



## BIOSTATISTICS SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM  
485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- ❖ March 1, 2017 [Emily Zabor](#)  
MSK
- ❖ March 8, 2017 [Kay See Tan](#)  
MSK
- ❖ March 22, 2017 [Venkatraman Seshan](#)  
MSK
- ❖ March 29, 2017 [Chaya Moskowitz](#)  
MSK
- ❖ April 5, 2017 [Jeffrey Dawson](#)  
University of Iowa
- ❖ April 12, 2017 [Katherine Panageas](#)  
MSK
- ❖ April 19, 2017 [Li-Xuan Qin](#)  
MSK
- ❖ April 26, 2017 [Mithat Gonen](#)  
MSK

## HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM  
485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- ❖ February 17, 2017 [Alexis Pozen](#)  
CUNY School of Public Health
- ❖ March 3, 2017 [Jun Mao](#)  
MSK Integrative Medicine
- ❖ March 17, 2017 [Benjamin Roman](#)  
MSK Surgery
- ❖ March 31, 2017 [Emeline Aviki](#)  
MSK Surgery
- ❖ April 7, 2017 [Deborah Korenstein](#)  
MSK Medicine/  
MSK Health Policy
- ❖ April 14, 2017 [Sigrid Carlsson](#)  
MSK Epi-Bio
- ❖ April 28, 2017 [Shari Goldfarb](#)  
MSK Medicine

## SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RISK PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES

All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM  
1275 York Ave, M-107

- ❖ March 14, 2017 [Saro Armenian](#)  
City of Hope
- ❖ March 30, 2017 [Douglas Easton](#)  
University of Cambridge

## EPIDEMIOLOGY SERVICE MEETINGS

All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM  
485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- ❖ March 20, 2017 [Sara Olson](#)  
MSK
- ❖ April 17, 2017 [Irene Orlow](#)  
MSK



DEPARTMENT CHAIR  
Colin Begg, PhD  
EDITORS  
Sharon Bayuga, MPH  
Prusha Patel, MPH  
Narre Heon  
Lauren Rogak, MA  
Mary Shaw  
Amethyst Saldia  
Shireen Lewis, MPA  
Joseph Kanik

## PETER BACH ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

[Peter Bach](#), Director for Health Policy and Outcomes, was recently elected to the National Academy of Medicine, one of the highest honors in the field of health and medicine. Dr. Bach was recognized for his instrumental work in addressing the affordability of cancer treatment, racial disparities in cancer care, and the fragmentation of Medicare delivery. Additionally, Dr. Bach's data-driven advocacy has continued in the introduction of DrugAbacus, a user-friendly tool that integrates factors of clinical efficacy, side effects, and cost in an effort to highlight the ongoing problem of increasing drug prices.



Peter B. Bach, MD, MAPP

## GRANTS

A team led by Andrea Pusic (MSK Surgery), which includes [Andrew Vickers](#) and the Webcore staff, has received a grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to study the use of patient-reported outcomes in the few days after surgery to decrease the risk of complications and readmissions.

## PUBLICATIONS

[Victoria Blinder](#), [Carolyn Eberle](#), [Sujata Patil](#) and their colleagues, including Francesca Gany (Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences) co-authored a manuscript, "[Women with Breast Cancer who work for accommodating employers more likely to retain jobs after treatment](#)", that was recently accepted to Health Affairs. Victoria presented results from her study at a press conference that was held on February 7th. In what may be one of the first studies to evaluate the role of employer accommodations of low-income minority women following breast cancer treatment, the authors conducted a longitudinal study of a racially and ethnically diverse sample of employed women undergoing early-stage breast cancer treatment in New York City. Of the 267 participants, 32% had low household incomes (defined as <200% of the federal poverty level). The authors found that women with low incomes were half as likely as middle- and high-income women to have accommodating employers and only one-fourth as likely to retain their jobs. They concluded that this study provides strong evidence of a disparity in job accommodations and retention that affects women in low-income households.

[Peter Bach](#) and [Raina Jain](#) published two reports in January: "[Physician's office and hospital outpatient setting in Oncology: It's about prices, not use](#)", in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, and "[Hospital outpatient versus physician office cost for physician administered cancer drugs](#)", online at drugabacus.org on behalf of the Evidence Driven Drug Pricing Project. In both reports, Dr. Bach and Raina discuss cost differentials across two sites of oncology care: the hospital outpatient department and physician's office. The JCO piece responds to an accompanying article on the topic, while the EDDPP report reviews previous studies, focusing on the underlying differences between their methodologies and results.

[Thomas Atkinson](#), [Lauren Rogak](#), [Narre Heon](#), [Mary Shaw](#), [Ethan Basch](#) and their colleagues have co-authored a manuscript, "[Exploring differences in adverse symptom event grading thresholds between clinicians and patients in the clinical trial setting](#)", in the Journal of Cancer Research Clinical Oncology. The purpose of this manuscript was to characterize differences in adverse event grading thresholds between clinicians and patients using the Bayesian Graded Item Response Model (GRM). Using the physician, nurse, and patient reported adverse events from the medical charts of 393 patients receiving chemotherapy, a GRM was fitted to calculate the latent grading thresholds between the three groups. This analysis showed the different thresholds by symptom between physicians, nurses, and patients. This study provides evidence to support the assertion that patients report some adverse events that clinicians might not consider unless they are more severe. Further, GRM methodology could serve to enhance clinical understanding of the patient symptomatic experience and aid in the discussion where AE discrepancies exist.

## PRESENTATIONS

In October, [Carolyn Eberle](#) and [Victoria Blinder](#) presented [Patient-Reported Proxies to Control for Secular Trends in Longitudinal Research](#) at the International Society of Quality of Life Research Annual Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

## STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ **Coral Atoria** promoted to Research Biostatistician II
- ❖ **Helena Furberg-Barnes** promoted to Associate Attending
- ❖ **Renee Gennarelli** promoted to Assistant Research Biostatistician
- ❖ **Sami Noor** promoted to Research Secretary II
- ❖ **Pam Nunes** promoted to Research Study Specialist
- ❖ **Irina Ostrovnya** promoted to Associate Attending
- ❖ **Val Pocus** promoted to Data Analyst II
- ❖ **Dan Sjoberg** promoted to Senior Research Biostatistician
- ❖ **Ryan Weber** promoted to Data Analyst II

## 2016 SERVICE AWARDS

### 5 Year Milestone

- ❖ Melissa Budnick
- ❖ Sean Devlin
- ❖ Narre Heon
- ❖ Allison Lipitz-Snyderman
- ❖ Prusha Patel
- ❖ Stacey Petruzella
- ❖ Valerie Pocus

### 10 Year Milestone

- ❖ Joanne Chou
- ❖ Sujata Patil

### 15 Year Milestone

- ❖ Sharon Bayuga-Miller

### 20 Year Milestone

- ❖ Patricia Neary

### 25 Year Milestone

- ❖ Rita Krishtul
- ❖ Kai-Hsiung Lin
- ❖ Irene Orlow

## HOLIDAY PLANNING COMMITTEE

We would like to acknowledge and say thank you to the Planning Committee for helping to orchestrate another fabulous Epi/Bio Holiday Party:

- ❖ Melissa Assell
- ❖ Nicole Benfante
- ❖ Cynthia Berry
- ❖ Tania Celea
- ❖ Laritza Diaz
- ❖ Shireen Lewis
- ❖ Ethna McFerran
- ❖ Sami Noor
- ❖ Katie Parra
- ❖ Val Pocus

## RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS

**Alidoro:** Italian specialty sandwich shop with over 40 different sandwiches!! 18 E 39th St

**Totto Ramen:** one of the yummiest ramen restaurants in the city! They are known for their incredible chicken broth, but all items on the menu are very tasty. 248 E 52nd St

## NEW STAFF

### Laritza Diaz, Research Study Assistant

Laritza will be working with Jonine Bernstein, Malcolm Pike, Meg Woods, and Katie Parra on the IMAGINE Study. Laritza recently received her BA in Evolutionary Biology of the Human Species from Columbia University. She has previously assisted in research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and was a student advocate helping families obtain needed resources at Health Leads.



### Albert Pi, Program Analyst

2017 begins with an addition to the Computer Resource Group (CRG) in the form of their new Program Analyst, Albert Pi. Albert lives in the Long Island town of Syosset, where he enjoys spending his time reading and being with his loved ones. Albert's interests include sports, exercise, being a dog owner and exhibiting a keen interest in artificial intelligence.



## CRA UPDATE

Clinical Research Administration is comprised of two offices: Clinical Research Compliance (directed by Collette Houston) and Clinical Research Operations (directed by Dorothy Damron). A number of new leadership positions within CRA have been filled and recruitment for the few remaining CRA leadership positions is nearing completion.

- Director, Protocol Operations** – Karima Yataghene, MD
- Director, Protocol Core Services** – Stephanie Terzulli, PhD
- Director, Protocol Activation and HRPP** – Ann Rodavitch
- Sr Manager, CR Information Technology** – Joe Lengfellner
- Manager, CR Education/Outreach** – Mayra Nicola
- Assistant General Counsel, CR Contracting** – Lee Stetson, JD
- Director, Clinical Research Finance** – Rocio Peña, MPH
- Manager, Regulatory Oversight and Product Development** – Richard Ellis

These individuals will soon begin their new roles in optimizing clinical research administration. For the most current CRA Table of Organization that reflects this change, please go to:

<https://one.mskcc.org/sites/pub/ha/Pages/Clinical%20Research%20Administration/home.aspx>

## CYCLE FOR SURVIVAL

For the second year, our staff will be participating in Cycle for Survival. Last year, the Epi-BioCyclers raised \$8,600; this year our goal is to raise \$10,000. Our team will be riding on Saturday, March 11th. **100%** of the money we raise goes directly to MSK to fund research on rare cancers. The link below will take you to our team fundraising page, where you can make a **100% tax-deductible online donation**.

[http://mskcc.convio.net/site/TR/CycleforSurvival/CycleforSurvival?team\\_id=56566&pg=team&fr\\_id=2831&ga=1.135698937.931849968.1476987945](http://mskcc.convio.net/site/TR/CycleforSurvival/CycleforSurvival?team_id=56566&pg=team&fr_id=2831&ga=1.135698937.931849968.1476987945)

Epi-BioCyclers: Cynthia Berry, Andy Briggs, Brad Cohen, Roxana Damian, Zach Helms, Joey Kanik, Shireen Lewis, Vinny Madonia, Ethna McFerran, Ranjit Sukhu, KaySee Tan, and Katherine Wong.

## DEPARTMENTAL BOOK EXCHANGE

Looking to purge your home bookshelf of old books but not sure what to do with them? Bring them to the Epi/Bio Book Exchange located outside the Lactation Room near the wet pantry. Pick up a new book to read or drop off for the exchange. Happy Reading!

## HOLIDAY PARTY

