

Alumni Profile

Allison Deal MS Class of 2007

Biostatistician, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

MS, Biostatistics, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2007
BS, Statistics and Mathematics, Pennsylvania State University, 2005

At the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, you are fighting the battle against cancer. How would you describe your workday?

I collaborate with oncologists of various specialties and work on all aspects of their studies.

I contribute to study design and statistical plans for grants and protocols, perform statistical analyses, and co-author manuscripts.

One of my favorite parts of working at a smaller research center is that I am able to interact directly with the physicians and learn about the clinical background to our studies.



What are some of your career highlights?

I am proud to have published thirty-two peer-reviewed manuscripts in a five-year period. On most of these projects, I was the lead or only statistician. Moreover, I am glad to have been one of twenty-seven entry-level or junior faculty members selected for the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Cancer Biostatistics Workshop, which took place in Sonoma, California in the summer of 2009.

What made you attend UNC and study Biostatistics?

I had a college summer internship at the National Center for Health Statistics. A senior colleague there had earned all his degrees at UNC. He was an expert in survey design, and I wanted to be as knowledgeable as him. I also found UNC's opportunities for applied training impressive and the faculty and staff friendly.

Do you have any words of wisdom for current students?

I highly encourage all students to work as a GRA in addition to taking classes. The combination of classroom learning and hands-on, practical experience has proved invaluable in the workplace.