

EDUCATION

- 2021–2027
(*expected*) **University of California**, Irvine, CA
Ph.D. in Informatics
Graduate Certificate in Public Health Informatics
Advisor: *Dr. Yunan Chen*
- 2020–2021 **University of Maryland**, College Park, MD
M.S. in Computer Science
Scholarly Paper: *Opportunities to Support Kids’ Agency and Well-being: A Review of Kids’ Wearables*
Advisor: *Dr. Eun Kyoung Choe*
- 2015–2019 **University of Maryland**, College Park, MD
B.S. in Computer Science, B.A. in Germanic Studies
Advisor: *Dr. Leilani Battle*

SKILLS

- Research:** Qualitative Methods, Surveys, Human-Centered Design, Research-Practice Partnerships
- Technologies:** Linux, Git, SQL, D3, Tableau, Power BI, Figma, Dedoose, Qualtrics, HTML/ CSS, L^AT_EX
- Languages:** Python, R, JavaScript, Java

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2025 UCI CORCL Award (\$3,352)– *Empowering Families Experiencing Housing Insecurity: Data-Driven Tools for Complex Care Coordination*
- 2024 GAANN Fellowship (tuition & stipend)
CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women
- 2022 GAANN Fellowship (tuition & stipend)
- 2021 Recruitment Fellowship, UC Irvine (\$5,000)
Chair’s Award, UC Irvine School of Information and Computer Sciences (\$2,000)
Competitive Edge Summer Research Fellowship, UC Irvine (\$5,000)
GAANN Fellowship (tuition & stipend)
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention
- 2020 First Place in Design Challenge, Terps Makeathon (\$600)
- 2019 Student Commencement Speaker, UMD School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
- 2018 Sarah Reehl Scholarship, UMD Department of Computer Science (\$2,000)
- 2017 German Society of Maryland Scholarship (\$1,000)
Anneliese and Alfred Strauch Scholarship for Foreign Language Study (\$500)
- 2016 Grace Hopper Scholarship, Maryland Center for Women in Computing
- 2014 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship (fully funded exchange program)

PUBLICATIONS

* denotes equal contribution

Journal Publications (Peer Reviewed)

- [J3] **“How Did We Miss It?”: Examining the Infrastructural Work of Practitioners Supporting Housing Insecure and Foster Youth Students.** Rachael Zehrung, Lora Cawelti, Erica Van Steenis, Verenis Ponce Soria, Guadalupe Aileen Mendoza, Richard Arum, Yunan Chen, June Ahn. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*. 9, 7 (2025).
- [J2] **Transitioning Together: Collaborative Work in Adolescent Chronic Illness Management.** Rachael Zehrung, Madhu Reddy, and Yunan Chen. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*. 8, CSCW2 (2024).
- [J1] **Exploring Patient-Generated Annotations to Digital Clinical Symptom Measures to Promote Patient-Centered Communication.** Eunkyung Jo, Rachael Zehrung, Katherine E. Genuario, Alexandra Papoutsaki, and Daniel A. Epstein. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*. 8, CSCW2 (2024).

Conference Proceedings (Peer Reviewed)

- [C5] **Investigating the effects of housing instability on depression, anxiety, and mental health treatment in childhood and adolescence.** Rachael Zehrung, * Di Hu, * Yawen Guo, Kai Zheng, and Yunan Chen. *Proceedings of the 2024 American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium (AMIA)*.
- [C4] **Self-Expression and Sharing around Chronic Illness on TikTok.** Rachael Zehrung and Yunan Chen. *Proceedings of the 2023 American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium (AMIA)*.
- [C3] **Perspectives on Privacy in the Post-Roe Era: A Mixed-Methods of Machine Learning and Qualitative Analyses of Tweets.** Yawen Guo, Rachael Zehrung, Katherine Genuario, Xuan Lu, Qiaozhu Mei, Yunan Chen, and Kai Zheng. *Proceedings of the 2023 American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium (AMIA)*.
- [C2] **Vis Ex Machina: An Analysis of Trust in Human versus Algorithmically Generated Visualization Recommendations.** Rachael Zehrung, * Astha Singhal, * Michael Correll, and Leilani Battle. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '21)*.
- [C1] **Living with Uncertainty and Stigma: Self-Experimentation and Support-Seeking around Polycystic Ovary Syndrome.** Shaan Chopra, Rachael Zehrung, Tamil Arasu Shanmugam, and Eun Kyoung Choe. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '21)*.

Workshops, Posters, and Technical Reports (Lightly Peer Reviewed)

- [L3] **Understanding and Designing for Family Transitions in Supportive Housing.** Rachael Zehrung. *Doctoral Consortium: Companion Publication of the 2025 Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW Companion '25)*.
- [L2] **Rare Aesthetic: Lived Experiences, Challenges, and Support-Seeking Practices of Adolescents with Rare Diseases on TikTok.** Rachael Zehrung, Zhaoyuan “Nick” Su, Yunan Chen. *Proceedings of the 2022 American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium (AMIA)*.
- [L1] **Investigating Opportunities to Support Kids’ Agency and Well-being: A Review of Kids’ Wearables.** Rachael Zehrung, Lily Huang, Bongshin Lee, Eun Kyoung Choe. *Technical Report (2021)*.

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California, Irvine

- INF 173: Consumer Health Informatics (Spring 2023 *with Dr. Yunan Chen*)
- INF 133: User Interaction Software (Fall 2022)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland, College Park

- INST 327: Database Design and Modeling (Spring 2021)
- CMSC 838X: Personal Health Informatics and Visualization (Fall 2020 *with Dr. Eun Kyoung Choe*)

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland, College Park

- CMSC 132: Object-Oriented Programming II (Spring 2018)
- CMSC 131: Object-Oriented Programming I (Fall 2017)
- CMSC 250: Discrete Structures (Spring 2017, Fall 2017)

EMPLOYMENT

Aug 2021– present	University of California , Irvine, CA Graduate Researcher (<i>with Dr. Yunan Chen</i>)
June 2025– Aug 2025	Chang Gung University , Taoyuan City, Taiwan Visiting Researcher (<i>with Dr. Angela Shin-Yu Lien and Dr. Chih-Yuan Yang</i>)
June 2024– Sept 2024	Yakima Neighborhood Health Services , Yakima, WA Program Evaluation Intern
July 2023– June 2024	University of California , Irvine, CA Student Ambassador for Diversity and Inclusion in Informatics
May 2020– Aug 2020	University of Maryland , College Park, MD Graduate Research Assistant (<i>with Dr. Eun Kyoung Choe</i>)
Jan 2020– May 2020	Maryland Population Research Center , College Park, MD Graduate Administrative Assistant
May 2019– Dec 2019	University of Maryland , College Park, MD Post-baccalaureate Researcher (<i>with Dr. Leilani Battle</i>)
May 2018– Aug 2018	The Vanguard Group , Malvern, PA Software Engineer Intern
May 2017– Aug 2017	The Vanguard Group , Charlotte, NC Software Engineer Intern
May 2016– Aug 2016	Laboratory for Telecommunication Sciences , College Park, MD Security Research Intern

SERVICE

Program Committee: ACM CSCW Posters (Associate Chair): 2025

Reviewing: ACM CSCW: 2025[†]
ACM CHI: 2023, 2024[†], 2025[†], 2026
ACM DIS Pictorials: 2025
AMIA: 2022-24

[†]*special recognition for outstanding review*

Leadership: Writing Mentor, Code to PhD: 2025
Writing Mentor, UCI Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF): 2023
Mentor, UCI Competitive Edge Summer Research Program: 2022
Mentor, Technica (Hackathon): 2020
Outreach Ambassador, Maryland Center for Women in Computing: 2016

Research Mentorship: Mohamed Elsayed, BEng Electrical Engineering, NUS: Summer & Fall 2025
Nelson Huang, BPsych (Hons), USYD: Summer 2025
Darren Prince, BSc (Hons) Medical Biochemistry, Swansea University: Summer 2025

Student Volunteer: AMIA: 2023
ACM CHI PLAY: 2020

INVITED TALKS

Investigating Opportunities to Support Kids' Agency and Well-being: A Review of Kids' Wearables
HCIL Symposium 2021

SELECTED PRESS

What can a smartwatch for kids actually teach them? More than you think.
Verizon News Center (Audrey Smith, 2025)

<https://www.verizon.com/about/parenting/smartwatch-for-kids-build-confidence-life-skills>