

# ANDREA WALENS, PhD

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[LinkedIn](#)

[Link to CV](#)

[Link to Website](#)

## CAREER GOAL

Positively impact the lives of cancer patients by utilizing my expertise in cancer biology, clinical epidemiology, and patient advocacy. With my cross-cutting experience, I aim to facilitate advocacy and policy efforts across disciplines and sectors to address health disparities, treatment outcomes, and overall patient quality of life.

## RELEVANT EXPERTISE

- Extensive training and experience in cross-disciplinary research using both mouse and human biological data, patient-level factors, R, and epidemiological methods
- The ability to synthesize a lot of information across disciplines to determine commonalities, next steps, and potential goals
- Strong communication and diplomacy skills, including the ability to raise awareness about an issue or opportunity, and to garner support for a solution by considering others' logistical, intellectual, and cultural needs
- Emotional intelligence born out of empathy and personal experience interacting with cancer patients, survivors, thrivers, and previvors

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Published 3 first-author and 4 co-author articles in peer-reviewed journals and presented at over 20 professional conferences
- Mentored more than 10 high school, undergraduate, and graduate students in both research methods and professional skills
- Successfully lobbied for cancer-related bills that improved patient lives and increased cancer research funding statewide and nationally through ACS CAN
- Lead a small patient support group in the hereditary cancer community for FORCE

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**Postdoctoral Fellow**, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, July 2019 – now

**Mentorship Course Postdoctoral Teaching Assistant**, North Carolina School of Science and Math, November 2019 – March 2020

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Duke University, August 2014 – June 2019

## EDUCATION

**Cancer Control Education Program Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, July 2019-June 2021

Overall Project: *Immune biomarker development for breast cancer mortality disparities*

**Ph.D., Molecular Cancer Biology**, Duke University, June 2019

Dissertation: *The role of the tumor microenvironment in breast cancer dormancy and recurrence*

**B.S., Genetics**, University of Georgia, May 2014

## ADVOCACY WORK

**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**, Legislative Ambassador for NC District 4

**American Cancer Society**, DetermiNation team member

**FORCE**, NC Outreach Leader and Peer Navigator

## AWARDS

**AACR Associate Member Award – SABCS** 2020

**AACR Scholar-In-Training Award** 2020

**Nominated for Jo Rae Wright Fellowship for Outstanding Women in Science** 2019

**Ruth Kirschstein Individual National Research Service Award Fellowship** 2017-2019