

# PATSY MARIA POLSTON, PhD, MSPH

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## EDUCATION

<b>PhD</b>	2015	Environmental Sciences & Engineering, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC  <i>Formal Minor:</i> Health Behavior <i>Doctoral Dissertation:</i> "Development and Evaluation of Candidate Microbial Source Tracking Markers to Use Following Land Application of Biosolids"
<b>MSPH</b>	2011	Environmental Sciences & Engineering, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
	2010	<i>Certificate:</i> Global Health Certificate
<b>BS</b>	1997	Double Degree: Electrical Engineering, Physics, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021 – present	Director of Undergraduate Studies for Health Behavior Community and Global Public Health BSPH Program, Academic Affairs and Department of Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
2021 – present	Assistant Professor, Academic Affairs and Department of Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
2019 – 2021	Adjunct Faculty, Academic Affairs and Department of Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
2020 – 2021	Co-investigator, Durham Back On The Bull Program, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
2020 – 2021	Co-investigator, NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
2015 – 2018	Gillings Pasteur Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Enteric Viruses, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France <i>Research:</i> Environmental and Human Surveillance of Poliovirus and other

## Enteroviruses in Madagascar

- 2008 – 2015 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Environmental Sciences & Engineering, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2009 Research Assistant, Deshpande Foundation Global Exchange Program, Bhageerath (Non-governmental Organization), Hubli, India
- 2011 – 2012 Research Assistant, Rogers Road Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA), Community Advocacy Group Volunteer, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2000 – 2002 Engineer, Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, MI

**FELLOWSHIP AND AWARDS**

- 2023 – 2024 Excellent Student Mentor Award, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health
- 2021 – 2022 Teaching Innovation Award, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health
- 2015 – 2018 Dennis and Mireille Gillings Foundation Fellowship, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health and Pasteur Foundation
- 2011 – 2015 NIH (T32ES007018), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health
- 2008 – 2011 The Public Health Service Training Grant – NIH (US Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS*****Peer-reviewed Research Papers***

**P Polston**, S Kowitt, D Baron, E Armóra Langoni, K Muessig, M Gilkey. *Searching for equity: Strategies for increasing racial/ethnic diversity in applicant pools for public health faculty searches*. Health Education and Behavior [submitted].

**P Polston**, D Matthews, S Golden, C Golin, M Hall, E Saint-Phard, A Lightfoot. *Institutional reform to promote anti-racism: A tool for developing an organizational equity action and accountability plan*. Preventing Chronic Disease Special Issue - Public Health and Medicine: Combating Racism Through Research, Training, Practice, and Public Health Policies 2023.

S McIntire, D Emmerling, M Landfried, A Lightfoot, **P Polston**. *Lessons Learned to Inform Design Choices in Experiential Education for a Newly Proposed Bachelor of Science in Public Health*. Pedagogy in Health Promotion 2023 [in preparation].

Y Merino, **P Polston**, M Pulido, SE Krause, P Rodeiguez, J Palmer, J Freeman, K Ribisl. *Prioritizing Equity in a Rapidly Changing Environment: Lessons from a Community-Engaged COVID-19 Project*. American Journal of Public Health [in preparation].

R Razafindratsimandresy, ML Joffret, J Raharinantoanina, **P Polston**, NS Andriamamonjy, IM Razanajatovo, OM Diop, F Delpeyroux, JM Heraud, M Bessaud. *Strengthened Surveillance Revealed a Rapid Disappearance of the Poliovirus Serotype 2 Vaccine Strain in Madagascar after its Removal from the Oral Polio Vaccine*. Journal of Medical Virology 2022.

P Grozdanov, ML Joffret, A Stoyanova, **P Polston**, E Achouri, I Nikolova, F Delpeyroux, A Galabov. *Genome Analysis of Coxsackievirus B1 Isolates during the Consecutive Alternating Administration Course of Triple Antiviral Combination in Newborn Mice*. Antiviral Chemistry & Chemotherapy 2019.

ML Joffret, **PM Polston**, R Razafindratsimandresy, M Bessaud, JM Heraud, F Delpeyroux. *Whole Genome Sequencing of Enteroviruses Species A to D by High-Throughput Sequencing: Application for Viral Mixtures*. Frontiers in Microbiology – Virology Section 2018.

M Bessaud, S Sadeuh-Mba, ML Joffret, R Razafindratsimandresy, **P Polston**, R Volle, M Rakoto-Andrianarivelo, B Blondel, R Njouom, F Delpeyroux. *Whole Genome Sequencing of Enterovirus Species C Isolates by High-throughput Sequencing: Development of Generic Primers*. Frontiers in Microbiology – Virology Section 2016.

**PM Polston**, RA Rodriguez, K Seo, M Kim, G Ko, MD Sobsey. *Field evaluation of an improved cell line for the detection of human adenoviruses in environmental samples*. Journal of Virological Methods 2014.

RA Rodriguez, **PM Polston**, MJ Wu, J Wu, MD Sobsey. *An Improved Infectivity Assay Combining Cell Culture with Real-Time PCR for Rapid Quantification of Human Adenoviruses 41 and Semi-Quantification of Human Adenovirus in Sewage*. Water Research 2013.

## **Reports, Proposals, and Scholarly Products**

*Request to Establish* – The University of North Carolina System New Academic Degree Program, Health Behavior BSPH in Community and Global Public Health, **P Polston**, S Golden, K Ribisl.

*Submitted*: September 20, 2023; *Approved*: by undergrad curricula office, Provost, Chancellor, and final decision by Board of Governors: February 29, 2024.

*Request for Preliminary Authorization* –The University of North Carolina System New Academic Degree Program, Health Behavior BSPH in Community and Global Public Health **P Polston**, S Golden, S Maman, K Ribisl.

*Submitted*: September 1, 2023.

### **Poster Presentations**

*Environmental and Human Surveillance of Polioviruses and other Enteroviruses in Madagascar: Impact of the Trivalent to Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine Switch.* **PM Polston**, ML Joffret, R Razafindratsimandresy, A Ghozlane, M Bessaud, JM Heraud, F Delpeyroux. Poster Presentation. Europic 2018. Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands. June 2018.

*Environmental and Human Surveillance of Polioviruses and other Enteroviruses in Madagascar: Impact of the Trivalent to Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine Switch.* **PM Polston**, ML Joffret, R Razafindratsimandresy, A Ghozlane, M Bessaud, JM Heraud, F Delpeyroux. Poster Presentation. Institut Pasteur, Department of Enteric Viruses Conference. Paris, France. October 2017.

*The Development of Novel Microbial Indicators Used for Environmental Tracking of Biosolid Contaminants.* **PM Polston**, E Rodgers-Vieira, MD Aitken, JR Stewart. Poster Presentation. American Society for Microbiology. Boston, MA. June 2014.

*The Development of Novel Microbial Indicators Used for Environmental Tracking of Biosolid Contaminants.* **PM Polston**, E Rodgers-Vieira, MD Aitken, JR Stewart. Poster Presentation. Water Microbiology Conference. Chapel Hill, NC. May 2014.

*Field Evaluation of an Improved Transactivated Cell Line for the Detection of Enteric Adenoviruses.* **PM Polston**, RA Rodriguez, M Kim, G Ko, MD Sobsey. Poster Presentation. American Society for Microbiology. New Orleans, LA. May 2011.

*The Use of the Cellular Housekeeping Gene GAPDH as Control for the Performance of Infection Assays of Adenoviruses Isolated from Sewage.* **PM Polston**, RA Rodriguez, MJ Wu, MD Sobsey. Poster Presentation. American Society for Microbiology. San Diego, CA. May 2010.

### **Oral Presentation**

*Environmental and Human Surveillance of Polioviruses, VDPVs, and other Enteroviruses in Madagascar: Impact of the Trivalent to Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine Switch.* **PM Polston**, ML Joffret, R Razafindratsimandresy, A Ghozlane, M Bessaud, JM Heraud, F Delpeyroux. Oral Presentation. Virology Department. Institut Pasteur. Paris, France. September 2018.

### **Invited Lectures and Presentations**

*“WaSH, Polio, and health behavior.”* University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, (ENVR 230 Seminar Series), Spring 2023.

*“My Journey in Public Health Research.”* NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (Women of Color in STEM – Lady’s Luncheon), Spring 2022

*Durham’s Back on the Bull Community Health Ambassador Program, Public Health Foundation Board and Advisory Council,* Spring 2022

*Durham’s Back on the Bull Community Health Ambassador Program, Gillings COVID Taskforce,* Spring 2022

*“An Environmental and Behavior Health Perspective to Global and Local Research.”* University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, (SPHG 190 Seminar Series: Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health), Spring 2022.

*“WaSH, Polio, and health behavior.”* University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, (ENVR 230 Seminar Series), Fall 2021.

*“Combating COVID-19 through Community Mobilization”* NIH NC CEAL Community Spotlight Series, Spring 2021

*“Vaccines Are Here: Now What? What to expect as vaccines become widely available?”* NIH NC CEAL Alliance Learn and Share Series, Spring 2021.

*“Unwrapping the Truth About COVID-19: Conversations to Have with Your Family and Friends Over the Holidays.”* NIH NC CEAL Alliance Learn and Share Series, Fall 2020.

*“My Journey to Environmental Microbiology and Public Health Research.”* University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Honors Carolina, (Food for Thought Dinner Series), Spring 2020.

*“An Environmental and Behavior Health Perspective to Global Research.”* University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, (ENVR 230 Seminar Series), Fall 2020.

## TEACHING ACTIVITIES

### *Assistant Professor*

- 2023 – 2024     HBEH 510: *Foundations of Ethics, Equity, and Engagement in Public Health*, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health
- Fall 2023 – Undergraduate (25 students, varying degree programs and classifications, 3 credits)
- HBEH 700: *Foundations of Ethics*, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health
- Fall 2023 – Graduate MPH Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights (14 students, 3 credits)
- SPHG 701: *Leading from the Inside-Out*, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health
- Spring 2024 – 3 MPH Sections (86 students; 4 Concentrations: Health Behavior, Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights, Maternal, Child, and Family Health, Environmental Health Solutions, 2 credits)
- HBEH 891 – 039: *Independent Study* – Minority Health Conference  
Fall 2023 and Spring 2024
- Raven Walters (MPH – Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights)
  - Ciera Thomas (MPH – Global Health)
- 2022 – 2023     SPHG 701: *Leading from the Inside-Out*, University of North Carolina

Gillings School of Global Public Health

- Spring 2023 – 3 MPH Sections (85 students; 3 Concentrations: Health Behavior, Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights, Applied Epidemiology)

HBEH 510: *Foundations of Ethics, Equity, and Engagement in Public Health*, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

- Fall 2022 – Undergraduate (17 students, varying degree programs, 3 credits)

SPHG 101: *Exploring Public Health Fields*, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

- Fall 2022 – Undergraduate (102 students, varying degree programs, 1 credit)

HBEH 891 – 039: *Independent Study* – Minority Health Conference  
Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

- Calia Cox (MPH – Nutrition/RD)
- Rhea Jayaswal (BSPH – Nutrition)

2021 – 2022

SPHG 701: *Leading from the Inside-Out*, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

- Spring 2022 - 5 MPH Sections (122 students; 6 Concentrations: Health Behavior, Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights, Environmental Health Solutions, Data Science, Applied Epidemiology, Nutrition)

HBEH 891 – 039: *Independent Study* – Minority Health Conference  
Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

- Takhona Hlatshwako (BSPH – Health Policy Management)
- Victoria Triana (MPH – Health Behavior)

### **Adjunct Instructor**

2019 – 2021

SPHG 701: *Leading from the Inside-Out*, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

- Spring 2021 - 4 MPH Sections (65 students; Concentrations: Health Behavior, Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights, Environmental Health Solutions)

SPHG 701 and 702: *MPH Practicum Preparation*, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

- Spring 2020 - 4 MPH Sections (Concentrations: Health Behavior, Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights, Environmental Health Solutions, Global Health)
- Fall 2021 – 4 MPH Sections (Concentrations: Health Behavior, Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights, Environmental Health Solutions, Global Health)

- SPHG 351: *Foundation of Public Health*, University of North Carolina  
Gillings School of Global Public Health
- Fall 2019 - BSPH program (Co-Instructor)

### ***Practicum Manager***

2020 MPH Practicum (83 students), Concentrations: Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights, Health Behavior, Environmental Health Solutions, Global Health, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public

### ***Masters Advisees***

2023 – 2024 Alana Austin, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (MPH/MSW candidate 2025)

Callie Bartlett, Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (MPH candidate 2025)

Alyssa Cooper, Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (MPH candidate 2025)

Jaschia Hall, Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (MPH candidate 2025)

Blaire Mirmow, Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (MPH candidate 2025)

2021 – 2023 Zara Mehta, Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (graduated 2023)

Deborah Shoola, Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (graduated 2023)

Victoria Triana, Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (graduated 2023)

2020 – 2022 Joia Freeman, Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (graduated 2022)

### ***Capstone Faculty Advisor***

2022 – 2023 The Marian Cheek Jackson Center (MCJC-Koo)  
Team: Teerra Gillespie, Caylin Luebeck, Siddharth Shankar, Kiara Tompkins

2020 – 2021 Chatham Habitat for Humanity, Chatham County, NC  
Team: Morgan Cooper, Emily Gvino, Eduardo Hernandez, Marlyn Pulido, Emma Stockton

**Student Faculty Advisor**

2021 – present      Minority Student Caucus, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

**Doctoral Committee**

2021 – 2023      Committee Member, Belinda-Rose Young, Health Behavior, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health (graduated 2023)

- *Nation-state Human Trafficking Legislation and Exploitation Risk Profiles*

**Teaching Assistant Supervisor**

2023 – 2024      Olivia Ojugbeli (MPH - Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, SPHG 701, Spring 2024

2023 – 2024      Ann Kaseberg (MPH - Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, SPHG 701, Spring 2024

2023 – 2024      Olivia Ojugbeli (MPH - Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, HBEH 700, Fall 2023

2023 – 2024      Stephanie Lola (MPH – Global Health), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, HBEH 510, Fall 2023

2022 – 2023      Shaun Jones (MPH – Applied Epidemiology), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, SPHG 701, Spring 2023

2022 – 2023      Taya Westfield (MPH – Health Behavior), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, SPHG 701, Spring 2023

2022 – 2023      Asia Carter (MPH – Health Behavior), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, HBEH 510, Fall 2022

2022 – 2023      Taya Westfield (MPH – Health Behavior), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, SPHG 101, Fall 2022

2021 – 2022      Courtney Kelly (MPH – Health Behavior), Renee Pond (MPH – Maternal, Child and Family Health), Madeleine Perry (MPH – Health Policy Management), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, SPHG 701, Spring 2022

2020 – 2021      Jordan Hanna (MPH – Maternal, Child and Family Health), Aarushi Joshi (MPH – Data Science), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, SPHG 701, Spring 2021



**Graduate Research Assistant Supervisor**

- 2023 - present Armani Anderson (MPH – Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Environmental, Climate, and Equity Scoping Review
- 2022 – 2023 Erin Jones (MPH – Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Environmental Climate Change Network Map
- 2020 – 2022 Sydney McIntire (MPH – Global Health), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, BSPH Community and Global Public Health
- 2020 – 2022 Dane Emmerling (PhD – Health Behavior), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, BSPH Community and Global Public Health

**Research Assistant Co-Supervisor**

- 2021 Emmanuel Saint-Phard (Health Behavior Student Based Tuition Project Health Behavior Equity Task Force), University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health
- *Using an Equity Lens to Assess and Improve Student Mentorship Experience in the Health Behavior Department*

**Scientific Instructor**

- 2015 – 2016 Scientific Instructor, International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for Institut Pasteur Paris Team
- 2014 Scientific Preceptor, Project IMHOTEP, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health Department of Environmental Sciences & Engineering

**Teaching Assistant**

- 2011 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Summer Fellows Program, Introduction to Public Health, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health
- 2010 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Summer Fellows Program, Introduction to Public Health, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

**Mathematics Instructor**

- 2006 – 2007 Mathematics Instructor, College Algebra, Community College of Baltimore County - Catonsville

**LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

- 2023 Co-Chair Membership Committee, Governing Board, SAAPHI (Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues)
- 2020 – present Gillings Climate Change and Health Working Group, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Community and Global Public Health, Health Behavior Tenure Track Search Committee Member, Lead Academic Coordinator Search Committee Member, Health Behavior Department Leadership, Health Behavior Equity Action Team Member, Gillings BSPH Council Member, Health Behavior Equity Task Force, Minority Student Caucus Faculty Advisor, Gillings Alumni Inclusive Excellence Committee Member, Inclusive Excellence Strategic Messaging Focus Group, Department of Health Behavior, Health Behavior BSPH Planning Committee, MPH Core Teaching Group, Black Student Support Pod, Jr Faculty Support Pod, Gillings Immersions Planning Committee, Experience Gillings Day, Global Health Practice Travel Awards Committee, ESE Centennial Planning Committee, Public Health Foundation Board Scholarship Committee, Carolina Black Caucus Executive Committee, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health
- 2019 – present Board Member and Governance Committee Member, Public Health Foundation Board, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health
- 2014 – 2015 Co-President, Student Government, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health
- 2009 – 2011 Co-President (2 terms), Minority Student Caucus (MSC), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health
- 2009 – 2015 Representative, Dean’s Council for Gillings School of Global Public Health, Student Government Association for Gillings School of Global Public Health, Gillings School of Global Public Health Diversity and Inclusion Task Force-Co-Committee Chair, Gillings School of Global Public Health Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Student Representative, Ethnicity Culture and Health Outcomes (ECHO) Advisory Board, Various Administrative School Search Committees, Gillings School of Global Public Health Recruiter

**INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Health Under Fire: A Discussion on the Public Health Impacts of War, 2024  
 Unpacking the Health Impacts of Conflict on Women and Girls in Gaza, 2024  
 Black Maternal Health Week, 2024  
 The Public Health Response to Humanitarian Crisis in The Middle East, 2024  
 UNC Program for Public Discourse Abbey Speaker Series: The Politics of the Israel-Palestine Conflict, 2024

Minority Health Conference – The Building Blocks to Well-being: Connections Between Health & Stress  
 Best Practices for Excellence in Student Mentoring Workshop, 2023  
 Mental Health First Aid, 2023  
 Responsible Employee Training, 2023  
 Emergency Preparedness Active Shooter Training, 2023  
 Gillings Advocacy Panel: Gun Violence Prevention as a Public Health Issue, 2023  
 Understanding and Effectively Addressing Inequities in Health – Office of Inclusive Excellence Lecture, Dr. David Williams, Spring 2023  
 Implicit Bias Training, 2022  
 HR Training – Search Committee 2022  
 28th annual National Health Equity Research Webcast: Environmental Justice: The Science, the People, the Politics  
 Center for Faculty Excellence: Summer Writing Group, 2022  
 Center for Faculty Excellence: Course Design Institute, 2022  
 BSPH Community and Global Public Health Retreat, 2022  
 Pedagogy Training: Building Community and Creating Significant Learning Experiences for Undergrads, 2022  
 Managing Microaggressions in the Classroom Training, 2021  
 Equity in Teaching Institute at Gillings, 2020-2021  
 Health Behavior Equity in Teaching Workshop, 2020  
 Inclusive Classroom Symposium – Understanding and Addressing Structural Racism, 2020  
 REI Groundwater Training, 2020  
 REI Phase 1 Workshop, 2020  
 Microaggressions: How to Identify and Combat them in your Workplace and School, 2020  
 Emergency Preparedness, Ethics and Equity Series webinars about COVID-19, 2020

## GRANTS

2019 – 2021	Co-investigator, Durham Back On The Bull Program, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
2020 – 2021	Co-investigator, NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC