

# Curriculum Vitae

## Jada Benn Torres

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### Education

**Ph.D. Anthropology, 2006**

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

**M.S. Anthropology, 2001**

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

**B.A. Pre-professional Studies/Anthropology and Computer Applications, 1999**

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

### Academic Honors

- 2005 Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellow, Honorable Mention
- 2002-2005 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow
- 2000-2002 Gates Millennium Graduate Scholar (Inaugural class)
- 1999 Lambda Alpha Anthropology National Collegiate Honors Society for Anthropology, Beta chapter of Indiana
- 1998-1999 Sankofa Scholar
- 1998-1999 Candax McNair Scholar
- 1997-1999 Philip Donahue Scholarship Recipient

### Teaching and Professional Experience

- 2008-present **Research Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame
- 2006-2008 **Postdoctoral Scholar**, Department of Medicine, Section of Genetic Medicine The University of Chicago
- 2005-2006 **Graduate and Teaching Assistant**, Department of Anthropology University of New Mexico
- 2003- 2005 **Visiting Scholar**, Department of Anthropology Arizona State University
- 2001-2002 **Graduate Assistant**, Department of Biology, Molecular Facilities University of New Mexico

- 2000-2003 **Research Assistant**, Laboratory of Molecular Anthropology, Department of Anthropology  
University of New Mexico
- 1999-2000 **Research Assistant**, Osteology Laboratory, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
University of New Mexico
- 1999-2000 **Gallery Aid**, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
University of New Mexico

## **Publications**

**Benn-Torres, J.**, Bonilla, C., Robbins, C.M., Waterman, L., Moses, T.Y., Hernandez, W., Santos, E.R., Bennett, F., Aiken, W., Tullock, T., Coard, K., Hennis, A., Wu, S., Nemesure, B., Leske, C. M., Freeman, V., Carpten, J., Kittles, R.A. (2008) Admixture and Population Stratification in African Caribbean Populations. *Annals of Human Genetics*, 72, 90-98.

Robbins, C.M., **Benn-Torres, J.**, Hooker, S., Bonilla, C., Hernandez, W., Candreva, A., Ahaghotu, C., Kittles, R.A., Carpten, J. (2007) Confirmation study of prostate cancer risk variants at 8q24 in African Americans identifies a novel risk locus. *Genome Research* 17, 1717-1722

**Benn-Torres, J.** & Kittles, R.A. The relationship between "race" and genetics in biomedical research. (2007) *Current Hypertension Reports*, 9, 196-201.

**Benn-Torres, J.**, Kittles, R.A. & Stone, A.C. Mitochondrial and Y Chromosome Diversity in the English-Speaking Caribbean. (2007) *Annals of Human Genetics* 71 (6), 782-790.

Kyker, K.D., Likos, A.M., Blair, F.C., Kurien, B.T., Hala'sz, H., **Benn, J.** and Broyles, R.H. (1994) Hemoglobin switching in heterokaryons; Conservation of trans-acting factors that mediate developmental gene regulation. In *Molecular Biology of Hemoglobin Switching* (G. Stamatoyannopoulos, ed) Intercept Ltd., Andover, Hampshire, UK, Chap. 26, pp. 313-329.

## ***Works in Progress***

**Benn-Torres, J.** and Stone, A.C. Mitochondrial Genetic Diversity in Ghana, West Africa

**Benn-Torres, J.** and Kittles, R.A. Sex-linked haplotypes in populations of African descent

**Benn-Torres, J.**, and Kittles, R.A. Genetic ancestry and Uterine Leiomyomata Risk

Lucas, C., **Benn-Torres, J.**, Kittles, R.A. SLC7A11 and Human Skin Pigmentation

## ***Technical reports***

Ozlin, E.G., Carson, E.A.; **Benn, J.**, Potter, W.E., (2000) Report of Investigation: OMI #3545-7000-IRA

Ozlin, E.G., Rhoads, M.L., **Benn, J.**, Potter, W.E., Prilop, V. (2000) Report of investigation: OMI # 476-200-13V

Komar, D., **Benn, J.** (2000) Report of Investigation: OMI #4115-800-3

## **Invited Lecture and Addresses**

2008 “Genetic Ancestry in African Americans and Native Americans: An Anthropological Perspective”, Chicago Public Radio Science Outreach

2004 “Afro- Caribbean Ancestry and Admixture throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean”, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, Morne Fortune, Castries, Saint Lucia; St. Vincent Community College, Kingstown, St. Vincent; University of the West Indies, St. Vincent Center, Kingstown, St. Vincent

### **Presentations**

2007 “A comparative analysis of Y chromosome variability and admixture in Cape Verde, Sao Tome, and seven Anglophone Caribbean Islands”, American Association of Physical Anthropologist annual meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2005 “MtDNA Diversity in Six West Indian Islands throughout the Anglophone Caribbean”, American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2001 “A comparison of population distances calculated from genetic loci and dental morphological trait frequency Data” American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Kansas City, Missouri

### **Posters**

2005 Biogeographical Ancestries throughout the Anglophone Caribbean. Gates Millennium Scholars Alumni meeting November Los Angeles, California

2004 Genetic Diversity in an urban population in West Africa: a preliminary analysis. American Society of Human Genetics Meetings, Toronto, Canada

2001 Y-chromosome STR analysis in *Pan troglodytes*. March 2001 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Meetings, Kansas City, Missouri

### **Professional Memberships**

American Society of Human Genetics  
 American Anthropological Association  
 American Association of Physical Anthropologists  
 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc

### **Research**

2002-2006 African Ancestry and Admixture Estimates in the Anglophone Caribbean

2000-2002 Y-chromosome STR analysis in *Pan troglodytes* with Jamie Smith and Anne Stone,

1999-2000 Osteological analysis of human remains from Jemez and Chaco Canyon with Debora Komar

1999 Biometric analysis of femora from an early Christian Jerusalem monastery with Susan Sheridan

1999 Drug effectiveness on myocardial infarction using a canine model with Stephen Hull

1995 Incontinence survey in the senior female population in Oklahoma County with Ella Kay Slagle

1994 Hemoglobin switching in *Rana catesbeiana* with Robert Broyles

### **Professional Interests**

My interests lie in understanding both the unifying and dichotomizing factors that underlie the diversity found in the African Diaspora. I approach this issue from primarily an anthropological genetic perspective with particular interests in the biological repercussions of the transatlantic slave trade on populations of African descent, biogeographical ancestry, and genetic adaptations to the environment and or culture, as well as disease susceptibility/resistance. Additionally, I am interested in exploring the genetics behind health disparities in uterine fibroids in women of African descent.

### **Academic and Community Service**

2005 Gates Millennium Scholar Program Service Project with the Red Cross  
2002 Minority Affairs Committee, University of New Mexico  
1999-2000 School Science & Mathematics Association ACT/SAT preparation course, University of New Mexico

### **Computer Skills**

Proficient in Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, Statistica, SPSS  
Working knowledge of various genetic statistical programs including, Arlequin, Structure, Plink, Haploview  
Working knowledge of Perl and R scripting

### **Languages**

Advanced level in reading, writing, and conversational Spanish