



## Newsletter of the Population Sciences Research Program at MSK

### Transdisciplinary Population Science Grants Awarded

Collaborative Studies Address Questions in Communication, Cognitive Function, Exercise, Diabetes



From L to R: Smita Banerjee, Koshy Alexander, Denise Correa, James Root, Behroze Vachha

Four projects were funded in the 5th round of MSK Transdisciplinary Populations Science awards, announced at the end of 2017.

**Smita Banerjee** (Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences) and **Koshy Alexander** (Medicine) were funded for their study, *Geriatrics Communication Skills Training Program for Oncology Clinicians to Improve Management of Care for Geriatrics Cancer Patients*. The investigators will examine the acceptability of a communication training program for providers who treat older adults, and the program's impact on both patient and physician outcomes.

**Denise Correa** (Neurology), **James Root** (Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences), and **Behroze Vachha** (Radiology) were funded for their study, *Longitudinal Neurocognitive and Neuroimaging Outcomes in Older Patients with Multiple Myeloma Treated with Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation*. This study will examine the influence of high-dose chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation on neurocognitive function, brain volume, and neural connectivity in older patients with multiple myeloma.

**Lee Jones** (Cardiology), **Lydia Finley** (SKI), and **Lukas Dow** (Weill Cornell) were funded for their study, *Exercise Regulation of Intestinal Stem Cell Biology and Function*. The goal of the study is to understand whether exercise-induced alterations in physiology regulate stem- and progenitor-cell biology in rats selected for low and high running capacity.

**Emily Tonorezos** (Medicine) and **Eric Pamer** (Medicine) were funded for their study, *OnFACT: Overnight Fasting After Completion of Therapy*. This trial will evaluate the impact of a 6-month, prolonged overnight fasting intervention on hemoglobin A1c and gut bacteria in insulin-resistant and pre-diabetic overweight and obese adult survivors of childhood cancer.

The Transdisciplinary Population Science Grants are supported by developmental funds from MSK's NCI Cancer Center Support Grant. Applications for the next round of awards are due September 7th. Proposals and requests for information should be directed to **Samantha Vasquez**, Assistant to Chairman, Epidemiology-Biostatistics [vasques2@mskcc.org](mailto:vasques2@mskcc.org).



From L to R: Lee Jones, Lydia Finley, Lukas Dow, Emily Tonorezos, Eric Pamer

### National Study Finds Decrease in Prostate Cancer Incidence

Trend Mirrors Changes in Screening While Mortality Reductions Diminish

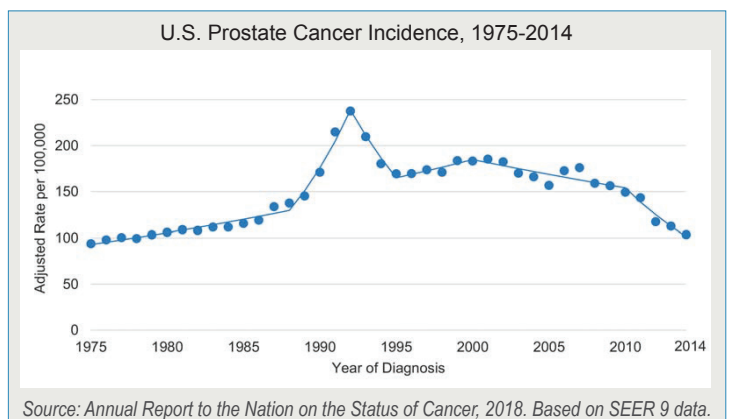
Prostate cancer incidence in the U.S. declined by more than 6% per year since 2007. The drop in new diagnoses, which peaked in 1993, closely follows trends in first-time prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening, which peaked between 1991 and 1992. These findings were reported in May in the Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer.

Studies questioning the benefit of routine PSA screening led to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's (USPSTF) recommendation *against* routine screening in 2012. Although prostate cancer mortality declined steadily from 1994 through 2013, recent analysis shows a tapering of mortality reductions since then. In addition, the incidence of late-stage prostate cancer diagnoses increased from 2010-2014.

Commenting on these findings, **Sigrid Carlsson** (Health Outcomes) said that the uptick in late-stage diagnoses and slowdown in mortality reductions were concerning. "Given the long natural history of prostate cancer, it is too soon to tell whether the decline in screening and cancer incidence has or will translate

into increased mortality," Carlsson said.

In 2017 the USPSTF changed its stance on PSA screening, recommending that men make individualized decisions. Carlsson cautioned against a return to the indiscriminate screening practices of the past. "What we need is dissemination and implementation of 'smarter' screening that focuses on men at increased risk of lethal prostate cancer," she suggested.



## PSRP Grants

**Sigrid Carlsson** (Health Outcomes) received an award from the Prevent Cancer Foundation for “Optimizing Prostate Cancer Screening Through the Electronic Health Record.”

**Sigrid Carlsson** (Health Outcomes) received an award from the Patty Brisben Foundation for “Improving Questions in Women’s Sexual Health.”

**Elena Elkin** (Health Outcomes) and **Jaya Satagopan** (Biostatistics) received an R25 from the NCI for “Quantitative Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (QSURE) Fellowship.”

**Francesca Gany** (Immigrant Health & Cancer Disparities) received an R01 from the NCI for “FOOD (Food to Overcome Outcomes Disparities).”

**Jada Hamilton** (Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences) received an R21 from the NCI for “Responses to Genetic Risk Modifier Testing Among Women with BRCA1/2 Mutations.”

**Elizabeth Kantor** (Epidemiology) received an R01 from the NCI for “Obesity, Chemotherapy Dosing, and Breast Cancer Outcomes.”

**Elizabeth Kantor** (Epidemiology) received an R03 from the NCI for “Characterizing the Role of Glucosamine and Chondroitin Supplements in the Prevention of Colorectal Tumors.”

## Mark your calendar

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>October 9</b>      | <b>PSRP Seminar</b><br><b>Aaron Carroll, MD MS</b><br>Indiana University<br>MSK M-107   4pm |
| <b>October 14-17</b>  | <b>Society for Medical Decision Making, Annual Meeting</b><br>Montreal, QC, Canada          |
| <b>October 16-20</b>  | <b>American Society of Human Genetics</b><br>San Diego, CA                                  |
| <b>November 10-14</b> | <b>American Public Health Association</b><br>San Diego, CA                                  |

## New in New Jersey

**Matt Matasar** (Medicine) was appointed Chief of Medical Oncology at the new MSK Bergen outpatient center in Montvale, NJ. The new facility offers provider consultations, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and radiation therapy, imaging, a cancer-specific retail pharmacy, genetic counseling, rehabilitation, social work, and nutrition services, and access to MSK clinical trials.

## PSRP Seminars



◀ **David Buller**, Klein Buendel, INC, presented *Sun Safe Workplaces: Building Durable Sun Protection on a Policy Foundation* on November 28, 2017.

▶ **Eric Schneider**, The Commonwealth Fund, presented *Quality Measurement to Support Delivery System Improvement: On Track or Off the Rails?* on February 27, 2018.



◀ **Heather Hampel**, Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, presented *How Tumor Sequencing Can Help Elucidate Unexpected or Uncertain MMR Findings* on April 19, 2018.

▶ **Marcella Nunez-Smith**, Equity Research and Innovation Center (ERIC), presented *Utilizing Community Engaged Research Principles to Build a Population Sciences Research Program Focused on Health Equity* on May 1, 2018.



◀ **Eliseo Pérez-Stable**, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, presented *Cancer Health Disparities: Role of Race and Ethnicity* on June 17, 2018.

## New Endowment for Survivorship Research Funds Will Support MSK Research Fellowship

A new endowment will support fellows’ research in cancer survivorship at MSK. The Kroll Family Fellowship in Survivorship was established by Janet Kroll in memory of her husband, Jerome Kroll.

The first recipient of the Kroll Fellowship is Niloufer Khan, now Hematology Chief Fellow at MSK. Her research addresses late effects of treatment in cancer survivors with a special focus on fertility outcomes. Working with **Talya Salz** (Health Outcomes) and **Matt Matasar** (Medicine) Khan plans to use population-based data from Denmark. In a cohort of lymphoma survivors, she will examine clinical fertility outcomes, such as parity rates, as well as the use of specific infertility treatments. Asked about the importance of this new fellowship, Salz said, “funding for survivorship research is so important, because the more we understand about the consequences of cancer and its treatment, the more effectively we can intervene to prevent them or lessen their harm.”

Dr. Khan received her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University and completed a dual residency in internal medicine and pediatrics residency at University of Chicago Hospitals.



Niloufer Khan

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