**James (Walker) Blackston**

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**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY:** Master’s level biostatistician and statistical consultant with 6 years of health data analysis and experimental design experience across government, academic and industrial settings using R (shiny, caret, markdown), Python (plotly, scikit-learn, pandas), SQL (PostgreSQL), SAS (MACRO) and STATA.

**EXPERIENCE**

**Cook MyoSite, Inc.** Pittsburgh, PA (remote)

Biostatistician I May 2021 - Present

* Queried 5 clinical trial databases in PostgreSQL for analysis in Python, preventing 100+ hours of manual sorting for contract research organization partners
* Simulated early stopping rules in an ongoing trial using SAS MACROs, saving estimated recruitment of additional 114 patients and $250,000+ in spending
* Trained team of employees monthly on statistical theory, methods, and analysis techniques in R

**Neuroscience Center of Excellence, Louisiana State University** New Orleans, LA

Research Associate I Sept 2020 – May 2021

* Developed Python program which sorted, named, and stored multi-GB cellular imaging data (IMARIS), reduced CPU processing time by 2 days
* Identified and visualized principal components of cell death using R *PCA* and *ggbiplot* for manuscript to *Cell Biology*

**Louisiana Department of Health** New Orleans, LA

Epidemiologist (Chronic Diseases & COVID-19 Relief) Feb 2019 – May 2019; May 2020 – Sept 2020

**Tulane University** New Orleans, LA

PhD in Epidemiology (no degree – one year completed) Jul 2019 – May 2020

* **Relevant Coursework:** Meta-analysis, Regression Analysis, Clustered and Longitudinal Data Analysis

**Statistical Consultant, Freelance** June 2018 – Present

* Scraped College football data API, built random forest and logistic models to predict NFL draft success from recruiting data (Python, Jupyter Notebooks); Published as a [blog post](https://blog.collegefootballdata.com/rockstars-or-flop-stars/) which has been viewed by over 2,000 users on Reddit and Twitter
* Modeled and predicted hospital (Magee County, MS) length of stay from patient medical records (EMR) using R *caret*

**University of Alabama at Birmingham/National Cancer Institute** Birmingham, AL

Research Intern May 2017 – September 2017

* Managed cancer survivorship data with 100+ highly correlated microbiome variables in Excel and R
* Identified predictors of cardiorespiratory fitness for manuscript accepted to *Journal of Experimental Physiology*

**EDUCATION**

**University of Alabama at Birmingham** Birmingham, AL

Master of Science in Public Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics Concentration Aug 2016 - April 2018

* **Awards:** Fulbright International Research Award Semi-Finalist (2018); Phi Kappa Phi – awarded to top 10% of graduates
* Thesis: “Racial Differences in Cardiovascular Disease Outcomes after Myocardial Infarction: A REGARDS Study.” Published in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes,* Vol. 13 (12)
* **Relevant Coursework:** Clinical Trial design, SAS programming, Research Seminar in biostatistics, Calculus I, Discrete Mathematics

**Birmingham-Southern College** Birmingham, AL

Bachelor of Arts May 2015

* Major in English, Minor in Philosophy; Dean’s List 2014-2015; Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society

**ACTIVITIES**

**Ad-hoc Journal Reviewer**

Alzheimer’s & Dementia Journal Aug 2018 – Present

* Reviewed 7 submissions to date for acceptance/rejection to a top 10% impact scientific journal.