Yusuf Ashktorab

Website, yusufashk@gmail.com, LinkedIn, GitHub

Education:

Howard University School of Medicine MD candidate, Class of 2028
Howard University BS in Biology, Minor in Chemistry, 4.0 GPA

Publications:

Peer Reviewed Journals:

Ashktorab Y, et al. *COVID-19 pediatric patients: symptoms, presentations, and disparities by race/ethnicity in a large, multi-center United States study*; Gastroenterology. 2021 Apr;160(5):1842-1844.

Brim A, **Ashktorab Y,** et al. *Pediatric COVID-19 and Gastrointestinal Symptoms in Africa; Gastroenterology*. 2021 Aug;160(5):1842-1844.

Oral Presentations:

Ashktorab Y. *Current Landscape of AI Models With a Focus on Nephrology ,* Kidney Clinical Research Conference, Stanford University Department of Medicine, Nephrology, June 2025.

Ashktorab Y. *Learning Medicine and Coding with AI tools ,* Invited presentation, Stanford University Department of Nephrology Biostatistics Core Meeting, May 2025.

Ashktorab Y, et al. *Leveraging Machine Learning Models and Cytokines to Predict Vaccine Response: Exploring Demographic Influences ,* UCSF SRTP 2024 Research Symposium, August 2024.

Ashktorab Y, et al. *Extracting and Analyzing Data Using AI Tools in ImmPort ,* FOCiS 2024 San Francisco, June 2024.

Ashktorab Y. *My Experience Extracting Big Data with ImmPort ,* Invited Presentation at ImmPort Research Seminar, San Francisco, June 2024.

Exploring, Extracting, and Analyzing Clinical and Immunological Assay Data from ImmPort Using AI Tools, Role of AI in Immunology: Advancing Scientific Frontiers, FOCiS 2025 Virtual Education Symposium, June 2025.

Did not physically present, Work from 2024 was used to support and inform this presentation.

Abstract Presentations:

Ashktorab Y, et al. *From Algorithms to Agriculture: Applying AI Methods to Predict Kidney Disease in Farmworkers.* AMA Research Challenge Poster Symposium; November 2025.

Ashktorab Y, et al. *From Algorithms to Agriculture: Applying AI Methods to Predict Kidney Disease in Farmworkers.* HUCM Research Poster Day; August 2025.

Ashktorab Y, et al. *COVID-19 pediatric patients: symptoms, presentations, and disparities by race/ethnicity in a large, multi-center United States study*; Digestive Disease Week. May 2021.

Ashktorab Y, et al. *Leveraging Machine Learning Models and Cytokines to Predict Vaccine Response: Exploring Demographic Influences.* AMA Research Challenge Poster Symposium; November 2024. doi:10.48448/c05x-qq61.

Ashktorab Y, et al. *Leveraging Machine Learning Models and Cytokines to Predict Vaccine Response: Exploring Demographic Influences ,* UCSF SRTP 2024 Research Symposium, August 2024.

Ashktorab Y, et al. *A Bioinformatic Analysis of an Unknown Ant Specimen Found in Washington D.C.,* Howard University Research Month, April 2023.

Research/Work Experience:

Stanford University - Department of Medicine(Nephrology) / Research Intern
September 2025 - Present, Palo Alto, CA
Working with Dr.Shuchi Anand and Dr.Maria Emilia Montez Rath to investigate the use of AI to identify and predict Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology(CKDu) in Sri Lanka. Working with Epic Cosmos to analyze the use of foundational medical AI models on CKD.

Stanford University - Department of Medicine(Nephrology) / HBMC Summer Intern
May 2025 - July 2024, Palo Alto, CA
Worked with Dr.Shuchi Anand and Dr.Maria Emilia Montez Rath to investigate the use of AI and LLM to identify and predict Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology(CKDu) in Sri Lanka.

University of California San Francisco - BCHI- Butte Lab/ SRTP Intern
April 2024 - August 2024, San Francisco, CA
Worked with the public dataset ImmPort to conduct a meta-analysis on vaccine outcomes, with a focus on the effect of demographics on vaccine response. Used AI and machine learning to create the first models which use baseline cytokine data and demographics to accurately predict vaccine response.

National Institutes of Health - NCI- Ambs lab / Special Volunteer
May 2023 - May 2024, Bethesda MD
Working on VirScan NCI-UMD case control study, investigating the role of viruses in prostate cancer development with a specific focus on health disparities and racial factors, contributing both computationally and on the benchside.

Howard University - Undergraduate AI/ML Team / Research Assistant
December 2023 – Present, Washington, DC
Using wearable data and algorithms to detect sickness such as COVID-19 earlier than current methods, with a focus eradicating the health disparities in wearable medicine. Earned CITI certification, and completed 3 HarvardEdx TinyML courses with certification.

National Institutes of Health - NIDDK - Lutas lab / Special Volunteer
January 2023 - May 2023, Bethesda MD
Conducted rigorous research focused on how neuromodulation of neural circuits leads to long-lasting changes in motivated behaviors like eating in mice.

National Institutes of Health - NHLBI - Bioinformatics lab/ SIP Intern
Summer of 2021, Bethesda MD
Intern in Laboratory of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology in the NHLBI. Used scientific techniques and R to analyze and compare patients data from AML cancer studies.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute -SEA-PHAGES Biology Laboratory / Student
August 2022 - January 2023, Washington DC
Discovered and analyzed bacteriophages through laboratory experimentation and bioinformatic dissection of the bacteriophage genome. Expected publication in late 2024.

Department of Psychology at Stanford / Research Assistant
Summer 2019- 2022, Palo Alto CA
Worked on project Maristan, specifically the database portion. Involved in data collection of articles related to Muslim mental health.

Volunteering/Other Activities:

Howard University College of Medicine(HUCM) Health Innovation and Technology Interest Group(HIT) / President
July 2025- Present, Washington DC
Put on events such as "How to use AI to ace your M1 year", and other events such as hackathons, and networking events in the DC area for medical students to connect and get involved in the technology side of medicine.

Howard University College of Medicine(HUCM) Health Innovation and Technology Interest Group(HIT) / Chief AI Officer
July 2024-July 2025, Washington DC
Serving as the inaugural Chief AI Officer at the Howard University College of Medicine Health Information Technology (HUCM HIT), leading initiatives to integrate AI advancements in medicine and championing efforts to eliminate bias in medical AI models.

Howard University College of Medicine / VP of Research and Technology
July 2024-Present, Washington DC
Serving as the current VP of Research and Technology, leading student research projects, working on making the first HBCU Medical Student led AI research center.

Howard University College of Medicine Medical Talks Interest Group / Presenter/Member
July 2024-Present, Washington DC

Presented clinical cases and research such as AI research I conducted at UCSF, collaborating and learning with peers to advance the field of medicine.

Howard University BS/MD Program Phase 1 / Cohort Leader
August 2022- July 2024, Washington DC
Guided other BS/MD Phase 1 cohort students into medical school by creating and sharing resources like flashcard decks for their success.

Howard University Middle School / Tutor
August 2022- Present, Washington DC
Tutored Howard University's middle school students under the Social Justice tutors program.

National Marrow Donor Program (BeTheMatch) / Volunteer
August 2022- Present, Washington DC
Recruited people to join the registry of the National Marrow Donor Program, helping those with blood cancers and other related conditions get the lifesaving care they need.

Chakavak Ensemble / Santoor
2015- Present, Vienna VA
Advanced Santoor player for Chakavak Ensemble, performed at many notable events such as the Children of Yemen fundraising event at Georgetown University

Academic Achievements & Honors:

- Poster of Distinction from Digestive Disease Week 2021
- The Dr. Preston T. Talbert Memorial Award, Awarded to the student who has shown the best proficiency in an elementary Biochemistry course(2023-2024).
- The Chemistry Department Award, Awarded to the student with the highest overall grades in general chemistry in Howard University(2022-2023).
- Certificate of Meritorious Service, awarded to students who have service-learning records documenting 260 or more hours of service by the first Friday in April of their senior year. I had over 524 Student Service Learning hours(2022)
- COAS Dean's list(2022-2024)

Skills/Hobbies:

- Foreign Languages: Fluent in Farsi, intermediate in Spanish
- Played Division 1 high-level competitive club National League Soccer for the Laurel Lions until Fall 2022.
- Skilled santoor musician