



BIOSTATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES

Except where noted, all seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM in the 3rd floor conference room (307 E. 63rd St)

- ❖ September 10, 2014 **Kathy Panageas**
MSK
- ❖ September 17, 2014 **Ronglai Shen**
MSK
- ❖ September 24, 2014 **Kasper Hansen**
Johns Hopkins University
- ❖ October 1, 2014 **Venkatraman Seshan**
MSK
- ❖ October 8, 2014 **Jaya Satagopan**
MSK
- ❖ October 15, 2014 **Pei Wang**
Icahn School of Medicine
Mount Sinai

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP (HORG) SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM
Check emails for locations

- ❖ September 17, 2014 **Evan Matros**
BAIC 300 E. 66th Street
9th Floor -Room 917B
MSK

SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RESEARCH (SOAR) SEMINAR SERIES

- ❖ September 25, 2014 **Thomas F. Burke, MD**
1:00pm – 2:00pm
1275 York Ave, M-107
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Massachusetts General Hospital
Surgery

GME PRESENTATIONS

- ❖ Catherine Solares-Knorr
Presentation date: August 8th
Title: “Has Clinical Trials Data Been Used for Patient Safety Research?”
- ❖ Allison Glasgow
Presentation date: August 8th
Title: “The effects of weight loss, diabetes and the oral microbiome on the development of pancreatic adenocarcinoma”
- ❖ Jill Hsia
Presentation date: August 14th
Title: “Chemotherapy dose reductions and treatment delays in an ethnically diverse cohort of breast cancer patients”



DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Colin Begg, PhD

EDITORS

Sharon Bayuga, MPH
Prusha Patel, MPH
Narre Heon
Lauren Rogak, MA
Mary Shaw
Brittany Soto, MPH
Shireen Lewis, MPA
Joseph Kanik

HIGHLIGHT

Nikolaus Schultz has been appointed Associate Attending Computational Oncologist in the new Computational Oncology Service. Dr. Schultz obtained his PhD in Biochemistry from the Free University in Berlin, Germany. He has been at MSKCC since 2004, when he started his post-doctoral research with Chris Sander in the Computational Biology Program.



Nikolaus Schultz, PhD

Since the inception of The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) project in 2008, his work has been focused on cancer genomics. Dr. Schultz was actively involved in at least a dozen cancer genomics projects, including many TCGA studies and MSKCC projects. His most significant contribution to these projects was the development and application of novel methods for the integrated analysis of altered pathways and the identification of the numerous mechanisms by which genes and pathways can be disrupted in different tumor samples.

Dr. Schultz also leads the development of the cBioPortal for Cancer Genomics (cbioportal.org), a public resource with an intuitive user interface that makes multi-dimensional genomic data accessible to a broad range of cancer researchers and clinicians. The cBioPortal supports all TCGA projects, and, more recently, all sequencing studies performed at MSKCC.

Dr. Schultz is a member of the newly established Kravis Center for Molecular Oncology, where he heads the Knowledge Systems group. The goal of his group is to annotate the complex changes found in the genomes of tumor samples from MSKCC patients, to link the genomic data with relevant clinical annotation in existing MSKCC patient databases, and to ultimately support genomics-based treatment decisions. In his laboratory, Dr. Schultz plans to continue analyzing the rapidly growing body of cancer genomics data, and he looks forward to establishing new collaborations.

FUNDING SUCCESS

Helena Furberg-Barnes received a grant for the MSK Translational Kidney Cancer Research Program to pursue a collaborative project titled “Immunohistochemical study of estrogen receptor protein expression in ccRCC.” There is a prominent gender discrepancy among those diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma (RCC). Men are twice as likely as women to be diagnosed with RCC and generally have a worse prognosis. The project will investigate the estrogen receptor alpha and beta protein expression in the tumor tissue of younger and older men and women to see if the gender discrepancy relates to hormones. Helena will work with Yingbei Chen, Paul Russo, Ari Hakimi, and Emily Zabor.



Helena Furberg-Barnes, PhD

Allison Snyderman was awarded a SOAR Development Funds Award in July for a study titled “Diagnosis-related errors in cancer: feasibility study.” The objective of this project is to develop and test a feasible method for identifying patients who had a missed, delayed, or inaccurate cancer diagnosis. Andrew Epstein is the Co-PI and collaborators include Cami Sima, Aileen Killen and Tara Bishop.

THANK YOU SUMMER VISITORS!

Farewell and thank you to all the interns and students that worked with us this summer:

Promy Bari: worked with Admin Team

Nikko Biscardi: worked with Admin Team

Jenelle Cocopus: worked with Sara Olson

Sasha Edwards: worked with Admin Team

Jonathan Garaffa: worked with Irene Orlow

Allison Glasgow: worked with Sara Olson

Ayelet Greenberg: worked with Kathy Panageas and Ray Baser

Rebecca Huang: worked with Li-Xuan Qin

Jill Hsia: worked with Victoria Blinder

Arden Levy: worked with Andrew Vickers

Nicolas Ng: worked with Milind Rajadhyaksha and Irene Orlow

Ramya Ramaswami: worked with Jen Brooks

Sarah Searfoss: worked with Irene Orlow

Ruth Seok: worked with Victoria Blinder

Catherine Solares-Knorr: worked with Allison Snyderman

Bingrou Alice Zhou: worked with Jaya Satagopan

STAFF KUDOS

Mithat Gönen presented at the Society for Clinical Trials: "Combining Randomized and Historical Controls in Phase II Trials"

Sara Olson was named an Associate Editor of Annals of Epidemiology, the Journal of the American College of Epidemiology

Kaitlin Woo was selected for ENAR Council of Emerging and New Statisticians (CENS)

STAFF PROMOTIONS

❖ Li-Xuan Qin promoted to Associate Attending

❖ Emily Vertosick promoted to Data Analyst II

❖ Narre Heon promoted to Research Study Assistant III

EMPLOYEE SURVEY - DEPARTMENTAL RESULTS

The 2014 Employee Survey was administered this past January throughout the Center. The survey measured employees' perceptions on seven key categories of organizational success: Engagement, Alignment, Agility, Continuous Improvement, Customer Centricity, Innovation and Quality. We are happy to report that Epi/Bio scored above the institution in six of the seven categories measured! The results of the survey are being communicated to the various groups in the department and action plans are being formulated. For any specific questions on the survey/results, please contact Roxana Damian or Shireen Lewis.

AWARDS

Jaya Satagopan received a certificate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health in grateful appreciation of her service as a member of the Epidemiology of Cancer Study Section from 2010-2014. She has been invited to serve on various NIH panels since 2004, as well as the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Science Foundation's plant genomics consortium Functional Genomics of Plant Polyloids from 2006-2010.

Jaya Satagopan's summer intern from 2012, Jeanne Li, was recently awarded a New York Times Scholarship towards her college education. The award is very prestigious and is given to high school seniors from New York City who have overcome burdens of limited resources and other challenges. Each winner will receive a laptop and up to \$7,500 a year in college aid, as well as mentoring and networking opportunities. During her summer project, Jeanne studied fundamental statistical methods, linear regression, and Box-Cox transformation, and practiced these methods using published data from an NIH-funded nevus study that is led by colleagues from MSK's own Dermatology Service. Jeanni Li will be attending Wesleyan University starting this fall, where she plans to major in mathematics and statistics. For further details on the scholarship recipients visit: [NYTimes](#)



Jaya Satagopan, PhD

STAFF FAREWELLS

Jen Brooks will be leaving our department after five years of service to work as an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. She first joined our department in 2009 as a post-doc working with Jonine Bernstein and has grown from there. Much of her work at MSK has focused on how patient characteristics and genetic factors interact with breast cancer treatments to influence risk of second primary breast cancers. Jen is also interested in identifying imaging biomarkers of breast cancer risk and treatment response. She is the PI of the study "Epidemiology of MRI Parenchymal Enhancement: A New Marker of Breast Cancer Risk" and has been an integral member of Jonine Bernstein's WECARE team. Although still actively involved in the WECARE study as a collaborative member, she will be greatly missed in our office.



Jennifer Brooks, PhD

After one year of service in the department, Peter Li will be leaving us to pursue his medical degree at NYU School of Medicine. As a research study assistant, he was able to work on various projects with many colleagues in both the Epidemiology and Health Outcomes services in such a short period of time. We thank him for all his hard work and wish him all the best in medical school.

NEW STAFF

Casie Reed, Senior Research Technician

Casie received her BA in Human Ecology from the College of the Atlantic and is currently completing her MS in Plant Biology at North Carolina State University. Prior to starting her Master's degree, she worked as a research technician at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where she contributed to research projects aimed at developing targeted therapies to treat acute myeloid leukemia and T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Casie will be working in the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory and is involved in studies aimed to unveil tumor and host genetic markers that predispose subjects to the development or progression of cancer, including melanoma and breast cancer.



Siok (Jessie) Leong, Senior Research Technician

Jessie received a BS in Biotechnology from the Monash University in Malaysia, and a MS in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology from St. John's University. Before coming to MSK, Jessie spent three years working in the production of recombinant virus for drug development. Jessie will be working in the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory and is involved in studies designed to unveil the effect of the individuals' genetic background in relation to response to treatment and risk of cancer progression and/or cognitive changes.



Ryan Weber, Data Analyst

Ryan graduated from Boston University, Magna Cum Laude, with a double major in Mathematics and English literature. After working as a medical scribe in the Geisinger system, he completed coursework in computer programming. He joins Andrew Vickers' team to work on the Web Survey Core and other informatics applications.

