

# MEERAJ KOTHARI

300 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt 4J, New York, NY - 10019 • (929)-319-5195 • [kothari.meeraj@gmail.com](mailto:kothari.meeraj@gmail.com)

## EDUCATION

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH | Master of Public Health (MPH), Epidemiology | Certificate in Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases | September 2018 - May 2020**

- **Coursework included:** Data Science II, Relational Databases and SQL Programming for Data Science, Latent Variable and Structural Equation Modeling, Neurological Epidemiology, Data Science I, Applied Regression I, Applied Data Analysis for Epidemiology.
- **Thesis:** *Assessing joint effects of blood lead and air pollution on children's 3rd grade standardized test scores in New York City birth cohort from 1994 to 1998.* (Advisor: Jeanette A. Stingone, PhD, MPH)
- **Activities & Societies:** VP of Communications – Healthcare Data Analytics, VP of Events – Queer Health Task Force.

**GUJARAT UNIVERSITY, KARNAVATI SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY | Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) | September 2012 – September 2017**

- U.S. Equivalency (W.E.S.) - Five years of professional study in dentistry at an accredited institution.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Teladoc Health** **January 2022–Present**  
**Data Scientist III | Full-time** **March 2024–Present**  
**Data Scientist II | Full-time** **January 2022–March 2024**

- Analyzed patient level data to advance company-wide clinical quality initiatives in R/RStudio.
- Presented findings regarding health equity and social determinants of health to internal and external stakeholders.
- Created and maintained MIPS measures in CPM and PowerBI to support EMR overhaul and shift to Value Based Care model.
- Developed and maintained internal tools and R packages.

**Columbia Aging Center** **February 2020–December 2021**  
**Data Analyst for Professor Daniel Belsky | Full-time**

- Analyzed DNA methylation, clinical biomarker, and socio-demographic data from multiple longitudinal cohort study and clinical trial datasets using R/RStudio and High-Performance Computing clusters.
- Collaborated on development of peer-reviewed manuscripts.
- Implemented biological aging algorithms to new epigenetic data for development of peer-reviewed research articles.
- Developed the Pace of Aging measure in 13,379 Health and Retirement Study participants in a longitudinal repeated measure analysis over 12 years of data collection.

**Columbia University, Department of Epidemiology** **October 2019–February 2020**  
**Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Christopher Morrison | Part-time**

- Geocoded 400+ streets for tobacco retail sites and advertisements in Indonesia using Google Street View.

**Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, New York State Psychiatric Institute** **October 2019–December 2019**  
**Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Maya Sabatello | Part-time**

- Conducted factorial survey data analysis in R for vignette experiments evaluating effect of genetic evidence and psychiatric history on decision making in tort litigation cases among 500 judges for the Department of Law, Ethics and Psychiatry.

**Columbia University, Department of Epidemiology** **June 2019–August 2019**  
**Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Jeanette Stingone | Full-time**

- Cleaned and analyzed data using predictive modeling and machine learning on NYC birth cohort of 1994-1998 with 201,559 observations and 207 variables in R.
- Assessed joint effects of blood lead and 40 air pollutants on 3rd grade test scores in the birth cohort.
- Developed a causal hypothesis for a retrospective observational study using DAGs in Daggity.

**Graduate Research Assistant** to Professor Eileen Carter | **Part-time**

- Data collection, study design and analysis assistant for a NIH (NINR) grant funded project exploring associations between antibiotic use and NH resident self-reported or family reported resident symptoms in SAS.
- Abstraction of EMR data and administration of surveys in REDCap and SQL for data collection.

**Smt. Sushilaben Kothari Charitable Hospital****October 2017–August 2018****Consultant Dentist**

- Led dental health check-up camps involving 150+ patients and performing preventive and restorative dental procedures in over 60% of the patients.
- Introduced oral hygiene program leading to increase oral hygiene levels by 30% in rural Ahmedabad in 6 months.

**Karnavati School of Dentistry****September 2016 – October 2017****Intern Dentist**

- Performed routine dental checkups, prescribed appropriate drugs, and performed relevant treatments such as scaling, RCT, crown & bridge, complete dentures
- Counselling patients regarding oral health hygiene practices and tobacco cessation programs.

**PUBLICATIONS**

1. Graf GHJ, Aiello AE, Caspi A, **Kothari M**, Liu H, Moffitt TE, Muennig PA, Ryan CP, Sugden K, Belsky DW. Educational Mobility, Pace of Aging, and Lifespan Among Participants in the Framingham Heart Study. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2024 Mar 4;7(3):e240655. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.0655. PMID: 38427354; PMCID: PMC10907927.
2. Sugden K, Caspi A, Elliott ML, Bourassa KJ, Chamarti K, Corcoran DL, Hariri AR, Houts RM, **Kothari M**, Kritchevsky S, Kuchel GA, Mill JS, Williams BS, Belsky DW, Moffitt TE; Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative\*. Association of Pace of Aging Measured by Blood-Based DNA Methylation With Age-Related Cognitive Impairment and Dementia. *Neurology*. 2022 Sep 27;99(13):e1402-e1413. doi: 10.1212/WNL.0000000000200898. Epub 2022 Jul 6. PMID: 35794023; PMCID: PMC9576288.
3. Belsky DW, Caspi A, Corcoran DL, Sugden K, Poulton R, Arseneault L, Baccarelli A, Chamarti K, Gao X, Hannon E, Harrington HL, Houts R, **Kothari M**, Kwon D, Mill J, Schwartz J, Vokonas P, Wang C, Williams BS, Moffitt TE. DunedinPACE, a DNA methylation biomarker of the pace of aging. *Elife*. 2022 Jan 14;11:e73420. doi: 10.7554/eLife.73420. PMID: 35029144; PMCID: PMC8853656.
4. Graf GH, Zhang Y, Domingue BW, Harris KM, **Kothari M**, Kwon D, Muennig P, Belsky DW. Social mobility and biological aging among older adults in the United States. *PNAS Nexus*. 2022 Mar 29;1(2):pgac029. doi: 10.1093/pnasnexus/pgac029. PMID: 35615471; PMCID: PMC9123172.
5. Waziry R, Ryan CP, Corcoran DL, Huffman KM, Kobor MS, **Kothari M**, Graf GH, Kraus VB, Kraus WE, Lin DTS, Pieper CF, Ramaker ME, Bhapkar M, Das SK, Ferrucci L, Hastings WJ, Kebbe M, Parker DC, Racette SB, Shalev I, Schilling B, Belsky DW. Effect of long-term caloric restriction on DNA methylation measures of biological aging in healthy adults from the CALERIE trial. *Nat Aging*. 2023 Mar;3(3):248-257. doi: 10.1038/s43587-022-00357-y. Epub 2023 Feb 9. Erratum in: *Nat Aging*. 2023 Jun;3(6):753. PMID: 37118425; PMCID: PMC10148951.
6. Laurel Raffington, Daniel W. Belsky, **Meeraj Kothari**, Margherita Malanchini, Elliot M. Tucker-Drob, K. Paige Harden; Socioeconomic Disadvantage and the Pace of Biological Aging in Children. *Pediatrics* June 2021; 147 (6): e2020024406. 10.1542/peds.2020-024406
7. Graf GH, Crowe CL, **Kothari M**, Kwon D, Manly JJ, Turney IC, Valeri L, Belsky DW. Testing Black-White Disparities in Biological Aging Among Older Adults in the United States: Analysis of DNA-Methylation and Blood-Chemistry Methods. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2022 Mar 24;191(4):613-625. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwab281. PMID: 34850809; PMCID: PMC9077113.
8. **Kothari, Meeraj** & Belsky, Daniel. (2021). Unite to predict. *eLife*. 10. 10.7554/eLife.66223.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Kothari M.**, McVeigh K., Stingone J. *Assessing joint effects of blood lead and air pollution on children's 3rd grade standardized test scores in New York City birth cohort from 1994 to 1998*. Poster session at: SER 2020 Annual Meeting; 2020 Dec 16-18, Boston, MA.

- **Kothari M.**, McVeigh K., Stingone J. *Assessing joint effects of blood lead and air pollution on children's 3rd grade standardized test scores in New York City birth cohort from 1994 to 1998*. Poster session at: New York City Epidemiology Forum; 2020 Feb 28, New York City, NY.
- **Kothari M.**, McVeigh K., Stingone J. *Assessing joint effects of blood lead and air pollution on children's 3rd grade standardized test scores in New York City birth cohort from 1994 to 1998*. Poster session at: Columbia University, Master's Student Day; 2019 October 11, New York City, NY.

## AWARDS & HONORS

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### Poster Presentation Award: Environmental Epidemiology

October 2019

#### Columbia University, Department of Epidemiology

- Assessing joint effects of blood lead and air pollution on children's 3rd grade standardized test scores in New York City birth cohort from 1994 to 1998.

### Dean's List: Gujarat University

September 2015 – May 2017

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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### Statistics Without Borders | Data Scientist

July 2021 – August 2021

- Acquired, cleaned, and organized data for fitting models for global data disaggregation project for HelpAge international.
- Created summary statistics and performed exploratory data analyses regarding households in Tanzania.

### Manav Sadhana | Dentist

July 2017 – September 2017

- Organized health checkup camps and oral health education workshop for underserved children in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

### QueerAbad | Community Organizer

May 2017 – Present

- Organized intersectional and educational campaigns, programs, workshops, and events for LGBTQIA+ individuals in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

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- Mini MBA in Healthcare, University of Arizona – Spring 2024
  - ABCs of Machine Learning, SER – January 2021
  - Epigenetics Bootcamp, Columbia University – June 2020
  - Data Scientist with R, DataCamp – September 2018
  - Statistics in Medicine, Stanford University – July 2018
  - Student Delegate, 69th Indian Dental Conference, Delhi. 18 CDE points.
  - CBCT Simplified – A day-to-day approach. Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology at Karnavati School of Dentistry. 6 CDE points.
  - "Multidisciplinary approach for management of oral cancer", CME workshop at Narayana Multispecialty Hospital, Ahmedabad.

## SOFTWARE SKILLS AND TOOLS

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R, Python, PowerBI, SQL, SAS, MPlus, QGIS, LINUX/UNIX, EndNote, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, MS Word.

## LANGUAGES

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FLUENT: English, Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu; BASIC: Spanish, French and Japanese.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Gujarat State Dental Council, Indian Dental Association

## CERTIFICATIONS

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HIPAA, CITI, BLS