



## BIOSTATISTICS SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM

485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- ❖ February 14th, 2018 [Glenn Heller](#)  
MSK
- ❖ February 21st, 2018 [Ed Reznik](#)  
MSK
- ❖ February 28th, 2018 [Andrew Vickers](#)  
MSK
- ❖ March 7th, 2018 [Genevera Allen](#)  
Rice University
- ❖ March 14th, 2018 [Mithat Gönen](#)  
MSK
- ❖ March 21st, 2018 [Yuelin Li](#)  
MSK

## HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM

485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- ❖ February 9th, 2018 [Matthew Press](#)  
University of Pennsylvania
- ❖ March 2nd, 2018 [Ravi Sharaf](#)  
Northwell Health
- ❖ March 9th, 2018 [Lindsay Sabik](#)  
University of Pittsburgh
- ❖ March 23rd, 2018 [Angela Green](#)  
MSK

## EPIDEMIOLOGY SERVICE MEETINGS

All meetings will be held at 485 Lexington Ave,  
2nd Floor, Conference Room B (2137)  
Please see emails for updates.

- ❖ February 8th, 2018 [Kevin Kensler](#)  
1-2PM  
Harvard (HSPH)
- ❖ March 5th, 2018 [Sarah Ward](#)  
MSK
- ❖ March 19th, 2018 [Jonine Bernstein](#)  
MSK

## POPULATION SCIENCES RESEARCH PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES

Please see emails for updates.

- ❖ February 27th, 2018 [Eric Schneider](#)  
The Commonwealth Fund
- ❖ March 12th, 2018 [Denise Boudreau](#)  
Group Health Research Institute

## STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

[Debra Goldman](#) was acknowledged by the Journal of Clinical Oncology as a top five reviewer, citing her extraordinary quality, quantity, and timeliness of reviews submitted.

## STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ [Jaya Satagopan](#) promoted to Attending
- ❖ [Katherine Cheung](#) promoted to Grants Management Analyst
- ❖ [Ken Seier](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician



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

## GRANTS

[Elizabeth Kantor](#) is the PI of a newly-funded R01 from NCI, titled “Obesity, Chemotherapy Dosing, and Breast Cancer Outcomes” which will include nearly 34,000 breast cancer patients treated at Kaiser Permanente: Northern California and Washington conducted in collaboration with a multi-site team of investigators. Kelli O’Connell and Narre Heon will be working with Elizabeth on her new study.



Elizabeth Kantor, PhD

[Sigrid Carlsson](#), her co-investigators [Andrew Vickers](#), [Behfar Ehdiae](#), and their collaborators at Harvard received a two-year research grant from the [Prevent Cancer Foundation](#) for the study “Optimizing prostate cancer screening through the electronic health record.” The overall objective of this proposal is to develop and implement a clinical decision-support tool for PSA-screening in primary care which leverages the electronic health record (EHR). This will improve health outcomes by screening patients who 1) want to be screened and 2) should be screened. The rationale for this proposal is that no EHR-embedded algorithm for risk-stratified PSA-screening exists and development of such a decision-support tool for the EHR is critically needed and innovative.

The Chanel Endowment to Fund Survivorship Research awarded a two-year grant, entitled “Chronic Opioid Therapy and Opioid-Related Harms Among Older Cancer Survivors,” to [Talya Salz](#). Given that cancer survivors are often exposed to opioids during treatment, commonly experience chronic pain, and are vulnerable to more adverse effects from pain medication than individuals without a cancer history, understanding opioid use among cancer survivors is critical. Along with [Allison Lipitz-Snyderman](#) and other colleagues, a pilot study will be conducted to understand the scope of opioid use and harms among survivors of multiple cancers, using linked SEER-Medicare data.

[Elena Elkin](#) and [Jaya Satagopan](#) were awarded an R25 grant from NCI to support the department’s new Quantitative Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (QSURE). This 8-week internship program will offer up to 10 QSURE fellows an opportunity for hands-on experience using quantitative methods in biostatistics, epidemiology, and health outcomes. In addition to their research projects, supervised by Epi-Bio faculty mentors, QSURE fellows will participate in a Quantitative Sciences lecture series, a seminar in Research Ethics, and special presentations from visiting scientists and scholars. Through the QSURE program, the department hopes to inspire talented undergraduates to pursue graduate studies in quantitative sciences and careers in cancer research. The QSURE leadership team also includes [Kay See Tan](#), [Cynthia Berry](#), and [Shireen Lewis](#). Stay tuned for more QSURE news as the summer approaches!

## PUBLICATIONS

Together with their colleagues, [Debra Goldman](#), [Anne Reiner](#), and [Kathy Panageas](#) co-authored a manuscript in the Journal of Neurosurgery titled, “[The relationship between repeat resection and overall survival in patients with glioblastoma: A time-dependent analysis.](#)” The vast body of literature demonstrated a survival benefit from repeat resection for patients with glioblastoma; however, these studies ignored timing of repeat resection, which may have led to biased conclusions. Using data from MSK’s neurosurgery database, Debra and colleagues first demonstrated this bias in their sample where repeat resection was associated with a lower hazard of death (HR: 0.62). Once timing of repeat resection was taken into account in a multivariable time-dependent Cox model, the protective effect reversed, showing a higher hazard of death from repeat resection (HR: 2.19). Their findings establish a foundation in the neurosurgical literature for assessing the relationship between repeat resection and OS.

Kay Park, [Prusha Patel](#), Irina Linkov, Anjali Jotwani, Noah Kauff, and [Malcolm Pike](#) co-authored a paper titled “[Observations on the Origin of Ovarian Cortical Inclusion Cysts in Women Undergoing Risk-Reducing Salpingo-Oophorectomy](#)” in Histopathology. Evidence suggests that ~70% of high-grade serous ovarian carcinomas (HGSCs) arise from the fallopian tube, and that most of the remaining cases arise in Müllerian-type cortical inclusion cysts (CICs) within the ovary. It has been proposed that Müllerian-CICs arise either from metaplasia of mesothelial ovarian surface epithelium (OSE) entrapped within the ovary after ovulation, or from normal tubal cells entrapped within the ovary post-ovulation. Distinguishing between these two sources is important and makes quite different predictions regarding the preventive effect of removing the fallopian tubes (salpingectomy) in women undergoing a tubal ligation for contraception. Dr. Pike and colleagues conducted a study of 499 CICs from 59 women undergoing risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy at MSK from 2000-2014 using digital microscopy and computer image analysis. Their results strongly support the proposal that many Müllerian-CICs arise from OSE via metaplasia and that salpingectomy will not reduce the incidence of HGSC arising from within the ovary.

## STAFF FAREWELL

After over 8 years working in the Health Outcomes Group, **Mary Shaw** will be leaving to pursue the next stage of her career as a Medical Social Worker at Elmhurst Hospital. Mary has worked primarily with Ethan Basch on the STAR study, all of the PRO-CTCAE related research studies, and various other research projects. We are grateful to Mary's hard work and commitment, and wish her all the best in the next step of her career!

## 2017 SERVICE AWARDS

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>5 Year Milestone</u> | <u>10 Year Milestone</u> |
| ❖ Farheen Ajmeri        | ❖ Joseph Christoff       |
| ❖ Arshi Arora           | ❖ Meier Hsu              |
| ❖ Melissa Assel         | ❖ Anne Reiner            |
| ❖ Esther Drill          | ❖ Lauren Rogak           |
| ❖ Vincent Madonia       | ❖ Ronglai Shen           |
| ❖ Ranjit Sukhu          | ❖ Zhigang Zhang          |
| ❖ Emily Vertosick       | ❖ Junting Zheng          |
- 
- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>15 Year Milestone</u> | <u>20 Year Milestone</u> |
| ❖ Chaya Moskowitz        | ❖ Sara Olson             |
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- |                          |
|--------------------------|
| <u>30 Year Milestone</u> |
| ❖ Glenn Heller           |

## CYCLE FOR SURVIVAL

Our departmental team, The Epi-BioCyclers, will be participating in Cycle for Survival for the third consecutive year on Saturday, March 10th. The Epi-Biocyclers are currently \$3,500 away from their goal and need your help to reach it and surpass last years fundraising! 100% of the money raised 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?team\\_id=60874&pg=team&fr\\_id=3031](http://mskcc.convio.net/site/TR?team_id=60874&pg=team&fr_id=3031)

**Epi-BioCyclers:** Cynthia Berry, Melissa Assel, Roxana Damian, Jessica Flynn, Renee Gennarelli, Jessica Lavery, Shireen Lewis, Vinny Madonia, Lauren Rogak, and Molly Samson.

## 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:

- ❖ Nicole Benfante
- ❖ Cynthia Berry
- ❖ Joey Kanik
- ❖ Shireen Lewis
- ❖ Chelsea McKoy
- ❖ Jennifer Ohn
- ❖ Katie Parra
- ❖ Lauren Rogak
- ❖ Keimya Sadeghi

## NEW STAFF

### Michael Curry, Assistant Research Biostatistician

Mike joined the Health Outcomes Research Group as an Assistant Research Biostatistician. He previously was a biostatistician at the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), where he helped monitor organ allocation policies. He holds an MS from Northwestern University and a MA from Radford University. He will be working with Peter Bach and other investigators on health outcomes studies using SEER-Medicare data



### Diana Mejia, Assistant to Chairman

Diana comes to us from the Department of Surgery where she spent 7 years working as the Administrative Secretary to the Chief of Orthopedic Surgery, Dr. John Healey. In her role, Diana was responsible for Dr. Healey's clinic, OR time and academic activities. Diana also assisted Dr. Boland, Director of Education, with the Musculoskeletal Fellowship Program.



### Kimberly Hubbard, Administrative Assistant

Kim has joined the department as an Administrative Assistant working with the Epidemiology group. She previously worked as a Nurse Recruitment Coordinator and Administrative Coordinator for critical care units. When she is not at work, she enjoys traveling and listening to music.



### Nicole Itzkowitz, Research Study Assistant

Nicole joined the Epidemiology & Biostatistics group in November 2017. She comes to us from the MSK Renal Service where she worked as a Physician's Office Assistant. Nicole will be supporting the research needs of Sara Olson and Robert Kurtz (Medicine), focusing on recruitment for the MSK Pancreatic Tumor Registry Study (IRB #02-102). She received her BA in Public Health from the University of Rochester.



## HOLIDAY PARTY

Hope to see you all again next December!

