

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### MARC A. EMERSON, PhD, MPH

Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Global Public Health  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2019      **PhD, Epidemiology**  
Track: Cancer 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 EXPERIENCE

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- 2021 – present      Assistant Professor of Epidemiology (Tenure-track)  
Gillings School of Global Public Health  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2019 – 2021      Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Cancer Control Education Program (T32 CA057726), Lineberger  
Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- Developing methodological, epidemiological, and professional research career skills, and interdisciplinary partnerships to address cancer disparities, cancer prevention and control
  - Conducting epidemiologic analysis and manuscript preparation using data from Kaiser Permanente Northern California, Carolina Breast Cancer Study, and the Carolina Head and Neck Cancer Epidemiology Study

- 2019 – 2021 Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Center for American Indian Health, Department of International Health  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD
- Collaborating in the planning/advisory stages; will ultimately lead to new data sources for research on barriers and facilitators to screening, community strengths, and connections to care in two American Indian communities
- 2016 – 2019 Susan G. Komen Graduate Trainee in Disparities Research  
Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Global Public Health  
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
- Conducted data cleaning and analysis using SAS
- 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**

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- 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

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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

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1. **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
2. **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

3. **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
4. **Emerson, M. A.**, Reeder-Hayes, K. E., Tiplados, 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
5. **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
6. **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
7. 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
8. **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
9. **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
10. 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
11. 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

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## TEACHING ACTIVITIES

University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC

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Teaching Assistant for Public Health 741: Quantitative Methods for Health Care Professionals

- Lectured on quantitative methods for medical and graduate students
- Held office hours to assist students with class lectures, assignments and projects
- Graded assignments

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**GRANT FUNDING & TRAINING SUPPORT**

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**Active**

**Role: Postdoctoral Research Fellow (full-time)**

Funding source: Cancer Control Education Program (T32 CA057726) 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 to develop a K-series funding award.

Active Dates: 7/1/2019 – 6/30/2021

**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

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**SERVICE**

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DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL, STATE, & NATIONAL

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

2020 – present    University of North Carolina Lineberger Cancer Center's Equity Council

2013 – present    Executive Board Officer, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian  
Caucus of the American Public Health Association

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

PEER-REVIEW

JAMA Psychiatry

Cancer

Journal of the National Cancer Institute Cancer Spectrum

Cancer Causes & Control

Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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### 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 PRESENTATIONS

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*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

*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 Esperanza, 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