

## TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM IN AUGUST 2013

Plans are currently underway for a two-day symposium titled “Advances in Statistical Methods for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology.” This symposium is scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at MSKCC, and is being hosted by our department under the auspices of a R13 Conference Grant from the National Cancer Institute. Jaya Satagopan is the principal investigator for this grant and Sanjay Shete of MD Anderson Cancer Center is the Co-PI. Further details about the scientific program and abstract submission details will be available during late winter/early spring 2013. In the interim, please feel free to contact [Jaya Satagopan](#) for updates.

## SAVE THE DATE!

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MSKCC Research Administrators’ Professional Day (RAPD)  
Friday, March 22, 2013

All staff involved in research administration—including those in central offices, departments, programs, laboratories, operations, information systems, finance, and fundraising—are invited. To stay informed about registration, please follow the [MSK Research Weekly](#) newsletter. (If you currently do not receive this weekly e-mail bulletin, you can be added to the distribution list by emailing the editor, [Debra Schaller-Demers](#).)

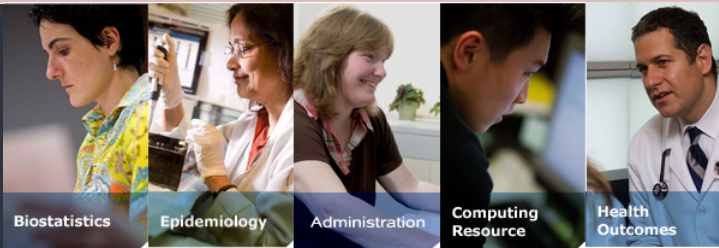
## REVISED MSKCC CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

MSKCC’s revised [Financial Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment Policy](#) now requires you to disclose compensation from some not-for-profit organizations in addition to compensation from, and stock/equity in, for-profit companies.

### PHS RESEARCHERS

If you are an investigator or other key personnel on a federal grant, additional requirements apply to you, including disclosure of sponsored or reimbursed travel and training on the [new Public Health Service rule](#). To help ensure that your travel is logged, please work with your department research secretary to submit timely Travel Authorizations.

If you have any other questions about these policies, please contact [Jean Kelly](#).



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## ANN ZAUBER APPOINTED MEMBER

Congratulations to [Ann Zauber](#) who recently was promoted to Member at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and to Attending Biostatistician in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Memorial Hospital. Ann is the seventh investigator and the second woman in the Department to achieve the most senior academic rank in the Center. Ann has worked as a Biostatistician for the past 34 years. She holds a joint appointment in the Gastroenterology & Nutrition Services and is the Coordinating Center PI for the colorectal working group for the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET). Ann is also the PI of the National Colonoscopy Study, a multi-institutional randomized trial comparing colonoscopy to a program of annual testing with fecal occult blood tests. Ann has published more than 130 papers in 52 different journals. We are very proud to have Ann in our department and look forward to many more years with her and her delicious pound cakes. Congrats Ann!



Ann Zauber, PhD

## MSKCC REMOVES EXPENSIVE DRUG FROM THE FORMULARY

An Op-Ed article in [The New York Times](#) this October authored by [Peter Bach](#) (Center for Health Policy and Outcomes), Leonard Saltz (Gastrointestinal Oncology Service) and Robert Wittes (Memorial Hospital) announced that Sloan-Kettering would not approve a costly new cancer drug to treat patients with advanced colorectal cancer. Zaltrap, developed by Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and approved by the FDA in August, works through a similar molecular mechanism as the competing drug Avastin and offers the same median survival gain of 1.4 months but at twice the price, roughly \$11,000 per month. In response to the institution’s decision, Sanofi quickly offered discounts near 50% for Zaltrap. Investigation revealed that Sanofi officials set the price of Zaltrap to match that of Avastin at a dosage twice what is typically used. An editorialist from [The New York Times](#) articulated, “There are few constraints on escalating cancer drug prices in the current health care market. That will need to change. Sloan-Kettering has shown what the medical profession can do to reduce costs if it has a mind to.”



**bewell**  
december  
December is National Handwashing Awareness Month!  
Handwashing prevents the spread of disease and is especially important during flu season. The Purell stations on each floor will also help prevent the spread of infection but hand sanitizer is not an adequate substitute for handwashing. Handwashing should always be done after visiting the restroom and if your hands look visibly soiled. Keep your colleagues healthy and happy by handwashing.

## CONGRATULATIONS: GOLDSTEIN AWARD

[Helena Furberg](#), Assistant Attending in Epidemiology, is the recipient of a 2012 Goldstein Award. Dr. Furberg will receive pilot funds to evaluate the accuracy of self-reported smoking among bladder cancer patients. Urine specimens from 150 MSKCC bladder cancer patients who have a smoking history will be tested for cotinine (a metabolite of nicotine) and sensitivity, specificity, false positive and false negatives rates will be determined. The findings will directly inform and justify the choice of smoking exposure assessment for her planned research studies investigating the impact of smoking on bladder cancer recurrence and on treatment efficacy.

## BIOSTATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES

307 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Rm. 331

- ❖ January 16, 2013      Jianqing Fan  
Princeton University
- ❖ January 23, 2013      Irina Ostrovnya  
MSKCC
- ❖ January 30, 2013      Zhigang Zhang  
MSKCC

## HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS

From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

- ❖ January 11, 2013      Shari Goldfarb  
BAIC 300 E. 66<sup>th</sup> St, 9th Floor, Room 917B
- ❖ January 25, 2013  
307 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St, 3rd Floor
- ❖ February 8, 2013  
BAIC 300 E. 66<sup>th</sup> St, 9th Floor, Room 917B
- ❖ February 22, 2013  
307 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St, 3rd Floor

## SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RESEARCH SEMINARS

1275 York Avenue, Rm. M-107

From 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

- ❖ February 12, 2013      John Boice, Jr, ScD  
President, National Council on Radiation  
Protection & Measurements, Professor of  
Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of  
Medicine, Nashville, TN

## STAFF UPDATES

- ❖ **Coral Atoria**, promoted to Assistant Research Biostatistician
- ❖ **Wes Fang**, promoted to Program/Analyst Specialist
- ❖ **Ally Maschino**, promoted to Data Analyst II

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

- ❖ **Farheen Ajmeri**, Research Secretary, Health Outcomes Research Group  
Farheen holds a BS in Public Health from Rutgers University. While at Rutgers, Farheen worked in the Computer Lab as a Consultant. Prior to coming to MSKCC, she participated in an internship with the Sisters Network and was the Fundraising Chair for Warm Heart Worldwide. Farheen joins the Administrative team and supports the investigators on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.



## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

25 Years  
**Glenn Heller**

10 Years  
**Richard Church**  
**Chaya Manning**  
**Ethan Basch**

5 Years  
**Ann Reiner**  
**Joseph Christoff**  
**Lauren Rogak**  
**Junting Zheng**  
**Zhigang Zhang**  
**Meier Hsu**  
**Xiaoyu Jia**  
**Ronglai Shen**

## STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to **Andrew Vickers** for running the New York Road Runners Knickerbocker 60K Race (about 37 miles) in November. He was 2nd in the over 40 age group and placed 16th overall with a time of 4:56.