

**Ahmad Vaez, MD, PhD**

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**Ahmad Vaez** was born on 11 May 1973 in Isfahan, a beautiful historic city in the center of Iran. After graduating with a medical degree (MD) from the Isfahan University of Medical Sciences in 1999, he worked as a medical doctor, then as a lecturer, then as a researcher, then as a research officer, and then as a chief research officer. He also served as an officer of the regional bioethics research committee, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Iran. He then participated in a highly competitive written exam in 2008 held by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran through which, he was awarded a scholarship abroad. In September 2010, he started his PhD research program at the Unit of Genetic Epidemiology and Bioinformatics, Department of Epidemiology, University of Groningen, the Netherlands, under the supervision of Prof. Harold Snieder.

Ahmad has been interested in using bioinformatics-based approaches to unravel the multifaceted genomic mechanisms controlling complex traits or diseases. During his PhD trajectory, he tried to provide a comprehensive walk-through of the classic steps of genomic association mapping using bioinformatics tools and approaches. Also, in parallel to the successful completion of his PhD trajectory, he has been leading one of the largest international consortia of meta-analysis of Genome-Wide Association studies (GWAS), including more than 200,000 samples from more than 70 centers, designed to explore genomic determinants of C-reactive protein (CRP). This mega-scale project has successfully identified a large number of novel genomic markers underlying serum levels of CRP (manuscript in preparation).

## **Education**

- PhD in Bioinformatics, University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands (2010-2015)
- Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, United States (2011)
- MD in Medicine: Faculty of Medicine, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (1991 - 1999)

## **Teaching experience**

- Course titled “Advances in Genetic Epidemiological Research and Data Analysis”, University of Groningen (2013-present)
- Course titled “Genetic Epidemiology”, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (2017-present)
- Course titled “Epidemiology”, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (2016-present)
- Course titled “Population Genetics”, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (2016-present)
- Course titled “Personalized Medicine”, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (2016-present)
- Course titled “Bioinformatics”, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (2016-present)
- Course titled: “Health and Demography”, Shahin Shahr Health Services Center (2000-2003)

## **Work Experience**

- Assistant Professor of Bioinformatics, Department of genetics and molecular biology, school of medicine, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (2016-present)
- Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands (2015-2016)
- PhD Fellow, University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands (2010-2015)
- Chief Research Officer, Head of Department of Research Officers, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (2008-2010)
- Co-head of the Research Administration Office, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (2008-2010)
- Research Officer, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (2004-2008)
- General Physician, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (1999-2004)

## **Languages**

- Persian (Farsi): native language
- English: holding a score of 6.5 in the IELTS exam (and 7.5 in its writing module)

## Achievements and Awards

- Awarded a scholarship from the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, United States, to attend Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics; 2011
- Accepted for a scholarship position overseas, available for a PhD program in Bioinformatics, by a highly competitive entrance exam which was held by the ministry of health and medical education, Tehran, Iran; 2008
- Accepted for a job position as a research officer in the Vice Chancellery for Research, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran, by a competitive entrance exam; 2006

## PhD Thesis

- Bioinformatics of Genomic Association Mapping. ISBN: 978-90-367-8202-9 (print). ISBN: 978-90-367-8201-2 (e-book). Sep 2015. University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

## Software packages

- lodGWAS: Genome-Wide Association Analysis of a Biomarker Accounting for Limit of Detection (2015). Publicly available at: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/lodGWAS>.
- QCGWAS: Quality Control of Genome Wide Association Study results (2012). Publicly available at: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/QCGWAS>.

## Publications

- **Vaez A**, van der Most PJ, Prins BP, Snieder H, van den Heuvel E, Alizadeh BZ, Nolte IM. lodGWAS: A software package for genome-wide association analysis of biomarkers with a limit of detection. Bioinformatics. 2016;32(10):1552-4.
- Barban N, Jansen R, de Vlaming R, **Vaez A**, Mandemakers JJ, Tropf FC, Shen X, Wilson JF, Chasman DI, Nolte IM, Tragante V, van der Laan SW, Perry JR, Kong A; BIOS Consortium, Ahluwalia TS, Albrecht E, Yerges-Armstrong L, Atzmon G, Auro K, Ayers K, Bakshi A, Ben-Avraham D, Berger K, Bergman A, Bertram L, Bielak LF, Bjornsdottir G, Bonder MJ, Broer L, Bui M, Barbieri C, Cavadino A, Chavarro JE, Turman C, Concas MP, Cordell HJ, Davies G, Eibich P, Eriksson N, Esko T, Eriksson J, Falahi F, Felix JF, Fontana MA, Franke L, Gandin I, Gaskins AJ, Gieger C, Gunderson EP, Guo X, Hayward C, He C, Hofer E, Huang H, Joshi PK, Kanoni S, Karlsson R, Kiechl S, Kifley A, Kluttig A, Kraft P, Lagou V, Lecoeur C, Lahti J, Li-Gao R, Lind PA, Liu T, Makalic E, Mamasoula C, Matteson L, Mbarek H, McArdle PF, McMahon G, Meddends SF, Mihailov E, Miller M, Missmer SA, Monnereau C, van der Most PJ, Myhre R, Nalls MA, Nutile T, Kalafati IP, Porcu E, Prokopenko I, Rajan KB, Rich-Edwards J, Rietveld CA, Robino A, Rose LM, Rueedi R, Ryan KA, Saba Y, Schmidt D, Smith JA, Stolk L, Streeten E, Tönjes A, Thorleifsson G, Ulivi S, Wedenoja J, Wellmann J, Willeit P, Yao J, Yengo L, Zhao JH, Zhao W, Zhernakova DV, Amin N, Andrews H, Balkau B, Barzilai N, Bergmann S, Biino G, Bisgaard H, Bønnelykke K, Boomsma DI, Buring JE, Campbell H, Cappellani S, Ciullo M, Cox SR, Cucca F, Toniolo D, Davey-Smith G, Deary IJ, Dedoussis G, Deloukas P, van Duijn CM, de Geus EJ, Eriksson JG, Evans DA, Faul JD, Sala CF, Froguel P, Gasparini P, Girotto G, Grabe HJ, Greiser KH, Groenen PJ, de Haan HG, Haerting J, Harris TB, Heath AC, Heikkilä K, Hofman A, Homuth G, Holliday EG, Hopper J, Hyppönen E, Jacobsson B, Jaddoe VW, Johannesson M, Jugessur A, Kähönen M, Kajantie E, Kardia SL, Keavney B, Kolcic I, Koponen P, Kovacs P, Kronenberg F, Kutalik Z, La Bianca M, Lachance G, Iacono WG, Lai S, Lehtimäki T, Liewald DC; LifeLines Cohort Study, Lindgren CM, Liu Y, Luben R, Lucht M, Luoto R, Magnus P, Magnusson PK, Martin NG, McGue M, McQuillan R, Medland SE, Meisinger C, Mellström D, Metspalu A, Traglia M, Milani L, Mitchell P, Montgomery GW, Mook-Kanamori D, de Mutsert R, Nohr EA, Ohlsson C, Olsen J, Ong

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- Vaez A, Jansen R\*, Prins BP\*, Hottenga JJ, Geus EJC de, Boomsma DI, Penninx BWJH, Nolte IM, Snieder H\*, Alizadeh BZ\*. In silico post genome-wide association studies analysis of C-reactive protein loci suggests an important role for interferons. Circ Cardiovasc Genet. 2015;8:487–497.
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- Franceschini N\*, van Rooij FJA\*, Prins BP\*, Feitosa MF\*, Karakas M\*, Eckfeldt JH, Folsom AR, Kopp J, Vaez A, Andrews JS, Baumert J, Boraska V, Broer L, Hayward C, Ngwa JS, Okada Y, Polasek O, Westra H-J, Wang YA, Del Greco M. F, Glazer NL, Kapur K, Kema IP, Lopez LM, Schillert A, Smith AV, Winkler CA, Zgaga L, Bandinelli S, Bergmann S, Boban M, Bochud M, Chen YD, Davies G, Dehghan A, Ding J, Doering A, Durda JP, Ferrucci L,

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\* Equal contribution

## Oral presentations

- Bioinformatics of genomic association mapping: an A-to-Z walk-through. Molecular medicine congress, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran, Dec 2016. Invited keynote speaker.
- lodGWAS: a software package for genome-wide association analysis of biomarkers accounting for Limit of Detection (LOD). University Medical Center Groningen, the Netherlands, June 2015. Invited speaker.
- An in silico post-GWAS analysis of C-reactive protein loci reveals an important role for interferons. Dept. Epidemiology, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, February 2015. Invited speaker.
- To understand the genetics of C-reactive protein (CRP): a mega meta-GWAS project. Dept. Epidemiology, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, February 2015. Invited speaker.

- An in silico post-GWAS analysis of C-reactive protein loci: a pipeline of sequential bioinformatics-based approaches. International genetics congress, Tehran, Iran, May 2014. Invited keynote speaker.
- A pipeline of sequential bioinformatics-based approaches for post-GWAS analysis of GWAS findings. University Medical Center Groningen, the Netherlands, January 2014. Invited speaker.
- Understanding the genetics of inflammatory markers: a meta-GWAS approach. CHARGE Investigator meeting, Reykjavik, Iceland, May 2012. Invited speaker.

## **Poster presentations**

- An in silico post-GWAS analysis of C-reactive protein loci: a pipeline of sequential bioinformatics-based approaches (Abstract 1541T). Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG), San Diego, CA, October 2014.
- An in silico post-GWAS analysis of C-reactive protein loci reveals an important role for interferons. Netherlands Bioinformatics Conference (NBIC), Lunteren, the Netherlands, April 2014.
- A bioinformatics-based in silico post-GWAS analysis of CRP variants. CHARGE Investigator Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, January 2014.
- QCGWAS: a flexible R package for automated quality control of genome-wide association results files. Congress of the Netherlands Consortium for Healthy Ageing (NCHA), the Hague, the Netherlands, December 2013.
- A bioinformatics-based in silico post-GWAS analysis of CRP variants. Annual conference of the Netherlands epidemiology society (WEON), Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 2013.

## **Training courses**

- Project Management for Scientific Research (Groningen, the Netherlands)
- Publishing in English (Groningen, the Netherlands)
- English presentation course (Groningen, the Netherlands)
- The Basic Course in Human Genetics (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)
- Classical Methods in Data Analysis (Utrecht, the Netherlands)
- The SNP Course (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)
- The Basic Course on 'R' (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)
- From DNA variations to phenotype (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)
- Genetic Epidemiological Research and Data Analysis (Groningen, the Netherlands)
- Molecular Genetics and Genomics (Seattle, WA, USA)
- Regression and Analysis of Variance (Seattle, WA, USA)
- Population Genetics (Seattle, WA, USA)
- Human Association Mapping (Seattle, WA, USA)
- Human Quantitative Genetics (Seattle, WA, USA)
- GWAS Data Cleaning (Seattle, WA, USA)
- Introduction to Clinical and Public Health Genomics (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)
- Mixed Effects Models for Longitudinal and Cross Sectional Data (Groningen, the Netherlands)

- Bioinformatics Course: Browsing Genes and Genomes with Ensembl (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)
- Bioinformatics Course: High-throughput next-generation biology (Groningen, the Netherlands)
- Bioinformatics Course: NCBI & other open source software (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)