

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Ph.D., 2005, Anthropology (concentration in human statistical genetics of aging and complex disease), Department of Anthropology, Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Dissertation: Genotype $\times$ Age Interaction, and the Insulin-like Growth Factor I Axis in the San Antonio Family Heart Study: A Study in Human Senescence

M.A., 2001, Anthropology (concentration in human population biology and infectious disease), Department of Anthropology, Binghamton University, State University of New York

Thesis: Models from Mathematical Epidemiology, Ecology and Evolution Meet the Human Treponematoses: Model Development and a Preliminary Analysis of Selected Studies

B.A., 1995, Biology, University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam

Research/Work Experience

09/2023-Present: Associate Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute, and Division of Human Genetics, Primary and Community Care ISU, School of Medicine, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, TX

12/2014-09/2023: Assistant Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute, The School of Medicine, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, Texas

01/2009-12/2014: Staff Scientist I, Department of Genetics, Texas Biomedical Research Institute (formerly Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research), San Antonio, Texas

05/2005-01/2009: Postdoctoral Scientist, Department of Genetics, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio, Texas

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Publications

1. Arya R, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Almeida M, Kumar S, Peralta J, Diaz-Badillo A, **Diego VP**, Resendez RG, Fowler SP, Jenkinson CP, Lehman D, Curran J, Lynch JL, Hale DE, DeFronzo RA, Mummidi S, Blangero J, Duggirala R. Exome-chip-wide association study of biomarkers of liver function and metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD) in Mexican Americans. *Front Med (Lausanne)*. 2024. In Press.
2. **Diego VP**, Manusov EG, Almeida M, Laston S, Ortiz D, Blangero J, Williams-Blangero S. Statistical Genetic Approaches to Investigate Genotype-by-Environment Interaction: Review and Novel Extension of Models. *Genes (Basel)*. 2024 Apr 25;15(5):547. doi: 10.3390/genes15050547. PMID:

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4. Manusov EG, **Diego VP**, Almeida M, Ortiz D, Curran JE, Galan J, Leandro AC, Laston S, Blangero J, Williams-Blangero S. Genotype-by-Environment Interactions in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Chronic Illness among Mexican Americans: The Role of Acculturation Stress. *Genes (Basel).* 2024 Aug 1;15(8):1006. doi: 10.3390/genes15081006. PMID: 39202366; PMCID: PMC11353877.
5. **Diego VP**, Manusov EG, Mao X, Curran JE, Göring H, Almeida M, Mahaney MC,
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9. Blangero J, Williams-Blangero S. Gene-by-Environment Interaction in Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Depression: The Role of Hepatic Transaminases. *Med Res Arch.* 2023 Sep;11(9):10.18103/mra.v11i9.4408. doi: 10.18103/mra.v11i9.4408. Epub 2023 Sep 28. PMID: 38698891; PMCID: PMC11064892.
10. Setua S, Shabir S, Shaji P, Bulnes AM, Dhasmana A, Holla S, Mittal NK, Sahoo
11. N, Saini T, Giorgianni F, Sikander M, Massey AE, Hafeez BB, Tripathi MK,

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Abstracts

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6. Howard TE, Luu BW, Hofmann M, Almeida MA, Kumar S, Dinh LV, Mead H, Powell JS, Escobar MA, Rajalingam R, Williams-Blangero S, Blangero J, Maraskovsky E, **Diego VP**.
7. The Dendritic Cell HLA-Class-II/Therapeutic Factor VIII (FVIII) Peptidome Is Influenced in Unanticipated Ways By the B-Domain of FVIII and the FVIII Chaperon Protein, Von Willebrand Factor: The Outrigger and Glycosylation-Umbrella (GUMB) Hypotheses. Blood (2019) 134 (Supplement_1): 161.
8. Chaves RN, Souza MC, Gomes TN, Santos FK, Pereira S, **Diego VP**, Baxter-Jones A, Maia J. Geographical Effects In Familial Clustering Of Physical Activity, Adiposity And Metabolic Syndrome. American College of Sports Medicine, 66th Annual Meeting, May 28-June 1, 2019, Orlando, FL.
9. **Diego VP**, Almeida MA, Luu BW, Haack K, Chitlur MB, Ameri A, Dinh LV, Rajalingam R, Powell JS, Blangero J, Almasy L, Cole S, Howard TE. Genetics of Factor VIII inhibitor development in Hemophilia patients: Novel statistical approaches in the PATH Study. Blood 2018;132:1199.
10. **Diego VP**, Garcia-Hernandez A, Melgarejo JD, Narkhede A, Leendertz R, Pirela RV, Terwilliger J, Lee JH, Blangero J, Brickman AM, Maestre GE. White matter hyperintensities in Latin Americans: Findings from the Maracaibo Aging Study. Alzheimer's & Dementia. 2018;14(7, Supplement):P477.
11. **Diego VP**, Howard TE, Peralta JM, Almeida M, Manusov E, Johnson M, Curran J, Williams-Blangero S. Genotype-by-socioeconomic status interaction modulates gene expression in the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine 2nd Annual Research Symposium, Sep. 15, 2018, McAllen, TX.
12. Howard TE, **Diego VP**, Hofmann M, Almeida M, Luu BW, Dinh LV, Rajalingam R, Escobar M, Curran J, Williams-Blangero S, Powell J, Blangero J, Maraskovsky E, Key NS, Sauna ZE. Analysis of HLACII peptidomes presented by dendritic cells (DCs) from healthy donors and Hemophilia A (HA) patients with or without Factor VIII (FVIII) inhibitors after ex vivo administration of different therapeutic FVIII proteins (tFVIIIs). Hum Immunol. 2018;79:58-187.
13. Howard TE, **Diego VP**, Luu BW, Curran J, Blangero J, Williams-Blangero S. Health disparities in inhibitor development in Hemophilia A: Hypotheses on the

differential prevalence by race/ethnicity. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine 2nd Annual Research Symposium, Sep. 15, 2018, McAllen, TX.

14. Manusov E, **Diego V**, Garza J, Smith J, Lowdermilk J Blangero J, Williams-Blangero S. Unimovil: A mobile health clinic providing primary care to the colonias of the Rio Grande Valley, Texas. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine 2nd Annual Research Symposium, Sep. 15, 2018, McAllen, TX.
15. Pittner K, Bakermans-Kranenburg MJ, Alink LRA, Buisman RSM, van den Berg LJM, Compier-de Block LHCG, Elzinga BM, Lindenberg L, Tollenaar MS, **Diego VP**, van IJzendoorn MH. Genetic and Environmental Influences on Child Maltreatment. Society for Research in Child Development, Biennial Meeting, March 21-23, 2019, Baltimore, MD.
16. Sauna Z, **Diego V**, Almeida M, Luu B, Hofmann M, Hernandez J, Rajalingam R, Williams-Blangero S, Curran J, Powell J, Escobar M, Blangero J, Maraskovsky E, Key N, Howard T. Analysis of HLA-class-II (HLA-II) peptidomes in response to several therapeutic factor (F)VIII proteins (tFVILs) in healthy donors and Hemophilia A (HA) patients with and without FVIL Inhibitors (FEIs). Res Practice Thromb Haemost. 2018;2(S1):94.
17. Almeida M, Porto A, Peralta J, Garcia A, **Diego V**, Goring H, Williams-Blangero S, Blangero J. Modeling methylation data as an additional variance component. Abstracts for the 20th Genetics Analysis Workshop, March 4-8, 2017, San Diego, California.
18. **Diego VP**, Garcia-Hernández A, Almeida M, Peralta J, Porto A, Howard TE, Blangero J. Gene-environment interaction influencing lipid traits and methylation data for genes influencing lipid metabolism. Abstracts for the 20th Genetics Analysis Workshop, March 4-8, 2017, San Diego, California.
19. **Diego V**, Luu B, Almeida M, Hofmann M, Hernandez J, Morelli A, Ameri A, Rajalingam R, Powell J, Blangero J, Maraskovsky E, Howard T. Quantizing HLA-class-II (HLA-II) Peptidomic Parameters as Immunologically-Relevant Endophenotypes to Improve Immunogenicity Risk Prediction for Protein Therapeutics (“Biologics”) using Factor (F)VIL Inhibitor Development in Hemophilia A (HA) as a Model. Abstracts of the 43rd Meeting of the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, September 11-15, 2017,

San Francisco, California.

20. Garcia-Hernández A, **Diego VP**, Almeida M, Peralta J, Porto A, Howard TE, Blangero J. Comparing the Subspaces of Gene Methylation Networks Affecting Human Biological
21. Pathways Perturbed by Drug Intervention. Abstracts for the 20th Genetics Analysis Workshop, March 4-8, 2017, San Diego, California.
22. Luu B, Hofmann M, **Diego V**, Almeida M, Hernandez J, Morelli A, Ameri A, Rajalingam R, Powell J, Blangero J, Marakovsky E, Howard T. Improved Immunogenicity Prediction using Composite Variables that Incorporate the Known Patient, Product and Therapy Related Risk Factors for Inhibitor Development with Immunologic Parameters from the HLAclassII (HLAclassII)Factor (F)VIII Peptidome. Abstracts of the 63rd Annual Scientific and Standardization Committee Meeting of the International Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis, July 8 – 13, 2017, Berlin, Germany.
23. **Diego VP**, Vanamala J, Farook VS, Reddivari L, Fowler SP, Puppala S, Chittoor G, Resendez RG, Alvarenga JCL, Mummidi S, Almasy L, Curran JE, Comuzzie AG, Lehman DM, Jenkinson CP, Lynch JL, DeFronzo RA, Blangero J, Hale DE, Duggirala R, Arya R. Genotype-by-multivariate dietary environment interaction effects on cardiometabolic risk factors in Mexican American children: The SAFARI Study. Abstracts of the 66th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Human Genetics, October 18-22, 2016, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
24. **Diego VP**, Higgins PB, Voruganti VS, Hazuda HP, Rainwater DL, Göring HHH, Almasy L, Mahaney MC, Comuzzie AG, Blangero J. Metabolic syndrome traits exhibit genotype-by-environment interaction in relation to socioeconomic status in the San Antonio Family Heart Study. Journal of Diabetes 3(Suppl s1):9, 2010: Abstracts of the 4th International Congress on Prediabetes and Metabolic Syndrome, April 6-9, 2011, Madrid, Spain.
25. **Diego VP**, Higgins PB, Voruganti VS, Göring HHH, Laston S, Cole SA, Fabsitz R, Ebbesson S, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Zhu J, Umans JG, Comuzzie AG. Markers of endothelial activation exhibit a mitochondrial-effects variance components in the GOCADAN Study. Journal of Diabetes 3(Suppl s1):9, 2010: Abstracts of the 4th International Congress on Prediabetes and Metabolic Syndrome, April 6-9, 2011, Madrid, Spain.
26. **Diego VP**, Drigalenko E, Carless MA, Curran JE, Dyer TD, Almasy LA,

Rainwater DL, Mahaney MC, Comuzzie AG, Cole SA, Tracy RP, MacCluer JW, Moses EK, Goring HHH, Blangero J. Genome-wide linkage and association reveals that the tissue factor (F3) locus on chromosome 1p22-p21 likely influences quantitative variation in D-dimer levels. 19th Annual Meeting of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society, October 10-12, 2010, Boston, MA.

27. **Diego VP**, Dyer TD, Kent JW Jr, Göring HHH, Blangero J. A fast algorithm for quantitative trait association analysis in large pedigrees. Genetic Analysis Workshop 17, October 13-16, 2010, Boston, MA.

28. **Diego VP**, Glahn DC, Kent JW Jr, Curran JE, Olvera RL, Dyer TD, Almasy LA, Moses EK, Göring HHH, Carless MA, Blangero J. A genome-wide linkage and association study of serum substance P levels identifies potential candidate genes in the Genetics of Brain Structure Study. Proceedings of the American Society of Human Genetics 60th Annual Meeting, November 2-6, 2010, Washington DC.

29. Higgins PB, **Diego VP**, Kent JW Jr, Carless MA, Dyer TD, Rainwater DL, Almasy LA, Comuzzie AG, Curran JE, Moses EK, Mahaney MC, Blangero J. Identification of a novel candidate gene on chromosome 20p12 influencing variation in lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2, a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Proceedings of the American Society of Human Genetics 60th Annual Meeting, November 2-6, 2010, Washington DC.

30. Kent J, Kumar S, Carless M, Curran JE, Dyer TD, **Diego VP**, Charlesworth J, Johnson MP,

31. Comuzzie AG, Mahaney MC, Almasy L, Moses EK, Goring HHH, Blangero J, Williams-Blangero S. Genetic determinants of telomere length localized by linkage, association, and gene expression profiling. Proceedings of the American Society of Human Genetics 60th Annual Meeting, November 2-6, 2010, Washington DC.

32. **Diego VP**, Vinson A, Higgins PB, Peralta JM, Charlesworth J, Cole SA, Dyer TD, Curran JE, Johnson MP, Moses EK, Göring HHH, Almasy L, Comuzzie AG, Rainwater DL, Mahaney MC, MacCluer JW, Blangero J, Williams-Blangero S. Genetical genomic analyses of the nuclear factor- κ B signal transduction network: Detection of emergent system-level properties relevant to the aging process. Proceedings of the American Society of Human Genetics 59th Annual Meeting, October 20-24, 2009, Honolulu, Hawaii.

33. Dyer TD, **Diego VP**, Kent JW Jr., Göring HHH, Blangero J. Rapid exact likelihood-based quantitative trait association analysis in large pedigrees. Proceedings of the American Society of Human Genetics 59th Annual Meeting, October 20-24, 2009, Honolulu, Hawaii.
34. Higgins PB, **Diego VP**, Cole SA, Dyer TD, Curran JE, Johnson MP, Moses EK, Almasy L, Göring HHH, Comuzzie AG, MacCluer JW, Mahaney MC, Blangero J. Principal components factor analysis of the insulin-like growth factor I (IGF-I) axis reveals a quantitative trait locus on chromosome 16p that is longitudinally associated with insulin and is mediated by IGF binding protein 3 and tumor necrosis factor- α . Proceedings of the American Society of Human Genetics 59th Annual Meeting, October 20-24, 2009, Honolulu, Hawaii.
35. Franceschini N, Cole SA, Rose KM, Rutherford S, Göring HHH, **Diego V**, Laston S, MacCluer JW, Lee ET, Best L, Howard BV, Fabsitz RR, Roman MJ, North KE. Genetic determinants of pulse pressure in American Indians: The Strong Heart Study. Genetic Epidemiology 31:472, 2007.
36. Franceschini N, MacCluer JW, Göring HHH, **Diego V**, Cole SA, Laston S, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, Lee ET, Russell M, North KE. Genotype-by-smoking interaction on blood pressure traits: The Strong Heart Family Study. Genetic Epidemiology 31:626, 2007.
37. Franceschini N, Rutherford S, Cole SA, MacCluer JW, Laston S, Rose KM, Göring HHH, **Diego V**, Lee ET, Best LG, Howard BV, Fabsitz RR, Roman MJ, North KE. Evidence for association between UTS2R and systolic blood pressure under a chromosome 17 linkage peak among American Indians: The Strong Heart Family Study. American Journal of Epidemiology 165:S107, 2007.
38. Charlesworth JC, Curran JE, Johnson MP, Göring HHH, Dyer TD, **Diego V**, Moses EK, Blangero J. Transcriptomic epidemiology of smoking. Proceedings of the 6th Australian Gene Mapping Conference 2007.
39. **Diego VP**, Göring HH, Rainwater DL, Cole SA, Dyer TD, Williams JT, MacCluer JW, Mahaney MC, Blangero J. Genotype-by-diet interaction analysis of paraoxonase 1 reveals a QTL on chromosome 17. Proceedings of the American Society of Human Genetics 57th Annual Meeting, October 23-27, 2007, San Diego, California.

40. Göring HHH, Kent Jr. JW, **Diego VP**, Dyer TD, Blangero J. Power of measured genotype-based association analysis, conditional on a variance components-based linkage model, in related individuals. Proceedings of the American Society of Human Genetics 57th Annual Meeting, October 23-27, 2007, San Diego, California.
41. **Diego VP**, Rainwater DL, Wang X-L, Cole SA, Curran JE, Johnson MP, Dyer TD, Williams JT, Comuzzie AG, MacCluer JW, Mahaney MC, Blangero. Genotype $\times$ adiposity interaction linkage analyses reveal a locus on chromosome 1 for lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A₂, a marker of inflammation and oxidative stress. Abstract book of the 11th International Congress of Human Genetics, held on August 6-10, 2006 at Brisbane, Australia.
42. **Diego VP**, Voruganti VS, Dyer TD, Cole SA, Almasy L, Rainwater DL, Mahaney MC, MacCluer JW, Blangero J, Comuzzie AG. Genotype $\times$ sex interaction analyses identify a region on chromosome 20 contributing to anthropometric measures of obesity in the San Antonio Family Heart Study. Obesity Suppl:A267, 2006.
43. Franceschini N, Göring HHH, Cole SA, **Diego VP**, MacCluer JW, Almasy L, Laston S, Howard BV, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, North K. Diabetes specific genetic effects on obesity traits in American Indian populations: The Strong Heart Family Study. Obesity Suppl:A46, 2006.
44. North KE, Cole SA, Göring HHH, Almasy L, **Diego VP**, Laston S, Comuzzie AG, Howard B,
45. Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, Ebbesson SOE, MacCluer JW. The genetics of cardiovascular disease risk factors in American Indians and Alaska Natives: The Strong Heart and GOCADAN Studies. American Journal of Physical Anthropology Suppl 42:139, 2006.
46. Voruganti VS, **Diego VP**, Blangero J, Haack K, Cole SA, Ebbesson SOE, Devereux R, Fabsitz RR, Howard BV, Comuzzie AG, MacCluer JW. A QTL for genotype by sex specific interaction for anthropometric measurements in Alaskan Eskimos on chromosome 19q12-13: The GOCADAN study. Obesity Suppl:A8-A9, 2006.
47. 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. Obesity Suppl:A196, 2006.

48. Best LG, Cole S, Howard BV, Lee ET, MacCluer JW, Palmieri V, North KE, **Diego VP**, Göring HHH. Genetic linkage analysis of fibrinogen levels: The Strong Heart Family Study. Circulation 111:227, 2005.
49. Cai G, Butte NF, Cole SA, Farooqi S, Göring HHH, **Diego V**, O’Rahilly S, Comuzzie AG. A QTL on chromosome 18q influences energy intake and expenditure in Hispanic children – The Viva la Familia Study. Obesity Research 13 (Suppl):A9, 2005.
50. Cole SA, Laston S, Göring HHH, **Diego VP**, Dyer TD, Blangero J, Ebbeson S, Howard BV, MacCluer JW, Comuzzie AG. Linkage of lipoprotein phenotypes to chromosome 19p in Alaska natives from the GOCADAN Study. Obesity Research 13 (Suppl):A100, 2005.
51. **Diego VP**, Dyer TD, Almasy L, MacCluer JW, Blangero J. Power to detect genotype-by-environment interaction in continuous environments. Abstract Book of the Proceedings of The American Society of Human Genetics 55th Annual Meeting, p. 416, 2005.
52. **Diego VP**, Rainwater DL, Winnier D, Wang X-L, Almasy L, Williams JT, Blangero J, MacCluer JW, Mahaney MC. Mitochondrial genetic effects × age interaction in a marker of oxidative stress in the San Antonio Family Heart Study. Genetic Epidemiology 29:242, 2005.
53. Mottl AK, Vupputuri S, Almasy L, Göring HHH, Cole SA, **Diego VP**, Laston S, Howard BV, Lee ET, Best LG, Fabsitz RR, MacCluer JW, Umans JG, North KE. Susceptibility to renal disease in Native Americans maps to 16q23.3-24.1 and 18p11.22-12.1: The Strong Heart Family Study. Journal of the American Society of Nephrology 16:589A, 2005.
54. Tejero ME, Cai G, Göring H, **Diego V**, Cole SA, Butte N, Comuzzie AG. Linkage analysis of circulating levels of adiponectin in Hispanic children. Obesity Research 13 (Suppl):A37, 2005.

55. **Diego VP**, Cole SA, Göring HHH, Almasy L, North K, Howard BV, Lee ET, Best LG, Devereux RB, Fabsitz RR, Laston S, Wenger C, Bridges J, Cantu T, Dyke B, MacCluer JW. Linkage analyses in the Strong Heart Family Study reveal a region on chromosome 2 affecting a cluster of traits potentially related to muscle tissue metabolism. *Circulation* 109:16-17, 2004.
56. **Diego VP**, Almasy L, Mahaney MC, Comuzzie AG, MacCluer JW, Blangero J. QTL mapping in biological anthropology: Genotype $\times$ age interaction in the growth hormone axis. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 123(S38): 87, 2004.
57. **Diego VP**: On the origin of syphilis. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 13(1): 118, 2001.
58. **Diego VP**: Densities of fecal streptococci and fecal coliforms in coastal sediments and waters of Tumon Bay, Guam. *Proceedings of Na Liko Na'auao Minority Biomedical Research Conference*, 1(2), 1994.

Contributed Oral Presentations:

1. **Diego VP**, Luu BW, Movva H, Hofman M, Almeida MA, Dinh LV, Powell JS, Rajalingam R, Peralta JM, Mead H, Kumar S, Curran JE, Escobar MA, Williams-Blangero S, Maraskovsky E, Blangero J, Howard TE; N-Linked Glycans on Therapeutic Factor VIII (FVIII) Proteins Attenuate Immunogenicity Potential: Evidence from Independent HLA-Class-II/FVII(IH LACII/FVIII) Peptidomes. The 62nd ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition December 5-8, 2020 (A Virtual Experience).
2. **Diego VP**. Transcriptomic approaches to neuroendophenotype discovery. Neurepiomics Course:
3. "Epidemiology of vascular and brain aging in cohorts with large scale imaging and omics data." Oct. 18-22, 2019 in San Antonio, TX.
4. **Diego VP**, Udenwagu J, Onyechi S, Eyobio U-A, Almeida M, Howard TE, Blangero J. Kernels of the adaptive immune, innate immune, and hemostasis systems in relation to the metabolic syndrome (MS). 3rd Annual SOM UTRGV Research Symposium, Sep. 13-14, 2019, McAllen, TX.
5. **Diego VP**. Multivariate Approaches to Modeling Genotype-by-Environment Interaction. Invited podium presentation at a workshop on statistical genetics

for large non-independent data sets, Oslo Centre for Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Oslo University Hospital on August 21-22, 2018, Oslo, Norway.

6. **Diego VP.** Genotype-by-socioeconomic status interaction modulates gene expression in the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. Contributed podium presentation at the 2nd Annual UTRGV SOM Research Symposium, Sept. 15, 2018, McAllen, TX.
7. **Diego VP.** The importance of gene-by-environment interaction in the metabolic syndrome. The roles of socioeconomic status, physical activity, and diet. Invited Lecture to the Department of Child and Family Studies, Leiden University, March 17, 2017, Leiden, Netherlands.
8. **Diego VP.** Genetic analysis of quantitative traits. SOLAR-Eclipse Workshop, January 21, 2014, 11th Annual International Imaging Genetics Conference, University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA.
9. **Diego VP.** Statistical genetic multivariate methods for studying complex environments. August 30, 2013, Program in Biology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Guam.
10. **Diego VP.** Birth-month seasonality and the secondary sex ratio in Guamanian amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Parkinsonism-dementia complex: Implications for infectious disease and environmental etiologies. 2nd Marianas History Conference, August 31, 2013, University of Guam.
11. **Diego VP.** Modeling approaches to analyzing complex genetic traits. March 9, 2012, Department of Biology, University of Guam.
12. **Diego VP.** Genotype-by-environment interaction in complex traits. March 9, 2012, Marine Laboratory, University of Guam.
13. **Diego VP.** A kernel of truth: Empirical genetic relationship matrices in variance component analysis. Stevenson, WA, Genetic Analysis Workshop 18, October 14, 2012.
14. **Diego VP.** Metabolic syndrome traits exhibit genotype-by-environment interaction in relation to socioeconomic status in the San Antonio Family Heart Study. 4th International Congress on Prediabetes and Metabolic Syndrome, April 6-9, 2011, Madrid, Spain.

15. **Diego VP.** Markers of endothelial activation exhibit a mitochondrial-effects variance components in the GOCADAN Study. 4th International Congress on Prediabetes and Metabolic Syndrome, April 6-9, 2011, Madrid, Spain.
16. **Diego VP.** Genotype-by-environment interaction in complex traits: Examples from Portuguese, Alaska Native, and Mexican American families. Seminar on Genetic Epidemiology Approaches to Sports Science, April 14, 2011, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal.
17. **Diego VP.** A fast algorithm for quantitative trait association analysis in large pedigrees. Genetic Analysis Workshop 17, October 13-16, 2010, Boston, MA.
18. **Diego VP.** A genome-wide linkage and association study of serum substance P levels identifies potential candidate genes in the Genetics of Brain Structure Study. Proceedings of the American Society of Human Genetics 60th Annual Meeting, November 2-6, 2010, Washington DC.
19. **Diego VP.** Interpreting genotype $\times$ environment interaction. Anthropological and Primate Genetics Workshop, August 16, 2007, San Antonio, TX.

Honors & Awards

2007 NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship

2005 Commendation in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress by the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo of Guam, Congressional Record, May 24, 2005.

1995 Microbiology Undergraduate Research Fellowship, American Society for Microbiology

1994 Emerging Scholar, Chautauqua Conference, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam

Professional Organizations

American Association for Human Genetics
International Genetic Epidemiology Society

Manuscript Reviewer

Obesity Research, Diabetes, Journal of the American Medical Association, BMC Medical Genetics, Human Genetics, PLoS One

Service

Short course in statistical genetics and on the use of SOLAR at Leiden University, March 13-17, 2017, Leiden, Netherlands.

Short course in statistical genetics and on the use of SOLAR at Brownsville and Edinburg to junior faculty of the STDIO, 2017

Seminar in likelihood theory at Brownsville and Harlingen over the year 2015-2016 to junior faculty of the STDIO

Mentorship program (for 2 students) under the BRIDGES Program sponsored by the U.S. NIH and administered by Texas State University and Northwest Vista College. 2014

Seminar in likelihood theory from Oct. 2013 to March 2014 at the Department of Genetics, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, TX, USA.

Short course in statistical genetics and on the use of SOLAR on March 9-15, 2013 at the University of Porto, Porto, Portugal.

Short course in statistical genetics and on the use of SOLAR on March 24-31, 2012 at the University of Porto, Porto, Portugal.

Short course in statistical genetics and on the use of SOLAR on May 9-11, 2011 at the Center for Genomics and Personalized Medicine Research, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Short course in statistical genetics and on the use of SOLAR on April 11-15, 2011 at the University of Porto, Porto, Portugal.

Statistical/Genetic Software Familiarity

SOLAR, R, GAUSS, and SPSS

Grant Support

Current Active Grant Funding

Project Title: Rio Grande Valley Alzheimer's Resource Center for Minority Aging
Research: Partnerships for Aging Analysis Core

Grant Period: 09/01/2018 - 06/30/2023

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: P30 AG059305

Direct Costs: \$700,800.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$56,065.00

Total Costs: \$756,865.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Maestre

Percent Effort Covered: 55.00%

Project Title: Screening High Risk Families for Diabetes to Establish a Genomic
Research Center in the Mid-Valley

Grant Period: 04/16/2018 - 02/15/2023

Funding Agency: Knapp

Type of Grant: Grant

Direct Costs: \$1,735,415.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$254,313.00

Total Costs: \$1,989,728.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Williams-Blangero

Percent Effort Covered: 3.3%

Project Title: Significance of MUC13 in Cancer

Grant Period: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2029

Funding Agency: NIH (Chauhan)

Type of Grant: R35

Direct Costs: 139,968.00

Indirect Costs: 67,185.00

Total Cost: 207,153.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Chauhan

Percent Effort Covered: 15.00%

Project Title: Influence of Socio-behavioral Factors on Molecular Determinants of HCC Disparity

Grant Period: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027

Funding Agency: NIH (Jaggi)

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs: 31,538.00

Indirect Costs: 15,138.00

Total: 46,676.00

Total Cost: 46,676.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Jaggi

Percent Effort Covered: 5.00%

Project Title: Protein Kinase D1 in Prostate Cancer Health Disparity

Grant Period: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027

Funding Agency: NIH (Jaggi)

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs: 31,538.00

Indirect Costs: 15,138.00

Total: 46,676.00

Total Cost: 46,676.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Jaggi

Percent Effort Covered: 5.00%

Project Title: Novel therapeutic strategy for the treatment of metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer

Grant Period: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027

Funding Agency: NIH (Jaggi)

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs: 25,231.00

Indirect Costs: 12,111.00

Total Costs: 37,343.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Jaggi

Percent Effort Covered: 4.00%

Past Grant Funding

Project Title: Targeted Nanotherapy for Pancreatic Cancer

Grant Period: 06/24/16 - 04/30/2022

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01 CA210192

Direct Costs: \$135,222.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$61,256.00

Total Costs: \$196,478.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Chauhan

Percent Effort Covered: 3.00%

Project Title: Development of Targeted Nanotechnology Platform for Pancreatic Cancer

Grant Period: 07/19/2016 - 02/28/2022

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01 CA206069

Direct Costs: \$205,495.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$93,089.00

Total Costs: \$298,584.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Chauhan

Percent Effort Covered: 5.00%

Project Title: Novel therapeutic approach for the treatment of CR prostate cancer

Grant Period: 06/01/2020 - 06/30/2023

Funding Agency: DoD (Hafeez)

Type of Grant: W18XWH-19-PCRP-TSA

Direct Costs: 18,001.00

Indirect Costs: 8,154.00

Total: 26,155.00

Total Cost: 26,155.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Hafeez

Percent Effort Covered: 5.00%

Project Title: Novel approach to attenuate pancreatic cancer growth and metastasis

Grant Period: 02/20/2020 - 02/20/2025

Funding Agency: NIH (Khan)

Type of Grant: R01 (PA-19-056)

Direct Costs: 32,405.00

Indirect Costs: 14,679.00

Total Costs: 47,084.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Khan

Percent Effort Covered: 5.00%

Project Title: CPRIT-Liver Cancer

Grant Period: 03/01/2020 - 02/28/2023

Funding Agency: CPRIT (Chauhan)

Type of Grant: RFA P-20.1-EBP

Direct Costs: 18,866.00

Indirect Costs: 8,546.00

Total Cost: 27,412.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Chauhan

Percent Effort Covered: 5.00%

Project Title: Understanding the role of PKD1 in metastatic prostate cancer

Grant Period: 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2025

Funding Agency: NIH (Jaggi)

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs: 33,215.00

Indirect Costs: 15,046.00

Total Costs: 48,261.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Jaggi

Percent Effort Covered: 5.00%

Project Title: Novel Biomarker and Imaging Agent for Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer

Grant Period: 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2022

Funding Agency: Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (Chauhan)

Type of Grant: Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Translational Research

Direct Costs: 12,390.00

Indirect Costs: 5,613.00

Total Costs: 18,003.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Chauhan

Percent Effort Covered: 5.00%

Project Title: MicroRNA based Biomarkers of Alzheimer's Disease in Hispanic Americans with Type-2 Diabetes

Grant Period: 04/01/2021 - 03/31/2023

Funding Agency: NIH (Roy)

Type of Grant: R03 (PAS-19-392)

Direct Costs: 10,010.00

Indirect Costs: 4,535.00

Total Costs: 14,545.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Upal Roy

Percent Effort Covered: 4.00%

Project Title: MicroRNA based Biomarkers of Alzheimer's Disease in Hispanic Americans with Type-2 Diabetes

Grant Period: 09/01/2021 - 08/31/2023

Funding Agency: NIH (Roy)

Type of Grant: R03 (PAS-19-392)

Direct Costs: 27,140.00

Indirect Costs: 12,294.00

Total Cost: 39,434.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Upal Roy

Percent Effort Covered: 9.00%

Grant Applications Submitted (Academic Year 2021-2022)

Project Title: Influence of the Pollutome on Risk of Major Depression In Hispanic Families

Grant Period: 12/01/2021 - 11/30/2026

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs (STD0I): \$1,929,149.00

Indirect Costs (STD0I): \$885,229.00

Total Costs: \$2,814,378.00

Role: Asst. Professor of Research

Principal Investigator: Blangero

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Interactions of SARS-CoV-2 infection and genetic variation on the risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease in Ancestral and Admixed Populations

Grant Period: 04/01/2022 - 03/31/2027

Funding Agency: NIH (UTHSCSA)

Type of Grant: U19 (PAR-19-314)

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$2,127,951.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$1,021,416.00

Total Costs: \$3,149,367.00

Role: Project Lead

Principal Investigator: Blangero

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Flash Glucose Monitoring vs Standard of Care in Diabetes Management: Improving Clinical Trial Outcome Data through Genetic Control

Grant Period: 04/01/2022 - 03/31/2026

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01 w/Clinical Trial

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$1,993,600.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$889,727.00

Total Costs: \$2,883,327.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Manusov

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Influence of the Pollutome on Risk of Major Depression In Hispanic Families

Grant Period: 04/01/2022 - 03/31/2027

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$1,913,573.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$930,514.00

Total Costs: \$2,844,087.00

Role: Asst. Professor of Research

Principal Investigator: Blangero

Status: Submitted

Project Title: RGV Comprehensive Research Center for Chronic Liver Diseases (RGV-CRCCLD) - Community Engagement Core Lead

Grant Period: 09/01/2021 - 08/31/2026

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: P50 (RFA-MD-21-007)

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$1,999,766.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$959,888.00

Total Costs: \$2,959,654.00

Role: Asst. Professor of Research

Principal Investigator: Chauhan

Status: Submitted

Project Title: RGV Comprehensive Research Center for Chronic Liver Diseases (RGV-CRCCLD) - Project # 2

Grant Period: 09/01/2021 - 08/31/2026

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: P50 (RFA-MD-21-007)

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$2,331,028.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$1,118,893.00

Total Costs: \$3,449,921.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Chauhan

Status: Submitted

Project Title: RGV Comprehensive Research Center for Chronic Liver Diseases (RGV-CRCCLD) - Project # 3

Grant Period: 09/01/2021 - 08/31/2026

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: P50 (RFA-MD-21-007)

Direct Costs (STDOL): \$2,499,677.00

Indirect Costs (STDOL): \$1,199,845.00

Total Costs: \$3,699,522.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Chauhan

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Influence of Socio-behavioral Factors on Molecular Determinants of HCC Disparity Grant Period: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs (STDOL): \$31,538.00

Indirect Costs (STDOL): \$15,138.00

Total Costs: \$46,676.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Jaggi

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Protein Kinase D1 in Prostate Cancer Health Disparity

Grant Period: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs (STDOL): \$31,538.00

Indirect Costs (STDOL): \$15,138.00

Total Costs: \$46,676.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Jaggi

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Novel therapeutic strategy for the treatment of metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer

Grant Period: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$25,231.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$12,111.00

Total Costs: \$37,342.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Jaggi

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Significance of MUC13 in Cancer

Grant Period: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2029

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$139,968.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$67,185.00

Total Costs: \$207,153.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Chauhan

Project Title: Provision of Alzheimer's Dementia Education Program for Mexican Americans

Grant Period: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2026

Funding Agency: Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC)

Type of Grant: Grant

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$753,530.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$75,354.00

Total Costs: \$828,884.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Manusov

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Center for Cellular Epidemiology of Hispanic Health

Grant Period: 09/01/2022 - 08/31/2027

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: U54 (RFA-MD-22-002)

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$14,055,923.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$6,758,843.00

Total Costs: \$20,814,766.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: SWB

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Trans-Omic Approaches to Factor VIII Immunogenicity in Hemophilia A

Grant Period: 09/01/2022 - 08/31/2026

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$1,628,122.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$793,498.00

Total Costs: \$2,421,620.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Howard

Status: Submitted

Project Title: Flash Glucose Monitoring vs Standard of Care in Diabetes Management: A Test of Improving Clinical Trial Outcome Data through Genetic Control

Grant Period: 09/01/2022 - 08/31/2026

Funding Agency: NIH

Type of Grant: R01

Direct Costs (STDOI): \$1,996,730.00

Indirect Costs (STDOI): \$891,711.00

Total Costs: \$2,888,441.00

Role: Co-I

Principal Investigator: Manusov