

THIRD NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY Montreal, Canada June 21st-24th

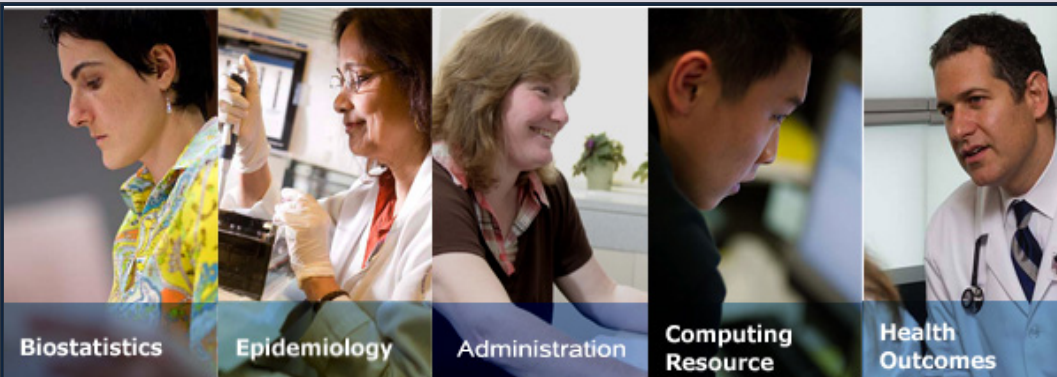
The Third North American Congress of Epidemiology was sponsored and planned by members of 25 epidemiologic societies and over 150 faculty members. **Jonine Bernstein** was co-chair of the meeting. **Ann Zauber** chaired a symposium titled "When epidemiology meets policy: controversies in translating evidence-based cancer screening decisions to the media, policy makers and clinicians." Spotlight sessions were led by **Colin Begg**, "Cancer risk heterogeneity within anatomic sites", and **Malcolm Pike**, "Some issues in breast and ovarian cancer etiology and treatment." Posters were presented by **Sara Olson**, **Helena Furberg-Barnes**, **Jaya Satagopan**, **Meier Hsu**, **Emily Zabor**, and **Yuelin Li**. Sara Olson was also a judge for the poster session. **Jennifer Brooks** coordinated events and activities for students and post-docs, including statistical and grant writing workshops and lunchtime Meet-the-Epidemiology-Editors sessions. **Meg Woods** also had her hand in every aspect of Congress planning as the official Congress Secretary.

Jonine would like to express her appreciation to everyone for participating and helping in so many ways to make the Congress such a great success!

PARTICIPATION IN THE 2011 JOINT STATISTICAL MEETING

Miami, Florida July 30th - August 4th, 2011

- ❖ **Ronglai Shen** chaired a session of invited papers titled "Statistical Challenges Arising from Next-Generation Sequencing Data."
- ❖ **Marinela Capanu** presented a talk titled "A hybrid Bayesian Laplacian approach for generalized linear mixed models."
- ❖ **Jaya Satagopan** presented a talk titled "Evaluation of removable statistical interaction in cancer epidemiology studies" as part of the session "Novel statistical approaches in genetic epidemiology." She also chaired a session titled "Statistical methods in epidemiologic research."
- ❖ **Jaya Satagopan** and **Li-Xuan Qin** presented a poster titled "An Empirical Evaluation of Array Normalization for Agilent MicroRNA Expression Arrays."
- ❖ **Li-Xuan Qin** also chaired a session titled "High-Dimensional Unsupervised and Supervised Methods."

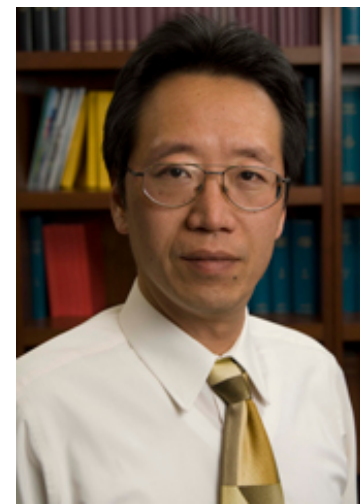


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CONGRATULATIONS TO KAI-HSIUNG LIN FOR 20 YEARS AT MSKCC

On July 1st, **Kai-Hsiung Lin** celebrated his 20th anniversary at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Kai is the Manager of the Computing Resource Group (CRG) in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. In 1991, he was one of the original three members of the CRG to develop the Clinical Research Database (CRDB). Currently, the CRDB has approximately 6,000 user accounts with an average of 200 daily users and runs on three production platforms: the CRDB Desktop Full Client Forms and Reports, the CRDB Web Forms and Reports, and the **CRDBi** Web Client.



Kai-Hsiung Lin, MS

Kai first started as a Database Programmer and later took on other roles throughout his career at MSKCC: Project Manager, Database Administrator, and currently as the Manager of the CRG. The CRG now consists of 10 members, whose roles include network and systems administrators and software developers. Kai facilitated the growth and development of the CRG through many small and large scale projects including operating the BIOST domain for computers and servers in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics; managing dozens of servers hosting web services, E-mail services, the CRDB, and the Biostatistics cluster; maintaining collaboration with the Data Management Resource Group through their transfer into the Office of Clinical Research; and migrating departmental computers and servers onto the central MSKCC domain.

Kai's journey to MSKCC began back in Taiwan where he earned a B.S. in Hydraulic Engineering at the National Cheng-Kung University. He devoted two years to military service before coming to the United States and New York City in 1986. He went on to earn an M.S. in Civil Engineering from Polytechnic University in 1988 and an M.S. in Computer Science from Queens College in 1990. Today, Kai lives in Fresh Meadows, Queens, with his wife and two children. In addition to 20 successful years of developing the Clinical Research Database in our department, Kai is known for his gift for detailed and lengthy speeches and the jovial atmosphere he creates for all who work with him.

R01 AWARD FOR ANDREW VICKERS, FOLLOWS R21 SUCCESS

Andrew Vickers, D.Phil., has been awarded a five year R01 grant from the **National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine** (NCCAM). The award, entitled "Acupuncture Trialists' Collaboration: meta-analysis of chronic pain trials" follows the success of an exploratory R21, also from NCCAM. Both the assessment of the clinical value of acupuncture, and research design of acupuncture studies, depend critically on the careful synthesis of prior research data. Andrew and his research team plan to combine raw data from all large, high-quality randomized trials of acupuncture for chronic pain into a single data set to enable individual patient data metaanalysis. This will allow them to address questions both about the effectiveness of acupuncture and factors, such as the number of treatments given, that impact its effectiveness.



Andrew Vickers, D.Phil.

PUBLICATION



The recent issue of **Statistics in Medicine** published papers presented at a workshop on the continual reassessment method and related Phase I designs for dose-finding studies. The workshop was held at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the Fall of 2009 and was organized by **Alexia Iasonos**. In addition, the issue includes a **methodological paper** of how to analyze Phase I data retrospectively, co-authored by Alexia Iasonos and **Irina Ostrovnaya**, and an **Editorial** that summarizes the advances in dose finding designs.

BIostatistics Seminar Series, Fall 2011 Calendar

- ❖ 09/07, [Mengling Liu](#)- New York University
- ❖ 09/14, [Mithat Gönen](#)- MSKCC
- ❖ 09/28, [Richard J. Chappell](#)- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- ❖ 10/05, [Zhigang Zhang](#)- MSKCC
- ❖ 10/12, [Nicholas Jewell](#)- University of California at Berkeley
- ❖ 10/19, [Katherine Panageas](#)- MSKCC
- ❖ 10/26, [Marinela Capanu](#)- MSKCC
- ❖ 11/02, [Jack Kalbfleisch](#)- University of Michigan
- ❖ 11/09, [Jaya Satagopan](#)- MSKCC
- ❖ 11/16, [Glenn Heller](#)- MSKCC
- ❖ 11/30, [Ronglai Shen](#)- MSKCC
- ❖ 12/07, [Daniel Schaid](#)- Mayo Clinic
- ❖ 12/14, [Irina Ostrovnaya](#)- MSKCC
- ❖ 12/21, [Chaya Moskowitz](#)- MSKCC

CRG UPDATE

The Clinical Research Database (CRDB) runs on three platforms including CRDB Client, CRDB Web, and CRDBi. The Computer Resource Group (CRG) introduced new forms and reports including The Adoptive Immune Cell Therapy Facility QA Batch Record Report (SOP), The New Sarcoma Module, and The New Prior Therapy Extended Module.

CRDBi is the web client platform of the Clinical Research Database. The release version is currently CRDBi 1.25.1.

Staff Promotion

- ❖ **Roberto Martin**, Application Analyst, Computer Resource Group

Farewell to Staff

- ❖ **Hilda Enriquez** recently left the department to pursue a medical degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Thank you and Farewell to 2011 Summer Interns

The Department would like to thank this year's summer interns for all their hard work and dedication: Emily Blauel, Syeda Hasan, Sylvana Hidalgo, Michael Kanik, Katherine Mullins, Michael Quezada, and Elizabeth Sloan.

GREEN INITIATIVE REMINDERS

- ❖ The Epidemiology and Biostatistics recycle bins for soda cans and bottles are located under the water fountains on the 2nd and 3rd floors.
- ❖ If you control the AC units for your area/office, please remember to turn them off at the end of day.
- ❖ Please make sure all computers and monitors are shut down at the end of the day. If you have questions on how to schedule automatic shutdown & power up or opt out of the automatic nightly reboot, please contact [Rick Church](#).

JAYA SATAGOPAN APPOINTMENT TO EDITORIAL BOARD

[Jaya Satagopan](#) has been appointed to the Editorial Board of Genetic Epidemiology, the flagship journal of the [International Genetic Epidemiology Society](#). The Journal welcomes submissions for peer review including original articles comprising either applied research or innovative statistical, computational, or genomic methodologies that advance studies in genetic epidemiology, letters to the editor, and topic reviews.

WELCOME NEW RESEARCH FELLOWS

- ❖ **Yvonne Bombard, PhD** is a research fellow in the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes. She has an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Medical Genetics from the University of British Columbia and recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Health Service and Policy Research at the University of Toronto. Yvonne will be working with Ken Offit, [Elena Elkin](#), and [Peter Bach](#) on policy research in public health genomics.
- ❖ **Sigrid Carlsson** is a new research fellow working with [Andrew Vickers](#). She obtained her medical degree from Gothenburg University in Sweden. She completed her internship and one year of general surgery residency at Sahlgrenska University Hospital. Sigrid also received a Ph.D. in Urology from Gothenburg University. Her thesis was titled: "Prostate cancer screening with PSA – A study of potential negative aspects." She has studied at Harvard School of Public Health. She continues her research on prostate cancer screening here at MSKCC where she intends to focus on aspects of cost-effectiveness, clinical decision-making and decision analysis, quality of life research, and exploring the role of biomarkers.



STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us in welcoming our new staff!

- ❖ **Katherine Chuang, Web Program Analyst**
Katherine has joined the Web Survey Core and will be working with [Ethan Basch](#) and [Marwan Shouery](#) to develop electronic surveys for administration within research protocols. She completed her graduate degree in Informatics at UCLA and will be finishing her doctoral program in Information Studies at Drexel University.
- ❖ **Narre Heon, Research Study Assistant**
Narre Heon recently graduated from Brandeis University with a B.A. in Philosophy, and will be working on studies under [Ethan Basch](#)'s PRO-CTCAE project. She will be conducting studies aiding patients' self-report of their symptoms and studying feasibility of incorporating the PRO-CTCAE into cancer clinical trials.
- ❖ **Adele Meyer, Research Study Assistant**
Adele will be working with [Sara Olson](#), [Jonine Bernstein](#), and the glioma research team. Prior to joining the Epidemiology Service, she worked at *BronxWorks-Positive Living Department* as an HIV Program Specialist. Adele graduated from McGill University with a BA in Sociology.
- ❖ **Erin Onstad, Research Study Assistant**
Erin recently received her MPH degree from The Dartmouth Institute. She will be working in the Health Outcomes Group with [Talya Salz](#) on her studies about cancer survivorship and survivorship care plans.
- ❖ **Natalia Ristic, Senior Research Laboratory Technician**
Natalia will be working with [Irene Orlow](#) in the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory at Main Campus. She received an MSc in Chemistry, with a major in Biochemistry and has previously conducted research at the Peninsula Medical School, Plymouth (UK), and the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, The Rockefeller University (NY).
- ❖ **Geoffrey Schnorr, Data Assistant**
Geoffrey holds a BS in Healthcare Management and Policy with a Minor in Economics from Georgetown University. Prior to coming to MSKCC, he worked as an Administrative Intern at the Georgetown University Hospital Transplant Institute and as a Research Intern at the Alliance for Health Reform. He will be working primarily with [Peter Bach](#).

