



## Newsletter of the Population Sciences Research Program at MSK

### Letter from the Editor

A note from PSRP News' Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Lisa Carter-Harris



As summer starts to wind down and the last of the summer wine is consumed, we reflect on the unexpected year we have had thus far. The last time the PSRP faculty met as a group, no one could have predicted the year that would unfold.

Our city, our country, and our planet have experienced incredible loss and disruption. For some of us, we went from long daily commutes to trying to figure out what to do with the extra 2-3 hours gained in our day. Others have been balancing their rock star scientist roles with serving as teacher, principal, lunch person and after school caregiver all rolled into one during the same 8 hours of the day. Whew! Many who thought they were not technologically savvy have learned to Zoom with the best of them including background changes. Yet other have shown us that social distancing does not necessarily have to equate to social isolation from Zoom baby showers to Zoom happy hours to Zoom fellows' graduations to Zoom weddings...man, I should have bought stock in Zoom! But seriously, it is incredibly inspiring to see the amazing work that PSRP faculty and the entire institution has been doing to advance science in this time of extreme uncertainty during a global pandemic. As your new Editor-in-Chief of the PSRP Newsletter, I am very excited and humbled to have the opportunity to reintroduce the PSRP program, mission, vision and goals in this issue. MSK's Population Science Research Program's ultimate goal is to reduce the morbidity and mortality of cancer and its long-term effects across diverse populations and is a cross-cutting area of research that addresses

contemporary issues across the cancer care continuum. In the coming months, we have an exciting line-up of seminar series planned under the direction of the new seminar series leadership of Dr. Jun Mao. These seminars will be held in the Land of Zoom for now until it is safe to gather once again. We will also be producing the newsletter on a quarterly basis with timely and relevant content and most importantly, an opportunity to highlight the wonderful work being done by our members. Please be on the look-out for emails from our superstar editorial team asking for your updates, accolades, newsworthy moments, and things you want to share with your colleagues. Finally, and a bit reluctantly, as a brief introduction, I joined the faculty at MSK in December 2018 in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences. I am a Behavioral Scientist with a passion for understanding and improving clinical care from the patient perspective and I have spent my time in research exploring phenomenon like stigma, mistrust, health beliefs, and decision-making in the context of lung cancer and lung cancer screening. On a personal note, I am originally from Louisville, Kentucky and have two college age kids (not sure how that many years passed – I mean I'm only 29!). Gabriella is a freshman at the University of Cincinnati majoring in digital collaborative media and minoring in organizational psychology, and Zachary is a junior at Indiana University majoring in computer science and minoring in mathematics. Needless to say, it is truly my pleasure to get to know all of the PSRP members by serving in this capacity. Thank you for this opportunity!

With regards,

Lisa Carter-Harris, PhD, APRN, ANP-C, FAAN

### Grants

Congratulations to the following PSRP members who received funding as Principal Investigators or Co-Principal Investigators

PI/Co-PI/MPI	Institute (Mechanism)	Project Title
Dr. William Breitbart	NCI (R25)	Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy Training Program for Cancer Care Clinicians
Dr. Gary Deng	PCORI	Opioid-sparing Pain Treatment In Myeloma And Lymphoma Patients Undergoing High-Dose Chemotherapy (OPTIMAL-HiChemo)
Dr. Francesca Gany	Cigna Foundation	MSK's Immigrant Health & Cancer Disparities (IHCD) service's Integrated Cancer Care Access Network (ICCAN)
Dr. Erin Gillespie	NCI (K08)	Leveraging implementation science to accelerate adoption of shorter-course radiation for breast and prostate cancer
Dr. Peter Kingham	NCI (R01)	Determining the risk factor profile and biology of colorectal cancer in Nigeria
	NIBIB (UH3)	Point of care, real-time urine metabolomics test to diagnose colorectal cancers and polyps in low- and middle-income countries
Dr. Carl Landgren	NCI (R01)	CD38-targeted immunoPET of myeloma: Phase 2 trial of clinical applications
Dr. Jun Mao	NCI (R01)	Effect and Mechanism of Acupuncture for Cancer-related Cognitive Impairment (ENHANCE)
Dr. Christian Nelson	NCI (R01)	Cancer and Aging Reflections for Elders (CARE): A Geriatric-Specific Psychotherapy for Older Adults with Cancer
Dr. Sohrab Shah	NIH (RM1)	Center for Integrated Cellular Analysis
	CDMRP (Department of Defense)	Dissecting the impact of mutational processes on therapeutic response in ovarian cancer
	Henry Jackson Foundation/(DOD)	Gynecological Cancer Center of Excellence

## An Interview with Dr. Jun Mao

Dr. Mao is Chief of the Integrative Medicine Service at MSK



Q&A  
Dr. Jun Mao

The PSRP Seminar Series has always served as a way to bring cutting edge research in population science up close and personal at MSK. As the new chair of the Population Science Research Program Seminar Series, can you speak to your vision for the seminar series going forward?

I'd love to engage the members of PSRP to bring exceptional and diverse population science investigators to present their novel and impactful research and simulate trans-disciplinary collaborations among MSK

researchers and clinicians.

As the Chief of the Integrative Medicine Service, what brings you the most professional satisfaction in addressing the holistic needs of cancer patients, survivors and their families? Conducting rigorous research to establish the evidence-base of integrative therapies for pain and symptom management is what I feel most passionate about. Seeing our research translated into clinical programs around the country and world is definitely very satisfying.

Do you have a protocol for addressing the holistic needs of cancer patients or do you customize every approach? At integrative medicine service, we work with patient's preferences and values to carefully incorporate lifestyle modifications, choose non-pharmacological symptom management strategies, and discuss herbal-drug safety and interactions. Our approach is definitely tailored to meet individual patient's needs.

As a past President of the Society of Integrative Oncology, how has that national leadership opportunity shaped the way you lead and/or practice today? What makes a good leader? It helps me appreciate the opportunity to serve. A good leader needs to both have the vision to advance the field but also the willingness to serve others so each person can thrive professionally and personally, as a result, the field will advance.

What is your best advice for holistically managing professional stress? Make sure to have some time for "Me" each day; exercise, meditate, or do something enjoyable besides work.

Finally, what is your favorite thing about working in the New York City area? Any special places you like to hang out or grab food? I love riding my bike through Central Park. Being in nature keeps me grounded and energized. I highly recommend Hui for spicy Chinese food near the hospital.

*Mark your calendar*

### PSRP Seminars

9/22	Michael Diefenbach, PhD Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, Northwell Health
10/20	Stacy Loeb, MD, MSc, PhD NYU School of Medicine and Manhattan Veterans Affairs Medical Center
11/17	Holly Prigerson, PhD Weill Cornell Medicine
12/15	Carol Horowitz, MD, MPH Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### PSRP News Editorial Staff

Lisa Carter-Harris, PhD, APRN, ANP-C, FAAN / Counseling Center  
Cynthia Berry / Epidemiology & Biostatistics  
Richard Koppenaal / Epidemiology & Biostatistics  
Shireen Lewis, MPA / Epidemiology & Biostatistics  
Maha Mamoor / Epidemiology & Biostatistics  
Leeza Menon / Immigrant Health & Cancer Disparities  
Nicole Rusk, PhD / Epidemiology & Biostatistics  
Meghan Woods, MPH / Epidemiology & Biostatistics

## PRSP Research Activities

Highlights of our members' research

### CISNET Spearheads Study On COVID-19

Dr. Ann Zauber's colorectal cancer (CRC) CISNET (Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network) microsimulation modeling team were asked by NCI director Dr. Ned Sharpless to provide estimates of excess CRC deaths due to delayed screening and diagnostic care in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her group concluded that even with relatively short delays (6 months) of screening and care, long term consequences are projected with an estimated 4,500 cumulative excess deaths from CRC by the year 2030. The full text of this work written by Dr. Ned Sharpless can be found in the June 19, 2020 issue of Science.

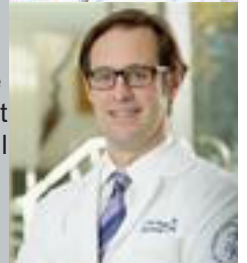
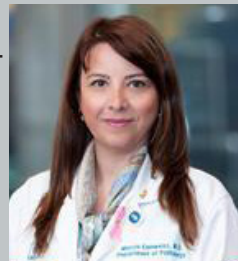


Dr. Ann Zauber

### GCDI's Project ECHO Launches Three New Initiatives

Even during the Global COVID 19 Pandemic, the work of the Global Cancer Disparities Initiatives program has continued. Despite being grounded, quite literally, in New York the GCDI program was able to successfully launch three virtual programs through Project ECHO. Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a movement to demopolize knowledge and amplify the capacity to provide best practice care for underserved people all over the world. It does this through the use of technology leveraging scarce resources and sharing best practices. In June, via zoom, GCDI launched the following:

- Colorectal Cancer Management (CCM ECHO) facilitated by Dr. Peter Kingham at MSK and Isaac Alatise at Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital (OAUTH) Nigeria launched June 4th.
- ARGO Pathology ECHO facilitated by Drs. Marcia Edelweiss and Peter Ntiamoah at MSK with Pathology partners from OAUTH and Lagos University Teaching Hospital in Nigeria launched June 18th.
- On July 23rd MSK in partnership with Brazilian Society of Pathologists launched "The Projeto ECHO de Patologia para Paises Africanos de Lingua Oficial Portuguesa (PALOPs). Participants joined from MSK, as well as hospitals in Angola, Brazil and Mozambique.



Dr. Marcia Edelweiss (top) and Dr. Peter Kingham

### Drs. Gillespie and Tsai publish two studies on COVID-19

In May, Dr. Erin Gillespie and Dr. Jillian Tsai published guidance for delivering radiation both for primary breast cancer (PMID: 32292842) and with palliative intent



Dr. Erin Gillespie (left) and Dr. Jillian Tsai

(PMID: 32363243) in the times of COVID, which have already been cited 30 and 12 times, respectively. In July they also published a commentary on the multidisciplinary approach incorporating telemedicine in head and neck cancer (PMID: 32639615). Additionally, they now have a mixed methods study of radiation oncologist experience overall with telemedicine for consultation and treatment planning in press at the International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology and Physics.