

Dr. Ann Von Holle
Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
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Professor Alvaro Alonso, M.D., Ph.D.
Search Committee Chair
Department of Epidemiology
Rollins School of Public Health
Emory University
201 Dowman Drive
Atlanta, GA 30322

Dear Professor Alonso:

I am writing to apply for a tenure-track assistant faculty position in the Department of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health (Job Vacancy #69411). This position within the Rollins School of Public Health presents an exciting opportunity to develop an independent research program, teach classes in epidemiology, and mentor graduate students. The combination of my experience in both applied analysis and advanced epidemiologic research provides a strong basis to pursue these opportunities as a faculty member within your department.

Before my doctoral and postdoctoral training in epidemiology, I had the opportunity to strengthen cross-disciplinary collaborations as a biostatistician at the Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. This experience led to my growing interest in combining my analytic skills with the ability to make an impact in public health and disease prevention efforts. These interests dovetailed into my subsequent doctoral studies in epidemiology. As a graduate student in Dr. Kari North's research group at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I independently applied both longitudinal and latent class methods in my research to better understand the relationships between early infant growth and lipid levels in adolescence. To complete this dissertation work, I successfully applied for and received an individual two-year American Heart Association predoctoral fellowship (2016-2018). In completing the first aim of my dissertation, I found that lower socioeconomic position was associated with slower and less favorable growth in the first five months of life. Work from my second aim provided evidence to support a positive association between this growth pattern and a less favorable lipid profile. This dissertation work resulted in three

first-author manuscripts, and further solidified my passion for epidemiologic research focusing on changing exposures during sensitive windows of time.

In my current position as postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), I have had the opportunity to develop research in biomarkers and breast cancer epidemiology and present my work at national meetings. I started my postdoctoral work with a project evaluating familial correlation in age of onset for breast cancer, followed by my current work with a focus on iron as a biomarker. Other work in progress also includes an investigation into age-dependent associations between body mass index and breast cancer risk with the Premenopausal Breast Cancer Collaborative Group.

Overall, my position in Dr. Clarice Weinberg's research group in the Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch at NIEHS has enabled me to further my research in cancer epidemiology, build a strong foundation for teaching, and develop the groundwork for an independent public health research program. My future plans for independent research include a focus on capturing changes in modifiable lifestyle factors such as body fatness, physical activity, and alcohol use in women during the postmenopausal period. This research presents the potential to identify interventions to improve breast cancer and all-cause mortality outcomes during a critical and understudied period of time.

The assistant faculty position at the Rollins School of Public Health would provide an exciting opportunity to establish my independent research program while collaborating with the faculty and teaching within the epidemiology curriculum. I look forward to hearing from the committee and thank you for your consideration of my application.

Sincerely,

Ann Von Holle, Ph.D.