

Alumni Profile

Tonya Sharp King PhD Class of 1999

Professor of Biostatistics, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

PhD, Biostatistics, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1999
MS, Biostatistics, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1995
BA, Mathematics, Messiah College, 1992

Tonya Sharp King is a very busy biostatistician. As Professor of Biostatistics at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, the UNC Biostatistics alumna telecommutes from Florida. “Gotta love it,” she laughs.



While King's life traverses several states, so does her research. As the Co-Investigator of the AsthmaNet Data Coordinating Center at Penn State's College of Medicine, she conducts multi-center clinical trials with sites across the country, investigating treatments for asthma across all ages and all severities of the disease. Because of King's efforts, Americans will be able to breathe more easily.

King also has other irons in the fire. “I work on smaller collaborative projects and R01 grant submissions with investigators within the Penn State College of Medicine.”

A global traveler, King has a permanent place in her heart for UNC. “One of the highlights of my career was definitely when Dr. Richard Landis asked me to join him in presenting a talk at the Festschrift for Dr. Gary Koch in October of 2009.” Just prior to that, King and her family were living in Spain. “I told my husband I did not care where in the world we were living in 2009, we had to attend the Festschrift.” And they did. “We took the kids out of school for the week and attended both the Festschrift and the 60th Anniversary Celebration for the Department of Biostatistics.”

In retrospect, it was a vital decision. She contributed to a special edition of the journal *Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research* in honor of Dr. Koch. “That,” King says, “was a huge honor.”