# Arjun Bhattacharya

Postdoctoral Fellow at UCLA Computational Medicine

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#### **Education**

# University of North Carolina

Chapel Hill, NC

Ph.D. Biostatistics

2015 - 2020

 Concentration in computational genomics, statistical genetics, and genetic epidemiology 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

# **UCLA Institute for Quantitative and Computational Biosciences**

Los Angeles, CA

Fellow

July 2021 - present

- Teaching workshops in quantitative methods to biology researchers
- Collaborating and consulting with experimental labs at UCLA for quantitative analyses

## Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Los Angeles, CA

Postdoctoral Fellow

August 2020 - present

- Developing methods for integration of genetic association studies and functional genomics
- Studying the genetic and genomic contributions to neuropsychiatric disease and cancer etiology, progression, and disparities
- With Prof. Bogdan Pasaniuc and Prof. Michael Gandal

## Carolina Breast Cancer Study

Chapel Hill, NC

Research Assistant

August 2017 - August 2020

- 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
- With Prof. Michael Love and Prof. Melissa Troester

## **ELGAN-ECHO Research Study**

Chapel Hill, NC

Research Assistant

July 2017 - August 2020

- 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 and Prof. Rebecca Fry

# 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

#### **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 Dr. Francesca Milletti and Dr. Jurriaan Brouwer-Visser

Chapel Hill, NC October 2015 - December 2016

Research Assistant

- 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
- With Prof. Timothy Carney

#### Awards, Grants & Honors

# UCLA Bruins in Genomics Outstanding Mentorship Award International Society of Psychiatric Genetics Early Career Investigator Program Award ... 2021-present Fellow, UCLA Institute of Quantitative and Computational Biosciences ... 2021-present SER Conference Scholarship ... 2021 Center of Environmental Health and Susceptability Training Grant ... 2019-2020 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 NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates, UGA ... 2014 UNC-CH OUR Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (\$5,000) ... 2013

#### **Publications**

#### Accepted manuscripts (\* indicates first authorship)

- 1. K. Hou, **A. Bhattacharya**, R. Mester, K.S. Burch, B. Pasaniuc. *Powerful GWAS in admixed populations when allelic effects are similar across ancestries*. Forthcoming, *Nature Genetics*, 2021.
- 2. G. Jones, K. Hoadley, L. Olsson, A. Hamilton, **A. Bhattacharya**, E. Kirk, H. Tipaldos, J. Fleming, M. Love, H. Nichols, A. Olshan, M. Troester. *Hepatoctye Growth Factor pathway expression in breast cancer by race and subtype. Breast Cancer Research*, 2021.
- A. Bhattacharya\*, Y. Li, M. Love. MOSTWAS: Multi-Omic Strategies for Transcriptome-Wide Association Studies. PLOS Genetics, 2021. https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgen.1009398
- 4. **A. Bhattacharya\***, Alina M. Hamilton, Melissa A. Troester, and Michael I. Love. *DeCompress: tissue compartment deconvolution of targeted mRNA expression panels using compressed sensing. Nucleic Acids Research*, 2021.
  - https://academic.oup.com/nar/advance-article/doi/10.1093/nar/gkab031/6125666?
- H. Santos, H. Adynski, R. Harris, A. Bhattacharya, A. Incollingo-Rodriguez, R. Cali, A. Torres Yabar, B. Nephew, C. Murgatroyd. Biopsychosocial Correlates of Psychological Distress in Latina Mothers. Journal of Affective Disorders, 2020.
  - https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165032720332833.
- H. Santos\*, A. Bhattacharya\*, R. Joseph, L. Smeester, K. Kuban, C. Marsit, T. O'Shea, and R. Fry. Evidence for the Placenta-Brain Axis: Multi-Omic Kernel Aggregation Predicts Intellectual and Social Impairment in Children Born Extremely Preterm. Molecular Autism, 2020. https://molecularautism.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13229-020-00402-w. Co-first author.

- 7. **A. Bhattacharya\***, A. Hamilton\*, M. Troester, K. Hoadley, M. Love. *An approach for normalization and quality control for NanoString RNA expression data. Briefings in Bioinformatics*, 2020. https://academic.oup.com/bib/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/bib/bbaa163/5891144. Co-first author.
- 8. **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.
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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.

#### Pre-prints and submitted papers

- 1. **A. Bhattacharya**, A. Freedman, V. Avula, R. Harris, W. Liu, Y. Li, R. Joseph, L. Smeester, H. Hartwell, K. Kuban, T. O'Shea, C. Marsit, R. Fry, and H. Santos. *Genetic control of fetal placental genomics contributes to development of health and disease*. In review, *Nature Communications*, 2021. https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.04.12.21255170v1.
- A. Patel, M. García-Closas, A. Olshan, C. Perou, M. Troester, M. Love, A. Bhattacharya. Gene-level germline contributions to clinical risk of recurrence scores in Black and White breast cancer patients. In revision, Cancer Research, 2021. https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.19.21253983v3.
- 3. H. Santos, J. Bangma, **A. Bhattacharya**, V. Zhabotynsky, K. Roell, C. Marsit, J. Rager, L. Smeester, T.M. O'Shea, B. Zou, F. Zou, R. Fry for the ELGAN Investigators. *Sexual Dimorphism in Placental DNA Methylation Predicts Positive Child Health Outcome at Age 10 Years*. In revision, *Epigenetics*, 2021.
- 4. H. Santos, **A. Bhattacharya**, B. Nephew, C. Murgatroyd, X. Tan. *Oxytocin function and emotional regulation in Latina mothers. Submitted*, 2021.

#### Works in preparation

- 1. **A. Bhattacharya\***, J. Hirvo\*, N. Cox, E. Gamazon, B. Pasaniuc for the Global Biobank Meta-Initiative. Best practices for multi-tissue, trans-ethnic, meta-analytic transcriptome-wide association studies: lessons from the Global Biobank Meta-Initiative. In preparation.
- 2. V. Lo Faro\*, J. Hirvo\*, **A. Bhattacharya**, N. Jansonius, H. Snieder, N. Cox for the Global Biobank Meta-Initiative. *A genome-wide association meta-analysis identifies new primary open-angle glaucoma loci. In preparation*.
- 3. R. Johnson, Y. Ding, V. Venkateswaran, **A. Bhattacharya** et al. *Genetic diversity within the UCLA ATLAS Community Health Initiative EHR-linked biobank. In preparation.*
- 4. **A. Bhattacharya**, B. Neale, S. Lindström, P. Kraft, B. Pasaniuc. *Pan-cancer multi-tissue distal-eQTL-enriched transcriptome-wide association study reveals common pathways for risk of 17 cancers. In preparation*.

- 5. **A. Bhattacharya**\*, M. Kim\*, C. Wen, B. Pasaniuc, M. Gandal. *Isoform-level transcriptome-wide associations of the fetal brain with neurodevelopment. In preparation.*
- 6. Y. Ding, **A. Bhattacharya\***, K. Hou, B. Pasaniuc. A powerful and flexible procedure to fine-map causal genetic variants in admixed populations. In preparation.

#### **Presentations**

- A. Bhattacharya, A. Freedman, V. Avula, R. Harris, W. Liu, Y. Li, R. Joseph, L. Smeester, H. Hartwell, K. Kuban, T. O'Shea, C. Marsit, R. Fry, and H. Santos. *Distal mediator-enriched, placental transcriptome-wide analyses of 40 traits suggest genetic mechanisms supporting the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease hypothesis.* 
  - Society for Epidemiologic Research, June 2021. Selected for oral presentation in So Much More Than GWAS: How Genetics Can Strengthen Causal Inference session.
  - UCLA QCBio Research Seminar Series, April 2021. Invited talk.
  - Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences Lecture Series, August 2021. Invited talk.
  - World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics, October 2021. Selected for oral presentation in Genome-wide Approach session.
- **A. Bhattacharya**, A.M. Hamilton, M.A. Troester, M.I. Love. *DeCompress: tissue compartment deconvolution for targeted RNA panels using compressed sensing.* 
  - International Conference on Computational Advances in Bio- and medical Sciences, December 2020. Invited talk at Computational Advances for Next Generation Sequencing Workshop.
- **A. Bhattacharya**, M.I. Love. *Multi-Omic strategies for transcriptome-wide association studies and applications to the DOHaD hypothesis*.
  - American Society for Human Genetics Annual Meeting, October 2020. Selected for platform talk in Rare Variants and Complex Disease session.
- 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

#### **Service**

- Referee and Reviewer Experience
  - Referee for npj Breast Cancer, Communications Biology, American Journal of Human Genetics, Genetics, Frontiers in Genetics, G3, Human Genomics
  - Abstract reviewer for the Society of Epidemiologic Research Annual Meetings
- Formal Mentorship
  - Mentor Bruins-In-Genomics (B.I.G.) Summer Undergraduate Research Program 2021

# **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