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Epidemiology Consultant-National Center for Environmental Health-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NSF-NIEHS Oceans & Human Health Center Role: Investigator-Recreational Microbes

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Education

- 1993 MPH Epidemiology School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
- 1985 PhD Genetic Toxicology University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
- 1981 MA Genetics University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
- 1976 BS Human Ecology Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Research Interests

Research interests include assessing the human environmental health impact of harmful algal blooms, including red tide, blue-green algae, and estuarine dinoflagellates (e.g. *Pfiesteria piscicida*); assessing human exposure to and

health effects from exposure to drinking water contaminants; assessing human exposure to drinking water disinfection by products, assessing the public health impacts of human interactions with oceans, and evaluating the use of animals as sentinels for environmental contamination and for adverse health outcomes in people.

Representative Publications

Backer LC, Kirkpatrick B, Fleming LE, Cheng YS, Pierce R, Bean JA, Clark R, Johnson D, Wanner A, Tamer R, Baden D. 2005. Occupational Exposure to Aerosolized Brevetoxins during Florida Red Tide Events: Impacts on a Healthy Worker Population. *Environmental Health Perspectives* 113-5:644.

Backer LC, Fleming LE, Rowan A, Cheng, Y-S, Benson J, Pierce RH, Zaias J, Bean, J, Bossart GD, Johnson D, Quimbo R, Baden DG. Recreational Exposure to Aerosolized Brevetoxins During Florida Red Tide Events. *Harmful Algae*. 2003;2:19-28.

Backer LC. Cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms (CyanoHABs): Developing a public health response. *Lake and Reservoir Management*. 2002;18(1);20-31.

Backer LC, Niskar AS, Rubin C, Blindauer K, Christianson D, Naeher L, Schurz-Rogers H. Environmental public health surveillance: possible estuary-associated syndrome. *Env. Health Perspect*. 2001;109 (Suppl 5);797-801.

More Info: <http://www.cdc.gov>