

Dr. Ann Von Holle
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

February 21, 2022

Dr. George Jackson
Department of Population Health Sciences
215 Morris Street
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Dr. Jackson,

I am writing to apply for the assistant professor position at the Department of Population Health Sciences. I am enthusiastic about this position because it offers an exciting chance to develop a research program, mentor and teach at the graduate level, and establish collaborations in your program at Duke University. As a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), I work in Dr. Clarice R. Weinberg's research group in the Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch focusing on cancer epidemiology. The combination of my earlier experience as an academic biostatistician, doctoral training in epidemiology, and advanced training at NIEHS provides an excellent fit for your advertised position.

Throughout my training in epidemiological research, I have formed the basis for developing a strong research program. When I was a graduate student in Dr. Kari North's research group at the University of North Carolina, I obtained funding to complete my dissertation that applied both longitudinal and latent class methods to better understand the relationships between early infant growth and lipid levels in adolescence. This work resulted in three first-author manuscripts and further solidified my passion for epidemiological research. I continue along this track at my current postdoctoral fellowship at NIEHS. One example of my research as a fellow is work we published on familial correlation of age at breast cancer onset, using a combination of survival models and time-dependent covariates. My prior graduate and postdoctoral research dovetail with my future research plans, which include efforts to better understand the role of modifiable lifestyle change in breast cancer and mortality outcomes.

The graduate program in the Department of Population Health Sciences offers exciting teaching opportunities relating to my experience in epidemiology and biostatistics. To engage in these opportunities, I will draw on experience from my work and training. My first teaching-related experience was as a biostatistician at the Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In this position, I found many opportunities to share my knowledge when collaborating with undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and professors to develop and apply statistical methods for their peer-reviewed manuscripts. After my role as an academic biostatistician, I was a teaching assistant in an advanced epidemiologic methods class in my doctoral training in epidemiology at the University of North Carolina -- a rewarding experience that I hope to extend as a professor in a program

such as the one at the Department of Population Sciences at Duke University. More recent experience includes my time as a postdoctoral fellow, which includes teaching a short-course in introductory statistics and mentoring a masters-level summer intern in 2021. These experiences offered an opportunity to share my knowledge and help current and future researchers work through epidemiological or health-related hypotheses. As a professor, I look forward to expanding this role as a teacher and mentor.

The potential for research, teaching, and collaboration in the Department of Population Health Sciences at Duke University will provide a welcome and exciting opportunity for me to establish my independent research program while collaborating with the exceptional faculty and teaching within the Population Health Sciences curriculum. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Ann Von Holle, Ph.D.