Dr. Ann Von Holle

1158 Belfair Way

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

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Faculty Search Committee

Department of Global and Community Health

College of Health and Human Services

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Members of the Faculty Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the faculty position in biostatistics at the Department of Global and Community Health in the College of Health and Human Services. I am currently a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) working in Dr. Clarice R. Weinberg’s research group. I believe that the combination of my experience as a statistician, my doctoral training in epidemiology, and my advanced training here at NIEHS under Dr. Weinberg’s guidance provides a good fit with your advertised position.

As found in my curriculum vitae, I have transitioned from my prior work as a biostatistician in an academic setting to advanced level public health research applying longitudinal, survival, and latent class methods in health research. *I have authored five and co-authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications, with 2,597 citations and an H-index of 28, according to Google Scholar.* As a graduate student in Dr. Kari North’s research group, I applied both longitudinal and latent class methods in my dissertation to better understand the relationships between early infant growth and lipid levels in adolescence. From this work I have published two first author manuscripts, with another in preparation. My work as a graduate student further solidified my passion for public health research, and I was very happy to continue along this track at my current postdoctoral fellowship at NIEHS. In my current position, I have developed work focusing on familial correlation of age at breast cancer onset using a combination of survival models and time-dependent covariates. My current focus is on iron biomarkers and the occurrence of breast cancer. Future plans include the application of all these statistical methods to better understand the role of modifiable lifestyle change in breast cancer and mortality outcomes.

Your new Ph.D. program in public health offers an exciting opportunity to teach graduate students statistical methods in a public health context. My first teaching-related experience was as a statistician functioning in an advisory role to undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and professors in health professions as they were applying statistical methods for their peer-reviewed manuscripts. During my experience as a teaching assistant in the advanced epidemiologic methods class in graduate school, I organized class material into a Github group repository. I am very interested in expanding this approach in online resource management with Github Classroom. I have also taught a short-course in introductory statistics as a postdoctoral fellow. These experiences were a rewarding opportunity to share knowledge and help current and future researchers address scientific hypotheses through statistical methods, and I look forward to expanding this role.

The start of the new Ph.D. program in public health at George Mason University also provides a welcome and exciting opportunity for me to establish my independent research program while collaborating with the exceptional faculty and teaching statistics within the public health curriculum. I am presenting a poster at the Society of Epidemiologic Research this month, and I welcome a chance to discuss my research at that time or another convenient time. I look forward to hearing from the committee and thank you for consideration of my application.

Sincerely,

Ann Von Holle, Ph.D.