

Michael Washington, Ph.D., DSHS



Current Position and Company. Michael is a Health Scientist in the Health Economics and Modeling Unit at the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, which is within the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He did a fellowship with the CDC and found it to be one of the best decisions he had ever made.

Education History. Michael received his BS from the University of Florida in Industrial and Systems Engineering. Then, he moved to Tampa for a MS and PhD in Industrial Engineering from the University of South Florida.

Finding Healthcare and SHS. Michael found that most IE courses focused on manufacturing. But after a horrible internship in a manufacturing company, he looked for other opportunities. The next semester, his facility design professor was the Director of Facilities at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, FL. He realized he could use his skills in hospitals and found a fellowship to pay for his MS and PhD. In graduate school, he found the Society for Health Systems (SHS), which increased his desire to work as a healthcare IE in a hospital. He had difficulties finding an internship in hospitals and there were no IE classes covering healthcare topics. He started taking public health classes and landed an assistantship in the College of Public Health. This exposed him on how inefficient public health was. Some one suggested he apply to the Prevention Effectiveness Fellowship at the CDC. It was designed to bring economists into public health. Although Michael is not an economist, the qualifications read very similar to what industrial engineers do: economic analyses, allocation of resources, statistics, etc. He wrote his application focusing on his economic related skills and became the first engineering brought into the CDC under this fellowship in 1998. He was hired full time after his fellowship ended, and he has been with the

CDC since (outside of two years working with the Navy as a civilian).

Experience in Healthcare. In addition to working at the CDC, Michael also worked for the Department of the Navy. He has worked in healthcare for 21 years.

Current Project. At the time of writing this, Michael has been in Tanzania working on President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) related databases and reporting systems, determining the cost of a big PEPFAR initiative funded through Gates and Nike Foundations to empower young girls, and advising on a cost effective analysis related to methadone treatment for IV drug uses. He is planning to go out into the field to provide statistical analysis support and evaluate clinics.

SHS Involvement. Michael has been a member since 1994. He has chaired the conference and served as a Director from 2004—2006. He was also the chair of the Student Committee. To help students who are interested in healthcare like he was, he volunteers as a mentor.

Favorite Memory of SHS. Michael loves the conference every year because he gets to connect with old friends. But, when picking a specific event, it is Board meeting held at Debbie Flint's house in Alabama (~2004). What fun!

Free Time! When he isn't working on international outbreaks, Michael can be found at the gym lifting weights, riding his bicycle, or taking pictures as he travels through Africa, which is a bit of a change from growing up in rural central Florida. His photographs have won in the CDC Connect Photo Contest in the category of International People (1st place in 2012 and 2nd in 2013).