



Fuemmeler identifies the biological/behavioral contributors to cancer risk

VCU Massey Cancer Center welcomed Bernard Fuemmeler, Ph.D., M.P.H., as the associate director for cancer prevention and control in June 2016. A clinical health psychologist and epidemiologist, he joined the VCU School of Medicine as a professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Policy.

Fuemmeler studies the biological, behavioral and social determinants that contribute to the development of behavioral risks for cancer, such as obesity, smoking and physical inactivity. He has also led work aimed at improving the health of adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer survivors. Much of his intervention-based research employs the use of digital technology (e.g., mobile phones apps, text messaging), to facilitate health promotion interventions, such as obesity prevention among AYA survivors or HPV vaccination among pre-adolescents.

“A primary goal of my research is to help identify what may be driving some of the key lifestyle risk factors for cancer with the intention of translating this knowledge to improve population health and reduce cancer risk,” Fuemmeler said.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Lance Armstrong Foundation and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), among others, have funded Fuemmeler’s research. His study findings have been published in nearly 60 peer-reviewed scientific journals, including the [*American Journal of Preventive Medicine*](#), [*Epigenetics*](#), [*JAMA Psychiatry*](#) and the *Journal of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology*.

Prior to joining VCU, Fuemmeler served in various professorial roles at Duke University for more than 10 years. His most recent position was associate professor of Community and Family Medicine with secondary faculty appointments in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences as well as Psychology and Neuroscience. He was also a member of the Duke University Comprehensive Cancer Institute and an affiliate of Duke’s Global Health Institute.

Fuemmeler received a bachelor’s degree in psychology/philosophy from the University of New Mexico, both an M.S. in psychology and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Oklahoma State University and an M.P.H. in quantitative methods from Harvard University. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at NCI in the flagship cancer prevention fellowship training program.

Fuemmeler currently serves as a standing member on an NIH study section on psychosocial risk and disease prevention and has been an ad hoc member on several other NIH study sections.

Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Fuemmeler moved to Durham, North Carolina, in 2005, where he met his wife. They have two children: a 3-year-old daughter and an 8-month-old son.