

CURRICULUM VITAE
MARC A. EMERSON, PhD, MPH

Department of Epidemiology, CB#7435 McGavran-Greenberg Hall
Gillings School of Global Public Health
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599
919.843.2321 memerso@live.unc.edu

EDUCATION

- 2019 – 2021 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Cancer Control Education Program, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 2019 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Center for American Indian Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD
- 2019 **PhD, Epidemiology**
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
- *Dissertation*: Race, age, and treatment delay in the Carolina Breast Cancer Study
- 2012 **MPH, Epidemiology**
San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
- Outstanding Graduating Student in Epidemiology (faculty nominated)
 - *Thesis*: Area socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities in breast cancer survival among Hispanic women in the US
- 2008 **BA, Psychology**
San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
- Top 40 in graduating class: selected for scholarship, leadership, and service
 - *Undergraduate honors thesis*: Strategies for managing fatigue in African American cancer survivors

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2021 – present Assistant Professor of Epidemiology (Tenure-track)
Gillings School of Global Public Health
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2021 – present Full member, Cancer Epidemiology Program, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

OTHER TRAINING POSITIONS

- 2016 – 2019 Susan G. Komen Graduate Trainee in Disparities Research
Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Global Public Health

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- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- Developed methodological skill in investigating differential breast cancer treatment outcomes using data from the Carolina Breast Cancer Study
 - Examined the distributions of socioeconomic status, comorbidity, access to medical care, and individual tumor factors according to race and age
 - Identified socioeconomic status, comorbidity, access to care and individual tumor characteristic patterns (latent classes) by race and age and described these association with treatment delay by race and age
 - Collaborated with a patient advocate on my dissertation research design, analysis and interpretation of results
 - Main roles: Lead data entry, quality control, and patient follow-up for a cohort of women diagnosed with breast cancer
- 2018 – 2019 Tribal Researchers' Cancer Control Fellow
Portland Area Indian Health Board, Portland, OR
- Gained improved oral and written skills in health sciences communication
- 2015 – 2018 Research Consultant
Pacific Institution for Research and Evaluation, Berkeley, CA
- Collaborated as a key analyst and epidemiologist on two research projects (1) associations of socioeconomic and psychiatric disorders with alcohol-related treatment and (2) association between posttraumatic stress disorder and alcohol use disorder among American Indians and Alaskan Natives
- 2016 – 2017 Community Engagement Fellow
Carolina Center for Public Service
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- One of 8 fellowships awarded to develop and implement an engaged scholarship project that employed innovative, sustainable approaches to complex social needs
 - Developed and implemented my grant "Evaluating community wellness programs from revenue generated from the Navajo Nation 'junk food' tax"
- 2015 – 2016 Intramural Research Training Award Trainee
Office of the Intramural Training and Education
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
- Gained greater interpersonal and adaptability skills collaborating with various agencies, groups, and divisions within NIH and contractors
 - Developed greater science writing skills via NIH intramural curriculum
 - Developed a successful collaboration with Kaiser Permanente Division of Research which led to a publication
- 2015 – 2016 Graduate Research Assistant
Public Health Leadership Program, Gillings School of Global Public Health
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- Led needs assessment and implementation of an applied public health informatics course within the University of Zambia School of Public Health

- Conducted prospective survey of local needs assessment in data management and data analysis, assessed information and communication technology-based teaching modalities in Zambia

2014 – 2015

Graduate Research Assistant
 Department of Health Policy, Gillings School of Global Public Health
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

- Assisted in evaluating patient reported health-related quality of life in prostate cancer survivors, literature reviews, Institutional Review Board applications, and manuscript preparation

2013 – 2014

Cancer Research Training Award Fellow
 Office of the Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences
 National Cancer Institute, Rockville, MD

- Recipient of a highly competitive government fellowship designed to train fellows interested in a federal cancer research career
- Aided program science management and development of a network of Native American scientists funded through the trans-NIH PAR

2013

Staff Research Assistant
 Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, Albuquerque, NM

- Assessed and managed data needs of 27 tribal communities relating to health behavior interventions
- Developed science communication skill in reporting finding back to communities

2012

Staff Technical Advisor
 Worldwide Orphans Foundation, South Orange, NJ

- Led data collection in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Evaluated psychosocial impact of program for children living with HIV

2011 – 2012

Staff Research Associate
 Clinical Trials Office, Moores Cancer Center
 University of California, San Diego, CA

- Assisted clinical coordinators with patients and entered case reports

2010 – 2011

Staff Research Assistant
 Alcohol and Other Drugs Initiatives Research
 San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

- Managed a survey data project of collegiate heavy drinking and helped develop health communications interventions

2008 – 2009

Staff Research Assistant
 Indian Health Council, Valley Center, CA

- Assisted in program for preventing underage drinking in California Native American youth in 9 tribal communities

- Aided in capacity building: recruited youth and conducted survey research, and organized community gatherings, meetings, and presentations

2005 – 2006 Research Fellow
 Minority Access to Research Careers Honors Program
 San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

- Evaluated strategies for managing cancer-related fatigue in African American cancer survivors
- Performed quantitative data transcription, coding and analyses using SPSS
- Participated in the Diversity Summer Internship Program at Johns Hopkins

2004 - 2006 Research Fellow
 Ronald E. McNair Summer Research Fellowship
 San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

- Evaluated effectiveness of a home-based intervention of father parenting involvement in 2 tribal communities
- Performed data entry and data analysis

HONORS & AWARDS

2023 Promoting Indigenous Research Leadership, ESI Participant Awardee

2020 Eddie Méndez Postdoctoral Scholar Award, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

2020 Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society, Theta Chapter

2020 & 2015 American Association for Cancer Research Scholar-in-Training Award

2019 Inspiring Meaningful Programs and Communication Through Science Award, Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

2018 Most outstanding presentation, Susan G. Komen Graduate Training in Disparities Research Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

2014 American Indian Graduate Center Fellowship Award

2013 Public Health Traineeship Award, Gillings School of Public Health

2013 Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society

2012 The Outstanding Graduating Student in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, San Diego State University Graduate School of Public Health

2012 Scholars without Borders Honorary Society, San Diego State University

2008 Mortar Board Senior Honorary Society, San Diego State University

- 2005 Alpha Epsilon Delta National Pre-Professional Health Honor Society
- 2004 Psi Chi National Psychology Honor Society
- 2004 Founding president of Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, SDSU Chapter

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2019 – 2021 Board of Directors, Member at large, Native Research Network
- 2013 – present Executive Board Officer, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian Caucus of the American Public Health Association
- 2014 – present American Association of Cancer Research, associate member
- 2016 – present Native Research Network, Board of Directors, member at large
- 2013 – present Sigma Xi, associate member
- 2013 – present American Public Health Association
- 2004 – present Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Complete list of published work in MyBibliography

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/marc.emerson.1/bibliography/public/>

BOOKS AND CHAPTERS

1. **Emerson MA.** (2024) Chapter 43: Cancer Services and Care: Perspectives of a Young Diné Caretaker. In Ed. Garvey G. *Indigenous & Tribal Peoples and Cancer*. Springer ISBN 978-3-031-56805-3

REFEREED PAPERS

*Denotes student/postdoc work for which MA Emerson was primary mentor

h=11; i10=11 (Google Scholar)

1. Spees LP, Baggett CD, Johnson KE, Salas AI, Morris HN, Arsali EG, **Emerson MA**, Olshan AF, Wheeler SB. (2024). Capturing Catchment Area Data Comprehensively: The North Carolina Cancer Health Assets and Needs Assessment (CHANA) Approach *Preventive Oncology & Epidemiology*, doi:10.1080/2354231
2. *Ren Y, Maselko JA, Tan X, Olshan AF, Stover AM, Bennett AV, Reeder-Hayes KE, Edwards JK, Reeve BB, Troester MA, and **Emerson MA.** (2024) Emotional and functional well-being in long-term breast cancer survivorship. *Cancer Causes Control*, DOI: 10.1007/s10552-024-01877-1
3. Spees LP, Jackson BE, Raveendran Y, Morris HN, **Emerson MA**, Baggett CD, Bell RA, Salas AI, Meernik C, Akinyemiju TF, Wheeler SB. (2024) Characterizing Cancer Burden in the American Indian Population in North Carolina. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2023. April 5; doi:10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-24-0030

4. Van Alsten, S. C., Dunn, M. R., Hamilton, A. M., Ivory, J. M., Gao, X., Kirk, E. L., Nsonwu-Farley, J. S., Carey, L. A., Abdou, Y., Reeder-Hayes, K. E., Roberson, M. L., Wheeler, S. B., **Emerson, M. A.**, Hyslop, T., & Troester, M. A. (2024). Disparities in OncotypeDx Testing and Subsequent Chemotherapy Receipt by Geography and Socioeconomic Status. *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*. Doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-23-1201
5. Lawrence WR, Freedman ND, McGee-Avila JK, Berrington de González A, Chen Y, **Emerson MA**, Gee G, Haozous EA, Haque AT, Inoue-Choi M, Jackson SS, Lord B, Napoles AM, Pérez-Stable EJ, Vo JB, Williams F, Shiels MS. (2023) Trends Mortality from Poisonings, Firearms, and All Other Injuries by Intent in the United States, 1999-2020. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2023 Aug 1;183(8):849-856. Doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.2509
6. Ren Y, Kebede MA, Ogunleye AA, **Emerson MA**, Evenson KR, Hayes SC, Troester MA. Burden of lymphedema in long-term breast cancer survivors by race and age. (2022) *Cancer doi*: 10.1007/cncr.34489
7. **Emerson MA**, Reeve BB, Gilkey MB, Elmore SNC, Hayes SC, Bradley CJ, Troester MA. (2022) Job loss, return to work, and multidimensional well-being after breast cancer treatment in working-age Black and White women. *J Cancer Surviv*, doi:10.1007/s11764-022-102252-6
8. **Emerson MA**, Olshan AF, Chow EJ, Doody DR, Mueller BA. (2022) Hospitalization and mortality outcomes among childhood cancer survivors by race, ethnicity, and time since diagnosis. *JAMA Netw Open*,(6):e2219122. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.19122
9. Charlot M, Stein JN, Damone E, Wood I, Forster M, Baker S, **Emerson M**, Samuel-Ryals C, Yongue C, Eng E, Manning M, Deal A, and Cykert S. (2022). Effect of an Antiracism Intervention on Racial Disparities in Time to Lung Cancer Surgery. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 0(0):JCO.21.01745. doi:10.1200/jco.21.01745
10. Vohra, S.N., Reeder-Hayes, K.E., Nichols, H.B., **Emerson, M.A.**, Love, M.I., Olshan, A.F., and Troester, M.A. (2022). Breast cancer treatment patterns by age and time since last pregnancy in the Carolina Breast Cancer AA Study Phase III. *Breast Cancer Res Treat*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10549-022-06511-9>
11. **Emerson M. A.**, Farquhar, D.R., Lenze, N.R., Sheth, S., Mazul, A.L., Zanation, A.M., Hackman, T.G., Weessler, M.C., Zevallos, J.P., Yarbrough, W.G., Brennan, P., Abedi-Ardekani, B., and Olshan, A.F. (2022). Socioeconomic status, access to care, risk factor patterns, and stage at diagnosis for head and neck cancer among black and white patients. *Head & Neck*, 1-12. doi:10.1002/hed.26977
12. **Emerson M. A.** and Montoya T. (2021). Confronting legacies of structural racism and settler colonialism to understand COVID-19 impacts on the Navajo Nation. *American Journal of Public Health*, 111:8 DOI:10.2105/ajph.2021.306398
13. **Emerson M. A.**, Achacoso N., Benfield H. C., Troester, M. A. and Habel, L.A. (2021). Initiation and adherence to adjuvant endocrine therapy among urban, insured American Indian/Alaskan Native breast cancer survivors. *Cancer*, DOI: 10.1002/cncr.33423

14. **Emerson, M. A.**, Golightly, Y. M., Aiello, A. E., Reeder-Hayes, K. E., Tan, X., Maduekwe, U., Johnson-Thompson, M., Olshan, A. F. and Troester, M. A. (2020). Breast cancer treatment delays by socioeconomic and health care access latent classes in Black and White women. *Cancer*, 126:4957-4966
15. **Emerson, M. A.**, Reeder-Hayes, K. E., Tipaldos, H. J., Bell, M. E., Sweeney, M. R., Carey, L. A., Earp, H.S., Olshan, A. F., and Troester, M. A. (2020). Integrating biology and access to care in addressing breast cancer disparities: 25 years' research experience in the Carolina Breast Cancer Study. *Curr Breast Cancer Rep*, 12:149-160
16. **Emerson, M. A.**, Golightly, Y. M., Tan, X., Aiello, A. E., Reeder-Hayes, K. E., Olshan, A. F., Earp, H. S. and Troester, M. A. (2020). Integrating access to care and tumor patterns by race and age in the Carolina Breast Cancer Study, 2008-2013. *Cancer Causes Control*, 31:221-230
17. **Emerson, M. A.**, Moore, R. S., and Caetano, R. (2019). Correlates of alcohol-related treatment among American Indians and Alaska Natives with lifetime Alcohol Use Disorder. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res*, 43:115-122
18. Banegas, M. P., **Emerson, M. A.**, Adams, A. S., Achacoso, N. S., Chawla, N., Alexeeff, S., and Habel, L. A. (2018). Patterns of medication adherence in a multi-ethnic cohort of prevalent statin users diagnosed with breast, prostate, or colorectal cancer. *J Cancer Surviv*, 12:794-802
19. **Emerson, M. A.**, Banegas, M. P., Chawla, N., Achacoso, N., Alexeeff, S. E., Adams, A. S., and Habel, L. A. (2017). Disparities in prostate, lung, breast, and colorectal cancer survival and comorbidity status among urban American Indians and Alaskan Natives. *Cancer Res*, 77:6770-6776
20. **Emerson, M. A.**, Moore, R. S., and Caetano, R. (2017). Association between lifetime Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and past year Alcohol Use Disorder among American Indians/Alaska Natives and non-Hispanic Whites. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res*, 41:576-584
21. Quach, C. W., Langer, M. M., Chen, R. C., Thissen, D., Usinger, D. S., **Emerson, M. A.**, and Reeve, B. B. (2016). Reliability and validity of PROMIS measures administered by telephone interview in a longitudinal localized prostate cancer study. *Qual Life Res*, 25(11), 2811-2823
22. Merz, E. L., Malcarne, V. L., Roesch, S. C., Ko, C. M., **Emerson, M. A.**, Roma, V. G., and Sadler, G. R. (2013). Psychometric properties of Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS) original and short forms in an African American community sample. *J Affect Disord*, 151(3), 942-949

Under Review - Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

In preparation

*Ren Y, Maselko JA, Tan X, Olshan AF, Stover AM, Bennett AV, Troester MA, and **Emerson MA**. (2024). Patterns of change in emotional and functional well-being following breast cancer diagnosis.

Emerson MA, Spees LP, Jackson BE, Baggett CD, Bell RA, Akinyemiju T, Salas AI, Morris HN, Wheeler SB. End of life care quality for American Indian patients with cancer in North Carolina

Jackson BE, **Emerson MA**, Spees LP, Baggett CD, Bell RA, Akinyemiju T, Salas AI, Morris HN, Wheeler SB. Assessing racial disparities in the receipt of quality care in the most prevalent diagnosed cancers in American Indians

Albaneze N, Spees LP, Baggett CD, Green LE, Johnson KE, Morris HN, Salas AI, **Emerson MA**, Olshan AF, Wheeler SB. Statewide population-based cancer epidemiology and care delivery studies using the Cancer Information and Population Health Resource (CIPHR) linked database: A Scoping Review.

TEACHING RECORD

Classroom Instruction

Lead Instructor, EPID 775 (Advanced Cancer Epidemiology). Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Fall 2023 (12 students). (2 credit hours).

Invited Guest Lectures

Guest Lecturer, EPID 826 (Social Epidemiology). *Care equity for Native American health and well-being*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, November 10, 2023

Guest Lecturer, HPM 885 (Health Services/Policy Research Methods). *Addressing racial cancer care inequities in Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native populations*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, April 5, 2023

Guest Lecturer, *Cancer care equity for Black and Native women*, Tribal Researchers' Cancer Control Fellowship Program, Northwest Portland Indian Health Board, Virtual, November 14, 2022

Guest Lecturer, HBEH 510 (Foundations of Equity, Ethics, and Engagement in Public Health). *Health equity, ethics and engagement in American Indian Communities*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, November 10, 2022

Guest Lecturer, EPID 772/HPM 765 (Cancer Prevention and Control Seminar). *Health equity in cancer care*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, November 1, 2022

Guest Lecturer, EPID 826 (Social Epidemiology). *Care equity for Native American health and well-being*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 28, 2022

Instructor, Epidemiology 101, Certificate track, Summer Research Training Institute, Northwest Native American Research Center for Health, Virtual, June 20-24, 2022

Guest Lecturer, EPID 771 (Cancer Epidemiology: Survivorship and Outcomes). *Health equity in cancer survivorship*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Virtual, March 8, 2022

Guest Lecturer, EPID 772/HPM 765 (Cancer Prevention and Control Seminar). *Access to cancer care*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Virtual, November 2, 2021

Guest Lecturer, EPID 826 (Social Epidemiology). *Care equity for Native American health and well-being*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Virtual, October 29, 2021

Guest Lecturer, EPI 583 (Epidemiology Seminar Series). *The epidemiology of care equity for Native American health and well-being*, University of Washington, Virtual, October 26, 2021

Teaching Assistant, PUBH 741 (Quantitative Methods for Health Care Professionals). Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Fall 2016

ADVISING & MENTORING

Doctoral Dissertation Thesis Committee Chair

2022 Yumeng Ren, PhD, MS
 “Trajectories of Emotional and Functional Well-being in Breast Cancer Survivors”

Doctoral Dissertation Committee

2024 Matthew Dunn
 “The heterogenous impact of healthcare barriers throughout the cancer care continuum”

2023 Erin Shore
 “Access to athletic training services, school-related emergency preparedness resources and their impact on outcomes of catastrophic sport-related injuries among U.S. high school athletes”

PhD Academic Advisor

2022 - (2026) Joel Begay, MPH

Thesis Committee Membership (non-advisees)

2024 Affiliate preceptor, Cancer Care Quality Research Training Program (NCI T32)
 2023 Amanda Gomez, MSPH Department of Maternal and Child Health (Chair, Angela Parcesepe, PhD, MPH, MSW)

GRANT FUNDING & TRAINING SUPPORT

Submitted, not funded

K01 NIH/NCI Mentored Research Scientist Development Award

Not discussed, cycle 2 July 2024 resubmission

Entitled “Multilevel investigation of treatment timeliness in Black and American Indian Alaska Native breast cancer”

RWJF Evidence for Action: Indigenous-Led Solutions to Advance Health Equity and Wellbeing

Submitted brief proposal 20% of invited for full proposal June 2024

Entitled “Evaluating the impact of environmental contamination on community health on the Navajo Nation and developing an Indigenous-led response plan”

R21 NOT-CA-24-032, Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative supplements to understand effects of within-group heterogeneity on cancer control outcomes in underrepresented populations.

Submitted 4/29/2024

Entitled “Barriers to quality care in breast cancer: a mixed methods approach”
 NIH Loan Repayment Program (LRP)
 Waiting to hear if awarded (submitted Nov. 2023)

Active

HEI-23-003, Ramses #: A24-0489 (Troester, PI) 11/01/23 – 10/31/24
 Breast Cancer Research Foundation
 Effort: 10% Total Directs: \$974,697

Breast Cancer Drivers in Black Women: Society to Cells

This project seeks to (1) recruit 300 Black women from 59 counties in North Carolina, oversampling younger women and women from rural counties and support analysis of existing CBCS3 data on Social Determinants of Health in collaboration with BCRF Health Equity multi-site investigative team; (2) advance our understanding of barriers to care by studying contextual knowledge of the patient, interpersonal treatment and communication; and (3) RNA Sequencing of 1000 Black participants from CBCS3 and 4

Role: Co-Investigator

OG22873776, Ramses #: A22-1298 (Troester, PI) 05/18/22 – 5/17/25
 Susan G. Komen
 Effort: 10% Total Directs:

Integrating Biology and Access to Understand Metastatic Breast Cancer Disparities

This project seeks to: Aim 1), and community data on stress) from census tract data, Aim 2). Both of these data types will be combined with existing tumor biology data and medical record information to develop a clear picture of the complex interactions among these different types of data. The outcome will be an improved model for how different factors, from cells to society, interact to cause metastasis and death in Black women.

Role: Co-Investigator

D2022-012, Ramses #: A23-1485 (Wheeler, PI) 04/01/23 – 02/29/24
 V Foundation
 Effort: 5% (CM 0.84) Total Directs: \$225,000

Understanding Cancer Health Disparities Among American Indians in North Carolina-Lung Cancer

Historical and contemporary policies and practices have contributed to these poorer outcomes for AI communities, including targeted marketing by tobacco companies and underfunding of the Indian Health Service. This project focus is on improving tobacco cessation and early detection of lung cancer in NC AI communities by building upon our team's priori work through the Southeastern American Indian Cancer health Equity Partnership (SAICEP)

Role: Co-Investigator

D2022-012, Ramses #: A22-1175 (Wheeler, PI) 05/01/22 – 04/30/24
 V Foundation
 Effort: 7% (CM 0.84) Total Directs: \$225,000

Understanding Cancer Health Disparities Among American Indians in North Carolina

We seek to advance and expand the Southeastern American Indian Cancer health Equity Partnership (SAICEP) by comprehensively describing cancer burden, assessing cancer-related needs and mapping community strengths in NC AI communities. The aims of the project are to 1) assess regional variation in cancer incidence, prevalence, stage of diagnosis, and mortality for NC American Indian populations identified

with cancer diagnoses from 2003-2019 through the NC Central Cancer Registry (NCCCR); 2) build on prior engagement activities with NC American Indian communities, including the 2020 Native Pathways to Health Project and the 2018 Healing Walk Project, assess cancer health information needs and barriers and facilitators associated with cancer care through qualitative methods (e.g., talking circles) and surveys supported by tribal leaders; and 3) map assets, community strengths, and resources available in three NC American Indian communities that can support cancer health equity across the continuum.

Role: Co-Investigator

1005320 (Teufel-Shone, PI)
American Cancer Society

01/01/23 – 12/31/27
Total direct: \$800,000

The Navajo Cancer Workgroup: Enhancing impact of epidemiological data for cancer prevention and control among the Navajo people

This project seeks to facilitate translation of epidemiological registry data managed by the Navajo Cancer Workgroup to enhance impact on cancer prevention and control on the Navajo Nation. This grant will 1) track cancer incidence, mortality, staging and screening among the Navajo people over time and by region; 2) build a Data and Resource Dashboard to facilitate engagement among a range of stakeholders; and 3) Develop and refine a Navajo-specific cancer control and prevention plan.

Role: Consultant

Completed

None Assigned (A. Barlow, PI)
NARCH XI (Native American Research
Centers for Health)

10/01/21 – 09/30/25
Direct Costs \$761,041

Cancer Care Project

The goal of this project is to work with the Navajo Nation and White Mountain Apache Tribe to reduce disparities in cancer education, care access, and outcomes among Native American families. Our Cancer Care Project is currently developing a community-based intervention to promote breast cancer screening. Intervention development is informed by quantitative and qualitative data gathered with the community to understand current epidemiology as well as local barriers and facilitators to screening and care. Future work will focus on intervention development to promote colorectal cancer screening.

Role: Co-Investigator

131165 (Barlow, PI)
Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation

09/01/18 – 05/31/22
Direct Costs \$506,850

Cancer Inequities Among American Indians

This grant will seek to understand gaps in screening, diagnosis and treatment of breast, colorectal, and stomach cancers within the White Mountain Apache and Navajo communities. The project will employ intensive community engagement to design ways to improve the continuum of care for people suffering from breast, colorectal, and stomach cancer in southwestern Native American reservation communities, some of the most rural, isolated and underserved areas of the United States. This grant will mobilize integrated networks of local and regional stakeholders, cultural and technical experts to guide all aspects of the project. With culturally-appropriate community education, targeted screening and timely, high-quality treatment and case management, this grant will work to reduce mortality and morbidity from cancer in Native populations.

Role: Consultant

T32CA057726 (Ribisl, Troester, PIs)

07/01/19 – 06/30/21

NCI

Cancer Control Education Program UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Training experience: Developing independent research portfolio with interests in (1) cancer screening and treatment among American Indians/Alaskan Natives; and (2) the compounding effects of socioeconomic, behavioral, and psychosocial factors on treatment timeliness and well-being after cancer diagnosis.

Developing multi-disciplinary research collaborations and hands-on mentoring.

Role: Postdoctoral Research Fellow (full-time)

TREND21686258 (Troester, PI)

08/01/16 –07/31/19

Susan G. Komen

Breast Cancer Morality Disparities: Integrating Biology and Access

Training experience: Developed methodological skill in investigating differential breast cancer treatment outcomes using data from the Carolina Breast Cancer Study and evaluated socioeconomic status, comorbidity, access to care and individual tumor characteristic patterns (latent classes) by race and age and described these association with treatment delay by race and age

Role: Predoctoral Research Fellow

Carolina Center for Public Service (Emerson, PI)

08/01/16 – 08/01/17

Project title: Evaluating community wellness programs from revenue generated from the Navajo Nation ‘junk food’ tax

Amount awarded: \$2,000 total costs

Role: PI

SERVICE

DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL, STATE, & NATIONAL

2024	Epidemiology PhD Admissions Committee, Gillings Global School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2022 – present	Southeastern American Indian Cancer Health Equity Partnership member
2022 – present	Office of Community Outreach and Engagement, Community Health Assets and Needs Assessment member, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center’s
2023	Scientific Committee for the World Indigenous Cancer Conference, Melbourne, Australia 2024
2023	North American Association for Central Cancer Registries’ (NAACCR) AIAN Data for Cancer Surveillance taskforce
2022	Epidemiology PhD Admissions Committee, Gillings Global School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2020 – present	University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Equity Council
2022 – present	American Cancer Society’s Cancer Facts and Figures Health Equity Committee
2013 – 2022	Executive Board Officer, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian Caucus of the American Public Health Association

2019 – 2021 Board of Directors, Member at large, Native Research Network

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

PEER-REVIEW

JAMA Psychiatry

Cancer

Head & Neck

Journal of the National Cancer Institute Cancer Spectrum

Cancer Causes & Control

Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention

Journal of Clinical Nursing

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Completed

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding source: Carolina Center for Public Service

Project title: Evaluating community wellness programs from revenue generated from the Navajo Nation ‘junk food’ tax

Active Dates: 8/1/2016 – 8/1/2017

Amount awarded: \$2,000 total costs

INVITED/PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited talk, *Public Health Research Academy for Native High School Students*, NW Native American Research Centers for Health, Virtual, January 8, 2024

Invited talk, *Native American Heritage Month DEI Meeting*, Vynamic, November 22, 2023

Invited talk, *Treatment delay as an important outcome for health equity research*, Breast SPORE Seminar November 9, 2023

Invited keynote, *Disparities in cancer care*, Marge “Madness” Fundraiser event, October 20, 2023

Invited talk, *National Cancer Health Data Trends among American Indians and Unpacking Cancer Disparities Research*, 2023 Arizona Inter-Tribal Cancer Health Equity Forum, In person, September 26, 2023

Addressing cancer care inequities in Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native populations, UCSD Health Equity Consortium Seminar, UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center, In person, July 14, 2023

Panel Speaker, *Conversations on Indigenous Cancer Data Across the Cancer Care Continuum*, The Indigenous Cancer Data Summit, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, May 16, 2023

Keynote Speaker, *Addressing racial care inequities in American Indian/Alaskan Native populations*, Alaska Indigenous Research Program, Advanced Research Alaska Pacific University, In person, Anchorage, Alaska, May 8, 2023

Lightening Talk, UNC Cancer Epidemiology, Spring Research Retreat May 3, 2023

Addressing racial care inequities in American Indian/Alaskan Native populations, Epidemiology Seminar Series EPI 583, University of Washington, Virtual, February 21, 2023

Panel Speaker, *Native American Health Inequities* presented by the Health Justice Seminar Series of the Lancet Commission on US Public Policy and Health, Virtual, December 15, 2022

Panel Speaker, Bank of America Invited Speaker Series Event, *Survivors and their families: Federal Indian Boarding Schools Experience... A courageous conversation*, Virtual, November 15, 2022

Round Table Talk, *On Mentoring – finding a mentor, the importance of mentoring, how to become a mentor* Native/Indigenous R.E.D Visit with Dr. Marc Emerson (Dine), SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 28, 2022

Keynote speaker, Indigenous CommUNITY and Wellness in STEM Virtual Gathering, SACNAS, September 15, 2022

Partners in research, navigating cross-sector collaborations, Panelist, Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting, In-person, Chicago, June 15, 2022

How to select a program that meets your mental health needs, Panelist, Office for Graduate Life and Diversity, San Diego State University, In-person, May 18, 2022

Confronting legacies of structural racism and settler colonialism to understand Cancer and COVID-19 impacts on the Navajo Nation, Center Cancer outcomes research seminar Lecture, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer, Virtual, March 22, 2022

Provision of intercultural approaches to cancer services for rural Indigenous women in the United States, Webinar, *Rural women and addressing inequities in health service coverage*, World Health Organization/HQ Gender, Equity and Human Rights Team with external partners including WONCA's Working Party on Rural Practice, OECD, and other agencies in the UN Inequalities Task Team (ITT) subgroup on rural poverty, Virtual, February 24, 2022

Settler-colonialism and public health, Health & Human Rights Fellows Meeting, François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, Virtual, February 22, 2022

Indigenous relation care, settler colonialism & impacts of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation, Coronavirus Multispecies Reading Group, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization, University of California, Los Angeles, Virtual, December 13, 2021

Who am I? Integrating cultural and academic identities, Panelist, Office for Graduate Life and Diversity, San Diego State University, Virtual, November 19, 2021

Healing roots: confronting legacies of settler-colonialism in native health and wellbeing, Lecture, Native American Professional Network, Bank of America, Virtual, November 10, 2021

Access to cancer care, Cancer Prevention and Control Seminar Guest Lecture EPID 772/HPM 765, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Virtual, November 2, 2021

Care equity for Native American health and well-being, Social Epidemiology Lecture EPID 826, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Virtual, October 29, 2021

The epidemiology of care equity for Native American health and well-being, Epidemiology Seminar Series EPI 583, University of Washington, Virtual, October 26, 2021

Meeting the cancer prevention and care needs of North Carolina's Indigenous communities, The UNC Lineberger Cancer Network Patient Centered Care Lecture, Virtual, September 9, 2021

Racial/ethnic disparities in outcomes among childhood cancer survivors, The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Long Term Effects and Survivorship Affinity Group, Virtual, September 7, 2021

On professional failures, Panelist. Society for Epidemiologic Research 2021 Annual Meeting, Virtual, June 25, 2021

Understanding the impact of cancer past and present as told by experts in the field of Native cancer research, Panelist. California Tribal Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, Journey of Wellness Conference: The lifelong journey of chronic disease prevention and cancer survivorship, Virtual, June 9, 2021

The epidemiology of cancer care equity for Black and Native women, Tribal Researchers' Cancer Control Fellowship Program Summer Training, Northwest Native American Research Center for Health, Virtual, June 7, 2021

The epidemiology of cancer care equity for Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native women, Department of Epidemiology Seminar, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Virtual, March 12, 2021

The epidemiology of cancer care equity for Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native women, College of Population Health Seminar, University of New Mexico, Virtual, March 8, 2021

The epidemiology of cancer care equity for Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native women, Public Health Sciences Division Seminar, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Virtual, February 2, 2021

The road to addressing cancer disparities in Native American Communities, Keynote. American Cancer Society and Casa Esparanza, Destination Wellness Virtual Conference, Virtual, November 10, 2020

Addressing racial health inequities in American Indian/Alaskan Native populations and in North Carolina, Dr. Eddie Mendez Postdoctoral Symposium, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Virtual, November 2, 2020

Native perspectives in genomics: Personal experiences and professional pathways in genomics, Panel Presenter. Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI, November 1, 2019

My academic and career pathway, Native American Role Model Speaker Series. The Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention, Northern Arizona University, AZ, November 26, 2019 Rescheduled for March 17, 2021

Assuring a competent workforce: The future of public health, Keynote. Tribal Leaders' Public Health Symposium, Center for American Indian Health, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, November 26, 2018

Community engagement in a multi-level intervention to prevent alcohol and other drug problems among California Indian youth, The Research Society on Alcoholism Annual Scientific Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 25, 2016

INVITED MEDIA PRESENTATIONS

UNC Endeavors Magazine of Research and Creative Activity at UNC-Chapel Hill. (published by the office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at UNC-Chapel Hill ISSN 1933-4338.

Featured M.A.R.C Alumni for San Diego State University College of Science Magazine

WCNC Charlotte "Black breast cancer survivor turns her medical frustration into advocacy for others" by Nate Morabito, invited interview, Aired and published online March 30, 2022.

Cancer Health Equity NOW Podcast, Season 2 Episode 4: Indigenous Relationality in Research Pt. 2, Office of Community Outreach & Engagement, Fred Hutch/University of Washington Cancer Consortium, Published January 20, 2022

Cancer Health Equity NOW Podcast, Season 2 Episode 2: Indigenous Relationality in Research Pt. 1, Office of Community Outreach & Engagement, Fred Hutch/University of Washington Cancer Consortium, Published November 2, 2021

USA Today Health "Long drives and limited options: Indigenous women with breast cancer face harsh reality" by Nada Hassanein, invited interview and quote, Published October 30, 2021

Wósdéé Podcast, Episode 36: Public Health and Ké in Navajo Nation, Published September 29, 2021.
Show notes: In this episode I talk to Dr. Teresa Montoya and Dr. Marc Emerson about their recent article, "Confronting Legacies of Structural Racism and Settler-colonialism to understand covid 19 impacts on the Navajo Nation". We discuss public health and critical expansion of the concept. Both articulate the limits of western epistemologies and the potential of including Navajo epistemologies.

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Emerson MA, Jackson BE, Spees LP, Baggett CD, Bell RA, Akinyemiju T, Salas AI, Morris HN, Wheeler SB. End of life care quality for American Indian patients with cancer in North Carolina. Oral Presentation for American Society of Preventative Oncology 47th Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 12-14, 2023.

Emerson M. A., Reeve B. B., Gilkey, M. B., Bradley, C. J., Troester M. A. (2021, December 8). Consequent job loss, return to work and multidimensional well-being after breast cancer treatment in working-age Black and White women. Spotlight session 5: Life after breast cancer: cardiac health, fertility preservation, and returning to life, San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (Hybrid)

Emerson M. A., Reeve B. B., Gilkey, M. B., Bradley, C. J., Troester M. A. (2021, April 24). Consequent job loss, return to work and multidimensional well-being after breast cancer treatment in working-age Black and White women. Poster presented at the 20th New England Science Symposium (Virtual)

Emerson, M. A., Achacoso, N., Benefield, H., Troester, M. A., Habel L. A. (2020, October 2-4). Initiation and adherence to adjuvant endocrine therapy among urban, insured American Indian/Alaskan Native breast cancer survivors. Poster presented at the AACR Virtual Conference: 13th Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved

Emerson M. A., Golightly Y. M., Tan X, Aiello A. E., Reeder-Hayes K. E., Olshan A. F., Earp S, Troester M. A. (2020, March). Breast cancer treatment delays by socioeconomic status and access to care patterns. Poster presented at the 44th ASPO Conference (Virtual)

Emerson M. A., Golightly Y. M., Tan X, Aiello A. E., Reeder-Hayes K. E., Olshan A. F., Earp S., Troester M. A. (2019, September). Developing an integrated understanding of access to care and tumor characteristics patterns by race and age in the Carolina Breast Cancer Study. Poster presented at the 12th AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved, San Francisco, CA

Emerson M. A., Moore R.S., Caetano R. (2018, October). Correlates of alcohol-related treatment among American Indians/Alaska Natives with lifetime alcohol use disorder. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the APHA Conference, San Diego, CA.

Emerson M. A., Moore R.S., Caetano R. (2016, October). Effect of lifetime PTSD on Alcohol Use Disorders among American Indians, Alaska Natives compared to non-Hispanic Whites. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the APHA Conference, Denver, CO.

Emerson, M. A., Banegas, M. P., Adams, A., Achacoso, N., Chawla, N., Habel L. A. (2015, November). Adherence to statins in a multi-ethnic cohort of patients newly diagnosed with cancer of the breast, prostate and colon. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the AACR Cancer Health Disparities Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Emerson, M. A., & Ulanday, K. T. (2014, November). Indigenous research methods review -where are we now and what work needs to be done. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, New Orleans, LA.

Emerson, M. A., Banegas, M. P., Chawla, N., Achacoso, N., Adams, A., Habel L. A. (2014, November). Trends in 5-year and 10-year crude survival rates among American Indians and Alaskan Natives diagnosed with cancer, 1997-2012. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research, San Antonio, TX.

Hiller, S. P., Belay, B., Collins, K. Daffa, R., Ulanday, K. T., **Emerson, M. A.**, Nagler, S., & Novotny, T. (2014, February). Building 'survival skills' among children living with HIV in Ethiopia: results of the camp Addis outcome evaluation. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Camp Association National Research Forum, Orlando, FL.

Emerson, M. A., Macera, C. A. (2012, October). Race disparities in breast cancer survival among Hispanics living in the United States as a function of stage, grade, and area SES. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, San Francisco, CA.

Lange, J. E., Devos, L. C., Henry, S., & **Emerson, M. A.** (2011, June). Combining prescription drugs and alcohol among a collegiate sample: function-focused and even specific measurement development. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Atlanta, GA.

Devos, L. C., **Emerson, M. A.**, Henry, S., & Lange, J. (2011, June). Failures to use information: Standard drink sizes, guidelines for moderate drinking, and good reasons to moderate drinking. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Atlanta, GA.

Devos, L. C., **Emerson, M. A.**, Henry, S., & Lange, J. E. (2011, May). Experimental test of alcohol contents and health communications in mock menus. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Prevention Research, Washington, D.C.

Emerson, M. A., Malcarne, V. L., & Sadler, G. R. (2005, August). Assessing multidimensional fatigue in African American cancer survivors. Poster presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

Emerson, M. A., Malcarne, V. L., Ko, C. M., & Sadler, G. R. (2005, April). Strategies for managing fatigue in African American cancer survivors. Poster presented at the annual convention of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Boston, MA.