

Yahan Li

[Personal Website <https://www.yahan-li.com>]

[Email yahanli@usc.edu]

EDUCATION

- 08/2024 - 05/2028
(expected) **University of Southern California**
Ph.D. in Computer Science | Advisor: Ruishan Liu
Research Interest: LLM Post-Training & Evaluation, Clinical NLP, Machine Learning for Healthcare
- 08/2022 - 12/2023 **Johns Hopkins University**
M.S.E. in Computer Science | Research Advisor: Mark Dredze
- 08/2019 - 12/2021 **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**
B.S.E. in Computer Science, minor in Mathematics
Transferred from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Large-Scale
Benchmarking [CounselBench: A Large-Scale Expert Evaluation and Adversarial Benchmarking of Large Language Models in Mental Health Question Answering](#)
[Li, Y., Yao, J., Bunyi, J., Frank, A., Hwang, A., Liu, R.](#)
ICLR (Oral), 2026
[Website | Code | arXiv: 2506.08584]
- LLM Robustness
& Safety Evaluation [Beyond Idealized Patients: Evaluating LLMs under Challenging Patient Behaviors in Medical Consultations](#)
[Li, Y.*](#), [Jie, X.*](#), [Ruan, W.](#), [Zhang, X.](#), [Zhu, H.](#), [Gao, Y.](#), [Liu, R.](#)
ICLR Trustworthy AI Workshop, 2026
- Clinical Domain
Adaptation
& Finetuning [Are Clinical T5 Models Better for Clinical Text?](#)
[Li, Y.*](#), [Harrigian, K.*](#), [Zirikly, A.](#), [Dredze, M.](#)
In Proceedings of Machine Learning for Health (ML4H) Symposium 2024
[Poster | Code | arXiv: 2412.05845]

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 08/2024 – present **Laboratory for Machine Learning, Health and Biomedicine, USC**
Research Assistant, mentored by Prof. Ruishan Liu
LLM post-training and evaluation for healthcare.
Differentially private synthetic data generation.
- 02/2023 – 06/2024 **Center of Language and Speech Processing (CLSP), JHU**
Research Assistant, mentored by Prof. Mark Dredze
Fine-tuning and evaluation of clinical language models for medical NLP tasks.
Large-scale data processing and instruction tuning for clinical LLMs.
- 11/2020 – 12/2021 **Computational Autonomy and Robotics Laboratory, UMich**
Undergraduate Research Assistant, mentored by Prof. Maani Ghaffari
Lightweight semantic segmentation neural networks.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 04/2022 – 07/2022 **ByteDance, Beijing, China**
Software Development Engineer Intern
- 06/2021 – 08/2021 **Expedia Group, Remote in U.S.**
Software Development Engineer Intern

SKILLS

- Programming Python, JavaScript, C++
- ML Frameworks Pytorch, verl, vLLM, Hugging Face Transformers, TRL, DeepSpeed, Scikit-learn