

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Kitayama, Ken

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): kenkitayama

POSITION TITLE: Resident, UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Los Angeles, California, United States

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Start Date MM/YYYY	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Los Angeles, California, United States	Resident	07/2023	06/2026	Ophthalmology
UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health, Los Angeles, California, United States	Ph.D.	07/2020	06/2023	Epidemiology
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, California, United States	M.D.	08/2013	06/2019	Medicine
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland, United States	M.P.H.	07/2017	05/2018	Epidemiology
Columbia University, New York, New York, United States	B.A.	08/2024	05/2010	Neuroscience, Hispanic Studies

A. Personal Statement

My long-term research interests involve the development of a comprehensive understanding of the epidemiology of ophthalmic health disparities and their impact on overall health and well-being. My academic training and research experience have provided me with foundational knowledge in the area of epidemiology, which I have been able to apply practically to a variety of research questions related to identifying populations at greatest risk for worse outcomes and exploring interventions aimed to improve such discrepancies. As a medical student, I evaluated technological applications to improve patient-provider communication at a federal qualified health center in East Los Angeles serving predominantly Spanish-speaking patients. Under the mentorship of Dr. Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, I later evaluated a mobile health application to assess visual field defects in patients at health fairs in Los Angeles, receiving funding from the California Wellness Foundation. As a Master in Public Health (MPH) student at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, I gained foundational training in epidemiology and biostatistics. As a physician-scientist-in-training as a resident in the UCLA Specialty Training and Advanced Research in Ophthalmology (EyeSTAR) Program, I completed the PhD degree requirements in Epidemiology at the UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health. As a doctoral candidate, I built on my previous foundational training while learning modern epidemiologic methods in causal inference. My dissertation work focused on identifying patients at greatest risk for worse outcomes following glaucoma surgery, using causal mediation to quantify the mediating effects of socioeconomic status on racial and ethnic differences in outcomes and employing methods from network science to identify physician referral patterns associated with worse outcomes. My work now focuses on examining environmental risk factors for glaucoma and glaucoma surgical failure, leveraging Big Data with various air pollution modeling methods to identify additional factors that may mediate disparate outcomes in ophthalmic care.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments and Honors

Positions and Employment

2020 – 2026	Resident, EyeSTAR Program, Department of Ophthalmology, UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Los Angeles, CA
2019 – 2020	Preliminary Year Intern, Department of Internal Medicine, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, CA
2016 – 2017	Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, UCLA South American Program in HIV Prevention Research (SAPHIR), NIH Grant R25 MH087222
2012 – 2013	AmeriCorps Community HealthCorps Member, AltaMed Health Services, Commerce, CA
2010 – 2012	Research Coordinator, Department of General Pediatrics, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY

Professional Memberships

2013 – 2019	Latino Medical Student Association
2017 – Present	Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
2018 – Present	American Academy of Ophthalmology

Honors

2006 – 2010	Columbia University Mike Jupka, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund
2009	Columbia University Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) Undergraduate Travel Grant
2009	Columbia University Parent Alumni Internship Fund (PAIF) Undergraduate Travel Grant
2010	Columbia University Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures Susan Huntington Vernon Award
2010	Columbia University College Honors (Latin Honors) – Cum Laude
2013	Segal AmeriCorps Education Award
2014 – 2015	Dr. Ursula Mandel Scholarship
2014 – 2015	Miyamoto-UCLA Foundation Scholarship
2014	GE-NMF Primary Care Leadership Program (PCLP) Fellowship
2016	NMF California Community Service-Learning Program (CCSLP) Scholarship: Effectiveness of an iPad Application to Assess Visual Field Defects in Latino Adults at Health Fairs in Los Angeles, California
2017	UCLA Stein Eye Institute Travel Award – AAO AUPO Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Program at AAO 2017, New Orleans, LA
2017	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health MPH Travel Fund: Epidemiology of Retinoblastoma in Cuba, Instituto Cubano de Oftalmología Ramón Pando Ferrer, Havana, Cuba
2018	Induction into the Alpha Chapter of the Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
2018	UniHealth Foundation Medical Student Scholarship
2019	Knights Templar Eye Foundation Travel Grant, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting 2019, Vancouver, Canada
2020	Graduate Dean's Scholarship, UCLA Graduate Division, Los Angeles, CA

C. Contributions to Science

1. My early publications were focused on the evaluation of technological applications to improve health outcomes in vulnerable populations. More specifically, I assessed parental and provider opinions about text message reminder/recall services for early childhood vaccination and parent perspectives on the design of a personal online pediatric immunization record. My particular role in these projects was data collection and analysis of qualitative data and manuscript preparation. I also examined patient and provider perspectives on the use of a bilingual online patient portal in a Spanish-speaking safety-net population, where I was again involved in data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation.

Hofstetter AM, Vargas CY, Kennedy A, **Kitayama K**, Stockwell MS. Parental and provider preferences and concerns regarding text message reminder/recall for early childhood vaccinations. *Prev Med*. 2013;57(2):75-80.

Kitayama K, Stockwell MS, Vawdrey DK, Pena O, Catalozzi M. Parent perspectives on the design of a personal online pediatric immunization record. *Clin Pediatr (Phila)*. 2014;53(3):238-242.

Ochoa A, 3rd, **Kitayama K**, Uijtdehaage S, Vermillion M, Eaton M, Carpio F, Serota M, Hochman ME: Patient and provider perspectives on the potential value and use of a bilingual online patient portal in a Spanish-speaking safety-net population. *J Am Med Inform Assoc* 2017, 24(6):1160-1164.

- My current research contributions have focused on understanding why certain patients with glaucoma are at greater risk of worse outcomes. I have investigated mobile health applications as tools to expand early detection for patients who might otherwise present late, measured how socioeconomic and demographic factors interact in shaping surgical outcomes, examined referral networks to better understand gaps that allow for worse disease trajectories, and studied the effects of air pollution on glaucoma from molecular mechanisms to population-level consequences. Though varied in scope, these projects all reflect a commitment to identifying those most vulnerable to vision loss from glaucoma and to finding ways to intervene earlier and more effectively.

Kitayama K, Young AG, Ochoa A, 3rd, Yu F, Wong KY, Coleman AL. The Agreement Between an iPad Visual Field App and Humphrey Frequency Doubling Technology in Visual Field Screening at Health Fairs. *J Glaucoma*. 2021;30(9):846-850.

Kitayama K, Tsugawa Y, Nishi A, Coleman AL. Socioeconomic Status Mediates and Modifies Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Incisional Glaucoma Surgical Outcomes. *Am J Ophthalmol*. 2025 Jun;274:249-257. doi: 10.1016/j.ajo.2025.03.006. Epub 2025 Mar 10. PMID: 40074165.

Kitayama K, Tseng VL, Yu F, Coleman AL. Oxidative Air Pollutants and the Risk of Incisional Glaucoma Surgical Failure: A Population-Based Medicare Study. *American Glaucoma Society Annual Meeting*; February 19-22, 2026; Rancho Mirage, CA.

D. Scholastic Performance

YEAR	COURSE TITLE	GRADE
Fall 2020	BIOSTAT 201A: Topics in Applied Regression	A+
Fall 2020	BIOSTAT 203A: Introduction to Data Management and Statistical Computing	A
Fall 2020	EPIDEM 200A: Methods I: Basic Concepts and Study Designs	A+
Fall 2020	EPIDEM M203: Topics in Theoretical Epidemiology	S
Winter 2021	BIOSTAT 201B: Topics in Applied Regression	A
Winter 2021	EPIDEM 200B: Methods II: Prediction and Validity	A+
Winter 2021	EPIDEM 407A: Epidemiologic Research Using R	A+
Winter 2021	EPIDEM M403: Computer Management and Analysis of Health Data Using SAS	A
Spring 2021	BIOSTAT 406: Applied Multivariate Biostatistics	A+
Spring 2021	EPIDEM 200C: Methods III: Analysis	A
Spring 2021	EPIDEM 217: Social Networks and Public Health	A+
Spring 2021	EPIDEM 260: Environmental Epidemiology	A+
Spring 2021	EPIDEM 404: Advanced SAS Techniques for Management and Analysis of Epidemiologic Data	A
Spring 2021	EPIDEM 407B: Applied Epidemiologic Research Using R	A
Fall 2021	EPIDEM 242: Cancer Epidemiology	A+
Fall 2021	EPIDEM 247: Lifecourse Epidemiology	A+
Fall 2021	EPIDEM M204: Logic, Causation, and Probability	A+

YEAR	COURSE TITLE	GRADE
Winter 2022	EPIDEM 207: Reproducibility in Epidemiologic Research	A
Winter 2022	EPIDEM 292: Advanced Seminar in Epidemiology	S
Winter 2022	EPIDEM 599: Doctoral Dissertation Research	S
Spring 2022	EPIDEM 292: Advanced Seminar in Epidemiology	S
Spring 2022	EPIDEM 599: Doctoral Dissertation Research	S
Fall 2022	EPIDEM 599: Doctoral Dissertation Research	S
Winter 2023	EPIDEM 292: Advanced Seminar in Epidemiology	S
Winter 2023	EPIDEM 599: Doctoral Dissertation Research	S
Spring 2023	EPIDEM 599: Doctoral Dissertation Research	S