

**PERSONAL****Venkata Saroja Voruganti**

Assistant Professor

Department of Nutrition and UNC Nutrition Research Institute

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Email:[saroja@unc.edu](mailto:saroja@unc.edu)**EDUCATION**

- 2001 – 2005      Doctor of Philosophy in Nutritional Sciences  
*The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA*  
Advisor: Jeanne H. Freeland-Graves, PhD.
- 1997 – 1998      Post-Graduate Diploma in Dietetics & Hospital Food Service  
*Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition,*  
*Mumbai, India (National Council for Hotel Management & Catering Technology)*
- 1982 – 1985      Bachelors in Science (Honors), Major: Foods & Nutrition  
*The University of Delhi, Delhi, India*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2013 – present    Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Department of Nutrition and UNC Nutrition  
Research Institute  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC*
- 2013 – 2013      Staff Scientist II (Equivalent to Research Associate Professor), Department of  
Genetics  
*Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, TX*
- 2010 – 2012      Staff Scientist I (Equivalent to Research Assistant Professor), Department of  
Genetics  
*Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Formerly Southwest Foundation for  
Biomedical Research), San Antonio, TX*
- 2005 – 2009      Postdoctoral Scientist (Genetic Epidemiology), Department of Genetics  
*Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio, TX*  
Advisor: Anthony G. Comuzzie, PhD
- 2001 – 2005      Teaching Assistant, Department of Human Ecology  
*The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX*
- 2001 – 2004      Tutor (Nutrition), Department of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women  
*The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX*

**HONORS**

- 2016 Junior Faculty Development Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2014 Elected Fellow of the American Heart Association by the Council of Functional Genomics and Translational Biology
- 2007– 2008 New Investigator Research Award from The Obesity Society
- 2007 Charles E. Ragus Award of the American College of Nutrition as the Best Scientific Paper of 2007 for Klohe-Lehman DM, Freeland-Graves JH, Clarke KK, Cai G, **Voruganti VS**, Milani TJ, Nuss HJ, Proffitt JM, Bohman TM. Low-income, overweight and obese mothers as agents of change to improve food choices, fat habits, and physical activity in their 1-to-3-year-old children. *2007. J Am Coll Nutr. 26(3):196-208*
- 2004 – 2005 University Continuing Fellowship by Office of Graduate Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2004 – 2005 JOGUE Junior Scientist Award in Nutrition presented by the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America (ASIOA)
- 2002 – 2003 Estelle Boughton Sharp Memorial Scholarship in Human Ecology, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2001 – 2002 Cooke Endowment Scholarship in Human Ecology, The University of Texas at Austin
- 1997 – 1998 Lilavati Endowment Award for the Best Research Project during Post-Graduate Diploma in Dietetics and Hospital Food Service

**MEMBERSHIPS**

- 2014 – present Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility to Disease, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2014 – present Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC), UNC Chapel Hill
- 2014 – present American Society for Nutrition (ASN)
- 2012 – present American Society of Nephrology (ASN)
- 2011 – present International Society of Nutrigenetics/Nutrigenomics (ISNN)
- 2006 – present American Heart Association (AHA)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PRODUCTS OF SCHOLARSHIP****Books & Chapters**

1. **Voruganti VS**, Comuzzie AG. Value of waist circumference in metabolic diseases. In: V.R. Preedy (ed). *Handbook of Anthropometry: Physical Measures of Human Form in Health and Disease*, pp.1947-1958, Springer-Verlag, 2012
2. Higgins PB, **Voruganti VS**, Comuzzie AG. Genetics of body weight and obesity. In: C.G.N. Mascie-Taylor, A. Yasukouchi, and S. Ulijaszek (eds), *Human Variation: From the Laboratory to the Field*, pp. 17-32. CRC Press, 2010.

**Refereed Papers / Articles****\$** indicates that I am the senior author,**¥** indicates that the author is a postdoctoral fellow/student for whom I am the primary mentor

1. Balakrishnan P, Vaidya D, Franceschini N, **Voruganti VS**, Gribble MO, Haack K, Laston S, Umans JG, Francesconi KA, Goessler W, North KE, Lee ET, Yracheta J, Best LG, MacCluer JW, Kent Jr, JW, Cole SA, Navas-Acien A. Association of cardiometabolic genes with arsenic metabolism biomarkers in American Indian communities: The Strong Heart Family study (SHFS). *Environ Health Persp.* 2016; (In press): 1-6
2. **\$¥**Vazquez-Vidal I, **¥**Chittoor G, Laston S, Puppala S, Kayani Z, Mody K, Comuzzie AG, Cole SA, **Voruganti VS**. Assessment of cardiovascular disease risk factors in a genetically homogenous population of Parsi Zoroastrians in the US: A pilot study. *Am J Hum Biol.* 2016; (In press): 1-4
3. Fernandez-Rhodes L, Graff M, Hodonsky CJ, Love SM, Howard AG, Seyerle AA, Avery CL, **¥**Chittoor G, Franceschini N, **Voruganti VS**, Young K, O'Connell J, North KE, Justice AE. Comparison of gene-environment methods using simulated GAW19 family-based data. *BMC genetics. GAW19 proceedings 2016; (In press) : 1-5*
4. Justice AE, Howard AG, **¥**Chittoor G, Fernandez-Rhodes L, Graff M, **Voruganti VS**, Diao Q, Love SM, Franceschini N, O'Connell J, Avery CL, Young KL, North KE. Genome-wide association of trajectories of systolic blood pressure change. *BMC genetics. GAW19 proceedings 2016; (In press) : 1-5*
5. **\$¥**Chittoor G, Kent Jr. JW, Almeida MA. Puppala S, Farook VS, Cole SA, Haack K, Goring HHH, MacCluer JW, Curran JE, Carless MA, Johnson MP, Moses EK, Almasy L, Mahaney MC, Lehman DM, Duggirala R, Comuzzie AG, Blangero J, **Voruganti VS**. GWAS and transcriptional analysis prioritize *ITPR1* and *CNTN4* for a serum uric acid 3p26 QTL in Mexican Americans. *BMC Genomics.* 2016; 17(1):276-283. *PMCID:PMC4818944*
6. **¥**Chittoor G, Pajewski NM, **Voruganti VS**, Comuzzie AG, Clarkson TB, Nudy M, Schnatz PF, Kaplan JR, Jorgensen MJ. Vitamin D heritability and effect of pregnancy status in vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus aethiops sabaues*) under conditions of modest and high dietary supplementation. *Am J Phys Anthropol.* 2016; 159(4):639-645. *PMCID:PMC4783241*
7. Gribble MO, **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Haack K, Laston SL, Tellez-Plaza M, Francesconi KA, Goessler W, Umans JG, Sibergald EK, Thomas DC, Gilliland F, North KE, Franceschini N, Navas-Acien A. Linkage analysis of urine arsenic species patterns in the Strong Heart Family Study. *Toxicol Sci.*2015; 148(1):89-100. *PMCID:PMC4731407*
8. Mou Z, Hyde TM, Lipska BK, Wei P, Ong CJ, Hunter LA, Palaguachi GI, Morgun E, Teng R, Lai C, Condarco TA, Demidowich AP, Krause AJ, Marshall LJ, Haack K, **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Butte NF, Comuzzie AG, Nalls MA, Zonderman AB, Singleton AB, Evans MK, Martin B, Maudsley S, Tsao JW, Kleinman JE, Yanovski JA, Han JC. Association of brain-derived neurotrophic factor gene locus SNP rs12291063 with human hypothalamic brain-derived neurotrophic factor expression and human obesity. *Cell Reports* 2015; 13(6):1073-1080. *PMCID:PMC4644471*

9. Ebbesson SOE, **Voruganti VS**, Higgins PB, Fabsitz RR, Ebbesson LO, Laston S, Harris WS, Kennish J, Umans BD, Wang H, Devereux RB, Okin PM, Weissman NJ, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, Howard BV. Fatty acids linked to CVD mortality are associated with risk factors. *Int J Circumpolar Health* 2015; 74:28055-28065. *PMCID:PMC4536775*
10. Frost PA, Chen S, Mezzles MJ, **Voruganti VS**, Nava-Gonzalez EJ, Arriaga-Cazares HE, Freed KA, Comuzzie AG, DeFronzo RA, Kent Jr, JW, Grayburn PA, Bastarrachea RA. Successful pharmaceutical-grade streptozotocin (STZ)-induced hyperglycemia in a conscious tethered baboon (*Papio hamadryas*) model. *J Med Primatol* 2015; 44(4):202-217. *PMID: 26122701*
11. Butte NF, Liu Y, Zakeri I, Mohny RP, Mehta NR, **Voruganti VS**, Goring HHH, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG. Global metabolomic profiling targeting childhood obesity in the Hispanic population. *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2015; 102(2): 256-267 *PMCID: PMC4515872*
12. Thameem F, **Voruganti VS**, Comuzzie AG, Blangero J, Abboud HE. Evaluation of neurotrophic tyrosine receptor kinase 2 (NTRK2) as a positional candidate gene for variation in estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) in Mexican American participants of San Antonio Family Heart Study. *J Biomed Sci* 2015; 22(1): 23-29 *PMCID:PMC4383052*
13. **Voruganti VS**, Laston S, Haack K, Mehta NR, Cole SA, Butte NF, Comuzzie AG. Serum uric acid concentrations and *SLC2A9* genetic variation in Hispanic children: the Viva La Familia study. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2015;101 (4):725-732 *PMCID: PMC4381775*
14. Laston S, **Voruganti VS\***, Haack K, Shah VO, Bobelu A, Bobelu J, Ghahate D, Harford AM, Paine SS, Tentori F, Cole SA, MacCluer JW, Comuzzie AG, Zager PG. Genetics of kidney disease and related phenotypes in Zuni Indians: A genome-wide association study: The Zuni Kidney Project. *Front Genet.* 2015; 6:1-12 *PMCID:PMC4311707*. \*Co-first author
15. Tsai CW, North KE, Tin A, Haack K, Franceschini N, **Saroja Voruganti V**, Laston S, Zhang Y, Best LG, MacCluer JW, Beaty T, Navas-Acien A, Kao WHL, Howard BV. Both rare and common variants in PCSK9 influence plasma low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level in American Indians. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2015; 100(2):E345-349 *PMCID:PMC4318886*
16. Hernandez-Escalante VM, Nava-Gonzalez EJ, **Voruganti VS**, Kent JW Jr., Haack K, Laviada-Molina HA, Gallegos-Cabrales EC, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Coles SA, Mezzles MJ, Comuzzie AG, Bastarrachea RA. Replication of obesity and diabetes-related SNP associations in individuals from Yucatan, Mexico. *Front Genet.* 2014; 5: 1-6 *PMCID:PMC4235406*
17. Shi Q, Hodora V, Meng Q, **Voruganti VS**, Rice K, Michalek JE, Comuzzie AG, VandeBerg JL. Early endothelial damage detected by circulating particles in baboons fed a diet high in simple carbohydrates in conjunction with saturated or unsaturated fat. *Am J Cardiovasc Dis.* 2014; 4(3):123-132 *PMCID:PMC4212887*
18. Al-Sinani S, Hassan MO, Zadjali F, Al-Yahyaee S, Albarwani S, Rizvi S, Jaju D, Comuzzie A, **Voruganti VS**, Bayoumi R. Utility of large consanguineous family-based model for investigating the genetics of type 2 diabetes mellitus. *Gene* 2014; 548(1):22-28. *PMID:24993573*
19. **Voruganti VS**, Franceschini N, Haack K, Laston S, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, Comuzzie AG, North KE, Cole SA. Replication of the effect of *SLC2A9* genetic variation on serum uric acid levels in American Indians. *Eur J Hum Genet.* 2014; 22(7):938-943. *PMCID: PMC4060115*

20. Kocarnik JM, Pendergrass SA, Carty CL, Pankow JS, Schumacher FR, Cheng I, Durda P, Ambite JL, Deelman E, Cook NR, Liu S, Wactawski-Wende J, Hutter C, Brown-Gentry K, Wilson S, Pankratz N, Hong CP, Cole SA, **Voruganti VS**, Buzkova P, Jorgensen NW, Jenny NS, Wilkens LR, Haiman CA, Kolonel LN, LaCroix A, North KE, Jackson R, Le Marchand L, Hindorff LA, Crawford DC, Gross M, Peters U, on behalf of the PAGE study investigators. Multi-ancestral analysis of inflammation-related genetic variants and C-reactive protein in the Population Architecture using Genomics and Epidemiology Study. *Circ. Cardiovasc Genet.* 2014; 7:178-188. *PMCID:PMC4104750*
21. \$Kulkarni T, Slaughter G, Ego-Osuala C, Kochunov P, Bastarrachea RA, Mattern V, Andrade M, Higgins PB, Comuzzie AG, **Voruganti VS**. Hyperglycemic challenge and distribution of adipose tissue in obese baboons. *Int J Diab Vasc Dis Res.* 2014; 2:1-7. *PMCID:PMC4241571*
22. Hohenadel M, Thearle M, Grice B, Huang H, Dai MH, Tao YX, Hunter L, Palaguachi G, Mou Z, Kim R, Tsang M, Haack K, **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Butte NF, Comuzzie AG, Muller Y, Baier L, Krakoff J, Knowler W, Yanovski J, Han J. Brain-derived Neurotrophic factor in human subjects with function-altering melanocortin-4 receptor variants. *Int J Obes.* 2014; 38(8):1068-1074. *PMCID:PMC4033711*
23. Quillen EE, **Voruganti VS**, Chittoor G, Rubicz R, Peralta JM, Almeida MAA, Kent Jr JW, Dyer TD, Comuzzie AG, Göring HHH, Duggirala R, Almasy L, Blangero J. Evaluation of estimated genetic values and their application to genome-wide investigation of systolic blood pressure. *BMC genetics.* 2014; 8(Suppl 1): 1-5 *PMCID:PMC4143678*
24. Chen S, Bastarrachea RA, Roberts BJ, **Voruganti VS**, Frost PA, Nava-Gonzalez EJ, Arriaga-Cazares HE, Chen J, Huang P, DeFronzo RA, Comuzzie AG, Grayburn PA. Successful beta cells islet regeneration in streptozotocin-induced diabetic baboons using ultrasound-targeted microbubble gene therapy with cyclinD2/CDK4/GLP1. *Cell cycle.* 2014; 13(7):1145-1151 *PMCID:PMC4013164*
25. Higgins PB, Rodriguez PJ, **Voruganti VS**, Mattern V, Bastarrachea RA, Rice K, Raabe T, Comuzzie AG. Body composition and cardiometabolic disease risk factors in captive baboons (*Papio hamadryas* SP.): sexual dimorphism. *Am J Phys Anthropol* 2014; 153(1):9-14. *PMCID:PMC4025923*
26. **Voruganti VS**, Kent Jr JW, Debnath S, Cole SA, Haack K, Göring HHH, Carless MA, Curran JE, Johnson MP, Almasy L, Dyer TD, MacCluer JW, Moses EK, Abboud HE, Mahaney MC, Blangero J, Comuzzie AG. Genome-wide association analysis confirms and extends the association of *SLC2A9* with serum uric acid levels to Mexican Americans. *Front Genet.* 2013 4:1-9. *PMCID:PMC3863993*
27. Gribble MO, **Voruganti VS**, Cropp CD, Francesconi KA, Goessler W, Umans JG, Silbergeld EK, Laston SL, Haack K, Kao WHL, Fallin MD, MacCluer JW, Cole SA, Navas-Acien A. *SLCO1B1* variants and urine arsenic metabolites in the Strong Heart Family study. *Toxicol Sci* 2013;136(1):19-25. *PMCID: PMC3829571*
28. Rubicz R, Zhu J, Laston S, Cole SA, **Voruganti VS**, Ebbesson SOE, Howard BV, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW, Leach CT, Kraig E, Yolken R, Davidson M, Umans JG, Duggirala R, Blangero J, Comuzzie AG, Goring HHH. Statistical genetic analysis of serological measures of common, chronic infections in Alaska Native participants in the GOCADAN study. *Genet Epidemiol.* 2013;37(7):751-757. *PMCID:PMC3969261*

29. Cox LA, Comuzzie AG, Havill LM, Karere GM, Spradling KD, Mahaney MC, Nathanielz PW, Nicoletta DP, Shade RE, **Voruganti S**, VandeBerg JL. Baboons as a model to study genetics and epigenetics of human disease. *ILAR journal* 2013; 54(2):106-121. *PMCID:PMC3924757*
30. Fesinmeyer MD, Meigs JB, North KE, Schumacher FR, Buzkova P, Franceschini N, Haessler J, Goodloe R, Spencer KL, **Voruganti VS**, Howard BV, Jackson R, Kolonel LN, Liu S, Manson JE, Monroe KR, Mukamal K, Dilks HH, Pendergrass SA, Nato A, Wan P, Wilkens LR, Le Marchand L, Ambite JL, Buyske S, Florez JC, Crawford DC, Hindorff LA, Haiman CA, Peters U, Pankow JS. Genetic variants associated with fasting glucose and insulin concentrations in an ethnically diverse population: results from the Population Architecture using Genomics and Epidemiology (PAGE) Study. *BMC Med Genet.*2013;14(1):98-105 *PMCID:PMC3849560*
31. Zhu Y, **Voruganti VS\***, Lin J, Matsuguchi T, Blackburn E, Best LG, Howard BV, Lee ET, MacCluer JW, Cole SA, Zhao J. Linkage analysis of leukocyte telomere length in American Indians: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Ageing (Albany NY)*. 2013; 5(9):704-716. *PMCID:PMC3808702*. \*Co-first author
32. Franceschini N, Haack K, Laston S, Almasy L, Goring HHH, **Voruganti VS**, Best L, Lee ET, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW, Meigs J, Cole SA. Epidemiology and genetic determinants of progressive deterioration of glycemia in American Indians: the Strong Heart Family Study. *Diabetologia*. 2013; 56(10):2194-2202. *PMCID:PMC3773080*
33. Rodriguez-Sanchez IP, Garza-Rodriguez ML, Mohamed-Noriega K, **Voruganti VS**, Tejero ME, Delgado-Enciso I, Perez-Ibave DC, Schlabritz-Lutsevich NE, Mohamed-Noriega J, Resendez-Perez D, Cole SA, Cavazos-Adame H, Comuzzie AG, Mohamed-Hamsho J, Barrera-Saldana HA. Olfactomedin-like 3 (OLFML3) gene expression in baboon and human ocular tissues: cornea, lens, uvea and retina. *J Med Primatol*. 2013; 42(3):105-111. *PMCID:PMC3651808*
34. Zhang L, Spencer KL, **Voruganti VS**, Jorgensen N, Fornage M, Best L, Brown-Gentry KD, Cole SA, Crawford DC, Franceschini N, Gaffo A, Glenn KR, Heiss G, Jenny NS, Kottgen A, Li Q, Liu K, North KE, Umans JG, Kao WH. Association of functional polymorphism rs2231142 (Q141K) in ABCG2 gene with serum uric acid and gout in 4 US populations: The PAGE study. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2013. 177(9): 923-932. *PMCID:PMC4023295*
35. **Voruganti VS**, Jorgensen MJ, Kaplan JR, Kavanagh K, Rudel LL, Temel R, Fairbanks LA, Comuzzie AG. Significant genotype by diet (GxD) interaction effects on cardiometabolic responses to a pedigree-wide, dietary challenge in vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus aethiops sabaues*). *Am J Primatol*. 2013; 75(5):491-499. *PMCID:PMC3609869*
36. Tellez-Plaza M, Gribble MO, **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Francesconi KA, Goessler W, Howard BV, Umans JG, Silbergeld EK, Guallar E, Franceschini N, North KE, Kao L, Navas-Acien A. Heritability and genome-wide linkage analysis of urine arsenic metabolites. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 2013; 121(3):345-351. *PMCID:PMC3621197*
37. Fabbrini E, Higgins PB, Magkos F, Bastarrachea RA, **Voruganti VS**, Comuzzie AG, Shade RE, Gastaldelli A, Horton JD, Omodei D, Patterson BW, Klein S. Metabolic response to high-carbohydrate and low-carbohydrate meals in a non-human primate model. *Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab*. 2013; 304(4):444-451. *PMCID:PMC3566507*
38. Comuzzie AG, Cole SA, Laston SL, **Voruganti VS**, Haack K, Gibbs RA, Butte NF. Novel genetic loci identified for the pathophysiology of childhood obesity in the Hispanic population.

PLOS ONE 2012; 7(12):1-9. PMID:PMC3522587

39. **Voruganti VS**, Laston S, Haack K, Mehta NR, Smith CW, Cole SA, Butte NF, Comuzzie AG. Genome-wide association replicates the association of Duffy antigen receptor for chemokines (DARC) polymorphisms with monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) in Hispanic children. *Cytokine*. 2012;60(3):634-638. PMID:PMC3501981
40. Albarwani S, Munoz ML, **Voruganti VS**, Jaju D, Al-Yahyaee S, Rizvi SG, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Al-Anqoudi Z, Bayoumi RA, Comuzzie AG, Snieder H, Hassan MO. Heritability of ambulatory and beat-to-beat office blood pressure in large multigenerational Arab Pedigrees: The "Oman Family Study". *Twin Res Hum Genet*. 2012; 15(6):753-758. PMID:22967944
41. Vaidyanathan V, Bastarrachea RA, Higgins PB, **Voruganti VS**, Kamath S, DiPatrizio N, Piomelli D, Comuzzie AG, Parks EJ. Selective cannabinoid-1 receptor blockade significantly benefits fatty acid and triglyceride metabolism in weight-stable nonhuman primates. *AJP-Endocrinology and Metabolism* 2012; 303(5):E624-E634. PMID:PMC3468508
42. Franceschini N, Shara N, Wang H, **Voruganti VS**, Laston S, Haack K, Lee ET, Best LG, MacCluer JW, Cochran B, Dyer TD, Howard BV, Cole SA, North KE, Umans JG. Association of genetic variants of type 2 diabetes with kidney function. *Kidney Intl*. 2012; 82(2):220-225. PMID:PMC3664521
43. Kavanagh K, Wylie AT, Chavanne TJ, Jorgensen MJ, **Voruganti VS**, Comuzzie AG, Kaplan JR, McCall CE, Kritchevsky SB. Aging does not reduce heat shock protein 70 in the absence of chronic insulin resistance. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci*. 2012; 67(10):1014-1021. PMID:PMC3437965
44. Bastarrachea RA, Gallegos-Cabriales EC, Nava-Gonzalez EJ, Haack K, **Voruganti VS**, Charlesworth J, Laviada-Molina HA, Veloz-Garza RA, Cardenas-Villarreal VM, Valdovinos-Chavez SB, Gomez-Aguilar P, Melendez G, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Goring HHH, Cole SA, Blangero J, Comuzzie AG, Kent Jr. JW. Integrating genomic analysis with the genetic basis of gene expression: preliminary evidence for the identification of causal genes for cardiovascular and metabolic traits related to nutrition in Mexicans. *Adv Nutr*. 2012. 3(4): 596S-604S. PMID:PMC3649732
45. **Voruganti VS**, Higgins PB, Ebbesson SOE, Kennish J, Göring HHH, Haack K, Laston S, Drigalenko E, Wenger CR, Harris WS, Fabsitz RR, Devereux RB, MacCluer JW, Curran JE, Carless MA, Johnson MP, Moses EK, Blangero J, Umans JG, Howard BV, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG. Variants in *CPT1A*, *FADS1*, and *FADS2* are associated with higher levels of estimated plasma and erythrocyte delta 5 desaturases in Alaskan Eskimos. *Front Genet*.2012; 3:1-10. PMID:PMC3371589
46. Haiman CA, Fesinmeyer MD, Spencer KL, Buzkova P, **Voruganti VS**, Wan P, Haessler J, Francheschini N, Monroe KR, Howard BV, Jackson RD, Florez JC, Kolonel LN, Buyske S, Goodloe RJ, Liu S, Manson JA, Meigs JB, Waters K, Mukamal KJ, Pendergrass SA, Shrader P, Wilkens L, Hindorff LA, Ambite JL, North KE, Peters U, Crawford DC, Le Marchand L, Pankow JS. Consistent directions of effect for established type 2 diabetes risk variants across populations: The Population Architecture using Genomics and Epidemiology (PAGE) Consortium. *Diabetes*. 2012; 61(6):1642-1647. PMID:PMC3357304

47. Wilmot B, **Voruganti VS**, Chang YP, Fu Y, Chen Z, Taylor H, Wilson J, Gipson T, Shah VO, Umans JG, Flessner M, Hitzemann R, Shuldiner A, Comuzzie AG, McWeeney S, Zager PG, MacCluer JW, Cole SA, Cohen DM. Heritability of serum sodium concentration: evidence for sex- and ethnic-specific effects. *Physiol Genomics*.2012; 44(3):220-228. *PMCID:PMC3289114*
48. Diego VP, Curran JE, Michael-Charlesworth J, Peralta JM, **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Dyer TD, Johnson MP, Moses EK, Goring HHH, Williams JT, Comuzzie AG, Almasy L, Blangero J, Williams-Blangero S. Systems genetics of the nuclear factor-k  $\beta$  signal transduction network. I. Detection of several quantitative trait loci potentially relevant to aging. *Mech Ageing Dev*. 2012; 133(1):11-19. *PMCID:PMC3321306*
49. Jolly S, Mete M, Wang H, Zhu J, Ebbesson S, **Voruganti VS**, Comuzzie AG, Howard BV, Umans JG. Uric acid, hypertension, and CKD among Alaska Eskimos: The Genetics of Coronary Artery Disease in Alaska Natives (GOCADAN) study. *J Clin Hypertension*. 2012; 14:71-77. *PMCID:PMC3507473*
50. Andrade MCR, Higgins PB, Mattern VL, De La Garza MA, Brasky K, **Voruganti VS**, Comuzzie AG. Morphometric variables related to metabolic profile in captive chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*). *Comparative Medicine* 2011;61(5):457-461. *PMCID:PMC3193070*
51. Butte NF, **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Haack K, Comuzzie AG, Muzny DM, Wheeler DA, Gibbs RA. Resequencing of *IRS2* reveals rare variants for obesity but not fasting glucose homeostasis in Hispanic children. *Physiol Genomics*. 2011; 43(18):1029-1037. *PMCID:PMC3180738*
52. **Voruganti VS**, Diego VP, Haack K, Cole SA, Blangero J, Goring HHH, Laston S, Wenger CR, Ebbesson SOE, Fabsitz RR, Devereux RB, Howard BV, Umans JG, MacCluer JW, Comuzzie AG. A QTL for genotype by sex interaction for anthropometric measurements in Alaskan Eskimos (GOCADAN Study) on chromosome 19q12-q13. *Obesity*. 2011; 19(9): 1840-1846. *PMCID:PMC3525327*
53. Bastarrachea RA, Veron SM, Vaidyanathan V, Garcia-Forey M, **Voruganti VS**, Higgins PB, Parks EJ. Protocol for the measurement of fatty acid and glycerol turnover in vivo in baboons. *J Lipid Res*.2011; 52(6):1272-1280. *PMCID:PMC3090248*
54. Hassan MO, Jaju D, **Voruganti VS**, Bayoumi RA, Albarwani S, Al-Yahyaee S, Aslani A, Snieder H, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Al-Anqoudi ZM, Alizadeh BZ, Comuzzie AG. Genome-wide linkage analysis of hemodynamic parameters under mental and physical stress in extended Omani Arab pedigrees; The Oman Family Study. *Twin Res Hum Genet*. 2011; 14(3): 257-267. *PMID:21623656*
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56. Comuzzie AG, Higgins PB, **Voruganti S**, Cole SA. Cutting the fat: The genetic dissection of body weight. *Prog Mol Biol Transl Sci*. 2010; 94: 197-212.*PMID:21036326*
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#### **Non-Refereed Papers/Articles**

1. **Voruganti VS**. Genetics of heart disease – Perspective from family-based studies. *FEZANA Journal.* 2010; 24(3):85-86

#### **Manuscripts in review**

1. Higgins PB, Shade RE, Rodriguez-Sanchez IP, Garcia-Forey M, Tejero ME, **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG, Folli F. Central GIP signaling stimulates peripheral GIP release and promotes insulin and pancreatic polypeptide secretion in nonhuman primates.
2. \$Fry CL, Maugle TC, Cole SA, Gelfond J, Chittoor G, Mariani AF, Goros MW, Haik BG, **Voruganti VS**. The Latino eyelid: anthropometric analysis of a spectrum of findings. *pp: 1-4*
3. \$¥Chittoor G, Laston S, Mehta NR, Haack K, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG, Butte NF, **Voruganti VS**. Genetic variation underlying renal uric acid excretion measures in Hispanic children. *pp:1-6*
4. Xu X, Drobna Z, **Voruganti VS**, Barron K, Gonzalez-Horta C, Sanchez-Ramirez B, Ballinas-Casarrubias L, Hernandez Ceron R, Viniegra Morales D, Baeza Terrazas FA, Ishida MC, Gutierrez-Torres DS, Saunders RJ, Fry RC, Loomis D, Garcia-Vargas GG, Del Razo LM, Styblo M, Mendez MA. Association between variants in *AS3MT* and urinary metabolites of inorganic arsenic: The role of arsenic exposure level. *pp:1-8*
5. \$¥Chittoor G, Kent Jr. JW, Almeida MA, Puppala S, Farook VS, Cole SA, Haack K, Goring HHH, MacCluer JW, Curran JE, Carless MA, Johnson MP, Moses EK, Almasy L, Mahaney MC, Lehman DM, Duggirala R, Comuzzie AG, Blangero J, **Voruganti VS**. SLC2A9 sequence variation and serum uric acid regulation in Mexican Americans. *pp: 1-6*

6. \$¥Chittoor G, Haack K, Balakrishnan P, Bizon C, Laston S, Best LG, MacCluer JW, North KE, Umans JG, Franceschini N, Navas-Acien A, Cole SA, **Voruganti VS**. Fine mapping and identification of serum uric acid loci in American Indians: The Strong Heart Family Study. *pp:1-8*

## REFEREED UNPUBLISHED ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND / OR ABSTRACTS

\$ indicates that I am the senior author,

¥ indicates that the author is a postdoctoral fellow/student for whom I am the primary mentor

### Poster presentations (as Senior Author)

1. \$¥Chittoor G, Haack K, Sjodin A, Laston S, Best LG, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, Cole SA, Navas-Acien A, **Voruganti VS**. Exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and uric acid transporter polymorphisms in American Indians: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Am Soc Hum Genet. Annual Meeting 2016*
2. \$¥Chittoor G, Haack K, Laston S, Mehta NR, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG, Butte NF, **Voruganti VS**. Novel association of glomerular filtration rate with *NKAIN2* gene variants in Hispanic children. *Experimental Biology 2016*
3. \$Cheatham CL, ¥Vazquez-Vidal I, Turski C, ¥Medlin A, Millsap G, **Voruganti VS**. Sex-specific and obesity-specific association of serum uric acid with cognitive function in older adults. *Experimental Biology 2016*
4. \$¥Vazquez-Vidal I, Mass B, Barron K, Chittoor G, **Voruganti VS**. Cardiovascular disease risk factors and *BRCA* SNPs in a genetically homogenous population of Parsi Zoroastrians. *Experimental Biology 2016*
5. \$¥Chittoor G, Haack K, Laston S, Best LG, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, Cole SA, **Voruganti VS**. SLC2A9 sequence variants and serum uric acid concentrations in American Indians: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Am Soc Hum Genet. Annual Meeting 2015*
6. \$¥Chittoor G, Laston S, Mehta NR, Haack K, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG, Butte NF, **Voruganti VS**. Genetic variation underlying uric acid clearance in Hispanic children: the Viva La Familia Study. *Am Soc Nephrol 2015*
7. Fry CL, Maugle TC, Cole SA, Gelfond J, Chittoor G, Mariani AF, Goros MW, Haik BG, **Voruganti VS**. The Latino eyelid: anthropometric analysis of a spectrum of findings. *ASOPRS 46th Annual Fall Scientific Symposium. 2015*
8. \$¥Chittoor G, Haack K, Laston S, Best LG, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, Cole SA, **Voruganti VS**. Evidence of pleiotropic effects on serum uric acid and fibrinogen levels in American Indians. *Annual meeting of the International Society for Nutrigenetics and Nutrigenomics, 2015*
9. \$¥Chittoor G, Haack K, Laston S, Best LG, Lee ET, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, Cole SA, **Voruganti VS**. Genetic variation in central obesity measures and serum uric acid in American Indians. *American Association of Physical Anthropology annual meeting 2015*

10. **Voruganti VS**, Chittoor G, Kent Jr JW, Almeida M, Puppala S, Farook VS, Cole SA, Haack K, Goring HHH, MacCluer JW, Curran JE, Carless MA, Johnson MP, Moses EK, Almasy L, Duggirala R, Mahaney MC, Comuzzie AG, Blangero J, **Voruganti VS**. Genome-wide joint linkage and association analyses confirm *SLC2A9* and *CNTN4* as candidate genes affecting serum uric acid levels in Mexican Americans. *Am Soc Nephrol* 2014

### As first author

### Oral presentations

1. **Voruganti VS**, Chittoor G, Haack K, Laston S, Vazquez-Vidal I, Mehta NR, Comuzzie AG, Cole SA, Butte NF. Genetic influence on xanthine oxidase activity and arginine metabolism in Hispanic children. *Experimental Biology* 2016
2. **Voruganti VS**, Chittoor G, Laston S, Haack K, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG, Butte NF. Pleiotropic effects of GCKR and ABCG2 on serum levels of uric acid and triglycerides in Hispanic children. *Experimental Biology* 2015
3. **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Haack K, Goring HHH, Drigalenko E, MacCluer JW, Curran JE, Carless MA, Johnson MP, Moses EK, Almasy L, Mahaney MC, Blangero J, Comuzzie AG. Genome-wide linkage analysis, high-density SNP genotyping and transcriptional profiling indicate a role for syntenin in obesity-related phenotypes. *Obesity* 2013
4. **Voruganti VS**, Jorgensen MJ, Kaplan JR, Kavanagh K, Rudel LL, Temel R, Fairbanks LA, Comuzzie AG. Significant genotype by diet (GxD) interaction effects on cardiometabolic responses to a pedigree-wide dietary challenge in Vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus aethiops sabaeus*). *Annual meeting of the American Society of Primatologists*. 2011
5. **Voruganti VS**, Franceschini N, Laston S, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, Comuzzie AG, Zager PG, North KE, Cole SA. Replication of the effect of *SLC2A9* genetic variation on serum uric acid levels in American Indians. *Proc Am Soc Hum Genet*. 60<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting 2010
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8. **Voruganti VS**, Tejero ME, Proffitt JM, Cole SA, JH Freeland-Graves, Comuzzie AG. Quantitative genetic analysis and characterization of ghrelin in baboons. *Obes. Res.* 2005; 13:A38
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### **Poster presentations**

1. **Voruganti VS**, Chittoor G, Meyer K, Haack K, Laston S, Mehta NR, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG, Butte NF. Genetic determinants of uremic toxins in Hispanic children: the Viva La Familia Study. *Am Soc Nephrol Annual Meeting 2016*
2. **Voruganti VS**, Haack K, Laston S, Goring HH, Nest LG, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, Cole SA, Cohen DM. Sex-specific effects of NPHP1 and SLC9A2 SNPs in systemic water balance in American Indians. *Experimental Biology 2015*
3. **Voruganti VS**, Laston S, Haack K, Mehta NR, Cole SA, Butte NF, Comuzzie AG. A genome-wide association study identifies SLC2A9 genetic variation as a strong determinant of serum uric acid levels in Hispanic children. *Obesity 2013*
4. **Voruganti VS**, Umans B, Haack K, Laston SL, Ebbesson SOE, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, Comuzzie AG, Cole SA. Genetic variants of SLC22A12 are associated in a population-specific manner with serum uric acid and CKD phenotypes. *Am Soc Nephrol Annual Meeting 2013*
5. **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Haack K, Laston SL, Ebbesson SOE, MacCluer JW, Comuzzie AG, Umans JG. Genetic influence on the variation of serum uric acid levels in Western Alaska Natives. *Am Soc Nephrol Annual Meeting 2013*
6. **Voruganti VS**, Laston SL, Haack K, Cole SA, Kent JW, Ebbesson SOE, MacCluer JW, Blangero J, Zager P, Umans JG, Comuzzie AG. Association of serum uric acid genetic risk score with chronic kidney disease in Mexican American, American Indian and Alaska Native populations. *J Am Soc Nephrol. 2013; 24:158A*
7. **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Cox LA, Curran JE, Göring HHH, Dyer TD, Johnson MP, MacCluer JW, Blangero J, Mahaney MC, Comuzzie AG. Association of body weight with transcript abundance shows cross-species replication in baboons and humans. *Obesity. 2012*
8. **Voruganti VS**, Laston SA, Haack K, Cole SA, Butte NF, Comuzzie AG. Polymorphisms in *INADL* associated with adiposity phenotypes in Hispanic children: Follow-up of the total energy expenditure QTL on chromosome 1p31. *Obesity. 2012*
9. **Voruganti VS**, Kent Jr. JW, Leduc M, MacCluer JW, Almasy L, Curran JE, Blangero J, Mahaney MC, Comuzzie AG. X-linked genetic effects on adiposity-related phenotypes in Mexican Americans of the San Antonio Family Heart Study. *Obesity. 2011*
10. **Voruganti VS**, Laston S, Haack K, MacCluer JW, Cole SA, Shah VO, Bobelu A, Bodelu J, Harford A, Paine S, Zager PG, Comuzzie AG. Association of *SLC2A9* with serum uric acid and renal phenotypes in Zuni Indians: The Genetics of Kidney Disease in Zuni Indians (GKDZI) study. *J Am Soc Nephrol* 22,2011:461A

11. **Voruganti VS**, Laston S, Haack K, Mehta NR, Smith CW, Cole SA, Butte NF, Comuzzie AG. Genome-wide association replicates the association of Duffy antigen receptor for chemokines (DARC) polymorphisms with monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) in Hispanic children. *Obesity*. 2011; 19(S1):848-P
12. **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Haack K, Göring HHH, Drigalenko E, MacCluer JW, Curran JE, Carless MA, Johnson MP, Moses EK, Blangero J, Mahaney MC, Comuzzie AG. GWAS, transcriptional profiling, and pathway analysis prioritize positional candidate genes for a chromosome 14 resistin QTL in Mexican Americans. *Obesity*. 2011; 19(S1):841-P
13. **Voruganti VS**, Ebbesson SOE, Haack K, Laston S, Wenger CR, Fabsitz RR, Devereux RB, MacCluer JW, Howard BV, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG. Genetic regulation of variation in plasma and erythrocyte desaturases in Alaskan Eskimos. *Circulation*. 2010
14. **Voruganti VS**, Kent JW Jr, Cole SA, Carless M, Curran JE, Johnson MP, Goring HH, Almasy L, Dyer TD, Arar NH, Bauer RL, MacCluer JW, Abboud HE, Comuzzie AG, Moses EK, Blangero J. Genome-wide association confirms variants in *SLC2A9* are associated with serum uric acid in Mexican-Americans. *Proc Am Soc Hum Genet*. 58<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting 2008
15. **Voruganti VS**, Cai G, Haack K, Cole SA, Butte NF, Comuzzie AG. Association of MC4R variants with obesity-related traits in Hispanic children. *Obesity*. 2008; 16(S1):S326
16. **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Ebbesson SOE, Tejero ME, Laston S, Haack K, Devereux RB, Fabsitz RR, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Comuzzie AG. Evidence of genetic regulation of circulating free fatty acid levels in Alaskan Eskimos. *Circulation*. 2008; 117 (11): e259
17. **Voruganti VS**, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Rutherford S, Richardson DK, Jenkinson CP, Cole SA, MacCluer JW, Blangero J, Comuzzie AG. Association of SNPs in adiponectin receptor 2 (*ADIPOR2*) with cardiovascular risk factors in Mexican Americans from the San Antonio Family Heart study. *Circulation*. 2007; 115(8):E294
18. **Voruganti VS**, Göring HHH, Diego VP, Cai G, Mehta N, Haack K, Cole SA, Butte NF, Comuzzie AG. Genome wide scan for plasma ghrelin detects linkage on chromosome 1p36 in Hispanic children: Results from the Viva La Familia study. *Obes. Res*. 2006; 14:A196
19. **Voruganti VS**, DeFronzo RA, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Triplitt C, Chavez AO, Folli F, Bastarrachea RA, Comuzzie AG. Changes in plasma ghrelin and peptide YY during hyperinsulinemic-euglycemic clamp in baboons. *Diabetes*. 2006; 55 (suppl. 1): A347
20. **Voruganti VS**, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Nath SD, Rainwater DL, Bauer R, Cole SA, MacCluer JW, Blangero J, Comuzzie AG. Genome-wide linkage analysis of HOMA and its correlations with other metabolic syndrome components in Mexican-Americans. *Circulation*. 2006; 113 (8): E326
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### Other Abstracts

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3. Graff M, Fernandez-Rhodes L, Highland HM, Schurmann C, Feng Y, Cruz M, Valladares-Salgado, Rangarajan J, Rojo C, Guo X, Rotter J, Allison M, Igo R, Pereira A, John E, Tusie-Luna T, Aguilar-Salinas CA, Gonzalez C, Gignoux C, Iyengar S, Hanis C, Below JE, Justice AE, Young KL, Isasi C, Oi O, Laurie CC, Stilp AM, Gogarten SM, **Voruganti VS**, Chittoor G, Duggirala R, Puppala S, Dyer T, Albrecht SS, Raffel L, Conti D, Ziv E, Parra E, Kenny E, Loos RJJ, Haiman C, North KE. Exploring genetic variants for anthropometric traits in Hispanic/Latino populations. *Am Soc of Hum Genetics Annual Meeting 2015*
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5. Gribble MO, **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Haack K, Tellez-Plaza M, Francesconi KA, Goessler W, Umans JG, Gilliland F, North KE, Navas-Acien A. Linkage analysis of urine arsenic species patterns among persons without diabetes in the Strong Heart Family Study. *Society of Toxicology annual meeting 2015*.
6. Hassan MO, Jaju DS, Bayoumi RA, Al-Yahyaee S, Comuzzie AG, **Voruganti SV**, Albarwani SA. Gender differences in hemodynamic and autonomic reactivity during mental and physical laboratory stress tests in normal subjects of the Oman Family Study. *Hypertension.* 2014; 64:A440
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10. Munoz ML, Hassan MO, **Voruganti VS**, Jaju D, Albarwani S, Aslani A, Comuzzie AG, Alizadeh BZ, Nolte I, Snieder H. Heritability of heart rate variability in an Arabic population. *Annual meeting of the Dutch Epidemiology Society 2014*
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14. Kent JW Jr, Gallegos-Cabrales EC, Nava-González EJ, Haack K, **Voruganti VS**, Laviada-Molina HA, López-Alvarenga JC, Veloz-Garza RA, Cardenas-Villareal VM, Valdovinos-Chavez S, Göring HHH, Cole SA, Blangero J, Comuzzie AG, Bastarrachea RA. Genetic basis of postprandial metabolism: Progress report from the genetics of metabolic diseases in Mexico (GEMM) family study. *Obesity. 2012*
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57. Bastarrachea RA, **Voruganti VS**, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Comuzzie AG. Adiponectin exhibits positive increase with age in young adult baboons. *Obes. Res.* 2006; 14:A208
58. Tejero ME, **Voruganti VS**, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG. Structure and variation of the baboon resistin gene. *Am J Primatol.*2006; 68 (suppl 1):114.
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61. Lu H, **Voruganti VS**, Klein GL, Thomas S, Herndon DN, Freeland-Graves JH. The status of zinc and copper in children with burn injuries. *FASEB Journal* 2004; 18(5): A884
62. Thomas S, **Voruganti VS**, Freeland-Graves J, Lu HX, Klein GL, Herndon DN. Zinc and copper concentrations in severely burned children. *American Burn Society Abstracts*, 2004
63. Clarke KK, Klohe DM, **Voruganti VS**, Milani T, Hans-Nuss H, Cai G, Proffitt JM, Freeland-Graves JH. The influence of nutrition attitudes and beliefs on the food choices of low-income women of young children. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association Supplement* 2003; 103(9): A87
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65. Clarke KK, Klohe DM, Cai G, Proffitt JM, **Voruganti VS**, Milani T, Hans-Nuss H, Freeland-Graves JH. Dietary changes by low-income mothers in a weight management program. *Texas Dietetic Association FNCE Abstract Book* 2003; 292

66. Klohe DM, Clarke KK, Cai G, Proffitt JM, **Voruganti VS**, Hans-Nuss H, Milani T, Walker LO, Freeland-Graves JH. Enhanced nutrition knowledge may be a trait of those able to lose weight. *FASEB Journal*. 2002; 16(4): A611
67. Clarke KK, Klohe DM, Cai G, Proffitt JM, **Voruganti VS**, Milani T, Hans-Nuss H, Walker LO, Freeland-Graves JH. The role of self-efficacy in weight management for low-income mothers. *FASEB Journal* 2002; 16 (4): A611-12
68. Freeland-Graves JH, Cai G, Proffitt JM, **Voruganti VS**, Klohe DM, Clarke KK, Walker LO. Zinc status and diabetic risk factors of obese low-income women with preschool children. *J Trace Elem Exp Med*. 2001; 14: 281

### **Invited presentations**

- 2016 "Nutritional Epidemiology in the Genomic Age". Presented at the short course on Nutrigenetics, Nutrigenomics and Precision Nutrition held from May 22-26, Kannapolis, NC
- 2016 "Genes, Nutrients and Hyperuricemia". Presented in a lunch meeting with Dean of Gillings School of Public Health, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2016 "Sugars, Uric acid and Cardiometabolic health" Presented as part of the faculty seminar at the Department of Nutrition, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2015 "Genetic influence on uric acid variability in family-based studies". Speaker as part of the seminar series at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC
- 2014 "Genetics and environmental effects on hyperuricemia and cardiorenal disease risk", as part of 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Catalyst Research Symposium organized by UNC Nutrition Research Institute, Kannapolis, NC
- 2014 "Genetics of cardiovascular disease risk in American Indians and Alaska Natives" as part of Cardiovascular disease epidemiology seminar series – Spring 2014 of UNC Gillings School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2013 "Appetite and satiety regulation: Do macronutrients matter?" Keynote Speaker at the 7th. Curso Internacional sobre Obesidad en Espanol, San Antonio, Texas
- 2013 "Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome among Mexican Americans in the U.S: A Genetic Perspective". Keynote Speaker at the International Symposium on Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome among Mexican and Mexican Americans at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2013 "Genetic analyses and challenges". Presented at a population studies workshop organized by NIH/NHLBI, Bethesda, MD
- 2013 "Gene by environment interaction in metabolic diseases: Is this the next target for public health research?" Presented at the Department of Nutrition, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

- 2012 Genetic and environmental determinants of serum uric acid. Presented at the Nutrition Research Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kannapolis, NC
- 2012 “Genetic influence on nutrient-related cardiorenal disease risk factors”. Presented as part of the Faculty Seminar Series at Texas Biomed, San Antonio, TX
- 2012 “Brain glucose sensing and counterregulatory adaptation to recurrent hypoglycemia in diabetes”. Presented at the Journal Club at Texas Biomed, San Antonio, TX
- 2010 “A family-based genetic study in Parsis of Texas: A pilot assessment”.. Presented at the North American Zoroastrian Congress held in Houston, TX
- 2010 “Follow-up of the chromosome 11 RBC fatty acid delta 5 desaturase QTL”. Presented at the Observational Study Meeting board for the Genetics of Coronary Artery Disease in Alaska Natives (GOCADAN) study held in Washington DC
- 2009 “A pilot assessment for a family-based genetic study in Parsi Zoroastrians in Texas”. Presented at the Annual general meeting of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston, Texas.
- 2009 “Genetic regulation of plasma and erythrocyte fatty acids and desaturases in Alaska Natives”. Presented at the Observational Study Meeting board for the Genetics of Coronary Artery Disease in Alaska Natives (GOCADAN) study held in Washington DC
- 2008 “Genetics of complex diseases in understudied populations”. Presented “Research on socio-economical, attitudinal, demographic, scientific and health aspects of the Zoroastrian community in India”. A workshop sponsored by the UNESCO-assisted project for preserving Parsi culture and heritage (PARZOR) in Mumbai, India
- 2008 “Influence of genetic and environmental factors on traits related to appetite and adiposity”. Presented at the Lifespan Health Research Center, Department of Community Health, Boonshoft School of Medicine, Wright State University, Dayton, OH, USA

### **Book Reviews**

1. Freeland-Graves JH, **Voruganti VS**. Econometrics, Statistics and Computational Approaches in Food and Health Sciences by Alok Bhargava. *Am J Hum Biol.* 2007; 19:895-896

### **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

#### **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Department of Nutrition**

- Spring 2016 Instructor – “Nutrigenetics and Nutrigenomics” (NUTR 865) Mondays 1.25-3.20pm (7 students)



- Spring 2016      Instructor – “Introduction to Obesity- from cell to society” (NUTR812) Thursdays 12.30-3.30pm (8 students)
- Fall 2015        Guest Lecture – “Modeling genetic data and testing gene-environment and other interactions” as part of the course “Analytic Methods in Nutritional Epidemiology (NUTR818)” taught by Drs. Linda Adair and Katie Meyer (3 hour lecture - 15 students)
- Spring 2015     Guest Lecture – “Genetics in Nutritional Epidemiology” as part of the course “Nutritional Epidemiology (NUTR813)” taught by Drs. Michelle Mendez and Sandra Albrecht (3 hour lecture – 20 students)
- Fall 2014        Instructor – “Nutrition and Population Genetics (NUTR 696.018) Thursdays 2-3.50pm (4 students)
- Spring 2014     Member of the comprehensive oral examination team for Nutritional Epidemiology Ph.D. students

### **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – School of Medicine**

- Fall 2015        Lecture “Nutrition in Cardiovascular Disease” (2 hour lecture – 100 students)
- Fall 2015        Lecture “The pathophysiology of Obesity” (1 hour lecture – 104 students)
- Fall 2015        Lecture “Treatment of Obesity 1:Diets, Exercise and Behavioral Change” (1 hour lecture – 104 students)

### **UNC Nutrition Research Institute**

- 2015 – present    Provide training in “Introductory genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics” student interns from University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.

### **Winston-Salem State University**

- Spring 2015     Guest Lecture – “Uric acid and exercise: Implications for cardiovascular disease” as part of Health promotion course to undergraduate students majoring in Exercise Science (1 hour lecture –15 students)
- Fall 2014        Guest Lecture – “Genetic influence on cardiovascular disease risk in minority populations” as part of the Health promotion course to undergraduate students majoring in Exercise Science (1 hour lecture – 20 students)

### **Texas Biomedical Research Institute**

- 2007 – 2013     Provided training in “introductory genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics” and supervised students from University of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; Schreiner University, Kerrville, TX; Texas State University, San Marcos, TX; St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, TX; Trinity University, San Antonio, TX; and The University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, TX.

### **University of Texas at Austin**

- 2002 – 2005 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Textiles and Apparel, Department of Human Ecology, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 2001 – 2004 Tutor (Nutrition), Department of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women
- 2001 – 2004 Teaching Assistant, Introductory Nutrition, Department of Human Ecology, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 2002 Teaching Assistant, Introductory Food Science, Department of Human Ecology, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

### **Academic Trainees**

#### Postdoctoral Trainees

- Summer 2014 – present Itzel Vazquez-Vidal  
 Spring 2014 – present Geethavani Chittoor

#### Graduate Students (Doctoral)

- Fall 2015 – present Ruixue Hou

#### Graduate Students (Masters)

- Summer 2016 – present Xinruo Zhang

#### Master in Public Health (MPH) (Academic Advisor)

- Fall 2015 – present Ashley Marie Perrone

#### Laboratory Rotations (Doctoral)

- Fall 2014 – Spring 2015 Keri Barron

#### Undergraduate Students

- Summer 2016 Saikumar Dass, UNC Charlotte  
 Fall 2015 – present Bethy K. Bell, UNC Charlotte  
 Fall 2015 Amanda Medlin, UNC Charlotte  
 Spring 2015 – present Baba Mass, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College  
 Spring 2015 – Fall 2015 Lauren Gridley, UNC Charlotte  
 Summer 2015 Laura Diamond-Williams, UNC Charlotte  
 Summer 2015 Astrid Monar, UNC Charlotte

#### Member of the Doctoral Committee

Kimberly Stratford (Department of Toxicology, UNC Chapel Hill and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)) Thesis title: Role of *Klotho* and TRPA1 in vitamin D deficiency and air-pollution induced cardiopulmonary dysfunction.

**GRANTS****Ongoing**

- 05/2016 – 04/2021    UNC Nutrition and Obesity Research Center (NORC)  
*NIH/NIDDK-P01*  
 \$ 275,000 Direct costs  
 Principal Investigator: Dr. Steven Zeisel (Professor of Nutrition, UNC)  
 Role: Co-investigator and Director, Nutrigenetics Core
- 06/2012 – 05/2017    Comprehensive SNP discovery of *SLC2A9*: A candidate gene for uric acid nephropathy.  
*NIH/NIDDK-R01*  
 \$ 1,562,695 Total Costs  
 Role: Principal Investigator
- 01/2016 – 12/2016    Junior Faculty Development Award, UNC Chapel Hill  
 \$ 7,500 Total costs  
 Role: Principal Investigator

**Completed**

- 05/2015 – 04/2016    A pilot study to identify polymorphisms associated with hyperuricemia.  
*DUKE University*  
 \$ 10,000 Total costs  
 Role: Principal Investigator
- 04/2015 – 03/2016    UNC Nutrition and Obesity Research Center (NORC)  
*NIH/NIDDK-P01*  
 \$ 20,000 Direct costs  
 Principal Investigator: Dr. Steven Zeisel (Professor of Nutrition, UNC)  
 Role: Co-investigator and Director, Nutrigenetics core
- 01/2015 – 06/2015    Persistent organic pollutants and Hyperuricemia in American Indian families.  
*UNC Nutrition Research Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
 \$ 96,379 Total costs  
 Principal Investigator: Dr. Ana Navas-Acien (Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health)  
 Role: Co-principal Investigator
- 01/2015 – 06/2015    Genetic and environmental determinants of obesity and cardiometabolic risk across the life course: The Santiago Longitudinal Cohort Study  
*UNC Nutrition Research Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
 \$ 95,929 Total costs  
 Principal Investigator: Dr. Kari North (Professor of Epidemiology, UNC)  
 Role: Co-principal Investigator
- 01/2014 – 12/2014    Role of phthalates and vitamin E in risk of diabetes.  
*NC Tracs Translational research matched pilot grant award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
 \$ 50,000 Total costs

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Michelle Mendez (Assistant Professor of Nutrition, UNC)  
Role: Co-investigator
- 04/2014 – 03/2015 Effect of gene-nutrient interaction on the variation in serum uric acid levels.  
*University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility (CEHS) pilot project*  
\$ 25,000 Total costs  
Role: Principal Investigator
- 12/2013 – 06/2014 Effect of SNPxE interaction on serum uric acid levels.  
*UNC Nutrition Research Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
\$ 32,168 Total costs  
Role: Principal Investigator
- 08/2010 – 07/2011 Effect of insulin on hypothalamic function measured with fMRI  
*UTHSCSA Translational Technology Resource (TTR) Supplement to the Max and Minnie Voelcker Fund.*  
\$ 10,000 Total Costs  
Role: Principal Investigator
- 04/2010 – 03/2011 Effect of insulin on hypothalamic function measured with fMRI  
*Max and Minnie Voelcker Fund.*  
\$ 39,708 Total Costs  
Role: Principal Investigator
- 08/2009 – 07/2010 A pilot assessment for a CVD genetic study in Parsi Zoroastrians in Texas  
*Southwest Foundation Forum, San Antonio, TX.*  
\$ 27,260 Total Costs  
Role: Principal Investigator
- 02/2009 – 01/2011 Role of Ghrelin Antagonism in Appetite and Adiposity  
*Southwest National Primate Research Center, San Antonio, TX*  
\$ 98,100 Total Costs  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Raul Bastarrachea (Staff Scientist, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research)  
Role: Co-principal Investigator
- 02/2007– 01/2009 Effect of high-fructose meal on gene expression of appetite related peptides in baboons  
*The Obesity Society.*  
\$ 24,415 Total Costs  
Role: Principal Investigator

**Under Review**

- 2016 – 2020 Functional profiling of variants regulating serum uric acid in Hispanic children  
*NIH/NICHD-R01*  
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2016-2021 Characterization of maternal effects on infant brain health during gestation

and breastfeeding: Influence of genetics and nutrition on the long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acid biosynthesis pathway  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Carol Cheatham  
Role: Co-investigator

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Internal Committees**

#### **Gillings School of Public Health – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

2015 – present Member, Master of Public Health (MPH) committee  
2014 – present Member, Gillings School-wide Awards committee

#### **Department of Nutrition – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

2015 Member, Search committee for the position of Tenure track/open rank Transdisciplinary/Nutritional intervention faculty  
2015 Member, Search committee for the position of Research track/Marilyn Gentry Fellowship in Nutrition and cancer research at UNC

#### **UNC Nutrition Research Institute - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

2016 Member, Search committee for the position of two tenure track professors/Nutritional Epidemiology/Microbiome  
2015 Member, Search committee for the position of Research track/open rank/Energy metabolism faculty  
2015 Member, Search committee for the position of Tenure track/open rank Microbiome faculty  
2015 Member, Search committee for the position of Research track/open rank Clinical Director  
2014 – 2015 Coordinator, Faculty Seminar Series  
2014 Member of the Internal Review committee

### **Service**

2016 Judge, Poster competition at Nutrient-gene interaction RIS, Annual conference of the Experimental Biology, San Diego  
2014 – present Associate Editor, Frontiers in Nutrigenomics  
2014 Member, Organizing committee of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congress of ISNN

### **Grant Reviewer**

2016 External Reviewer, French National Research Agency call for proposals  
2016 Adhoc member, NIH/CHS Panel B study section (June)

2016	NORC, UNC Pilot and Feasibility grants
2016	Adhoc member, NIH/NIDDK/ZDK1 GRB-8 (M4)S
2016	Adhoc member, NIH/CHS Panel B study section (February)
2015	Adhoc member, NIH/CHSB/ZRG1 PSE-U90S
2015	Adhoc member, NIH/NAME/ZRG1 PSE-P(02)M
2015	NORC, UNC Pilot and Feasibility grants
2015	Adhoc member, NIH/CASE-EPIC- Panel B/ZRG1 PSE R 90
2013	Adhoc member, NIH/NIDDK/ZDK1 GRB-8 (02)
2012	American Diabetic Association (ADA) and Novo Nordisk Award in Hypoglycemia and Diabetes

### **Manuscript Reviewer**

2016	Kidney International, Obesity Reviews, Personalized Medicine, Rheumatology International
2015	BMC Medical Genetics, International Journal of Obesity (IJO), Pediatric obesity
2014	BMC Medical Genetics, Cytokine, Human Immunology, International Journal of Obesity (IJO), PLoS One
2006 – 2013	American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (AJCN), American Journal of Physical Anthropology (AJPA), BMC Medical Genetics, BMC Medical Genomics, British Trace Element Research (BTER), Cardiology, Current Anthropology, Endocrine, Human Biology, Insulin, International Journal of Obesity (IJO), International Journal of Diabetes Mellitus (IJDM), Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism (JCEM), Journal of Diabetes and its Complications, Journal of Food and Nutritional Disorders, Metabolism-Clinical and Experimental, Molecular Genetics and Metabolism, Nutrition Journal, Nutrition and Metabolism, Obesity, PLOS One, Scandinavian Journal of Rheumatology

### **Abstract Reviewer**

2016- present	The Obesity Society, Annual meeting
2008 – present	American Heart Association, Scientific sessions.
2007 – present	American Heart Association, Joint Conferences – Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention; and Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism

### **FACULTY ENGAGEMENT**

2016	Served as a judge for the fifth annual BIOREX event at Cannon School, Concord, NC. The BIOREX event is a science projects competition involving biological research that takes place at the end of junior year of high school.
2014	Presented a talk to the community titled “Uric acid: A new look at an old risk factor for gout and cardio-renal disease”, as part of the Frontiers in Nutrition seminar series by Appetite for Life Academy, Kannapolis, NC
2014	Taught 7 <sup>th</sup> grade class at Ridge Road Middle School about “Nutrition and Genes in Human Health” as part of the North Carolina Science Festival’s Invite-a-Scientist program in Charlotte, NC

- 2013 Presented a talk titled “Uric acid: A new look at an old risk factor for gout and cardio-renal disease- *How do genes and environment (nutrients and lifestyle) influence serum uric acid levels*” at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute Founder’s Council’s Dining and Discourse event in San Antonio, TX
- 2010 – 2012 Set up a booth focused on “Health eating for healthy living” at a Science Fair in San Antonio, TX organized by Girls Inc.as part of a festival that is held once every year to encourage girls to get interested in science and technology
- 2006 – 2007 Mentor for a high school student from Westwood High School, Austin, TX, on a science project on “Genetics of Obesity”
- 2004 – 2005 Student Representative for Vitamin and Mineral Research Interest Section, American Society for Nutritional Sciences.
- 2004 – 2005 Extended Essay Project Mentor for two students of International Baccalaureate program at Westwood High School, Austin, TX. Guided and mentored the students’ research for their extended essay projects titled “How does the consumption of soy affect the emergence of breast cancer in women?” and “How does a vegetarian diet affect both mother and fetus during pregnancy and lactation?”