

YIXIN ZHENG

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EDUCATION

Master of Science in Biostatistics, Theory and Methods Track Advisor: Dr. Xin Ma
Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health

Expected May 2026
New York, NY

- GPA: 3.42/4.0
- Related courses: Probability, Data Science I, Principles of Epidemiology I, Biostatistical Methods I and II, Statistical Inference, Pharmaceutical Statistics, Relational Databases and SQL Programming, Graphical Model, Survival Analysis, Analysis of Longitudinal Data, Human Population Genetics

Bachelor of Arts in Statistics and Data Science

Jun 2024

University of California, Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara, CA

- GPA: 3.57/4.0 Major GPA: 3.87/4.0
- Related courses: Calculus with Applications, Linear Algebra with Applications, Vector Calculus, Probability and Statistics, Regression Analysis, General Chemistry, Molecular Genetics, Human Physiology, Programming in Bio

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

Jun. 2025 – Present

Resting-State fMRI Functional Connectivity Analysis in Alzheimer's Disease

New York, United States

Neuroimaging Working Group (LeeLab), Columbia University / NYSPI, Advisor: Prof. Seonjoo Lee

- Analyzed ADNI resting-state fMRI and clinical datasets to evaluate mediation and interaction effects between amyloid burden, within-network functional connectivity (SN, DMN, FPN), and neuropsychiatric symptoms (apathy, agitation).
- Applied mixed-effects models (lmer, glmer) for repeated-measures data, mediation analysis with quasi-Bayesian simulations (5,000 draws), and FDR-adjusted hypothesis testing.
- Designed reproducible R workflows for longitudinal neuroimaging–clinical data integration, including preprocessing, statistical modeling, and advanced visualization.
- Interpreted and summarized model results in formal analysis reports and research meetings, linking statistical findings to disease mechanisms.
- Collaborated in a multidisciplinary team spanning neuroscience, psychiatry, and biostatistics to contextualize statistical outputs within Alzheimer's disease pathology research.

Research Assistant

Jul. 2023 – Sep. 2023

Meta-Analysis of Alzheimer's Disease Pathology Transcriptomic Data

Shanghai, China

Center for Excellence in Brain Science and Intelligence Technology, CAS, Advisor: Prof. Jiulin Du

- Conducted comprehensive Meta-analysis on human brain transcriptomes (MAP, MSSM, Mayo) from 470 Alzheimer's Disease (AD) patients and 300 non-AD individuals, focusing on seven brain regions.
- Identified 2,350 upregulated and 2,120 downregulated transcripts using random-effects and fixed-effects Meta-analysis methods.
- Applied advanced co-expression analysis using MEGENA, WINA, Metanetwork, rWGCNA, and speakeasy algorithms, leading to the identification of 28 AD-related co-expression modules.
- Conducted cell type-specific analysis to confirm oligodendrocyte-associated features in identified modules.
- Reprocessed and curated RNA-seq data from 88 mouse studies relevant to AD and other neurodegenerative disorders, defining 239 sets of significant differentially expressed genes (DEGs) and analyzing their expression signatures using t-SNE plots.
- Evaluated cross-species similarities by comparing mouse expression signatures with 30 human AD-associated brain consensus co-expression modules, revealing 1,569 significant overlaps.
- Provided novel insights into sex-by-age interaction in AD progression through cross-species Meta-analyses, highlighting accelerated transcriptional changes in female mice compared to males.

Laboratory Assistant

Oct. 2020 – Feb. 2021

The Food Science and Processing Research Center, Shenzhen University

Shenzhen, China

- Improved soybean protein extraction protocol by grinding soybean into powder and using dithiothreitol for extraction instead of trichloroacetic acid/acetone method for extraction.
- Collected data for protein profiles of different soybean varieties using Ion Exchange High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (IEX-HPLC) for comparative analysis.
- Developed a database for a commercial project aimed at screening ideal soybean varieties with specific protein traits.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Industrial Intern

Jun. 2023 – Aug. 2023

IQVIA

Shanghai, China

- Conducted desk research about Alopecia Areata by collecting government policy briefs, secondary research reports, and company annual reports.
- Analyzed and interpreted the information to unearth key strategies, strengths, weaknesses, and milestones, comprehending or conjecturing the causes, and formulating recommendations.
- Forecasted market size, competition, and prospects for alopecia areata and its treatments, enhancing strategic planning efforts.

Industrial Intern

Mar. 2021 – Jun. 2021

Xiamen Hengyifeng Industrial Co., LTD

Xiamen, China

- Recorded daily invoices, generated comprehensive cheque reports to facilitate financial tracking and reporting processes.
- Collaborated in the audit of reimbursement documents, providing support in processing financial data and contributing to the development of financial models, ensuring accuracy and compliance with standards.
- Calculated quarterly payments, prepared profit and loss statements, and conducted budget comparisons.

CERTIFICATE & SKILLS

R, Python, SAS(base & advanced certificate), SPSS, Graphpad Prism, Origin, SQL