# Alejandro Ochoa

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https://ochoalab.github.io/

### Education

2006

2001

2023

PhD in Molecular Biology, Princeton University

Dissertation: Protein domain prediction using context statistics, the false discovery rate, and comparative genomics, with application to Plasmodium falciparum

Advisers: Mona Singh (Computer Science) and Manuel Llinás (Molecular Biology)

BS in Biology and Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### Awards & Honors

- Lathisms: showcase of contributions of Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians during Hispanic Heritage Month. https://www.lathisms.org/calendars/calendar-2022
- Whitehead Scholar, Whitehead Charitable Foundation. For Duke junior faculty with exceptional potential for research and research training in the biomedical sciences.
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. Computational Biology.
- Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship Predoc. Comp. (Declined, listed as Honorable Mention.)
- MIT Department of Biology Merck Prize. Awarded to a graduating senior for outstanding research and academic performance in biophysics or bioinformatics.
  - Mexican Math Olympiad Gold Medal. Awarded to top 15 competitors nationally.

## **Employment**

- Assistant Professor, Duke Center for Statistical Genetics and Genomics, Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University
- Postdoctoral Research Associate at John D Storey's group, Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, and Center for Statistics and Machine Learning, Princeton University

### **Publications**

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Rachel Kate Cason, Eileen T Chambers, Tiffany Tu, Megan Chryst-Stangl, Kinsie Huggins, Brandon M Lane, **Alejandro Ochoa**, Annette M Jackson, Rasheed Gbadegesin. Genetic risk variants

- for childhood nephrotic syndrome and corticosteroid response. *Frontiers in Pediatrics.* 11:1248733. PMID 37868272.
- Yiqi Yao, **Alejandro Ochoa**. Limitations of principal components in quantitative genetic association models for human studies. *eLife*. 79238. PMID 37140344.
- Zhuoran Hou, **Alejandro Ochoa**. Genetic association models are robust to common population kinship estimation biases. *Genetics*. iyado3o. PMID 36843304.
- Brandon M Lane, Megan Chryst-Stangl, Guanghong Wu, Mohamed Shalaby, Sherif El Desoky, Claire Middleton, Kinsie Huggins, Amika Sood, **Alejandro Ochoa**, Andrew F Malone, Ricardo Vancini, Sara Miller, Gentzon Hall, So Young Kim, David Howell, Jameela A Kari, Rasheed Gbadegesin. CLVS1, a candidate gene for steroid sensitive nephrotic syndrome, regulates podocyte oxidative stress and endocytosis. *JCI Insight*. 7(2) e152102. PMID 34874915.
- Brian I Shaw, **Alejandro Ochoa**, Cliburn Chan, Chloe Nobuhara, Rasheed Gbadegesin, Annette M Jackson, Eileen T Chambers. HLA Loci and Recurrence of Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis In Pediatric Kidney Transplantation. *Transplant Direct.* 7(10) e748. PMID 34476293.
- Young-Sook Kim, Graham D Johnson, Jungkyun Seo, Alejandro Barrera, Thomas N. Cowart, William H Majoros, **Alejandro Ochoa**, Andrew S Allen, Timothy E Reddy. Correcting signal biases and detecting regulatory elements in STARR-seq data. *Genome Res.* 31(5) 877-889. PMID 33722938.
- Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey. Estimating  $F_{ST}$  and kinship for arbitrary population structures. *PLoS Genet.* 17(1) e1009241. PMID 33465078.
- Alejandro Ochoa, Mona Singh. Domain prediction with probabilistic directional context. *Bioinf.* 33(16) 2471-8. PMID 28407137.
- Simon A Cobbold, Joana M Santos, **Alejandro Ochoa**, David H Perlman, Manuel Llinás. Proteomewide analysis reveals widespread lysine acetylation of major protein complexes in the malaria parasite. *Sci Rep.* 2016;6:19722. PMID 26813983.
- Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey, Manuel Llinás, Mona Singh. Beyond the *E*-value: stratified statistics for protein domain prediction. *PLoS Comput Biol.* 11 e1004509. PMID 26575353.
- Moriah L Szpara, Derek Gatherer, **Alejandro Ochoa**, Benjamin Greenbaum, Aidan Dolan, Rory J Bowden, Lynn W Enquist, Matthieu Legendre, Andrew J Davison. Evolution and diversity in human herpes simplex virus genomes. *J Virol.* 88:1209-27. PMID 24227835.
- Alejandro Ochoa, Manuel Llinás, Mona Singh. Using context to improve protein domain identification. *BMC Bioinformatics*. 12:90. PMID 21453511.
- Gevorg Grigoryan, **Alejandro Ochoa**, Amy E Keating. Computing van der Waals energies in the context of the rotamer approximation. *Proteins.* 68(4) 863-78. PMID 17554777.

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN SUBMISSION

Tiffany Tu, Alejandro Ochoa, Amika Sood, Ashley Dabrik, Megan Chryst-Stangl, Brandon M Lane, Guanghong Wu, Frank Donovan, Ursula Harper, Settara Chandrasekharappa, Christopher Esezobor, Adaobi Solarin, David Hooper, Christine Sethna, Sandra Amaral, Mahmoud Kallash, Michelle Rheault, Priya Verghese, Vikas Dharnidharka, Eloise Salmon, Patricia Weng, Tarak Srivastava, Michael E. Seifert, Cozumel Pruette, David Selewski, Keisha Gibson, Tracy Hunley, Asiri Abeyagunawardena, Shenal Thalgahagoda, Arvind Bagga, Aditi Sinha, Nicholas Webb, Larry Greenbaum, Ali Gharavi, Krzysztof Kiryluk, Mathias Kretzler, Lisa Guay-Woodford, Simone Sanna-Cherchi, Agnieszka Bierzynska, Ania Koziell, Gavin Welsh, Moin Saleem, Charles

Rotimi, Eileen T Chambers, Cliburn Chan, CureGN Consortium, PNRC Glomerular disease group, CIBMTR/NMDP Consortium, Annette M Jackson, Adebowale Adeyemo, Rasheed Gbadegesin. Polygenic Risk Scores and HLA Class II Variants are Biomarkers of Corticosteroid Response in Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome. Submitted.

- Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey. New kinship and  $F_{ST}$  estimates reveal higher levels of differ-2019 entiation in the global human population. Preprint: https://doi.org/10.1101/653279
- **Alejandro Ochoa**, John D Storey.  $F_{ST}$  and kinship for arbitrary population structures I: General-2016 ized definitions. Preprint: https://doi.org/10.1101/083915

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Irineo Cabreros, John D Storey. A Likelihood-Free Estimator of Population Structure Bridg-2019 ing Admixture Models and Principal Components Analysis. Genetics. 212(4) 1009-29. PMID 31028112.
- Prem Gopalan, Wei Hao, David M Blei, John D Storey. Scaling probabilistic models of genetic variation to millions of humans. Nat Genet. 48(12) 1587-90. PMID 27819665.
- Anton V Persikov, Mona Singh. De Novo Prediction of DNA-Binding Specificities for Cys2His2 2014 Zinc Finger Proteins. Nucleic Acids Res. 42(1) 97-108. PMID 24097433.

### Distributed software

### MAJOR PACKAGES

- poppeninfer: Tests and simulations of genotyping platform bias. R. 2023-2025 https://github.com/OchoaLab/popgeninfer. simfam: Simulate and Model Family Pedigrees With Structured Founders. R, C++. 2021-2025 Available on CRAN and https://github.com/OchoaLab/simfam. jackstraw: Jackstraw Statistical Inference for Unsupervised Learning. R. 2020-2024 https://github.com/ncchung/jackstraw. gcatest: Genotype Conditional Association Test. R. 2020-2024 https://github.com/StoreyLab/gcatest. lfa: Logistic Factor Analysis for Categorical Data. R. 2020-2024 https://github.com/StoreyLab/lfa. genio: Genetics Input/Output Functions. R, C++. 2019-2025 Available on CRAN and https://github.com/OchoaLab/genio. simtrait: Simulate Complex Traits from Genotypes. R. 2019-2024 Available on CRAN and https://github.com/OchoaLab/simtrait.
- popkin: Estimate Kinship and FST under Arbitrary Population Structure. R, C++. 2017-2024
- Available on CRAN and https://github.com/StoreyLab/popkin.
- bnpsd: Model and Simulate Admixed Populations. R. 2017-2023
- Available on CRAN and https://github.com/StoreyLab/bnpsd.
- dPUC2: Domain Prediction Using Context, Version 2. Perl, C. 2014-2020
  - https://github.com/alexviiia/dpuc2.
- DomStratStats: Domain Stratified Statistics (q-values and local FDRs). Perl. 2014-2020 https://github.com/alexviiia/DomStratStats.

RandProt: High-order Markov random models for protein sequences. Perl. https://github.com/alexviiia/RandProt.

#### MINOR PACKAGES

- simgenphen: Simulate Genotypes and Phenotypes. R.
  - https://github.com/OchoaLab/simgenphen.
- genbin: R wrappers for binaries in genetics. R.
  - https://github.com/OchoaLab/genbin.
- ligera: Light GEnetic Robust Association. R, C++.
  - https://github.com/OchoaLab/ligera.
- popkinsuppl: Supplement to "popkin" package. R.
  - https://github.com/OchoaLab/popkinsuppl.
- 2019-2024 kinshipsymbols: Math symbols for statistical genetics. LaTeX.
  - https://github.com/OchoaLab/kinshipsymbols.

#### Paper repositories

- bias-assoc-paper: Kinship bias association project. R, bash, LaTeX, markdown.
  - https://github.com/OchoaLab/bias-assoc-paper.
- 2019-2023 pca-assoc-paper: PCA association project. R, bash, LaTeX, markdown.
  - https://github.com/OchoaLab/pca-assoc-paper.
- data: Instructions for real data processing shared across projects. R, bash, Perl, markdown.
  - https://github.com/OchoaLab/data.
- human-differentiation-manuscript: Human differentiation analysis. R, bash, markdown.
  - https://github.com/StoreyLab/human-differentiation-manuscript.

### **Invited Talks**

- Latinx in the Mathematical Sciences Conference 2025 (LatMath2025). Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA. 2025-03-07.
- Society of Mathematical Biology (SMB) Summer Seminar Series: Diversity in Math Bio. Virtual. 2024-07-30.
- HLA and KIR region genomics in immune-mediated diseases consortium (virtual). National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD. 2024-06-11.
- The 12th RECOMB Satellite Workshop on Computational Methods in Genetics. Stata Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. 2024-04-28. Presented by Tiffany Tu.
- Princeton QCB seminar. Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. 2024-04-22.
- Duke Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (CBB) retreat. Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center, Banner Elk, NC. 2023-11-18.
- NIH Centers for Excellence in Genomics Science (CEGS) Annual Meeting. Kimmel Center, New York University, New York, NY. 2023-10-11.
- 2023 HLA and KIR region genomics in immune-mediated diseases consortium (virtual). National Institute

- of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD. 2023-06-16.
- 2023 HCHS/SOL (Hispanic Community Health Study / Study of Latinos) Genetics Special Interest Group (Virtual). Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. 2023-06-21.
- NIH Centers for Excellence in Genomics Science (CEGS) Virtual Outreach Meeting. The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME. 2023-04-20.
- American Mathematical Society (AMS) 2023 Spring Southeastern Sectional Meeting. Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA. 2023-03-19.
- American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week. Orlando, FL. 2022-11-03. Presented by Rachel Kate Cason.
- BERD Core Seminar. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2022-08-26.
- Latinx in the Mathematical Sciences Conference 2022 (LatMath2022). Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA. 2022-07-08.
- Duke University Program in Genetics and Genomics (UPGG) retreat. Suite 4, Durham, NC. 2022-06-11.
- 2022 HLA and KIR region genomics in immune-mediated diseases consortium (virtual). National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD. 2022-04-28.
- Orientation for MB and PhD students. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2021-08-19.
- American Transplant Congress. Virtual. 2021-06-05. Presented by Brian I Shaw.
- 2021 HLA and KIR region genomics in immune-mediated diseases consortium (virtual). National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD. 2021-04-06.
- Statistics seminar. Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Washington State University, Pullman, WA. 2021-03-10.
- Master of Biostatistics Virtual Visit Day. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2021-02-19.
- American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting. Virtual. 2020-10-27. Presented by Amika Sood.
- University Program in Genetics and Genomics (UPGG) seminar. Room 147, Nanaline Duke building, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2020-02-18.
- Duke Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (CBB) retreat. Holiday Inn Resort, Wrightsville Beach, NC. 2019-09-28.
- Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (CBB) seminar. French Family Science Center, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2019-02-04.
- 2019 4th Mexico Population Genomics Meeting. Amoxcalli Complex, Faculty of Sciences, University City, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, DF, Mexico. 2019-01-11.
- Population Biology seminar, Department of Biology, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2018-09-27.
- Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2018-02-21.
- Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. 2018-01-22.
- Department of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA. 2017-11-10.
- Princeton Research Day. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. 2017-05-11.
- Department of Genetics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. 2017-02-13.

- New York Area Population Genomics Workshop 2016. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. 2016-01-21.
- 2015 Probabilistic Modeling in Genomics (ProbGen) conference. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY. 2015-10-15.
- Telepresentation for Yun Song's group. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA. 2013-04-17.
- Biological sequence analysis and probabilistic models (ProbGen) conference. HHMI Janelia Farm, Ashburn, VA. 2013-03-25.
- National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD. 2013-02-25.
- Recruiting conference. Department of Computer Science, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. 2012-03-01.
- Rotary Club Paso del Norte, Ciudad Juarez, CHIH, Mexico. 2004-08-26.

## Conference posters

2023

- Tiffany Tu, **Alejandro Ochoa**. Tests for harmonizing external controls in multiethnic case-control association studies with platform-specific genotyping biases. *The 13th RECOMB Satellite Work-shop on Computational Methods in Genetics, and 29th Annual International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB). Centennial hall, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea. 2025-04-25. Presented by Tiffany Tu.*
- Ratchanon Pornmongkolsuk, **Alejandro Ochoa**. Evaluation of imputation methods for ancient African DNA. *American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting*. Convention Center, Denver, CO. 2024-11-08. Presented by Ratchanon Pornmongkolsuk.
- Zhuoran Hou, **Alejandro Ochoa**. Kinship estimation bias carries over to heritability estimation bias using variance components. *American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting*. Convention Center, Denver, CO. 2024-11-06. Presented by Zhuoran Hou.
- Tiffany Tu, **Alejandro Ochoa**. Genetic association meta-analysis is susceptible to confounding by between-study cryptic relatedness. *American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting*. Convention Center, Denver, CO. 2024-11-06. Presented by Tiffany Tu.
- Tiffany Tu, **Alejandro Ochoa**, Amika Sood, Cliburn Chan, Eileen T Chambers, Annette M Jackson, Adebowale Adeyemo, Rasheed Gbadegesin. Genome-wide Association Studies of Pediatric Nephrotic Syndrome identify variants associated with corticosteroid response. *American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Kidney Week*. Convention Center, San Diego, CA. 2024-10-25. Presented by Tiffany Tu.
- Tiffany Tu, Alejandro Ochoa. The presence of cryptic relatedness creates inflation in metaanalyses of genome-wide association studies. The 12th RECOMB Satellite Workshop on Computational Methods in Genetics, and 28th Annual International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB). Stata Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. 2024-04-28. Presented by Tiffany Tu.
- Tiffany Tu, Rasheed Gbadegesin, Adebowale Adeyemo, **Alejandro Ochoa**. A test of genotyping platform bias for multiethnic case/control association studies merging external controls. *American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting*. Walter E. Washington Convention Center, DC. 2023-11-04. Presented by Tiffany Tu.
  - Ratchanon Pornmongkolsuk, Alejandro Ochoa. Single-locus imputation of ancient African DNA

using novel regression-based approach. *American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting*. Walter E. Washington Convention Center, DC. 2023-11-03. Presented by Ratchanon Pornmongkolsuk.

- Shannon Clarke, Makenzie Beaman, Yuncheng Duan, Apoorva Iyengar, Revathy Venukuttan, Eden Harris, Allison Ashley-Koch, Rasheed Gbadegesin, Opeyemi Olabisi, William H Majoros, Timothy E Reddy, **Alejandro Ochoa**. Duke Genomic Scholars Program: Providing Accessible Genomic Training for a Diverse Workforce. *NIH Centers for Excellence in Genomics Science (CEGS) Annual Meeting*. Kimmel Center, New York University, New York, NY. 2023-10-11. Presented by Shannon Clarke.
- Zhuoran Hou, **Alejandro Ochoa**. Genetic association models are robust to common population kinship estimation biases. *American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting*. Convention Center, Downtown, Los Angeles, CA. 2022-10-27. Presented by Zhuoran Hou.
- Alejandro Ochoa, Yuncheng Duan, Revathy Venukuttan, Shannon Clarke, Timothy E Reddy. Development of Genomic Resource Modules for a Diverse Workforce. NIH Centers for Excellence in Genomics Science (CEGS) Annual Meeting. The Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans Center for Health Education, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2022-10-19.
- Alejandro Ochoa, Amika Sood. Joint inference of admixture and population history from the genetic covariance structure. *Probabilistic Modeling in Genomics (ProbGen) conference*. Virtual. 2021-04-14.
- Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey. New kinship and  $F_{ST}$  estimates applied to the global human population. *American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting*. Virtual. 2020-10-27.
- Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey. Relatedness and Differentiation in Arbitrary Population Structures. 4th Mexico Population Genomics Meeting. Amoxcalli Complex, Faculty of Sciences, University City, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, DF, Mexico. 2019-01-11.

2018

2016

- Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey. Relatedness and Differentiation in Arbitrary Population Structures. *Probabilistic Modeling in Genomics (ProbGen) conference*. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY. 2018-11-05.
- Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey. Relatedness and Differentiation in Arbitrary Population Structures. *Population, Evolutionary and Quantitative Genetics Conference.* Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI. 2018-05-15.
  - Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey, Srikanth Gottipati, Shashank Rohatagi, Andrew Forbes, Deborah Profit, Raymond Sanchez, Margaretta Nyilas, William Carson. Mixed Effects Modeling of Placebo Response Across 8 Placebo-controlled Aripiprazole Trials Spanning 20 Years in Acutely Relapsed Schizophrenia Patients. *Neuroscience Education Institute Psychopharmacology Congress*. Broadmoor Convention Center, Colorado Springs, CO. 2016-11-03.
- Srikanth Gottipati, **Alejandro Ochoa**, Shashank Rohatagi, Andrew Forbes, Deborah Profit, Raymond Sanchez, Margaretta Nyilas, William Carson. Canonical Loadings of PANSS Subscales Show Differential Placebo and Aripiprazole Drug Responses in Schizophrenia Patients. *Neuroscience Education Institute Psychopharmacology Congress*. Broadmoor Convention Center, Colorado Springs, CO. 2016-11-03. Presented by Srikanth Gottipati.
- Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey.  $F_{\rm ST}$  generalized for arbitrary population structures. John W. Tukey 100th Birthday Celebration conference. Center for Statistics and Machine Learning, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. 2015-09-18.
- Alejandro Ochoa, John D Storey, Manuel Llinás, Mona Singh. Forget the *E*-value: family-based *q*-values for protein domain prediction, and empirical error detection. *Biological sequence analy-*

sis and probabilistic models (ProbGen) conference. HHMI Janelia Farm, Ashburn, VA. 2013-03-25. Alejandro Ochoa, Manuel Llinás, Mona Singh. Using context to predict protein domains across diverse organisms. Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB) 3rd Joint Conference on Systems Biology, Regulatory Genomics, and DREAM Challenges. Columbia University, New York, NY. 2010-11-09.

## **Teaching**

2010

2008

2022-now

**DUKE UNIVERSITY** 

Human Genetics. (Co-Lecturer Spring 2022-2024)

2021-2024 UPGEN 778A-F Mini course: Genetic population structure and relatedness (Fall 2021-2024)

SIBS lecture on genetic association studies (Summer 2019, 2021-2024)

BIOS 900 Current Problems in Biostatistics. Special lecture on kinship and  $F_{\rm ST}$ 

BIOS 710 Statistical Genetics and Genetic Epidemiology. Special lecture on kinship and  $F_{\rm ST}$ 

#### PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Intro to Genomics and Comp Bio. Quant Comp Bio, Comp Sci. (Co-Lecturer Fall 2017)
Discussion Leader. Summer Undergraduate Research Program (Summer 2016, 2017)
Statistical Treatment of Data. Mol Bio, Quant Comp Bio. (Workshop Fall 2014-2017)
Intro to Genomics and Comp Mol Bio. Mol Bio, Comp Sci. (TA Fall 2011)

Core Laboratory. Mol Bio. (TA Spring 2008)

#### MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

<sup>2005</sup> Calculus. OME Project Interphase (TA Summer 2005)

Multivar Calculus and Diff Eqs. OME Seminar XL (Tutor Fall 2003, Spring 2004)

2003-2004 Calculus. MITE2S Program (TA Summer 2003, 2004)

## Mentoring

### CURRENT TRAINEES - PRIMARY ADVISER

Ratchanon "RP" Pornmongkolsuk. PhD. Graduate rotation, Dissertation adviser. Ochoa Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.

Zhuoran Hou. PhD. Graduate rotation, Dissertation adviser. Ochoa Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University.

Current Trainees - Secondary Adviser

Cymfenee Dean-Phifer. PhD. Graduate rotation, Dissertation committee. Goldberg Laboratory.

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Program, Duke University.

Bide "Peter" Chen. PhD. Dissertation committee. Goldberg Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.

- Grace E. Rhodes. PhD. Graduate rotation, Dissertation committee. Allen Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University.
- Gabriel Kennedy. PhD. Dissertation committee. Goldberg Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.
- Anvita Kulshrestha. PhD. Dissertation committee. Ashley-Koch Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.
- Jennifer Drucker Varner. Fellow. Scholarship Oversight Committee. Gbadegesin Laboratory. Department of Pediatrics, Duke University.
- <sup>2024-now</sup> Constantine Stavrianidis. PhD. Dissertation committee. Allen Laboratory. Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Program, Duke University.
- Madison Strain. PhD. Dissertation committee. Ashley-Koch Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.

#### PAST TRAINEES - PRIMARY ADVISER

- Yiqi Yao. Master's. BCTIP internship, Master's project adviser. Ochoa Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University. Now Senior Business Analyst at BenHealth.
- Amika Sood. Postdoctoral. Postdoctoral adviser. Ochoa Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University. Now Staff Scientist at Complex Carbohydrate Research Center (CCRC), The University of Georgia.
- Zhuoran Hou. Master's. BCTIP internship. Ochoa Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University. Now PhD Student at Duke University, BB.
- Tiffany Tu. PhD. Graduate rotation, Dissertation adviser. Ochoa Laboratory. Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Program, Duke University.
- Jiajie Shen. Master's. Research, Master's project adviser. Ochoa Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University.
- Emmanuel Mokel. Undergraduate. Research Independent Study. Ochoa Laboratory. Department of Statistical Science, Duke University.
- Danielle Mensah. Undergraduate. Research Independent Study. Ochoa Laboratory. Department of Computer Science, Duke University.

#### PAST TRAINEES - SECONDARY ADVISER

- Neo Christopher Chung. PhD. Graduate rotation. Llinás Laboratory. Quantitative Computational Biology Program, Princeton University. Now Adjunct Faculty at University of Warsaw.
- Jeremy Bigness. PhD. Graduate rotation. Singh Laboratory. Quantitative Computational Biology Program, Princeton University. Now PhD Student at Brown University.
- Sebastian Nasamu. Undergraduate. Summer project. Llinás Laboratory. Department of Molecular Biology, Princeton University. Now Post-doctoral Research Fellow at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- Yuncheng Duan. PhD. Graduate rotation. Ochoa Laboratory. Department of Biology, Duke University. Now PhD Student at Duke University, Allen Lab.
- Shengyu Li. Master's. Master's project committee. Allen Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University. Now PhD Student at Duke University, CBB.
- <sup>2019-2024</sup> Xue "Scarlett" Zou. PhD. Dissertation committee. Allen Laboratory. Computational Biology and

- Bioinformatics Program, Duke University.
- Iman Hamid. PhD. Dissertation committee. Goldberg Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University. Now Scientist at Variant Bio.
- Bobby Boone IV. Master's. Master's project committee. Landstrom Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University. Now Biostatistician II at University of Utah Health.
- Brandon M. Lê. PhD. Dissertation committee. Ashley-Koch Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.
- Rachel Cason. Resident physician. Scholarship Oversight Committee, Master's project committee. Gbadegesin Laboratory. Department of Pediatrics, Duke University.
- Valerie Gartner. PhD. Dissertation committee. Wray Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.
- Hongyu Du. Master's. Master's project committee. Allen Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University.
- Krista Pipho. PhD. Dissertation committee. Goldberg Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.
- Weiliang "Frank" Tian. Master's project committee. Soderling Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University.
- <sup>2022-2025</sup> Changxin Wan. PhD. Dissertation committee. Ji Laboratory. Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Program, Duke University.
- Jinting Justin Liu. Master's. Master's project committee. Majoros Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University.
- Katelyn Jaggi. PhD. Graduate rotation. Ochoa Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.
- Erick Figueroa Ildefonso. PhD. Graduate rotation. Ochoa Laboratory. University Program in Genetics and Genomics, Duke University.
- Elisa Ma. Master's. Master's project committee. Landstrom and Allen Laboratory. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University.

## Research experience

- Principal investigator, Duke. I lead a team of trainees (graduate students, postdocs, master students and undergraduates) pursuing original research in statistical genetics and computational biology. Our lab focuses on models and applications for structured populations, including multiethnic and admixed cohorts and modeling cryptic relatedness.
- Postdoctoral Research, Storey Lab, Princeton. Developed new definitions and tools to study arbitrary population structures. Also applied GWAS and mixed effects modeling to longitudinal psychiatric drug clinical trials.
- Graduate Research Thesis, Singh Lab and Llinás Lab, Princeton. Developed probabilistic models and statistical methods that improve protein domain prediction. Studied the *Plasmodium falciparum* proteome, focusing on the AP2 transcription factors. Used experimental techniques (cloning, protein purification and protein-binding microarrays) to test predicted AP2 domains for DNA binding.
- Graduate Rotation, Tavazoie Lab, Princeton. Cloned an RNA aptamer for a phage display assay.

- Graduate Rotation, Singh Lab, Princeton. Analyzed protein interactions predicted from the presence of interacting domain pairs.
- Graduate Rotation, Troyanskaya Lab, Princeton. Built and analyzed a potential "gold standard" of Gene Ontology terms integrated from predictions of multiple sources, in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Homo sapiens*.
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, Keating Lab, MIT. Analyzed full-atom computational protein designs using modified van der Waals potentials.

### **Organizations**

- <sup>2023-now</sup> American Mathematical Society (AMS). Member.
- <sup>2020-now</sup> American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG). Member.
- Latino Graduate Student Association, Princeton University. Board member: Technology Specialist 2007-2010 (handled website, email list, photos, calendar).
- Association of Puerto Rican students, MIT. Member.

## Outreach, admissions, committees, and other service

- Duke Center for Combinatorial Gene Regulation: Outreach and Engagement. Funded by a NIH Centers for Excellence in Genomics Science (CEGS) grant. Includes the Duke Genomic Scholars Program: providing accessible genomic training for a diverse workforce. Duke University.
- 2019-now B&B Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Duke University.
- <sup>2019-2024</sup> CBB PhD Admissions Committee. Duke University.
- Promise and pitfalls of polygenic risk scores, faculty and postdoc panel, Triangle Center for Evolutionary Medicine's (TriCEM) annual Evolutionary Medicine Summer Institute (EMSI).
- B&B retreat, moderated session on Research Working Group. Duke University.
- Using Race, Ethnicity & Ancestry as Population Descriptors in Genetics and Genomics Research (NASEM report symposium), faculty panel. Duke University.
- <sup>2023</sup> CBB retreat, faculty panel. Duke University.
- Genomic Scholars Program, faculty panel. Duke University.
- Session moderator, 021: Human genome evolving I. ASHG annual meeting.
- Abstract reviewer, topic Evolutionary and Population Genetics. ASHG annual meeting.
- Session moderator, S41: Populations evolving: Modeling genetic variation to understand evolutionary processes. ASHG annual meeting.
- <sup>2021-2022</sup> Faculty Committee Member, Duke Next Generation Leaders. Duke University.
- B&B Faculty Search Committee. Duke University.
- B&B Master of Biostatistics Virtual Visit Day. Duke University.
- B&B informational interviewing practicum. Duke University.
- Panelist at HISPA Latinos in College Conference. Princeton University.
- Ivy-plus recruiting fair at University of Puerto Rico (4 campuses) for Princeton.
- Science and Engineering Expo. HHMI and Princeton University.
- Graduate school recruiting, student group panel, I represented the Latino Graduate Student Association (LGSA). Princeton University.
- Helped local high school students with college personal statements. PUPP, Princeton University.

# Languages

English. Native proficiency. Spanish. Native proficiency.

French. Fluent reading and writing, conversational speaking.

Last updated: April 16, 2025