

Penelope Pearson

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QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

- PhD-level epidemiologist with a focus in global disease epidemiology and vaccine science and policy
- 7 years of experience in both lab and applied research settings
- Significant experience interacting with industry and academic professionals
- Theoretical and applied knowledge of statistical analysis for a variety of data, including longitudinal data and survival analysis
- Proficient in R and SAS; familiar with STATA
- Strong understanding of program planning and evaluation
- Demonstrated skills in monitoring and evaluation methods

EDUCATION

PhD, Epidemiology

Expected May 2020

University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, Pittsburgh, PA

Dissertation: *The Assessment of Efficient Tools for Detection of X and Intervention in Low Resource Settings*

Master of Science, Epidemiology

May 2014

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD

Concentration: Global Disease Epidemiology and Control

Certificate: Vaccine Science and Policy

Bachelor of Arts, Public Health *summa cum laude*

May 2010

Wilmore College, Wilmore, IL

Honors: Wilmore Scholar (4-year merit scholarship)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Researcher

Aug 2014 – Present

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- Conduct epidemiologic research in the area of surveillance system evaluations
- Analyze data using epidemiologic methods and perform secondary analysis to investigate how previous treatment history impacts remission
- Develop study protocols and perform primary data collection
- Provide technical assistance to various public and private health-related organizations
- Present research findings at local, national, and international scientific conferences

Graduate Student Researcher

Sept 2012 – May 2014

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Epidemiology Department

- Developed study protocols and survey instruments using R and STATA
- Assisted with qualitative and quantitative analysis, quality assurance and quality control
- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team of epidemiologists, physicians, nurses, social workers and nutritionists
- Conducted literature reviews and hosted weekly journal meetings with staff and faculty of nearby universities
- Assisted with the creation of study documents, progress reports, and manuscripts

Research Assistant

Jun 2010 – Aug 2012

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Harare, Zimbabwe

- Promoted informed policy on HIV vaccine uptake in low income countries
- Assisted the communications team with material cataloging and updates
- Researched special topics such as modeling HIV supply, demand, and cost

Senior Research Assistant

Summer 2008, 2009

Department of Genetics, Wilmore College, Wilmore, IL

- Performed a comprehensive genetic screen to discover new genes involved in insect olfaction leading to the discovery of a probable new class of odorant receptors
- Trained and supervised two laboratory technicians and two research assistants

PROGRAM EVALUATION EXPERIENCE

Program Intern

Jan – May 2010

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Recipient of the Gates Foundation award for Population and Reproductive Health

- Examined risk factors for malaria in pregnant women in rural villages
- Developed the protocol and questionnaire for the study

Monitoring and Evaluation Intern

Sept – Dec 2009

PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI), Seattle, WA

- Created a database for a unified country evaluation system of advocacy activities
- Supervised implementation of National Malaria Program treatment & prevention policies
- Coordinated with local authorities for sites of new advocacy field research

LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER

Vice President

Fall 2011 – Present

African Public Health Network, JHSPH, Baltimore, MD

Child Life Volunteer

Fall 2008

Children's Hospital of Chicago, Chicago, IL

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Boston, R., **Ortiz, M.** et al. (2019). Physical Functioning in Women with HIV. *Public Health Magazine*, November 2007, New York, NY.

Smith, P. & **Ortiz, M.** (2018), Global Health Care Reform: Impact on Access. *Sample Journal Title*, 78, 398-399.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)

2015-Present

American Public Health Association (APHA)

2012-Present

J.B. Grant Global Health Society

2010-2012

SKILLS

Language: French (Fluent); Arabic (Fluent); Swahili (Basic)**Computer:** STATA; SAS; R; MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint); ArcGIS**Training:** Medication Adherence Training and AIDS Care Fundamentals Workshops, KITSO AIDS Training Program, AIDS Initiative Partnership (April 2010)