BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Ward, Kevin C.

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): kward1

POSITION TITLE: Director, Georgia Center for Cancer Statistics; Research Assistant Professor, Emory Univ.

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE *(if applicable)*	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta GA	BIE	12/1993	Industrial Engineering
Emory University, Atlanta GA	MPH	05/1998	Epidemiology
Emory University, Atlanta GA	PhD	05/2008	Epidemiology

A. Personal Statement

I am a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. I am also the Director of the Georgia Center for Cancer Statistics and the current PI of the National Cancer Institute's Georgia Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Registry. In partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health, my Center operates the population-based Georgia Cancer Registry (GCR) and has done so since 1995. I have worked with this Center for over 24 years and have extensive experience in in cancer surveillance and control, population-based registry data, registry operations, data security, electronic capture of cancer case data, linkage of data to external data sources, and uses of the registry for research purposes, and population science. As you can see from the contracts and research studies listed in this biosketch, I have considerable experience in developing and managing budgets and ensuring good stewardship of those funds.

Publications most relevant to this project:

a. Papaleontiou M, Evron JM, Esfandiari NH, Reyes-Gastelum D, **Ward KC**, Hamilton AS, Worden F, Haymart MR. Patient Report of Recurrent and Persistent Thyroid Cancer. Thyroid. 2020 Sep;30(9):1297-1305. doi: 10.1089/thy.2019.0652. Epub 2020 Apr 16. PubMed PMID:32183609.

b. Collin LJ, Troeschel AN, Liu Y, Gogineni K, Borger K, **Ward KC**, McCullough LE. A balancing act: racial disparities in cardiovascular disease mortality among women diagnosed with breast cancer. Ann Cancer Epidemiol. 2020 Mar;4. doi: 10.21037/ace.2020.01.02. Epub 2020 Mar 31. PubMed PMID:32954254; PubMed Central PMCID:PMC7497843.

c. Loomer L, **Ward KC**, Reynolds EA, von Esenwein SA, Lipscomb J. Racial and socioeconomic disparities in adherence to preventive health services for ovarian cancer survivors. J Cancer Surviv. 2019 Aug;13(4):512-522. doi: 10.1007/s11764-019-00771-z. Epub 2019 Jun 6. PubMed PMID:31172430.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

1993-1996 Process Engineer, DeKalb County Board of Health
1996-1997 Program Assistant, Internship and Fellowship Programs, Assoc. of Schools of Public Health
1997-1999 Information Analyst, Georgia Center for Cancer Statistics (GCCS), Emory University, RSPH
1999-2002 Director, Data Processing, Analysis and Quality Assurance, GCCS, Emory University, RSPH
2002-2008 Deputy Director, Georgia Center for Cancer Statistics, Emory University, RSPH

2008- Research Assistant Professor, Emory University, RSPH
2009- Director, Georgia Center for Cancer Statistics, Emory University, RSPH

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

1999- Member, North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR)
2004- Member, Georgia Tumor Registrars Association
2004- Member, National Cancer Registrars Association
2007-2014 Member, Middle East Cancer Consortium Steering Committee
2007 Certification, Certified Tumor Registrar
2007-2008 Co-Chair, Data Evaluation and Certification Committee, NAACCR
2008 President, Georgia Tumor Registrars Association
2008- Member, American Cancer Society Cancer Prevention Study 3 (CPS-3) Peer Review
2009- Member, Winship Cancer Institute (WCI) Cancer Control and Population Sciences
2009-2011 Member, Emory University Hospital Cancer Committee
2009- Chair, Data Evaluation and Certification Committee, NAACCR
2009-2010 Member, WCI Cancer Control and Population Sciences Strategic Planning Committee
2009-2010 Member, Bioinformatics Task Force, Winship Cancer Institute
2010-2012 Member, NAACCR Program Committee
2010-2011 Member, NAACCR Strategic Planning Oversight Committee
2011-2013 Member, Georgia Cancer Coalition, Information Exchange, Scientific Advisory Committee
2012- Member, Informatics Tack Force, Winship Cancer Institute
2013-2017 Member, Research and Data Use Steering Committee, NAACCR
2013-2017 Member, Professional Development Steering Committee, NAACCR
2014-2018 North American Rep, Executive Board, International Association of Cancer Registries
2014-2019 Member, Advisory Committee, International Agency for Research on Cancer Izmir Hub
2019- Executive Board Member, North American Association of Central Cancer Registries

C. Contributions to Science

Population-based cancer registries support the cancer surveillance infrastructure in the United States and offer an unparalleled source of data to describe the burden of cancer across various populations and to support population-based cancer research. Most of my work has been involved in the development and enhancement of the cancer surveillance system in the state of Georgia to support these activities. Data from the Georgia Cancer Registry have been extensively used under my direction to:

1. **Support population-based cancer research studies**: My work in this area, as shown below, has been heavily focused on breast cancer population-based research to determine patterns of care, characterize the uptake and implementation of new tests and treatments in breast cancer to individualize care, and describe patient outcomes such as quality of life and other survivorship issues. Georgia provides an ideal setting for population-based research with the 8th largest population in the US and the 4th largest African American population. The state is also exceptionally diverse with respect to other major demographic characteristics (age, sex, urban/rural, socioeconomic status, and health insurance coverage).
    a. Kurian AW, **Ward KC**, Abrahamse P, Hamilton AS, Deapen D, Morrow M, Jagsi R, Katz SJ. Association of Germline Genetic Testing Results With Locoregional and Systemic Therapy in Patients With Breast Cancer. JAMA Oncol. 2020 Feb 6;:e196400. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2019.6400. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID:32027353.
    b. Lipscomb J, Escoffery C, Gillespie TW, Henley SJ, Smith RA, Chociemski T, Almon L, Jiang R, Sheng X, Goodman M, **Ward KC**. Improving Screening Uptake among Breast Cancer Survivors and Their First-Degree Relatives at Elevated Risk to Breast Cancer: Results and Implications of a Randomized Study in the State of Georgia. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Feb 4;17(3). doi: 10.3390/ijerph17030977. PubMed PMID:32033227.
    c. Momoh AO, Griffith KA, Hawley ST, Morrow M, **Ward KC**, Hamilton AS, Shumway D, Katz SJ, Jagsi R. Post-Mastectomy Breast Reconstruction: Exploring Plastic Surgeon Practice Patterns and Perspectives. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2020 Jan 7;. doi: 10.1097/PRS.0000000000006627. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID:31917740.

2. **Support descriptive epidemiology studies**: The core function of a registry is to collect data necessary to portray the natural history of cancer in the population under investigation by person, place and time. These data provide the information required to support cancer control activities in the state and to describe patterns of cancer and cancer care in the population. I have worked extensively in Georgia to ensure our data our accurate, timely and complete and to make these data available to our constituencies. As a faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology, I also mentor numerous students in our MPH Program and residents in our cancer center in the use of these data for thesis and other publications.
    a. Kurian AW, **Ward KC**, Howlader N, Deapen D, Hamilton AS, Mariotto A, Miller D, Penberthy LS, Katz SJ. Genetic Testing and Results in a Population-Based Cohort of Breast Cancer Patients and Ovarian Cancer Patients. J Clin Oncol. 2019 May 20;37(15):1305-1315. doi: 10.1200/JCO.18.01854. Epub 2019 Apr 9. PubMed PMID:30964716; PubMed Central PMCID:PMC6524988.
    b. Lipscomb J, Switchenko JM, Flowers CR, Gillespie TW, Wortley PM, Bayakly AR, Almon L, Fernando R, **Ward KC**. Biologic, clinical, and sociodemographic predictors of multi-agent systemic therapy for non-Hodgkin lymphoma in people living with HIV: a population-based investigation in the state of Georgia. Leuk Lymphoma. 2019 Dec 18;:1-9. doi: 10.1080/10428194.2019.1702176. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID:31852329; NIHMSID:NIHMS1547722.
    c. Stewart SL, Harewood R, Matz M, Rim SH, Sabatino SA, **Ward KC**, Weir HK. Disparities in ovarian cancer survival in the United States (2001-2009): Findings from the CONCORD-2 study. Cancer. 2017 Dec 15;123 Suppl 24:5138-5159. doi: 10.1002/cncr.31027. PubMed PMID:29205312; PubMed Central PMCID:PMC5785937

3. **Support studies aimed to enhance the quality of registry data**: In collaboration with registry and NCI colleagues, I have contributed to major strategic and data initiatives to evaluate and enhance the quality of population-based cancer registry data and to further the use of population-based registries and their data. I am also currently involved in many activities at the national level aimed to augment registry data from non-traditional data sources.
    a. Howlader N, **Ward KC**, Warren JL, Campbell DS, Coyle L, Mariotto AB. Assessment of Oncology Practice Billing Claims for Supplementing Chemotherapy: A Pilot Study in the Georgia SEER Cancer Registry. J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr. 2020 May 1;2020(55):82-88. doi: 10.1093/jncimonographs/lgaa006. PubMed PMID:32412070; PubMed Central PMCID:PMC7225663
    b. Penberthy L, Rivera DR, **Ward K**. The Contribution of Cancer Surveillance Toward Real World Evidence in Oncology. Semin Radiat Oncol. 2019 Oct;29(4):318-322. doi: 10.1016/j.semradonc.2019.05.004. PubMed PMID: 31472732.
    c. Piñeros M, Parkin DM, **Ward K**, Chokunonga E, Ervik M, Farrugia H, Gospodarowicz M, O'Sullivan B, Soerjomataram I, Swaminathan R, Znaor A, Bray F, Brierley J. Essential TNM: a registry tool to reduce gaps in cancer staging information. Lancet Oncol. 2019 Feb;20(2):e103-e111. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(18)30897-0. Review. PubMed PMID: 30712797.

Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/18y8r6aFdefkr/bibliograpahy/48107191/public/?sort=date&direction=descending

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

Ongoing Research Support

HHSN261201800003I/HHSN26100001 Ward (PI) 05/01/18-04/30/28
NIH/NCI
Georgia Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Registry
This contract covers the operational activities of the population-based Georgia Cancer Registry for the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program. It has been in operation since 1975 covering 5 metropolitan Atlanta counties. The registry expanded in 2010 to cover the entire state of Georgia.

The registry supports cancer control, prevention, and research activities across the state and contributes to the overall mission of the Surveillance Research Program at the NCI.
Role: PI

1U01CA240851-01A1 McBride (PI) 05/01/20-04/30/24
NIH
Testing a Low Cost Population- and Theory-Based Outreach Intervention to Engage Ovarian Cancer Survivors and their Close Relatives to Consider Genetic Services
The goal of this project is to develop and evaluate the reach of a low cost population- and theory-based outreach intervention to identify, engage and inform ovarian cancer survivors and their close relatives about their cancer risk. State cancer registries are a viable platform to use low cost outreach approaches to contact survivors, offer genetic counseling, and options for contacting relatives.
Role: Co-Investigator

1R01CA234538-01 Lash/Ward (MPI) 02/15/19-01/31/24
NIH/NCI
Registering Cancer Recurrences in the Georgia Cancer Registry
Non-metastatic cancer patients and their physicians need information about the short-term and long-term risks of recurrence, and how these risks vary with age, gender, race-ethnicity, other demographic characteristics, tumor characteristics, and treatment received. This study aims to use the Georgia Cancer Registry to systematically record recurrence information for four cancers and to use this information to describe recurrence patterns.
Role: MPI

1R37CA233777-01 Akinyemiju (PI) 12/03/18-11/30/23
NIH/NCI
The Role of Multilevel Healthcare Access Dimensions in Ovarian Cancer Disparities
Healthcare access (HCA) describes the fit between the patient and the health care system and is comprised of 5 key dimensions: availability, accessibility, affordability, accommodation and acceptability. These dimensions are complex and multifaceted, especially for cancer patients, and operate on multiple levels across individuals, communities, providers and health systems. The purpose of the proposed research is to evaluate the association between dimensions of healthcare access (HCA) and racial disparities in the receipt of recommended care and 5-year disease specific survival, and to assess the relationship between patient-reported HCA dimensions absent from claims data in relation to recommended care and survival, as well as patient reported outcomes such as pain, depression, and fatigue.
Role: Subcontract PI / Co-Investigator

1U19CA214253-01A1 Haiman (PI) 07/05/18-06/30/23
NIH/NCI
Research on Prostate Cancer in Men of African Ancestry: Defining the Roles of Genetics, Immunity and Stress
The goal of this study is to identify the determinants and characteristics of aggressive prostate cancer in African American (AA) men. Reasons for the greater burden of aggressive disease may be due to greater exposure to lifetime social stressors, inherited susceptibility, tumor related features such as somatic alterations and inflammatory processes, and differences in risk factor prevalence. While each of these components may be studied in isolation, this study provides an opportunity for the coordinated investigation of both the independence and inter-relationship of these components simultaneously.
Role: Subcontract PI / Co-Investigator

SUBK00010225 Wallner (PI) 07/01/19-06/30/23
American Cancer Society
Disparities in the Delivery and Quality of Breast Cancer Survivorship Care
The purpose of the proposed research is to further our understanding about survivorship care delivery by examining how primary care physician and oncologist involvement in care impacts the quality of survivorship care and patient burden related to breast cancer treatment. This is important work for our cancer patient population in Georgia as the proportion of breast cancer patients surviving their diagnosis continues to grow.

Role: Subcontract PI / Co-Investigator

4UH3CA225021-03 Saltz (PI) 04/01/20-03/31/23
NIH
Methods and Tools for Integrating Pathomics Data into Cancer Registries
The goal of this project is to enrich SEER cancer registry data with high-quality population-based information arising from digitized Pathology slides. This dataset will provide a unique, population-wide tissue based view of cancer and dramatically accelerate our understanding of the stages of disease progression, cancer outcomes, and predict and assess therapeutic effectiveness.
Role: Co-Investigator

U48 DP006377 Mertens (PI) 09/30/20-09/29/22
CDC
SIP 20-004. Effect of Survivorship Care Plans on Cancer Mortality
This study will provide the first evidence of the effectiveness of survivorship care plans in decreasing mortality and morbidity among survivors of childhood cancer. This study will also help inform decisions on optimal allocation of healthcare resources to support these efforts.
Role: Co-Investigator

1R01CA225697-01 Kurian (PI) 03/01/18-08/30/21
NIH/NCI
Genetic Testing, Treatment Use, and Mortality after Diagnosis of Breast and Ovarian Cancer
The purpose of the proposed research is to gain a better understanding of how genetic testing is deployed in a large representative cancer patient population, how test results are managed and the impact of test results on treatment use and cancer mortality. Specific focus will be given to potential disparities in test use and results across sociodemographic and clinical subgroups.
Role: Subcontract PI / Co-Investigator

40500-036-20161799 Ward (PI) 07/01/14-06/30/21
GA Department of Public Health
Operation of Statewide Cancer Registry, GA. Dept. of Public Health
This contract covers the operational activities of the population-based Georgia Cancer Registry for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Program of Cancer Registries, established in 1995. The Georgia Center for Cancer Statistics at Emory University is the subcontractor for the state of Georgia to conduct this public health surveillance activity. Cancer is a reportable disease in every state and the GCR supports the registration of each cancer case within the state of Georgia.
Role: Subcontract PI

HHSN261201800003I Ward (PI) 09/18/19-03/17/21
NIH/NCI
Patterns of Care/Quality of Care Study: Diagnosis Year 2017 (NSCLC) and 2018 (NSCLC)
For the 2017/2018 diagnosis years, the general focus is on advanced stage melanoma and non-small cell lung cancer. The purpose of the Patterns of Care studies are to more fully understand and document detailed patterns of treatment in the Georgia population and to capture predictive and prognostic markers and factors that influence patient care decisions and outcomes.
Role: PD/PI