

Cecilia Sena

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Education

- 2023 – Present Ph.D. *in progress*, Evolutionary Anthropology
University of New Mexico
Advisor: Dr. Ian Wallace
- 2023 – 2025 M.S., Evolutionary Anthropology
University of New Mexico
Committee: Dr. Ian Wallace (Chair), Dr. Melissa Emery Thompson, Dr. Martin Muller
- 2019 B.A., Evolutionary Biology of the Human Species & Ethnicity and Race Studies
Columbia University
Thesis: *Evaluating the taxonomic status of the “robust” australopithecines: a comparative analysis with papionins*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Christopher Gilbert

Employment History

- Graduate Researcher, 2023 – present, Orang Asli Health and Lifeways Project (OA HeLP)
- Graduate Research Assistant, 2023 – 2025, University of New Mexico
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Spring 2024, University of New Mexico
BIOL419/519/ANTH350/550 Human Genetics and Genomics, Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Long
- Research Associate, 2019 – 2023, Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Thaker Lab, Division of Molecular Genetics, Department of Pediatrics

Professional Recognition and Honors

- Graduate Research Fellow, National Science Foundation, 2024 – 2029
- Hibben Recruitment Fellow, University of New Mexico, 2023 – 2025
- Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology Thesis Prize,
Columbia University, 2019

Scholarly Achievements

Articles Appearing in Chapters in Edited Volumes

Frost SF, **Sena CMT**, and Gilbert CC, 2026. Plio-Pleistocene cercopithecoid evolution and biogeography: a contemporaneous comparison with Paranthropus. In: Constantino PJ, Reed KE, Wood BA (Eds.), *The Forgotten Lineage(s): Paleobiology of Paranthropus*. Springer Nature.

Articles Published in Refereed Journals

Guo A, Tillotson C, **Sena C**, Muthukumar A, Pantrangi M, Ganapathi M, Gewartowska O, Krawczyk PS, Thaker VV, Semenova E, 2026. Impaired Bone Matrix Turnover with Selective Small Bone Fragility in a Child with TENT5A-Associated Osteogenesis Imperfecta. *JBMR Plus*.

Bhuiyan MKBO, Baca P, Hinz E, Kiel E, Kotra KK, Mattison P, McGrosky A, Mercado D, Pontzer H, **Sena CMT**, Towner MC, Wander K, Wallace IJ, Cully SM, 2026. Reduced Fat Oxidation as a Potential Pathway Linking Early-Life Adversity to Obesity Risk: Evidence From Vanuatu. *American Journal of Human Biology*.

Wallace IJ, Felson DT, Kraus VB, Neogi T, Haugen IK, Huebner JL, **Sena CMT**, Kivell TL, Holowka NB, Worthington S, Lim YAL, Venkataraman VV, Kraft TS, Lea AJ, 2025. Dampened inflammation and reduced risk of osteoarthritis among non-industrialized societies. *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage*

Sena C, Della Torre J, Garg E, Zheng H, Partida I, Thaker SK, Woo Baidal J, Shamsian DV, Rausch JR, Thaker VV, 2025. Psychological attributes and eating behaviors in 5- to 12-year-old children during periods of stress. *Obesity (Silver Spring)*.

Sena C, Ohene-Adjei M, Deng S, Patibandla N, May B, de Ferranti SD, Starc TJ and Thaker VV, 2023. Lack of age-appropriate reference intervals causing potentially missed alerts in clinical reports of dyslipidemia. *The Journal of Pediatrics*.

Sena C, Iannello G, Skowronski AA, Dannheim K, Cheung L, Agrawal PB, Hirschhorn JN, Zeitler P, LeDuc CA, Stratigopoulos G and Thaker VV, 2022. Endocrine and behavioural features of Lowe syndrome and their potential molecular mechanisms. *Journal of Medical Genetics*.

Chen X, Deng S, **Sena C**, Zhou C and Thaker, VV, 2021. Relationship of TSH levels with cardiometabolic risk factors in US youth and reference percentiles for thyroid function. *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*.

Iannello G, **Sena C**, Pais L, Seaby E, Sathanayagam R, Ebrahim N, Genetti C, Rajabi F, Schreiber J, Sutherland J, Turer E, Kurtovic- Kozaric A, Schmitz-Abe K, Felipe D, Picker J, Hirschhorn JN, Agrawal P, 2021. Genetic Study in a Cohort of Children with ROHHAD Syndrome. *Journal of the Endocrine Society*.

Other Scholarly Works

“Treatment of Patients Exhibiting Novel Phenotype Associated with Frameshift Mutation in *OCRL1*” Provisional Patent No. 63/416,793

Filed October 17, 2022 by Columbia Technology Ventures on behalf of inventors

Vidhu Thaker, George Stratigopoulos, Charles LeDuc, Cecilia Sena, Grazia Iannello, Barbara Corneo

Contributed Abstracts and Oral Presentations at Professional Meetings

**denotes presenting author*

Osteoarthritis proteomic biomarkers are influenced by lifestyle among the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia.

Sena CMT*, Lea AJ, Kraft TS, Venkataraman VV, Lim YAL, Tan Boon Huat TB, Tam KL, Sayed IbM, Kivell TL, Kraus VB, Huebner JL, Wallace IJ.

American Association of Biological Anthropologists Annual Meeting.

March 2026, Denver, CO.

Energy devoted to ceremonial dance and music among the Temiar of Peninsular Malaysia.

Martinez JL*, Holowka NB, Effendee TNb, Tam KL, Fadzil KSb, Ham Rb, Nicholas C, Tan Boon Huat TB, **Sena CMT**, Amorim FT, Quinton DP, Sayed IbM, Lim YAL, Lea AJ, Kraft TS, Venkataraman VV, Wallace IJ.

American Association of Biological Anthropologists Annual Meeting.

March 2026, Denver, CO.

Greater time spent in low-intensity physical activity is associated with reduced bone catabolism among the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia.

Sena CMT*, Tennyson RL, Kraft TS, Lea AJ, Venkataraman VV, Lim YAL, Ng KS, Kivell TL, Kraus VB, Huebner JL, Wallace IJ

American Association of Biological Anthropologists Annual Meeting.

March 2025, Baltimore, MD.

Physical activity and bone metabolism among the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia.

Sena CMT*, Tennyson RL, Kraft TS, Lea AJ, Venkataraman VV, Lim YAL, Ng KS, Kivell TL, Kraus VB, Huebner JL, Wallace IJ

Southwest Association of Biological Anthropologists Annual Meeting.

October 2024, Albuquerque, NM.

Expanding the phenotype of Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) XVIII.

Tillotson C, Muthukumar A, **Sena C**, Pantrangi M, Ganapathi M, Thaker VV

Pediatric Endocrine Society Annual Meeting.

May 2023, San Diego, CA.

Genetic study in a cohort of children with ROHHAD Syndrome.

Sena C*, Genneti C, Iannello G, Pais L, Nguyen M, Agrawal P, Thaker VV.

Columbia University Irving Medical Center Department of Pediatrics Fellows Research Day.

May 2022, New York, NY.

Endocrine features of Lowe syndrome and their potential molecular mechanisms.

Sena C*, Iannello G, Skowronski AA, Dannheim K, Cheung L, Agrawal PB, Hirschhorn JN, Zeitler P, LeDuc CA, Stratigopoulos G, Thaker VV

Pediatric Endocrine Society Annual Meeting.

April 2022, Virtual.

Impact of Covid-19 restrictions on children 5-13 years of age in New York City.

Sena C, Della Torre J, Thaker VV, Rausch J, Shamsian DV*

Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting.

May 2021, Virtual.

Impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on eating behaviors and mental well-being of children 5-12 years of age in Middlesex County, NJ.

Iofel E*, Quinn M, **Sena C**, Thaker V

North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Annual Meeting
December 2021, Virtual.

Underdiagnoses of dyslipidemia in children by use of adult reference ranges.

Ohene-Adjei M, Deng S, **Sena C***, Pavlicova M, Starc T, Thaker VV

New York City Regional Obesity Forum.

September 2019, New York, NY.

Research

Research Funding

Evolutionary Anthropology Travel Award
Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico
Spring 2025
\$500

Graduate Research Fellowship
National Science Foundation
2024 – 2029
\$37,000 + \$16,000 cost of education allowance per funded year

Evolutionary Anthropology Research Award
Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico
Summer 2024
\$2,500

Professional Development Grant
Graduate and Professional Student Association, University of New Mexico
Spring 2024
\$305

Graduate Scholarship
New Mexico Higher Education Department
2023, 2024
\$7,200 per annum

Senior Thesis Grant
Columbia College, Columbia University
Fall 2018
\$250

Senior Thesis Research Grant
Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, Columbia University
Summer 2018
\$3,000