at least one year.

Application and Nomination Process

- To be considered for participation in this program, you must apply or be nominated.
- **Applications or nominations** are to be completed online. Only completed applications and nominations received by the deadline will be considered.
- Following completion of the application and nomination period, APHL will review and notify applicants of selection into the program.
- APHL will work with participants to arrange travel and accommodations for workshops. **All costs for this program including travel support, per diem and housing, will be covered for accepted participants by APHL.**

For any questions, please contact **Jackie Faulkner**.

By registering for this event, you are consenting to have your information shared with APHL event collaborators, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Public Health Laboratories. We will not, in any circumstances, share your information with other individuals or organizations without your permission, including corporations or individuals, except when applicable by law. We do not sell, communicate or divulge your information to any mailing lists.

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Continuing Education Credits: The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E. Program. sessions.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals seeking special accommodations must email a request to Jackie Faulkner (Jacquelyn.faulkner@aphl.org) at least three weeks prior to the workshop's start date.

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Preliminary Agenda

Day 1 – Monday (June 15)

Morning:

- Introduction Public Health
 - The roles of various public health laboratory partners
- Sequencing in Public Health
 - Sequencing and bioinformatic implementations in public health laboratories
 - Translating genomic data to public health action

Afternoon:

- Epidemiology and Genomic Epidemiology Principles

Day 2 – Tuesday (June 16)

Morning:

- Communication Strategies
 - The importance of knowing your audience
- Group Communication Exercise

Afternoon:

- Facilitating Dialogue Exercise
- Messaging for Public Policy

Day 3 – Wednesday (June 17)

Morning:

- Ethics and AI in Public Health Bioinformatics
 - Ethical challenges and considerations on the responsible use of data and privacy concerns.
 - Ethical and legal aspects of technology
- Data Governance Considerations

Afternoon:

- Common IT Challenges and Needs for Bioinformatics o Strategies for Communicating with IT
- Regulatory Frameworks

Day 4 – Thursday (June 18)

Morning:

- Group Exercise

Potential Faculty:

- Logan Fink, Virginia DCLS
- Kelsey Florek, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
- Kelly Oakeson, Utah Public Health Laboratory