



## Education at URMIC – Program Features

---



Susan Fisher, PhD

**Program:** Epidemiology

**Program Director:** Susan Fisher, PhD

**Program Coordinator:** Pattie Kolomic

**Current Faculty Members:** 8

**Degree offered:** PhD in Epidemiology

**Contact Number:** (585) 275-2191

**Contact Email:** [susan\\_fisher@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:susan_fisher@urmc.rochester.edu)

### About the Program

Advances in disease prevention and health promotion in the 21st century requires the knowledge and skills from a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines, in particular, those of epidemiology. The Doctoral Program in Epidemiology, initiated in 2002, prepares individuals for an academic career specifically focused on research and education in this public health concentration. Our program emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to community and population-based research that is founded on rigorous principles of risk assessment, research methodologies and analytic techniques. The program builds closely mentored relationships between students and faculty, and the collaborative atmosphere at the Medical Center offers the opportunity for students to work with researchers in various fields.

## Mission of the Division of Epidemiology

As an integrated component of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine, the Division of Epidemiology is committed to lifelong inquiry and learning through the conduct of a broad scope of health-related investigations and the teaching of epidemiology as a sequential process of reasoning. Members of the division seek to achieve excellence in our educational endeavors and to extend our research initiatives to challenge the limits of our knowledge and enhance our contribution to disease prevention and health promotion worldwide. Solid methodologic foundations and strong analytic skills are the hallmark of the problem-solving paradigm that we foster, practice, and teach within our division.

## Faculty Research

**Edwin van Wijngaarden**, PhD, Associate Professor and Division Chief, examines environmental exposures in relation to neurologic conditions in both children and adults.

**Susan G. Fisher**, PhD, Professor, Department Chair and Doctoral Program Director, examines viral etiologies of cancer, including current work investigating pathogens that contribute to the development of lymphoma.

**M. Jacob Adams**, MD, MPH, Associate Professor examines the cardiovascular risk of therapeutic radiation during childhood and other cardiovascular risks in childhood cancer survivors.

**Robert C. Block**, MD, MPH, FACP, Assistant Professor, evaluates the role of biomarkers, such as fatty acids, in the pathophysiology and prevention of heart disease.

**I. Diana Fernandez**, MD, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, aims to develop interventions that will help individuals avoid excessive weight gain.

**Thomas A. Pearson**, MD, PhD, MPH, Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research, has a special interest in observing heart disease trends and the extent to which prevention guidelines are carried out.

**David Q. Rich**, ScD, Assistant Professor, examines how environmental agents such as ambient air pollution impacts cardiorepiratory, perinatal / reproductive health.

## What makes us Unique?

The Doctoral Program in Epidemiology has several strengths that set it apart from other programs. Program faculty maintains strong collaborations with faculty in the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine, across the Medical Center, and at other institutions, which provides students with a large number of opportunities to engage in multidisciplinary investigations. Our curriculum fosters this multidisciplinary approach by incorporating course work from a variety of different fields, including other public health disciplines, biostatistics and medicine. Finally, program faculty are dedicated mentors who are particularly committed to working closely with students to foster their teaching and research skills.