



**Xiang Gao, MD, PhD**, is currently an instructor in medicine at Harvard University, associate epidemiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and research scientist at Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA. Dr. Gao received his M.D. from Shanghai Second Medical University in 1994, MS in Epidemiology & Biostatistics from Chinese Academy of Medical Science & Peking Union Medical College in 2001, and Ph.D. in Nutritional Epidemiology from Tufts University in 2005. Dr. Gao won the Irwin H. Rosenberg Pre-doctoral Award from the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts in 2006, and the Mentored Clinical Research Award from the PSG in 2007.

The primary purpose of Dr. Gao's current research is to identify the environmental risk factors of Parkinson's disease (PD) and restless legs syndrome (RLS) using some large ongoing cohorts in US. Dr. Gao's research interests also include dietary methodology, nutrition policy, cognitive function, and international health. He has published ~ 40 original articles and is first or senior author on ~25. He is reviewer for 10 peer-reviewed journals, including JAMA and Ann Intern Med (top 10% reviewer in 2007), and serves on the editorial board of Nutrition and Metabolic Insights (2008). His major findings regarding PD include 1) that a health overall dietary pattern and a higher dietary urate index are associated with a lower risk of developing PD; 2) that erectile dysfunction and perceived imbalance precede onset of classic motor symptoms of PD; and 3) that pigmentation phenotype (e.g. hair color) and genotype (e.g., MC1R polymorphism) are associated with PD risk.

Representative Publications:

**Gao X**, Simon KC, Han J, Schwarzschild MA, Ascherio A. Genetic determinants of hair color and Parkinson's disease risk. *Ann Neurol* 2009;65:76-82.

**Gao X**, Simon KC, Han J, Schwarzschild MA, Ascherio A. Family history of melanoma and Parkinson disease risk. *Neurology* 2009;73:1286-1291.  
<http://www.neurology.org/cgi/content/full/73/16/1286>

**Gao X**, Chen H, Choi HK, Curhan G, Schwarzschild MA, Ascherio A. Diet, urate, and risk of Parkinson disease. *Am J Epidemiol* 2008;167:831-8.

**Gao X**, Chen H, Schwarzschild MA, Logroscino G, Ascherio A. Perceived imbalance and risk of Parkinson's disease. *Mov Disord* 2008;23:613-6.

**Gao X**, Chen H, Fung TT, Logroscino G, Schwarzschild MA, Hu FB, Ascherio A. Prospective study of dietary pattern and risk of Parkinson's disease. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2007; 86:1486-1494.

**Gao X**, Chen H, Schwarzschild MA, Glasser DB, Logroscino G, Rimm EB, Ascherio A. Erectile Function and Risk of Parkinson's Disease. *Am J Epidemiol* 2007;166:1446-50.