Arjun Bhattacharya

Doctoral candidate in biostatistics

June 30, 2020 abhattac@live.unc.edu

Education

University of North Carolina

Chapel Hill, NC

Ph.D. Biostatistics

2015 - present

 Concentration in computational biology, genomics, and statistical genetics with an emphasis in health disparities

University of North Carolina

Chapel Hill, NC

B.S. Mathematical Decision Sciences, B.S. Biology

2011 - 2015

- Mackenzie Family Foundation Innovation Scholarship (full scholarship, 4 years)

Research and Work Experience

Carolina Breast Cancer Study

Chapel Hill, NC

Research Assistant

August 2017 - present

- Elucidating the relationship between germline genetic variation and breast cancer tumor biology to study racial disparities in breast cancer outcomes
- Developing methods for the deconvolution of bulk tumor RNA
- Advisors: Prof. Michael Love and Prof. Melissa Troester

ELGAN-ECHO Research Study

Chapel Hill, NC

Research Assistant

July 2017 - present

- Analyzing the genetic and epigenetic effects in autism, post-partum depression, and non-communicable developmental disorders in underserved and underrepresented populations
- Collaboration with Prof. Hudson Santos

NC TraCS Institute

Chapel Hill, NC

Research Assistant

August 2017 - July 2018

- Reviewed incoming grants for biostatistical support and provided statistical consultation for approved projects
- Under the supervision of Prof. Michael Love

Roche Innovation Center

New York, NY

Graduate Research Intern

May 2016 - August 2016

- Identified immunogenetic signatures from omic profiles from clinical trials to estimate immune infiltration in breast cancer tumors in response to cancer drugs
- Internship in the Data Science group of Translational Genomics at Roche, under the supervision of Drs. Francesca Milletti and Jurriaan Brouwer-Visser

CBKEN @ UNC

Chapel Hill, NC

Research Assistant

October 2015 - December 2016

- Modeled knowledge exchange networks in community-based health centers to assess best methods in knowledge dissemination and health practices in underinsured and low-income areas
- Presented findings to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, October 2016
- Under the supervision of Prof. Timothy Carney

Awards. Grants & Honors

Center of Environmental Health and Susceptability Training Grant	. 2019-present
Susan G. Komen Graduate Training Fellowship in Breast Cancer Disparities	2018-2019
UNC-CH Department of Biostatistics Tuition Award	2017-2018
Mackenzie Family Foundation Innovation Scholarship	2011-2015
NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates, UGA	2014
UNC-CH OUR Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (\$5,000)	2013

Publications

Accepted manuscripts

- 1. **A. Bhattacharya**, A. Hamilton, M. Troester, K. Hoadley, M. Love. *An approach for normalization and quality control for NanoString RNA expression data. Accepted*, 2020. *Briefings in Bioinformatics*: https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.08.032490v2.
- A. Bhattacharya, M. García-Closas, A. Olshan, C. Perou, M. Troester, M. Love. A framework for transcriptome-wide association studies in breast cancer. Genome Biology, 2020. https://genomebiology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13059-020-1942-6.
- 3. H. Santos, **A. Bhattacharya**, E. Martin, K. Addo, M. Psioda, L. Smeester, R. Joseph, S. Hooper, J. Frazier, K. Kuban, T. O'Shea, R. Fry for the ELGAN Investigators. *Epigenome-Wide DNA Methylation in Placentas from Preterm Infants: Association with Maternal Socioeconomic Status. Epigenetics*, 2019. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31062658.
- 4. H. Santos, B. Nephew, **A. Bhattacharya**, E. Martin, R. Fry, K. Perrerira, L. Smith, C. Murgatroyd, R. Alyamani, X. Tan. *Discrimination Exposure and DNA Methylation of Stress-Related Genes in Latina Mothers. Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 2018. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30144780.

Submitted papers

- A. Bhattacharya, M. Love. MOSTWAS: Multi-Omic Strategies for Transcriptome-Wide Association Studies. Submitted, 2020. Preprint on bioRxiv: https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.17.047225v2.
- 2. **A. Bhattacharya***, H. Santos*, R. Joseph, C. Plazas, L. Smeester, K. Kuban, T. O'Shea, and R. Fry for the ELGAN Investigators, et al. *Evidence for the Placenta-Brain Axis: Multi-Omic Kernel Aggregation Predicts Intellectual and Social Impairment in Children Born Extremely Preterm.*Submitted, 2020. Co-first authorship with H. Santos.
- 3. H. Santos, J. Bangma, **A. Bhattacharya**, J. Rager, S. Kepper, E. Kwiatkowski, M. Psioda, S. Hooper, R. Joseph, L. Douglass, J. Frazier, K. Kuban, T O'Shea, R. Fry for the ELGAN Investigators. *Sex Differences in Placental DNA Methylation Associated with Positive Child Health. Submitted*, 2019.
- 4. H. Santos, **A. Bhattacharya**, B. Nephew, C. Murgatroyd, X. Tan. *Oxytocin function and emotional regulation in Latina mothers. Submitted*, 2019.

Working papers

 A. Bhattacharya*, Melissa A. Troester, and Michael I. Love DeCompress: cell-type deconvolution using RNA expression data on bulk tissue from targeted panels. In preparation, 2020. 2. **A. Bhattacharya***, R. Joseph, C. Plazas, L. Smeester, K. Kuban, T. O'Shea, H. Santos, and R. Fry for the ELGAN Investigators, et al. *Placental transcriptome-wide analyses of many traits show common genetic mechanisms that support the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease hypothesis.* In preparation, 2020.

Presentations

- A. Bhattacharya, M.I. Love. MOSTWAS: Multi-Omic Strategies for Transcriptome-Wide Association Studies.
 - Society for Epidemiologic Research, December 2020. Selected for oral presentation in Genetics in Epidemiology session.
 - International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology, July 2020. Selected for virtual oral presentation (VarI-COSI).
 - International Genetic Epidemiology Society Meeting, July 2020. Selected for virtual poster presentation (due to COVID).
 - RNA 2020, May 2020. Selected for virtual poster presentation (due to COVID).
- **A. Bhattacharya**, M. García-Closas, A. Olshan, C. Perou, M. Troester, M. Love. *A framework for transcriptome-wide association studies in breast cancer.*
 - NCPF Workshop on Applying Big Data to Address the Social Determinants of Health in Oncology, October 2019. Poster presentation at the National Academies of Science.
 - American Society of Human Genetics Meeting, October 2019. Poster presentation.
 - International Genetic Epidemiology Society Meeting, October 2019. Talk and highlighted poster presentation. One of 3 best poster awards.
 - AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved, September 2019. Talk and poster presentation.
- A. Bhattacharya, H. Santos (presenting). Placental Multi-Omics Prediction of Autism Spectrum Disorder at Age 10. Annual Meeting of the U.S. Developmental Origins of Health and Disease Society, September 2019. Oral Presentation.
- A. Bhattacharya, M. Troester, M. Love. Examining racial disparities in recurrence in the Carolina Breast Cancer Study: a transcriptome-wide association approach. Plenary talk for Susan G. Komen. American Association of Cancer Research, November 2018

Teaching Experience

BIOS 735, Introduction to Data Science	Spring 2019
BIOS 550, Basic Elements of Probability and Statistical Inference	Spring 2018
BIOS 673, Probability and Statistics	Spring 2017

Computing Skills

• Advanced: R (preferred), SAS, LATEX

• **Intermediate:** Python, C++, Matlab