



INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF CONTRALATERAL BREAST CANCER

Jonine Bernstein received seed money from the NCI to establish an international Consortium of Contralateral Breast Cancer (CCBC). The first meeting will be held in Chicago on Saturday, March 31st, 2012, before the AACR annual meetings. Attendees include epidemiologists, biostatisticians, clinicians, geneticists, and radiation physicists involved in studies of contralateral breast cancer. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Jonine at bernstej@mskcc.org.

SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL TRIALS ANNUAL MEETING

Mithat Gönen is the program chair for the upcoming annual Society for Clinical Trials meeting in Miami on May 20-23, 2012. The theme of the 2012 meeting is "Clinical Trials in Vulnerable Populations".

Visit www.sctweb.org for more details. See you in Miami!

CALLING ALL WRITERS

Do you want to contribute? The B.E.A.C.H. Newsletter editorial team is searching for more volunteers among our departmental staff. The editorial team will benefit from staff with an interest in researching and compiling newsworthy stories in the department. To volunteer contact one of our newsletter editors or send us an [e-mail](mailto:).

CRG CORNER

The Clinical Research Database (CRDB) runs on three platforms including CRDB Client, CRDB Web, and CRDBi. The Computer Resource Group (CRG) is preparing the launch of the CRDBi onto new online systems in order to collaborate with participating clinical centers and cancer hospitals outside MSKCC. New modules on CRDBi include the Special Diagnostic Test, Radiation Oncology GU Waiver and the Tablet Based BMT Survey. CRDBi is the web client platform of the Clinical Research Database. The release version is currently CRDBi 1.29.1



DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Colin Begg, PhD

EDITORS
Sharon Bayuga, MPH
Rick Church, MPH
Brian Denton, MS
Paige Nobles
Prusha Patel, MPH
Brendan Phalan

MITHAT GÖNEN PROMOTED TO MEMBER, MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mithat Gönen joined MSK in 1999 as an Assistant Member and has been an Associate Member since 2005. Since his initial appointment he has worked on the design and analysis of clinical trials and observational studies in gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary cancers. He has also been actively involved with the PET imaging program from its early days. More recently he has been working with investigators from Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program and Dana Farber Cancer Institute Physical Sciences Oncology Center.



Mithat Gönen, PhD

Most of Mithat's methodological research originates from his clinical collaborations including: building, assessing and comparing predictive models; design and analysis of clinical trials and imaging studies; as well as Bayesian methods. He is the author of a book on the use of receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves using SAS® and a co-author, with Glenn Heller, of a widely-used article on the predictive power of proportional hazards regression models. Mithat is the Program Chair for the 2012 meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials. He is also serving a three-year term as a co-director of the AACR/ASCO Vail Workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research. He has been on the editorial board of Gastrointestinal Cancer Research since 2007 and an associate editor for Clinical Trials: Journal of the SCT since 2008

PATRICIA NEARY MARKS 15 YEARS OF SERVICE AT MSKCC

Touch anything except the color red. This motto has guided **Tricia Neary** over the 15 years she's been at MSKCC as she's protected, repaired, polished, and improved just about every piece of equipment and every square inch of our office space. As the Office Manager/Facilities Coordinator for the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Tricia is in charge of what she refers to as "background stuff" – coordinating and maintaining all department facilities, organizing workshops and seminars, and supporting the administrative staff across the department's growing locations. Although some of her responsibilities may appear behind the scenes, all are at the forefront of what makes our office run smoothly and efficiently.

Another noteworthy and admirable creed of Tricia's is her dedication to health and fitness. From her perspective, the better we can take care of ourselves, the better we can take care of the patients. In the December issue of [MSK Life](#), she was featured in an article about the impact of the MSKCC Employee Wellness Program. For the past two years, she has served as a committee member for this program and, more recently, as a Wellness Champion. Tricia's interest in promoting a vigorous lifestyle is not just personal and we have her to thank for continuously advocating healthy habits around the workplace.

Prior to putting on the many hats required of her current position, Tricia studied criminal justice in her home state of Connecticut and worked in security and excess claims for insurance companies. Now a resident of Brooklyn, she enjoys traveling back home to spend

time with her family at their family-run summer camps where she was once a camper. But her preference for travel is by cruise ship to anyplace that allows her to swim with the dolphins or ride horses along the beach.



PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND POPULATION RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

PCPR seminars take place at 1275 York Avenue,
Rm. M-107, 4:00–5:00 PM

- ❖ February 14, 2012
Steven J. Katz, MD, MPH
Professor, Department of Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, MI
“The Challenge of Individualizing Treatments for Patients with Breast Cancer”
1275 York Avenue, Room M-107
- ❖ March 13, 2012
Christoffer Johansen, MD, PhD, DSc
Professor and Head, Department of Psychosocial Cancer Research, Institute of Cancer Epidemiology, The Danish Cancer Society, Copenhagen, Denmark
Zuckerman Research Center, 415 East 68th Street, Room ZRC-105
- ❖ April 10, 2012
Tim A. Ahles, PhD
Attending Clinical Psychologist, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
1275 York Avenue, Room M-107

BIOSTATISTICS SEMINARS

All Biostatistics seminars take place at 307 E.
63rd Street, 3rd Floor, Rm. 331,
11:00 AM –12:00 PM

- ❖ February 8th **Dan Nicolae, PhD**
University of Chicago
- ❖ February 15th **Jaya Satagopan, PhD**
- ❖ February 22nd **Glenn Heller, PhD**
- ❖ February 29th **Andrew Vickers, PhD**
- ❖ March 7th **Alexia Iasonos, PhD**
- ❖ March 14th **Mithat Gonen, PhD**
- ❖ March 21st **Nancy Cook, PhD**
Harvard University
- ❖ March 28th **Li-Xuan Qin, PhD**

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINAR SERIES

From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

- ❖ February 14th, 2012
Stephen Katz, MD, MPH
“Challenges and opportunities of SEER-based population studies: report from the trenches”
BAIC 300 E. 66th Street, 9th Floor -Room 917A
- ❖ February 24th, 2012
Pär Stattin, MD, PhD
“Five alpha-reductase inhibitors and risk of high grade prostate cancer. Case control study in Prostate Cancer data Base Sweden (CBaSe) 2.0.”
307 E. 63rd Street, 3rd Floor Conference room
- ❖ March 9, 2012
Sigrid Carlsson, MD, PhD
Research Fellow
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
BAIC 300 E. 66th Street, 9th Floor -Room 917B
- ❖ March 23, 2012
Antonia Bennett, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Scholar
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
307 E. 63rd Street, 3rd Floor Conference room

MSKCC RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS' PROFESSIONAL DAY

January 27, 2012

More than 200 honorees attended MSK's first Research Administrators' Professional Day. The day's [agenda](#) included a talk given by Tony DeCrappeo, President, Council on Governmental Relations (COGR), a keynote address by Dr. Craig Thompson, a senior leadership panel discussion moderated by Dr. Eric Cottingham with Drs. Thompson, Kelly and Wittes, award presentations, poster session, and lab tours.

Nearly 30 posters were featured at the event, including three authored by our colleagues.

- ❖ [MSK Surgical Secondary Events - System Audit](#)
Authors: Mindy Sovel, Vivian Strong, [Sujata Patil](#), William Hoskins
*Best Poster Award
- ❖ [MyNCBI, OurOpportunity: NIH Public Access Policy Compliance and MyNCBI - The Departmental Experience](#)
Authors: [Joseph Christoff](#), [Brendan Phalan](#), [Roxana Damian](#), [Joey Kanik](#)
- ❖ [Research Finance Group](#)
Authors: Matthew Skernolis, [Brendan Phalan](#)



STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS!

- ❖ [Jonine Bernstein](#) was honored to be appointed for a six year term to the 100 member National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP-www.ncrponline.org).
- ❖ **Caitriona O'Neill** received the best paper prize at the 52nd annual conference of the Irish Otolaryngology / Head & Neck Society in Killarney, Co Kerry, Ireland for the presentation Advance Laryngeal Cancer: A Population-based Study of Treatment Patterns and Outcomes in the United States of America. Caitriona B. O'Neill, James P. O'Neill, Coral L. Atoria, Shrujal S. Baxi, Martin C. Henman, Ian Ganly, Elena B. Elkin.
- ❖ [Meg Woods](#) received her MPH degree in Urban Public Health with a minor in Community Health Education from the School of Public Health at Hunter College, CUNY.
- ❖ [Jaya Satagopan](#) was appointed to Associate Editor of the Sankhya (Series B), which is the official journal of the Indian Statistical Institute. This quarterly journal is published in two series (A and B), with Series B appearing in May and November. The journal welcomes articles on applied and interdisciplinary statistics. Articles should preferably include analysis of original data of broad interest, novel applications of methodology and development of methods and techniques of immediate practical use.

STAFF UPDATES

- ❖ [Jen Brooks](#) was promoted to Instructor.

FAREWELL

- ❖ After 24 years of service at MSKCC, **Pampa Roy** recently celebrated the start of her retirement. Pampa had been working in the Molecular Epidemiology Lab for 13 years as a Senior Research Technician. During her time at MSKCC, Pampa had made numerous contributions to the Epidemiology Service, including experiments and biorepository activities associated with GEM (I, II, III), EDGE, the National Colonoscopy Study, Gliogene and other studies. She will be missed by her colleagues and by those she helped train and mentored through the years.
- ❖ After two years with the Biostatistics Service, **Brian Denton** is leaving the department in February to take a position as a Data Scientist at Intent Media. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

WEBSITE UPDATE – [EPIDEMIOLOGY & BIOSTATISTICS](#)

The MSKCC Internet website dons a new design and format! After several months of downtime, all of our departmental pages and staff pages are available for updates. Faculty pages will be updated with the content published in the upcoming 2011 Annual Report, unless otherwise specified. All departmental staff are encouraged to review the content of their web pages and submit updates to Rick Church including staff portraits.

Be sure to check out updated design features such as Staff Member CV, Upcoming Seminars calendar, Topics Recommended, Related News, Related Topics and publications listings.