

Dr. Ann Von Holle
Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
PO Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

November 11, 2022

RTI Headquarters
3040 Cornwallis Road
Post Office Box 12194
Durham, NC 27709

Dear Hiring Team,

I am writing to apply for the genetic epidemiologist position in the Omics, Epidemiology, and Analytics (OEA) Program in RTI's GenOmics, Bioinformatics, and Translational Research Center. I am enthusiastic about this position because it offers an exciting chance to lead and support projects relating to multiple -omics and environmental data in a research environment.

I am a postdoctoral fellow in the Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). In Dr. Clarice Weinberg's research group, my primary focus is on cancer epidemiology, biomarkers, and epidemiologic methods. This experience, combined with 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 research in genetic epidemiology:

- As a graduate student in Dr. Kari North's research group at the University of North Carolina, I trained in genetic epidemiology. My dissertation, to better understand the relationships between early infant growth and lipid levels in adolescence, included an aim examining gene-environment interactions and their association with lipid levels. My work has resulted in three first-author manuscripts and further solidified my passion for epidemiological research.
- I continue to develop proficiencies in analyses of large-scale data in a Linux environment in my current postdoctoral fellowship at NIEHS. I have developed a new focus on breast cancer epidemiology and time-to-event data, some of which include analyses of large-scale data in a Linux cluster environment.

- Alongside a new research direction in breast cancer epidemiology, I continue to develop research in genetic epidemiology topics, including a collaboration to conduct a GWAS for carotenoid outcomes. I am also in the initial phases of planning a project focusing on male-origin microchimerism and female hormone-sensitive cancers, such as breast cancer.

My training in epidemiological methods has enabled me to conduct high quality and state-of-the-art analyses with large-scale data to inform public health goals, including disease prevention.

Your program offers exciting research opportunities relating to my experience in epidemiology and biostatistics. To engage in these opportunities, I will draw on skills I have developed from my work and training. Prior to my doctoral work in epidemiology, I developed strong methodological expertise in academic research as a biostatistician at the Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina. As mentioned before, I have experience working in high performance computing environments both at UNC as a doctoral student and at NIEHS as a postdoctoral fellow, which includes strong proficiencies in R programming and reproducible research. Throughout my epidemiological training, I have refined my skills in writing manuscripts and grants, and I continue to enjoy presenting academic research at national conferences.

The potential to lead and support analyses of multiple -omics and/or environmental data for complex human diseases, design data collection activities, and publish findings in peer-reviewed journals is a welcome and exciting opportunity for me to continue along my established research path while collaborating with the members of the OEA program at RTI. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Ann Von Holle, Ph.D.