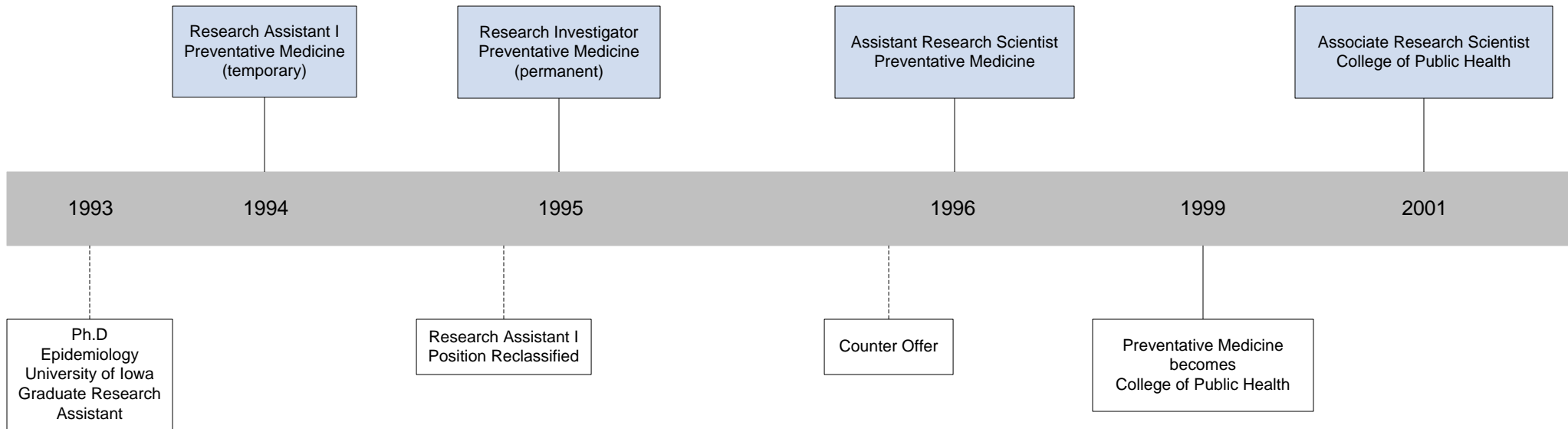


Michele West, Ph.D

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In Michele's own words:

I always knew that I wanted to conduct research, but not necessarily bench research. My Ph.D. work was in one of the Cancer Registry areas. To some extent, I was in the right place at the right time. A temporary position became available at the Registry shortly after I completed my degree. As the project's needs became better defined, a permanent position was created and I applied for it. In 1996 I considered moving to another lab but was made a counter offer here and chose to stay. My Ph.D. advisor has been my professional mentor as well and has been very supportive throughout my career. I have also learned a great deal from the other Principal Investigators I've worked with. I don't believe it is my supervisor's responsibility to manage my career. That is my responsibility and if I have done good work, I will have his support and help. The relationship with your supervisor should be good enough that you can talk about career development.

The Cancer Registry is a valuable collection of data that can be used in a variety of research and collaborative efforts. The coordinated nature of epidemiological research allows for broad, multiple source funding options. This way, the research is not completely dependent upon only one or two grants. As the projects have developed, I have taken on progressively more complex responsibilities and further developed my expertise. This has allowed for reclassifications of my position. I have always worked hard, kept up with the science and been productive and I have been rewarded for it.