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Education & Training

1992	PhD	Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, Medical Anthropology
1987	MA	Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, Medical Anthropology
1985	BA	Kent State University, Kent, OH, Anthropology
1972	Diploma	Idabelle Firestone School of Nursing, Akron, OH, Nursing

Research Focus

Dr. Laston's research efforts are focused on oversight of large-scale genetic studies conducted with human populations. With specialized expertise in medical anthropology and nursing, Dr. Laston has directed the fieldwork for studies of many minority populations including Alaska Natives, Zuni Indians and other American Indian tribes. Her current research is focused on diabetes, obesity and fatty liver disease in Mexican families of the Mid-Rio Grande Valley. Vice Chair of the UTRGV institutional review board, Dr. Laston has strong interests in the design of human subjects research projects and cross-cultural research.

Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

1. Siddique AK, Salam A, Islam MS, Akram K, Majumdar RN, Zaman K, Fronczak N, **Laston SL**. Why treatment centers failed to prevent cholera deaths among Rwandan refugees in Goma, Zaire. *Lancet*. 1995;345:359-61.

2. Islam MS, Siddique AKM, Salam A, Akram K, Majumdar RN, Zaman K, Fronczak N, **Laston S**. Microbiological investigation of diarrhoea epidemics among Rwandan refugees in Zaire. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 1995;89:506.
3. Ross JL, **Laston SL**, Nahar K, Muna L, Nahar P, Pelto PJ. Women's health priorities: Cultural perspectives on illness in rural Bangladesh. *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*. 1998;2(1):91-110.
4. Ross JL, **Laston SL**, Pelto PJ, Muna L. Exploring explanatory models of women's reproductive health in rural Bangladesh. *Culture, Health and Sexuality*. 2002;4(2):173-190.
5. Howard BV, Devereux RB, Cole SA, Davidson M, Dyke B, Ebbesson SOE, Epstein SE, Robinson DR, Jarvis B, Kaufman DJ, **Laston S**, MacCluer JW, Okin PM, Roman M, Romenesko T, Ruotolo G, Swenson M, Wenger CR, Williams-Blangero S, Zhu J, Saccheus C, Fabsitz RR, Robbins DC. A genetic and epidemiologic study of cardiovascular disease in Alaska Natives (GOCADAN): Design and methods. *Int. J. Circumpolar Health*. 2005;64;3:206-21.
6. Nobman ED, Ponce R, Mattil C, Devereux R, Dyke B, Ebbesson SOE, **Laston S**, MacCluer J, Robbins D, Romenesko T, Ruotolo G, Wenger CR, Howard BV. Dietary intakes vary with age among Eskimo adults of Northwest Alaska in the GOCADAN Study, 2000-2003. *J. Nutrition*. 2005;135:856-862.
7. North KE, Almasy L, Goring HHH, Cole SA, Diego VP, **Laston S**, Cantu T, Williams JT, Howard BV, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW. Linkage analysis of factors underlying insulin resistance: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Obes Res* 2005;13:1877-84.
8. Diego VP, Göring HH, Cole SA, Almasy L, Dyer TD, Blangero J, Duggirala R, **Laston S**, Wenger C, Cantu T, Dyke B, North K, Schurr T, Best LG, Devereux RB, Fabsitz RR, Howard BV, MacCluer JW. Fasting insulin and obesity-related phenotypes are linked to chromosome 2p: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Diabetes*. 2006;55:1874-8.
9. Ebbesson SOE, **Laston S**, Wenger CR, Dyke B, Romenesko T, Swenson M, Fabsitz R, MacCluer JW, Devereux R, Roman M, Robbins D, Howard BV. Recruitment and community interactions in the GOCADAN Study. *Int. J. Circumpolar Health*. 2006;65:55-64.
10. Franceschini N, MacCluer JW, Göring HH, Cole SA, Rose KM, Almasy L, Diego V, **Laston S**, Lee ET, Howard BV, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, Roman MJ, North KE. A quantitative trait loci-specific genotype-by-sex interaction on systolic blood pressure among American Indians: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Hypertension*. 2006;48:266-70.
11. North KE, Goring HG, Cole SA, Diego VP, Almasy L, **Laston S**, Cantu T, Howard BV, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW. Linkage analysis of LDL cholesterol in American Indian populations: The Strong Heart Family Study. *J Lipid Res* 2006;47:59-66.
12. Voruganti VS, Cai G, Cole SA, Freeland-Graves JH, **Laston S**, Wenger CR, MacCluer JW, Dyke B, Devereux R, Ebbesson SO, Fabsitz RR, Howard BV, Comuzzie AG. Common set of genes regulates low-density lipoprotein size and obesity-related factors in Alaskan Eskimos: Results from the GOCADAN study. *Am J Hum Biol* 2006;18:525-531.
13. Almasy L, Göring HHH, Diego VP, Cole SA, **Laston S**, Dyke B, Howard BV, Lee ET, Best LG, Devereux R, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW. A novel obesity locus on chromosome 4q: The Strong Heart Study. *Obesity* 2007 15:7:1741-1748.

14. Ebbesson, SOE, Tejero ME, Nobmann ED, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Ebbesson L, Romenesko T, Carter EA, Resnick H, Devereux RB, MacCluer JW, Dyke B, **Laston SL**, Wenger C, Fabsitz RR, Comuzzie AG, Howard BV Fatty acid consumption and metabolic syndrome components: The GOCADAN Study. *J Cardiometab Syndr* 2007;2;4:244-249.
15. Best LG, North KE, Li X, Palmieri V, Umans JG, MacCluer J, **Laston S**, Haack K, Göring H, Diego VP, Almasy L, Lee ET, Tracy RP, Cole S. Linkage study of fibrinogen levels: The Strong Heart Family Study. *BMC Med Genet* 2008;9:77.
16. Ebbesson SO, Roman MJ, Devereux RB, Kaufman D, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW, Dyke B, **Laston S**, Wenger CR, Comuzzie AG, Romenesko T, Ebbesson LO, Nobmann ED, Howard BV. Consumption of omega-3 fatty acids is not associated with a reduction in carotid atherosclerosis: The Genetics of Coronary Artery Disease in Alaska Natives Study. *Atherosclerosis* 2008;199;2:346-53.
17. Franceschini N, MacCluer JW, Rose KM, Rutherford S, Cole SA, **Laston S**, Göring HH, Diego VP, Roman MJ, Lee ET, Best LG, Howard BV, Fabsitz RR, North KE. Genome-wide linkage analysis of pulse pressure in American Indians: The Strong Heart Study. *Am J Hypertens* 2008;21;2:194-9.
18. Franceschini N, Almasy L, MacCluer JW, Göring HHH, Cole SA, Diego VP, **Laston S**, Howard BV, Lee ET, Fabsitz RR, North KE. Diabetes-specific genetic effects on obesity traits in American Indian populations: The Strong Heart Family Study. *BMC Med Genet* 2008: Oct. 14;9:90.
19. Mottl AK, Vupputuri S, Cole SA, Almasy L, Göring HHH, Diego VP, **Laston S**, Franceschini N, Shara NM, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, North KE. Linkage analysis of glomerular filtration rate in American Indians. *Kidney Int* 2008;74;9:1109-12.
20. Li X, Monda KL, Göring HHH, Haack K, Cole SA, Diego VP, Almasy L, **Laston S**, Howard BV, Shara N, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW, North KE. Genome-wide linkage scan for plasma high density lipoprotein cholesterol, apolipoproteinA-I and triglyceride variation among American Indian populations: The Strong Heart Family Study. *J Med Genet* 2009;46;7:472-9.
21. Mottl AK, Vupputuri S, Cole SA, Almasy L, Göring HH, Diego VP, **Laston S**, Shara N, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, North KE. Linkage analysis of albuminuria. *J Am Soc Nephrol* 2009;20;7:1597-606.
22. Voruganti VS, Göring HH, Mottl A, Franceschini N, Haack K, **Laston S**, Almasy L, Fabsitz RR, Lee ET, Best LG, Devereux RB, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Comuzzie AG, Umans JG, Cole SA. Genetic influence on variation in serum uric acid in American Indians: the strong heart family study. *Hum Genet* 2009;126 (5):667-676. PMID: 19590895; PMCID: PMC2784272
23. Franceschini N, Rose KM, Storti, KL, MacCluer JW, Cole SA, Voruganti S, **Laston S**, Göring HHH, Dyer TD, Umans JG, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, North KE. Social- and behavioral-specific genetic effects on blood pressure traits: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Circulation* 2009;2(4):396-401. PMID: 20031612 PMCID: PMC2742382
24. Franceschini N, Voruganti VS, Haack K, Almasy L, **Laston S**, Göring HH, Umans JG, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW, Howard BV, North KE, Cole SA. The association of

- the MYH9 gene and kidney outcomes in American Indians: the Strong Heart Family Study. *Hum Genet* 127:295-301, 2010. PMID: 19921264 PMCID: PMC2930187
25. Howard BV, Comuzzie A, Devereux RB, Ebbesson SO, Fabsitz RR, Howard WJ, **Laston S**, MacCluer JW, Silverman A, Umans JG, Wang H, Weissman NJ, Wenger CR. Cardiovascular disease prevalence and its relation to risk factors in Alaskan Eskimos. *Nutr Metab Cardiovasc Dis* 2010 Jun;20(5):350-8. PMID: 19800772 PMCID: PMC2981096
 26. Storti KL, Arena VC, Barmada MM, Bunker CH, Hanson RL, **Laston SL**, Yeh JL, Zmuda JM, Howard BV, Kriska AM. Physical activity levels in American-Indian adults: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Am J Prev Med* (6):481-7, 2009. PMID: 19944912; PMCID: PMC2828819
 27. Tejero ME, Voruganti VS, Cai G, Cole SA, **Laston S**, Wenger CR, MacCluer JW, Dyke B, Devereux R, Ebbesson SO, Fabsitz RR, Howard BV, Comuzzie AG. Pleiotropic effects on subclasses of HDL, adiposity and glucose metabolism in adult Alaskan Eskimos. *Am J Hum Biol.* 2010. 22:444-448. PMID:19950191; PMCID:PMC3461838
 28. Ebbesson SO, Devereux RB, Cole S, Ebbesson LO, Fabsitz RR, Haack K, Harris WS, Howard WJ, **Laston S**, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, MacCluer JW, Okin PM, Tejero ME, Voruganti VS, Wenger CR, Howard BV, Comuzzie AG. Heart rate is associated with red blood cell fatty acid concentration: The Genetics of Coronary Artery Disease in Alaska Natives (GOCADAN) study. *Am Heart Journal* 2010;159(6):1020-5, 2010. PMID: 20569715; PMCID: PMC289714
 29. Ebbesson SO, Tejero ME, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Harris WS, Ebbesson LO, Devereux RB, MacCluer JW, Wenger C, **Laston S**, Fabsitz RR, Howard BV, Comuzzie AG Individual Saturated Fatty Acids are Associated with Different Components of Insulin Resistance and Glucose Metabolism: The GOCADAN Study. *Int J Circumpolar Health* 2010;69:344-351. PMID: 20719107; PMCID: PMC3307791
 30. MacCluer J, Scavini M, Shah V, Cole S, **Laston S**, Voruganti S, Paine S, Eaton A, Comuzzie A, Tentori F, Pathak D, Bobelu A, Bobelu J, Ghahate D, Waikaniwa M, Zager P. Heritability of measures of kidney disease among Zuni Indians: The Zuni Kidney Project. *Am J Kidney Dis* 2010;56(2):289-302. PMID: 20646805; PMCID: PMC3030616
 31. Melton PE, Rutherford S, Voruganti VS, Göring HH, **Laston S**, Haack K, Comuzzie AG, Dyer TD, Johnson MP, Kent JW Jr, Curran JE, Moses EK, Blangero J, Barac A, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, Devereux RB, Okin PM, Bella JN, Broeckel U, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Cole SA, Almasy L. Bivariate genetic association of KIAA1797 with heart rate in American Indians: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Hum Mol Genet* 19(18):3662-71, 2010. PMID: 20601674 PMCID: PMC2928129
 32. Melton PE, Rutherford S, Voruganti VS, Göring HHH, **Laston S**, Haack K, Comuzzie AG, Dyer TD, Johnson MP, Kent JW Jr, Curran JE, Moses EK, Blangero J, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, Devereux RB, Okin PM, Bella JN, Broeckel U, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Cole SA, Almasy L. Bivariate genetic association of KIAA1797 with heart rate in American Indians: the Strong Heart Family Study. *Hum Mol Genet.* 2010;19:3662-3671. PMID 20601674; PMCID:PMC2928129
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Alaska Eskimos. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2010;91:1574-1583. PMID: 20410100 PMCID: PMC2869509

34. Wang W, Lee ET, Howard BV, Fabsitz RR, Devereux RB, MacCluer JW, **Laston S**, Comuzzie AG, Shara NM, Welty TK. Models of population-based analyses for data collected from large extended families. *Eur J Epidemiol* 25(12):855-65, 2010. PMID: 20882324 PMCID: PMC4167007
35. Melton PE, Haack K, Goring HH, **Laston S**, Umans JG, Lee ET, Fabsitz RR, Devereux RB, Best LG, Maccluer, JW, Almasy L, and Cole SA. Genetic influences on serum bilirubin in American Indians: The Strong Heart Family Study. *Am J Hum Biol* 2011;23(1):118-125. PMID: 21080475 PMCID: PMC3046552
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38. Franceschini N, Shara NM, Wang H, Voruganti VS, **Laston S**, Haack K, Lee ET, Best LG, MacCluer JW, Cochran BJ, Dyer TD, Howard BV, Cole SA, North KE and Umans JG. The association of genetic variants of type 2 diabetes with kidney function. *Kidney Int* 2012 82:220-225. PMID: 22513821 PMCID: PMC3664521
39. Voruganti VS, Higgins PB, Ebbesson SO, Kennish J, Göring HH, 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;3:86. PMID: 22701466 PMCID: PMC3371589
40. Voruganti VS, Diego VP, Haack K, Cole SA, Blangero J, Göring HH, **Laston S**, Wenger CR, Ebbesson SO, 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 19q12-13. *Obesity* 2011;19(9):1840-6. PMID: 21527897 PMCID: PMC3525327
41. 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):e51954. PMID: 23251661; PMCID: PMC3522587
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- chemokines (*DARC*) polymorphisms with monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) in Hispanic children. *Cytokine*. 2012 Dec;60(3):634-8. PMID: 23017229; PMCID: PMC3501981
43. Bella JN, Cole SA, **Laston S**, Almasy L, Comuzzie A, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Roman MJ, Devereux RB, Goring HH. Genome-wide linkage analysis of carotid artery lumen diameter: The Strong Heart Family Study. *International Journal of Cardiology* 2013 Oct 9;168(4):3902-8. PMID: 23871337; PMCID: PMC4028022
 44. 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. PMID: PMC3773080; PMCID: PMC3773080
 45. Gribble MO, Voruganti VS, Cropp CD, Francesconi KA, Goessler W, Umans JG, Silbergeld EK, **Laston SL**, Haack K, Kao WH, Fallin MD, MacCluer JW, Cole SA, Navas-Acien A. SLC01B1 variants and urine arsenic metabolites in the Strong Heart Family Study. *Toxicological sciences* 2013 Nov;136(1):19-25. PMID: 23970802 PMCID: PMC3829571
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 48. 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*. 2013 Dec 4. doi: 10.1038/ejhg.2013.264. PMID: 24301058 PMCID: PMC4060115
 49. Franceschini N, Tao R, Liu L, Rutherford S, Haack K, Almasy L, Göring HHH, **Laston S**, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, Cole SA, North K. Mapping of a blood pressure QTL on chromosome 17 in American Indians of the Strong Heart Family Study. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2014 Jan;9(1):150-8. doi: 10.2215/CJN.02300213. PMID: 24311711 PMCID: PMC3878690
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57. Balakrishnan P, Vaidya D, Franceschini N, Voruganti VS, Gribble MO, Haack K, **Laston S**, Umans JG, Francesconi KA, Goessler W, North KE, Lee E, Yracheta J, Best LG, MacCluer JW, Kent J, Cole SA, Navas-zcien A. Navas-Acien, A. (2017). Association of Cardiometabolic Genes with Arsenic Metabolism Biomarkers in American Indian Communities: The Strong Heart Family Study (SHFS). *Environ Health Perspect.* 125(1):15–22. PMID: 27352405; PMCID: PMC5226702
58. Chittoor G, Haack K, Mehta NR, **Laston S**, Cole SA, Comuzzie AG, Butte NF, Voruganti VS. Genetic variation underlying renal uric acid excretion in Hispanic children: the Viva La Familia Study. *BMC Medical Genetics.* 2017;18:6. PMID: 28095793; PMCID: PC5240212
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- Butte NF, Voruganti VS. Genetic variants affecting bone mineral density and bone mineral content at multiple skeletal sites in Hispanic children. *Bone*. 2020 Mar;132:115175. doi: 10.1016/j.bone.2019.115175. Epub 2019 Nov 29. PMID: 31790847; PMCID: PMC7120871.
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Book Chapters

Ross JL, **Laston SL**, Pelto PJ, Muna L (2002) Exploring the domain of women's reproductive health. In: *Contemporary Anthropology: Theory and Practice*. S.M.N. Alam (ed.), University Press Limited, Dhaka.

Muna L, Ross JL, **Laston SL**, Bhuyian, A (2002) Failure to comply? Anthropological perspectives on refusal of emergency obstetric care in rural Bangladesh. In: *Contemporary Anthropology: Theory and Practice*. S.M.N, Alam (ed.), University Press Limited, Dhaka.

Johnson MP, Thapa SS, **Laston S**, Anderson KL, Towne B, Subedi J, Blangero J, Williams-Blangero S (2018) Genetic research on ocular health and disease in a population from Nepal. Pp 75-84. In: *Advances in Vision Research, Volume II: Genetic Eye Research in Asia and the Pacific*. Prakash J, Iwata T (eds), Springer Singapore, ISBN 978-981-13-0883-3.

Reports

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