

**Carolina Population Center
Summer 2022 Undergraduate Research Program**

Project Name

Epidemiology of Tick-Borne Diseases in North Carolina

Faculty Mentor

Dr. Ross Boyce, Epidemiology and Infectious Disease

Project Description

The study employs a prospective, longitudinal cohort design. Individuals suspected of having tick-borne disease will be recruited from health facilities that submit samples to McLendon Clinical Laboratories. Eligible patients will be contacted by phone and consented for follow-up. Participants will be followed for a period of approximately 90 days after the initial encounter. Specific study activities include completion of online surveys, an entomological survey of the likely exposure site, and an in-person visit at 3-4 weeks, which is considered standard-of-care. Remnant clinical samples, including from those who do not participate in the longitudinal study, will be retained and stored for future research after routine testing is complete.

Scope of Work for Internship

The intern would work with study coordinator and team to assist in screening/recruitment of participants, data capture, development of new recruitment materials, interval analysis of data, and dissemination. There may also be opportunities to work on related projects within the Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiology, Ecology, and Response (VEER) Collaboration.

Expected Deliverables

- Recruitment materials
- Social media
- Data analysis
- Posters

Preferred Skills

- Web design/social media
- Basic statistical methods
- REDCap

Time Commitment & Mode

Full time; in-person or hybrid