Dr. Ann Von Holle
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Dr. Douglas A. Jabs, Search Committee Chair
Center for Clinical Trials and Evidence Synthesis
Department of Epidemiology
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
615 N. Wolfe Street
Baltimore, MD 21205

Dear Dr. Jabs:

I am writing to apply for the tenure-track faculty position specializing in evidence synthesis at the Center for Clinical Trials and Evidence Synthesis in the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I am very enthusiastic about the opportunities within the CCTES to develop an independent research program, teach classes in epidemiology, and mentor graduate students. My experience in both applied analysis and advanced epidemiologic research provides a strong basis to pursue these opportunities as a faculty member within your center.

I first started my graduate studies at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where I completed a Master of Health Science, which served as a springboard for my work with the Peace Corps and the Maryland Health Care Commission. My subsequent experience in both applied work as a biostatistician and training in epidemiology as a graduate student and postdoctoral fellow has allowed me to develop a unique publication record, present my original work in biomarkers related to cardiovascular and cancer epidemiology, and develop concepts for an independent research program.

The opportunities to strengthen cross-disciplinary collaborations as a biostatistician at the Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders at the University of Chapel Hill, 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 and postdoctoral studies in epidemiology. Once I started 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 work, I successfully applied for and received an individual two-year American Heart Association predoctoral fellowship (2016-2018).

In completing my dissertation, I found that lower socioeconomic position was associated with slower and less favorable growth in the first five months of life, and this growth pattern was also associated with a less favorable lipid profile. This work resulted in three first-author manuscripts, and further solidified my passion for epidemiologic research focusing on changing exposures during sensitive windows of time. During my doctoral training, I also completed a practicum involving a systematic review of hypertension literature with Dr. Anthony Veiera's research group. This review, recently published in JAMA, indicates that home blood pressure measurements offer an important complement to diagnoses of hypertension based on medical office blood pressure measurements.

In my current position as postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), I have had the opportunity to further develop my research in biomarkers and breast cancer epidemiology and present my work at national meetings. My postdoctoral work started with evaluating familial correlation in age of onset for breast cancer, followed by current work with a focus on iron as a biomarker. Other work in progress also includes meta-analyses of breast cancer hazard ratios across multiple cohorts in the Premenopausal Breast Cancer Collaboration Group. Overall, my position in Dr. Clarice Weinberg's research group in the Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch has enabled me to refine my skills in epidemiologic research, 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 modifiable lifestyle factors change over time in women who are transitioning to menopause. This research presents the potential to identify interventions to improve breast cancer and mortality outcomes during a critical and understudied period of time for women. Furthermore, more research, including evidence synthesis, can provide needed evidence to support these efforts.

The position specializing in evidence synthesis at the Center for Clinical Trials and Evidence Synthesis would provide an exciting opportunity to establish my independent research program while collaborating with the faculty at CCTES 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.