

# McKenzi Norris

## Education

**University of Washington**, September 2021 – August 2023

Master of Science in Epidemiology

**University of South Carolina**, August 2017 – December 2020

Bachelor of Science in Public Health, *summa cum laude*

- Leadership distinctions: Research and Professional & Civic Engagement

## Professional Experience

**Centricity Research**, August 2025 – Present

### Clinical Research Assistant

- Supporting clinical trial operations by assisting Investigators and CRCs with protocol-driven administrative and clinical tasks, ensuring compliance with GCP, SOPs, and regulatory requirements.
- Recruiting, screening, and enrolling study participants; obtaining informed consent and conducting study-specific assessments, including vitals, ECGs, and sample collection.
- Performing phlebotomy, point-of-care testing, and processing/shipping specimens per protocol; accurately documenting source data, CRFs, and maintaining CTMS records.
- Monitoring and reporting adverse events (AEs/SAEs) to sponsors and IRBs; managing investigational product inventory, dispensation, and accountability.
- Maintaining strong communication with participants, research staff, and sponsors; participating in training sessions, monitoring visits, and protocol meetings.
- Supporting daily site operations, including front desk coverage, scheduling, room setup, community outreach events, and general clinical and lab organization.

**Psych Atlanta**, June 2024 – Present

### Clinical Trial Research Volunteer

- Participating in the design, implementation, and monitoring of clinical trials, gaining insight into regulatory and ethical standards.
- Contributing to Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines, informed consent procedures, and IRB submissions.
- Learning phlebotomy, EKG/ECG, and vital signs procedures
- Shadowing clinical research coordinators and principal investigators, learning how they manage patient enrollment, data collection, and protocol adherence.
- Learning about adverse event reporting procedures and safety monitoring protocols.

**Independent Contractor, July 2023 – Present**

**Personal Care Assistant**

- Delivering compassionate, individualized care to patients by assisting with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, and eating, monitoring vital signs, administering prescribed medications, and providing emotional support.
- Ensuring adherence to care plans while maintaining clear communication with healthcare professionals and family members.
- Connecting patients with vital services, resources, and support systems, including Medicaid, SSDI, SNAP, and peer networks.

**Freelance, February 2016 – Present**

**Web Developer**

- Developing and maintaining responsive websites using HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript
- Delivering customized WordPress websites and managing SQL databases.
- Directing project management, successfully meeting milestones and timelines.
- Establishing contracts and negotiating finances with clients.
- Collaborating with designers to deliver user-centered features on time and within scope.

**West Georgia Regenerative Medicine, October 2023 – December 2023**

**Medical Receptionist**

- Greeted and checked in an average of 20 patients per day, ensuring a warm and professional first impression.
- Scheduled patient appointments, coordinated follow-ups, and managed cancellations to optimize provider availability.
- Collected co-pays, processed insurance forms, and verified patient coverage for billing.
- Assisted patients with completing medical forms, complying with HIPAA regulations.
- Provided efficient customer service to patients, addressing inquiries and concerns.
- Managed electronic health records (EHR) system.

**Brotman Baty Institute for Precision Medicine, September 2021 – July 2023**

**Operations Assistant**

- Provided operational support to participant communications and logistics teams for multiple COVID-19 research studies under a \$56 million contract with 40,000 participants, utilizing REDCap to manage survey data, track participant information, and ensure accurate documentation.
- Assisted in designing and distributing participant-facing communications, coordinated sample collection logistics, and monitored survey completion rates.
- Conducted preliminary data reviews and maintained database integrity using data analysis tools, contributing to timely reporting and compliance with HIPAA and institutional privacy standards.

**University of Washington, November 2021 – July 2022**

**Research Analyst**

- Conducted systematic literature reviews to identify viral zoonotic risk factors for emerging pathogens for the international (DEEP VZN) project.
- Assisted with the creation of risk models and maps using R to prioritize sites for virus sampling, automate data cleaning processes, saving research teams tens of hours.
- Coordinated duties and scheduled meetings with volunteer researchers.

**University of Florida, May 2022 – May 2022**

**Survey Worker**

- Conducted validated, motivational interviews with pedestrians to understand drug use and adverse health effects among Seattle community members using Qualtrics.

**University of South Carolina, July 2020 – July 2021**

**COVID-19 Contact Tracer**

- Investigated exposed, suspected, and confirmed COVID-19 cases through contact tracing and phone hotline operations by completing interviews and responding to inquiries.
- Assisted COVID-19 vaccination efforts by providing information about and scheduling vaccine administration for community members.
- Managed patient immunization records using electronic health records and data entry while maintaining HIPAA compliance.

**University of South Carolina, September 2018 – December 2020**

**Research Assistant**

- Led and supported multiple state-wide field surveillance projects to explore the dynamics of vector-borne infectious diseases, including identifying an invasive tick species for the first time in SC, receiving CDC and USDA recognition.
- Managed project budgets and timelines to ensure milestones are met without cost overruns.
- Gained grant-writing and regulatory compliance experience.

**SC Department of Public Health, November 2019 – March 2020**

**Lab Technician**

- Learned and performed speciation of mosquitoes while maintaining proper handling and documentation procedures.

**Certifications**

Certified Health Education Specialist, NCHEC, April 2023 – March 2028

Good Clinical Practice and ICH, CITI Program, February 2025 – February 2028

## Activities

**Student Government**, UofSC, School of Public Health Senator, Health & Safety and Sustainability Committees, March 2020 – November 2020

**Association of Public Health Infectious Disease Students**, UofSC, Co-Founder & President, October 2019 – November 2020

## Publications

Meisner, J., Baines, A., Ngere, I., Garcia, P. J., Chatchawal Sa-Nguansilp, Nguyen, N., Niang, C., Bardosh, K., Nguyen, T., Fenelon, H., **Norris, M.**, Mitchell, S., Munayco, C. V., Janzing, N., Dragovich, R., Traylor, E., Li, T., Le, H., Suarez, A., & Yassar Sanad. (2025). Mapping hotspots of zoonotic pathogen emergence: an integrated model-based and participatory-based approach. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 9(1), e14–e22. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196\(24\)00309-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196(24)00309-7)

## Poster Presentations

*An Epidemiological Search for the Asian Longhorned Tick in South Carolina*, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Virtual, Poster Presentation, November 2020.

*Engaging Undergraduate Students in Entomological Research*, Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association, Greenville, SC, Poster Presentation, February 2020.

*An Investigation Into the Distribution of Urban Aedes spp. in the Coastal City of Charleston, SC*, Society for Vector Ecology, San Juan, PR, Poster Presentation, September 2019

## Research Funding

May 2020 – December 2020

**Magellan Scholar Award**, UofSC: “A field epidemiologic investigation to determine at what extent invasive *Haemaphysalis longicornis* ticks pose a risk to dogs and humans in South Carolina”

May 2019 – August 2019

**UofSC and Experiment.com crowdfunding**: “How do *Aedes* mosquito genetics affect their habitat choice?”

## Honors & Awards

- **Mu Chapter, Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health**, induction, UofSC, April 2021
- **Magellan Scholar Award**, UofSC, April 2020
- **President’s Award**, UofSC, April 2020
- **Outstanding Senior Award**, UofSC, March 2020