

James Walker Blackston

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

- 2019 – 2022 (expected) **Ph.D.** Epidemiology, the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Advisor: Amanda Anderson, PhD
- 2018 **M.S.P.H.** Epidemiology, *Magna Cum Laude*, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health, Birmingham, Alabama
Thesis: “*Racial Differences in Cardiovascular Disease Outcomes after Myocardial Infarction: A REGARDS Study*”
Advisor: Emily B. Levitan, ScD
- 2015 **B.A.** English and Philosophy, Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

1. **Blackston JW**, Chapple AG, McGree J, McDonald S, & Nikles J (2019). *Invited Special Issue: N-of-1 Trials in Healthcare. Comparison of aggregated N-of-1 trials with parallel and crossover randomized controlled trials using simulation studies. Healthcare* Vol. 7 (137), doi: 10.3390/healthcare7040137
2. Carter SJ, Hunter GR, **Blackston JW**, Liu N, Van der Pol W, Morrow CD, Paulsen J, & Rogers LQ (2019). Gut microbiota associates with aerobic capacity in breast cancer survivors. *Experimental Physiology*. doi: 10.1113/EP087404
3. Wright Nicole C, **Blackston JW**, & Saag Kenneth G. (2019). Changing rates in fracture trends are temporally associated with declining testing and treatment: Reality or Ecologic Fallacy? *Current Opinions in Rheumatology*. doi: 10.1097/BOR.0000000000000596
4. Chapple AG & **Blackston JW** (2018). Finding benefit for N-of-1 Trials. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2018.8379
5. Joong A, Pruitt E, Zuckerman WA, **Blackston JW**, Ameduri RK, Alejos JC, Boyle GJ, Rothkopf, AC, Kirklin J, & Gajarski RJ (2017). Increased early waitlist mortality among infants with pulmonary atresia/intact ventricular septum listed for cardiac transplantation: A multi-institutional study. *Circulation*, Vol. 136, A15843.

Manuscripts under review

1. **Blackston JW**, Mefford M, Pruitt E, Howard G, Naftel D, Howard VJ, Safford M, & Levitan EB. (2020). Racial Differences in Cardiovascular Disease Outcomes after Myocardial Infarction: A REGARDS Study. *JAMA*.

Manuscripts in Process

1. **Blackston JW**‡, Baudier R‡, Anderson AH, Feldman H, Yang P, Susztak K, Orlandi P, & He H (2020). MMP-2, CKD and urinary proteinuria progression: Findings from the CRIC study. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. ‡*equal effort*
2. **Blackston JW**‡, Stewart K‡, Tindall P, Chapple AG, Bundy J, & Kelly TN (2020). Mobile phone interventions targeting blood pressure and hypertension improvement: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Control Trials. *JAMA*. ‡*equal effort*
3. Anderson AH, Feldman HI, Yang P, Susztak K, He H, **Blackston JW**, & Baudier R (2020). PIIINP, CCN2 and CKD progression: Findings from the CRIC Study. *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*.

Essays

1. **Blackston, J. W.**, Chandler, J. (2014). Glass Communities: Social Networking's Ethical Implications within our Delicate Social Fabric. *The Ellie Wiesel Foundation for Ethics annual competition*: 1-12.

HONORS & AWARDS

2019	Dean's Research Council Scholarship , Tulane University
2018	Phi Kappa Phi , awarded to top 10% of graduate students, UAB
2018	Fulbright Scholars Program , Semi-Finalist, UAB/Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands (PI : Ivonne Sluijs)
2013-2015	Dean's List in Arts and Sciences , Birmingham-Southern College
2015	Financial Stipend for Semester GPA , Sigma Chi International Fraternity (3.75+)
2014	Student Government Association Summer Grant , Birmingham-Southern College
2012	Member , Sigma Tau Delta, English Honors Society, Birmingham-Southern College
2012	Member , Phi Alpha Delta, Pre-Law Practice Society, Birmingham-Southern College
2011	Greensboro Scholarship for Academic Merit , Birmingham-Southern College

GRANTS & SUPPORT

2019-2021	Doctoral Student , Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana.
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2017 **Research Intern**, Cancer Research Experience for Students (CARES). Funder: National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

1. **Blackston JW**, Mefford M, Pruitt E, Howard G, Naftel D, Howard VJ, Safford M, & Levitan EB. (2019). Racial Differences in Cardiovascular Disease Outcomes after Myocardial Infarction: A REGARDS Study. *EPI Lifestyles Conference, March 5-9, 2019, Houston, TX*. Poster ID #: P129
2. **Blackston JW**. Identifying transcriptomic predictors of tumor recurrence in cervical cancer. Poster presented at: UAB's Cancer Research Experience for Students, Awarded 1st Place in Group Presentation. July 2017; Birmingham, Alabama.
3. **Blackston JW**. Constructing a multiphase hazard model with external data: A REGARDS example. PowerPoint presented at: UAB's Kirklin Institute for Research in Surgical Outcomes. May 2017; Birmingham, Alabama.
4. **Blackston JW** & Pruitt E. Increased early waitlist mortality among infants with pulmonary atresia/intact ventricular septum listed for cardiac transplantation: A multi-institutional study. UAB's Kirklin Institute for Research in Surgical Outcomes. April 2017; Birmingham, Alabama.
5. Leonczyk C, Mrug S, Murray R., Perry LN, **Blackston JW**, & O'Kelley S (2016). Adolescents' Ability to Differentiate Interest Levels of Their Conversational Partners on the Contextual Assessment of Social Skills (CASS). Abstract presented at: International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) Conference. January 2016; Baltimore, Maryland.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018 **Guest Lecturer**, Assessing the impact of studies and interpreting p-values. Epidemiological Methods 610. November 2018; Birmingham, Alabama

2017 **Guest Lecturer**, Multiphase hazard models and REGARDS data: Special Topics in Biostatistics. UAB School of Public Health. March 2017; Birmingham, Alabama

2017 **Teaching Assistant**, Epidemiologic Principles (EPI 610), Dr. Stella Aslibekyan, UAB School of Public Health; August 2017-December 2017; Birmingham, Alabama

2015-2016 **Tutor**, Statistics for Behavioral Sciences (PY 216), UAB Academic Success Department; August 2015-May 2016; Birmingham, Alabama

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019 **Chronic Disease Epidemiologist**, Louisiana Department of Health: Office of Public Health, New Orleans, Louisiana (Supervisor: Win Guan, PhD)

2018-2019	Research Assistant & Grant Writing , Professional <i>grant writing and research services</i> , Blackston Research LLC in collaboration with Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana (PI: Bazzano).
2018	Volunteer Coordinator , <i>David Baria for U.S. Senate Campaign</i> , Funder: Chism Strategies, LLC and the Campaign of David Baria for U.S. Senate, January 2018-May 2018; Jackson, Mississippi (Brandon Jones).
2017	Research Fellow , <i>Assisting the Alabama State Coordinator for 314 Action- Political Action Committee for electing scientists to U.S. Congress</i> , July 2017; Birmingham Alabama (PI: Dr. Stacie Propst).
2017-2018	Intern , UAB's Cancer Research Experiences for Students (CaRES) Program, NIH/NCI: 1) <i>Cardiovascular and physical activity associations with the gut microbiome in breast cancer survivors</i> , August 2017-March 2018; Birmingham, Alabama (PI: Rogers); <i>Discovering the genomic determinants of virally induced cancers</i> , May 2017-July 2017; Birmingham, Alabama (PI: Ojesina).
2017	Statistical Consultant , <i>Evaluating the length of wait times and length of stay without treatment in primary care</i> . Magee General Hospital, Magee, Mississippi, April 2017; Magee, Mississippi. (PI: Blackston).
2017	Research Intern , <i>Surgical Outcomes Research and Analysis</i> , Kirklin Institute for Research of Surgical Outcomes, January 2017-June 2017; Birmingham, Alabama (Mentor: Pruitt).
2016	Statistical Consultant , <i>Usage rates by zip code and potential areas of expansion</i> , Zyp Bikeshare of Birmingham, LLC, March 2016; Birmingham, Alabama (PI: Blackston).
2015-2016	Research Assistant , UAB's Translational Research for Injury Prevention Laboratory (TRIP), Department of Psychology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, January 2015-April 2016; Birmingham, Alabama (PI: Stavrinos)
2015-2016	Research Assistant , <i>Adolescents' Ability to Differentiate Interest Levels of Their Conversational Partners on the Contextual Assessment of Social Skills</i> , UAB's Medical & Clinical Psychology Department, August 2015-April 2016; Birmingham, Alabama (PI: Leonczyk)

PROGRAMMING

1. **SAS, R**, MS Office, SPSS
2. **SQL, Python**, Stata, Unix command line

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:

2019-	Reviewer , <i>Statistics in Medicine</i>
2019-	Reviewer , <i>PloS One</i>
2019-	Member/Reviewer , Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER)
2017-	Member , American & Alabama Public Health Associations (APHA)
2017-	Member , American Statistical Association (ASA)

2017- **Member**, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
2016-2018 **Senator**, UAB Public Health Student Association (PHSA)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Amanda Anderson, PhD (504) 988-3056; aanderson5@tulane.edu)

Joseph Chandler, PhD (205) 226-4829; email: jchandle@bsc.edu)

Stella Aslibekyan, PhD (205) 975-9108; email: saslibek@uab.edu)

Lydia Bazzano, MD, PhD (504) 450-2066; email: lbazzano@tulane.edu)

Emily Levitan, ScD (205) 975-7669; email: elevitan@uab.edu)

Elizabeth Pruitt, MSPH (205) 975-3905; email: elizabethpruitt@uabmc.edu)