



WORK ON THE BEACH

Join the editors of the BEACH Newsletter! We need volunteers to help with our bi-monthly newsletter. Please contact our editorial group at our email address.

zzPDL_EpiBioStat_Newsletter@mskcc.org

FUNDRAISER BY STAFF MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

East Africa Children's Hope (EACH), Co-Founded by **Melissa Budnick**, will be holding their annual fundraiser on September 17th at 6 pm at The Hill located between 29th and 30th Streets and 3rd Avenue. Raffle prizes this year will include: a Samsung Galaxy, Ipad Mini, VIP tickets to the Colbert Report, a golf package at a TPC golf course and many more! All proceeds will benefit The Good Hope Initiative in Mubende, Uganda and Upendo School and Children's Home in Murang'a, Kenya. To learn more about EACH or to buy tickets please visit:

<http://eastafriachildrenshope.org/events/upcoming-events/>

or email Melissa at budnickm@mskcc.org.



2013 DEPARTMENT BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who participated in the 2013 Departmental Blood Drive!

Our department contributed 14 whole blood and 5 platelets donations. The Blood Donor Program appreciates your assistance.

As a reminder, you can donate at any time during the year – for more information or to schedule an appointment, click here or call the Blood Donor Center at 212-639-7643.

BE WELL

Summer is gone and flu season is just around the corner! To help protect you against the flu, MSKCC is currently offering flu shots to all employees. Bring your ID badge and consent form (link) to Employee Health and Wellness at either MG-03 or 222 E 70th St. All flu shots are free for employees.

If you are not vaccinated against the flu and you work in areas where patients are present, MSKCC is now mandating that you wear a surgical mask for the duration of the flu season when in patient areas. All employees who receive the flu shot will have a sticker affixed to the front and back of their ID badge. For more information, visit the [Employee Health and Wellness site](#).



DEPARTMENT CHAIR
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EDITORS
Natalie Barragan, MPA
Sharon Bayuga, MPH
Prusha Patel, MPH
Chelsea Seaberg
Joseph Kanik

ANN ZAUBER PAPER NOMINATED FOR RESEARCH PAPER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Ann Zauber** and colleagues for their nomination for the Research Paper of the Year award at the 2013 British Medical Journal (BMJ) Group Improving Health Awards. This annual BMJ award recognizes outstanding original research with potential to contribute considerably to improving health and healthcare. Their publication "Colonoscopic Polypectomy and Long-Term Prevention of Colorectal Cancer Deaths" was one of only six papers chosen to be nominated for the award. This long term follow-up of the National Polyp Study in the United States looked at the death rate among patients who had had adenomatous polyps removed compared with mortality from colorectal cancer in the general population and in an internal concurrent control group of patients with non-adenomatous polyps. Their results suggested that polypectomy significantly reduced the risk of death from colorectal cancer.



Ann Zauber, PhD

RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS

Colin Begg, PhD, received a two year \$400K grant from the Metastasis Research Center at MSKCC with several co-investigators including **Jonine Bernstein**, **Irina Ostrovskaya**, and **Venkatraman Seshan** from Epi/Bio; Monica Morrow and Tari King from Surgery; and Jorge Reis-Filho from Pathology and HOPP. The study titled "Contralateral Breast Cancers: Independent Cancers or Metastases?" will look at tumor specimens from both breasts for a large number of cases with contralateral breast cancer (CBC) from MSK tumor archives and other sources, and use up-to-date sequencing technology and specialized statistical methods to classify the tumor pairs as either independent or of clonal origin. This will allow individualization of the extent of surgery on the contralateral breast and axilla based on a diagnosis of metastatic disease versus new primary cancer, and will influence the choice and duration of systemic therapy in patients diagnosed with CBC in the future.



Colin Begg, PhD

BIOSTATISTICS SYMPOSIUM

The two-day symposium on Advances in Statistical Methods for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology was held on August 22-23 at MSKCC. **Jaya Satagopan** (MSKCC) and Sanjay Shete (MD Anderson Cancer Center) were awarded a R13 conference grant (R13 CA168331) by NIH to support the symposium. 70 established and junior investigators were in attendance. 19 talks spanning 7 sessions and a poster session addressed topics on statistical methods for modern cancer epidemiology studies. The emphasis of all the talks and posters was on statistical science – how each investigator is developing novel analytic tools based on fundamental statistical principles to address pivotal questions arising in modern cancer genetic epidemiology studies. The symposium owes many thanks to our administrative staff, particularly Katherine Wong, Melissa Budnick, and Farheen Ajmeri, for all their help.

PUBLICATIONS:

[An assessment of estimation methods for generalized linear mixed models with binary outcomes.](#)

Marinela Capanu, **Mithat Gönen**, and **Colin Begg**, co-authored a paper in Statistics in Medicine which evaluates the properties of their proposed hybrid Bayesian Laplacian approach in the setting of generalized linear mixed models with binary responses, and compares its performance with several other available techniques. Their simulation results indicate that for moderate to large numbers of observations per random effect, adaptive Gaussian quadrature and the Laplacian approximation are very accurate, while the hybrid approach shows superiority for data with very sparse random effects.

STAFF FAREWELLS

❖ **Rick Church** has served our department for over 11 years providing a range of computer support as a member of the Computing Resource Group. Rick has accepted the position of Clinical Research IT Analyst at NYU Langone Medical Center in the School of Medicine. Almost all of our Department staff has worked with Rick directly at one time or another and we wish him all the best at his new job.

BIOSTATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES

All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM in the 3rd floor conference room (307 63rd St) unless otherwise noted.

- ❖ September 11, 2013 **Sean Devlin**
10 – 11AM MSKCC
- ❖ September 18, 2013 **Li-Xuan**
 MSKCC
- ❖ September 25, 2013 Adam Olshen
 UCSF
- ❖ October 02, 2013 Richard Simon
4 – 5PM, ZRC-105 NCI
- ❖ October 09, 2013 **Mithat Gönen**
 MSKCC
- ❖ October 16, 2013 Robert Tibshirani
4P – 5PM, ZRC-105 Stanford
- ❖ October 23, 2013 **Kathy Panageas**
 MSKCC
- ❖ October 30, 2013 Ross Prentice
11AM – 12PM, RRL-101 FHCRC

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP (HORG) SEMINARS

From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

- ❖ September 20, 2013 Dr. Craig Pollack
 Johns Hopkins Medicine
BAIC 300 E. 66th St., 9th Floor Rm # 917A
- ❖ October 04, 2013 **Carolyn Eberle**
 MSKCC
307 E. 63rd St., 3rd floor conference room
- ❖ October 18, 2013 Matthew Press
 MSKCC
BAIC 300 E. 66th St., 9th Floor Rm # 917A

SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RESEARCH (SOAR) SEMINAR SERIES

- ❖ October 03, 2013 Chris Amos, PhD
12:30-1:30PM
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center (NCCC)
1275 York Avenue, Rm. M-107
- ❖ October 31, 2013 Ross Prentice, PhD
11:30 – 12:30PM
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
RRL-101

STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ **Darren Tang** promoted to Senior Programmer Analyst
- ❖ **Sean Ryan** promoted to Research Project Coordinator
- ❖ **Lauren Rogak** promoted to Research Project Manager

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

❖ **Debra Goldman**, Assistant Research Biostatistician
Debra joins our department from the Department of Radiology where she was a Research Project Coordinator since 2010. She completed her MS in Statistics from Baruch College in December of 2012 and holds a BS in Human Development from Cornell University. Debra was a Visiting Researcher at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University, during the summer of 2013, and is an avid Doctor Who fan. Debra will be working with [Mithat Gonen](#) and [Chaya Moskowitz](#).



❖ **Mariam Imnadze**, Research Fellow
Mariam graduated from SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine in 2008. In June 2013 she completed her Urology Residency at SUNY Downstate School of Medicine. Mariam joins MSKCC as a two- year Urologic Oncology fellow and will be working with [Andrew Vickers](#) and his team during her first year. Next year Mariam will complete her clinical year with the Department of Urology.

❖ **Amy Tin**, Data Analyst
Amy joined the Health Outcomes group in August 2013 to work with [Andrew Vickers](#) and his research team. Amy holds Bachelor and Master Degrees in Statistics from Boston University.

❖ **Sweeney Verma**, Data Analyst
Sweeney graduated from the SUNY at Stony Brook with a BS in Applied Mathematics and Statistics and a BA in Psychology. During her undergraduate study she was a research assistant at Stony Brook University's Family Translation Research Group in the Psychology department; the study she worked on was measuring the effects of parental conflict on self esteem in children. Sweeney joined the Health Outcomes Group in July 2013 and will be working with [Andrew Vickers](#) and his research team.



❖ **Kaitlin Woo**, Assistant Research Biostatistician
Kaitlin completed a MS in Biostatistics from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013 and a BS in Mathematics from Georgetown University in 2011. She holds dual citizenship- US and Panama. Kaitlin will be working closely with [Cami Sima](#) and [Sujata Patil](#).



MSKCC DRAGONS

Congratulations to [Anne Eaton](#), [Ling Chen](#) and [Ken Cheung](#) for their participation in the MSKCC Dragon Boat team at the 2013 Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival. The Festival was held at Flushing Meadows Park on August 10-11. The MSKCC Dragons won a silver medal in the Women's Invitational, a silver medal in the Health Care Invitational, and a bronze medal in the 250 meter Heritage Mixed.

