

James Walker Blackston

1335 Henry Clay Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
jblackston@tulane.edu

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. Chapple AG & **Blackston JW** (2019). Finding benefit for N-of-1 Trials. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2018.8379
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. Accepted: *Experimental Physiology*. doi: 10.1113/EP087404
3. 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.
4. 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

Manuscripts in Submission

1. Stuchlik P, **Blackston JW**, Harville E, He H, Romero M, Gustat J, Chen W, Fonseca V, Carmichael O, & Bazzano LA (2019). Life-Course Metabolic Trajectories and Cognitive Function: The Bogalusa Heart Study. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*. Under review: ADJ-D-18-00819.
2. **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. *Circulation Outcomes*.

Manuscripts in Process

1. **Blackston JW**, Chapple AG, McGree J, McDonald S, Daza E, Bazzano LA, & Nikles J (2019). **Invited Special Issue: N-of-1 Trials in Healthcare**. "Addressing the statistical concerns for N-of-1 Trials." *Healthcare*.
2. **Blackston JW**, Bazzano LA, Nikles J, McGree J, & Chapple AG (2019). Bayesian analysis methods for determining population treatment effects in N-of-1 Clinical Trials: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*.
3. **Blackston JW**, Wright NC, Chapple AG, & Bazzano LA (2019). Comparing the predictive utility of Insulin Resistance and race for risk of colorectal cancer: NHANES 2007-2016. *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention*.
4. Hu T, **Blackston JW**, Bertisch S, Chen W, Harville E, Redline S, & Bazzano LA (2019). Risk of sleep apnea and subclinical cardiovascular disease in young-to-middle aged adults: The Bogalusa Heart Study. *Circulation*.
5. Hu T, **Blackston JW**, Pollock B, Stuchlik P, Guralnik J, Yao L, Harville E, Chen W, Gustat J, & Bazzano LA (2019). Postural tremor and risk of incident prediabetes and diabetes: The Bogalusa Heart Study. *Diabetes Care*.

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

2018	Phi Kappa Phi , awarded to top 10% of graduate students
2018	Fulbright Scholars Program , Semi-Finalist, UAB/Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands (PI : Ivonne Sluijs)
2017	First Place Poster Presentation , UAB Cancer Research Experiences for Students Program (CARES), Funded by The National Cancer Institute (NCI/NIH)
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

Reviewed: 2019-2021 **Researcher**, *Macronutrients and metabolic outcomes among diverse populations*, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana. Funder: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

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

2018-Present **Research Assistant & Grant Writing**, *Professional grant writing and research services*, Blackston Research LLC in collaboration with Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana (PI: Bazzano).

2018 **Volunteer Coordinator**, *David Baria for U.S. Senate Campaign*, 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**, *Assisting the Alabama State Coordinator for 314 Action- Political Action Committee for electing scientists to U.S. Congress*, July 2017; Birmingham Alabama (PI: Dr. Stacie Propst).

2017-2018 **Intern**, UAB's Cancer Research Experiences for Students (CaRES) Program, NIH/NCI: Cardiovascular and physical activity associations with the gut microbiome in breast cancer survivors, August 2017-March 2018; Birmingham, Alabama (PI: Rogers).
- Discovering the genomic determinants of virally-induced cancers, May 2017-July 2017; Birmingham, Alabama (PI: Ojesina).

2017 **Statistical Consultant**, *Evaluating the length of wait times and length of stay without treatment in primary care*. Magee General Hospital, Magee, Mississippi, April 2017; Magee, Mississippi. (PI: **Blackston**).

2017 **Research Intern**, *Surgical Outcomes Research and Analysis*, Kirklin Institute for Research of Surgical Outcomes, January 2017-June 2017; Birmingham, Alabama (Mentor: Pruitt).

2016 **Statistical Consultant**, *Usage rates by zip code and potential areas of expansion*, 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: Stavrinou)

2015-2016 **Research Assistant**, *Adolescents' Ability to Differentiate Interest Levels of Their Conversational Partners on the Contextual Assessment of Social Skills*, UAB's Medical & Clinical Psychology Department, August 2015-April 2016; Birmingham, Alabama (PI: Leonczyk)

PROGRAMMING

1. SAS (macro, ODS, graphics), R (caret, tidyr, knitr, survival), MS Office, SPSS

2. SQL, Python (scikit-learn, pandas, matplotlib), Unix command line

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:

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

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

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)

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

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