



BIOSTATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES

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

- ❖ January 15, 2014 [Andrew Vickers](#)
MSKCC
- ❖ January 22, 2014 [Yichuan Zhao](#)
Georgia State University
- ❖ January 29, 2014 [Colin Begg](#)
MSKCC
- ❖ February 5, 2014 [Chaya Moskowitz](#)
MSKCC
- ❖ February 12, 2014 [Venkatraman Seshan](#)
MSKCC
- ❖ February 19, 2014 [Keith Baggerly](#)
11am-12pm, ZRC-105
MD Anderson Cancer Center
- ❖ February 26, 2014 [Ronglai Shen](#)
MSKCC

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP (HORG) SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM in the 3rd floor conference room (307 63rd St)

- ❖ January 10, 2014 [Christopher Anderson](#)
MSKCC
- ❖ January 24, 2014 [Allison Snyderman](#)
MSKCC
- ❖ February 7, 2014 [Andrew Vickers](#)
MSKCC

SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RESEARCH (SOAR) SEMINAR SERIES

- ❖ January 21, 2014 [Eva Schernhammer, MD, DrPH](#)
2:30pm – 3:30pm
Harvard Medical School,
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
1275 York Ave, M-107
- ❖ February 25, 2014 [Anita Kinney, PhD](#)
4pm - 5pm
Cancer Control and Populations Sciences,
University of New Mexico
1275 York Ave, M-107

STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ [Farheen Ajmeri](#) promoted to Research Secretary II
- ❖ [Joey Kanik](#) promoted to End User Support Analyst II
- ❖ [Emily La Pilla](#) promoted to Senior Research Technician
- ❖ [Amethyst Saldia](#) promoted to Research Study Specialist
- ❖ [Geoff Schnorr](#) promoted to Project Coordinator
- ❖ [Ajay Sharma](#) promoted to Senior Research Technician



DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Colin Begg, PhD
EDITORS
Sharon Bayuga, MPH
Prusha Patel, MPH
Narre Heon
Lauren Rogak, MA
Mary Shaw
Brittany Soto
Joseph Kanik

RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS

[Jen Brooks, PhD](#), was awarded the Chanel Endowment to Fund Survivorship Research for her proposal, “CYP2D6 Phenotype, Tamoxifen Treatment and Risk of Contralateral Breast Cancer in the Women’s Environment Cancer and Radiation Epidemiology (WECARE) Study Population.” Tamoxifen has been associated with a reduced risk of second primary contralateral breast cancer (CBC). CYP2D6 is a central enzyme in the metabolism of tamoxifen and patients with genetic variants in this gene may not experience the full protective effect of tamoxifen with respect to risk of CBC. This study will investigate how genetic variation in CYP2D6 and the corresponding CYP2D6 phenotype, impact the relationship between tamoxifen and risk of CBC. This work is being done in collaboration with Jonine Bernstein (PI of the WECARE Study) and [Irene Orlow](#).



Jennifer Brooks, PhD

Jen was also awarded a Goldstein award for her study “Tumor effects on the measurement of enhancement on breast MRI: Implications for study design.” The objective of this study is to determine if the degree to which normal breast tissue enhances during contrast-enhanced breast MRI (background parenchymal enhancement (BPE)) is influenced by the presence of a tumor in the contralateral breast when measured at the time of cancer diagnosis. This project has important implications for multiple ongoing studies of BPE and is done in collaboration with [Jonine Bernstein](#) and [Malcolm Pike](#), as well as investigators in the Department of Radiology; Janice Sung and Elizabeth Morris.

[Elena Elkin, PhD](#), received a Goldstein award for her proposal, “Patient-Centered Decision Support for Lung Cancer Screening.” The goal of this study is to develop a patient-centered, web-based decision aid for lung cancer screening in current and former smokers and to assess its usability. The decision aid will include individualized assessments of lung cancer risk and mortality and the benefits and harms of screening.

NYC EPIDEMIOLOGY FORUM

The New York City Epidemiology Forum (NYCEF) was recently created to provide a forum for regular contacts and exchanges among epidemiologists working in New York City. The overall goal is to provide opportunities for collaborations and career opportunities, particularly for junior investigators. The NYCEF will hold its first annual conference at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai on February 28, 2014, from 9am-4:30pm. Muin Khoury, MD, PhD, from NCI’s Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program, will be the keynote speaker. There will be 12 short talks on ongoing work in different areas, chosen from over 150 submitted abstracts. Other work will be presented as posters. [Jaya Satagopan](#), in collaboration with [Sara Olson](#) and Robert C. Elston (Case Western Reserve University), will be presenting their poster titled “Evaluation of Statistical Interactions for Binary Disease Traits.” Register at <http://nycef.org/register/>; there is no fee. Please contact [Sara Olson](#), the MSKCC member of the Scientific Committee, with any questions.

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

- ❖ [Angie Santiago Zayas](#), Research Study Assistant I
Angie works with [Victoria Blinder](#) and her research staff. Her previous experience includes positions at the Ibero American Action League including Health Navigator, Family Support Advocate and Outreach Intervention Specialist. Angie received a BS in Biological Sciences from the University of Rochester and she is currently completing a MPH from Nova Southeastern University.
- ❖ [Kelsey Laning](#), Research Secretary I
Kelsey graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst this past May with a BS in Public Health and a concentration in Epidemiology. She has assisted various projects as an undergraduate related to breast cancer epidemiology. Kelsey just moved to New York from the Boston area and is very excited to be working at MSKCC.



FOOD DRIVE THANK YOU

A special thank you for your kindness and generosity during the 2013 Food Drive. Collectively we raised over \$2,000 for the New York City Food Bank.

HOLIDAY PARTY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thanks to members of the Planning Committee in helping to make this year's holiday party a success. We greatly appreciate your hard work and efforts. Happy Holidays to all!

Overall planning & logistics:

Yasmeen Majoka
Shireen Lewis

Food:

Joe Christoff

Pin Ceremony Video & T-shirts:

Joey Kanik

Guest Check In:

Tricia Neary

Desserts:

Melissa Budnick
Kaitlin Woo
Deborah Kuk
Lauren Rogak

Photography:

Val Pocus

Background Music:

Debra Goldman
Lauren Rogak

Food Pantry Donations:

Carolyn Eberle
Brittany Soto
Stacey Petruzella

MSK SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

5 YEARS

Raymond Baser, Victoria Blinder, Ravi Chander, Yu-Ming Chang, Bradley Cohen, Joseph Kanik, Irina Ostrovnya, Brendan Phalan, Talya Salz, Marwan Shouery

10 YEARS

Elena Elkin

15 YEARS

Peter Bach

20 YEARS

Elyn Stubblefield

35 YEARS

Ann Zauber

