



## APPOINTMENTS

- ❖ **Victoria Blinder, Elena Elkin, Sara Olson, and Jaya Satagopan** were all appointed to MSKCC's new **Research Council B - Minimal Risk (RC B - MR)**.
- ❖ **Mithat Gönen** was selected for a 3 year term as a board member for the Journal for the Society of Clinical Trials.

## ENSURE YOUR ARTICLES ARE IN COMPLIANCE!

As of July 1, 2013, NIH is delaying non-competing continuation awards if publications arising from grant awards are not compliant with the **NIH Public Access Policy**. For each and every new publication, please continue to notify your research secretary who can assist you in determining the necessary steps to bring the article into compliance.

## FARMIGO

Order fresh produce online and have it delivered right to the office!

Farmigo connects local farmers to communities to deliver fresh, locally grown, organic food. Through an online food community, employees can select from a wide range of fresh produce for purchase each week and have the food delivered right to our office. Farmigo provides a cooler to keep eggs, butter and yogurt chilled.

For more information and to sign up, check out the **Farmigo website** for MSKCC 63rd St.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LGBT PRIDE ERN

MSK's LGBT Pride Employee Resource Network (ERN) made its first appearance in the NYC Pride March on Sunday, June 30th. For information on upcoming events, please speak to **Brendan Phalan** or email [LGBTPRIDE@mskcc.org](mailto:LGBTPRIDE@mskcc.org).

## AIR CONDITIONING REMINDER

All offices and cubicle areas with windows have their own air conditioner units and thermostats. All staff in these areas are reminded to turn off all units at the end of the work day. Leaving units on overnight can lead to flooding in the area due to the size of the air conditioner drains.

## FOOD TRASH UPDATE

Please place ALL food trash in the large trash containers located in the pantry on each floor. Please do not leave any food, candy or sodas at your desk or in your trash bins, as these may attract bugs. If you wish to keep food and/or candy at your desk, please make sure it is in a glass, tin or plastic container with a tight fitting lid.

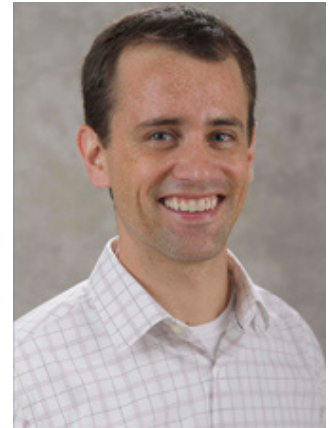


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## SEAN DEVLIN AWARDED SOCIETY GRANT

**Sean Devlin** was awarded a Society grant to support his research on statistical methods for incorporating next generation sequencing markers into an existing clinical prognostic system. The first component of his grant will develop an adaptive search algorithm to find mutational profiles which improve upon and refine an existing prognostic classifier. After the algorithm has been developed, it will be applied to a new comprehensive gene panel for patients with hematologic malignancies. **Mithat Gönen, Irina Ostrovnya, and Ross Levine** are also investigators on this project.



Sean Devlin, PhD

## SARA OLSON AWARDED LUCILLE CASTORI SEED GRANT

**Sara Olson** and Robert Kurtz, MD, Chief of Gastroenterology, were awarded a Seed Grant from the Lucille Castori Center for Microbes, Inflammation, and Cancer for a pilot study of the oral microbiome in pancreatic cancer cases, healthy controls, and patients with a precursor lesion, intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm (IPMN). Studies have found that measures of oral health differ significantly in pancreatic cancer cases and healthy controls, suggesting that the oral microbiome may represent one of a group of immunity and inflammatory factors that influence risk of disease. She plans to obtain specimens from 50 patients with pancreatic cancer, 50 with IPMNs, and 50 controls, using procedures established in the MSKCC Pancreatic Tumor Registry (IRB 02-102). The components of the oral microbiome will be measured using sequencing methods that detect hundreds of bacteria, including those that cannot be grown in vitro. She will compare the oral microbiome of pancreatic cancer cases and controls and investigate whether this is correlated with the degree of dysplasia in IPMNs.



Sara Olson, PhD

## PRESENTATIONS AT THE SURVIVORSHIP RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Survivorship Research Symposium was held on May 15, 2013. Carolyn Eberle, MPH and **Chaya Moskowitz**, PhD gave oral presentations, and Erin Onstad, MPH presented a poster. The symposium highlighted several MSKCC studies that investigate issues faced by cancer survivors.

- ❖ **Carolyn Eberle**, MPH; Work Status and Financial Stability during Treatment for Early Breast Cancer: A Pilot Study of an Ethnically Diverse Sample
- ❖ **Erin Onstad**, MPH; Survivorship Care Plans: Is There Buy-in from Oncology Providers?
- ❖ **Chaya Moskowitz**, PhD; New Insights into the Risk of Breast Cancer in Childhood Cancer Survivors Treated with Chest Radiation: A Report from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS) and the Women's Environmental Cancer and Radiation Epidemiology (WECARE) Study

## TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM IN AUGUST 2013

The Biostatistics symposium "Advances in Statistical Methods for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology" will be held on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Laurance Rockefeller Board Room in the Rockefeller Research Laboratories building at MSKCC. This symposium is being hosted by our department in collaboration with MD Anderson Cancer Center. All are welcome to attend.

## WORK ON THE BEACH

Join the editors of the BEACH Newsletter! We need volunteers to help with our bimonthly newsletter. Please contact our editorial group at our [email address](#).

## STAFF FAREWELLS

- ❖ **Adele Meyer** will be leaving in August to pursue a 15-month accelerated BS in Nursing at New York University.
- ❖ **Sang-Hee Min** will be leaving MSKCC to pursue an MPH in Epidemiology with a Certificate in Global Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.
- ❖ **Laura Pinheiro** is leaving MSKCC to pursue a PhD in Health Policy and Management at UNC – Chapel Hill.
- ❖ **Eve Burstein** is leaving MSKCC to pursue a dual MBA/MPH in Healthcare Management at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor.
- ❖ **Erin Onstad** is leaving MSKCC to pursue a ScD in Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health.
- ❖ **Yvonne Bombard** will embark upon the next stage of her career as an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and a Scientist at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital.
- ❖ **Mary Dallat** is returning to Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland after spending just less than two years at MSK, under the supervision of Ann Zauber, to complete the final year of her NCI Health Economics fellowship. During her time at MSK she has been investigating the cost-effectiveness of various physical activity interventions including an urban rejuvenation project and a physical activity loyalty card scheme.
- ❖ **Pär Stattin** is going back to Sweden after two years as visiting scientist at MSKCC. He will continue his duties as a professor of urology at Umeå University and as the chairman of the National Prostate Cancer Register (NPCR) of Sweden.
- ❖ **Niccolò Passoni** is leaving MSKCC to pursue a research fellowship at Duke University studying prostate cancer and focal therapy, while waiting to apply for Urology Residency in the United States.

## WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S SUMMER INTERNS

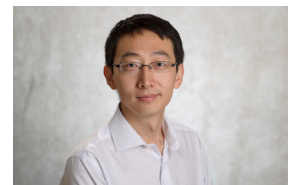
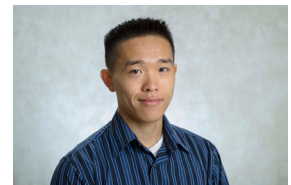
- ❖ Katherine Takvorian - GME student working with Victoria Blinder
- ❖ Jahanett Ramirez - GME student working with Li-Xuan Qin
- ❖ Ashley Haynes – SCORE program student working with Jaya Satagopan
- ❖ Ashley McFarland - Columbia graduate student working with Sara Olson
- ❖ Janice Lin – Columbia graduate student working with Jen Brooks
- ❖ Erica Schubert – Yeshiva graduate student working with Jonine Bernstein
- ❖ Louis DeBellis – Skidmore college student working with Ethan Basch and Malcolm Pike
- ❖ Shannon Pullaro – Fordham graduate student working with Victoria Blinder
- ❖ Abigail Lee – college student at Emory University working with Allison Snyderman

## STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ **Alexia Iasonos** promoted to Associate Attending Biostatistician
- ❖ **Anne Reiner** promoted to Research Biostatistician II
- ❖ **Matt Chang** promoted to Programmer Analyst, Sr.

## WELCOME NEW STAFF!

- ❖ **Sophia Chen**, Research Study Assistant  
Sophia graduated from Wellesley College with a BA in East Asian Studies. As an undergraduate, Sophia served as president of the Korean Student Association and East Asian Studies Majors Council. She completed advanced coursework at Fudan University (Shanghai, China) and Seoul National University (Korea). Sophia will support Dr. **Victoria Blinder** in her studies of the impact of breast cancer on employment and quality of life.
- ❖ **Yi Iris Miao**, Research Study Assistant  
Iris graduated from New York University with a BS in Applied Psychology. Her recent research experience includes conducting clinical interviews with the NYS Psychiatric Institute's Child Psychiatric Epidemiology Group and assisting in the launch of a Taoist Cognitive Behavioral Therapy pilot at the Charles B. Wang Community Center. Iris will support Dr. **Victoria Blinder** in her studies of the impact of breast cancer on employment and quality of life.
- ❖ **Emily La Pilla**, Research Technician  
Emily joined the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory in May 2013 and is working with Dr. **Irene Orlow** primarily on melanoma studies including the Genes, Environment and Melanoma Study (GEM). Emily received a BS in Biology from the University of Maryland-College Park and a Master of Forensic Science degree (MFS) from George Washington University. Before joining MKSCC, she worked in a Structural Biology Laboratory for the Research Foundation of New York at City College. Prior to relocating to New York City, Emily gained research experience working in government laboratories in Maryland and Virginia.
- ❖ **Peter Li**, Research Study Assistant  
Peter graduated from New York University with a BA in Mathematics. Prior to joining MSKCC, Peter was a biostatistics research intern at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health studying the effects of vitamin-D supplementation on depression. He has also been assisting Dr. **Sara Olson** with her pancreatic cancer research projects. Peter will be working with Drs. **Victoria Blinder** and Sara Olson and their respective research teams. He hopes to eventually pursue an MD and MPH in Biostatistics.
- ❖ **Yi Niu**, Research Scholar  
Yi Niu recently received his PhD in Statistics from Queen's University at Kingston in Ontario, Canada. His research interests are in the development and application of statistical models and methods with close connection to public health studies. His dissertation focuses on the generalized estimating equation approach for correlated failure time data, as well as its applications to cancer research. He is currently working with Dr. **Li-Xuan Qin** on statistical analysis of cancer genomics data.



## ❖ Luke Selby, Research Fellow

Luke graduated from New York Medical College in 2011 and is a General Surgery Resident at North Shore-LIJ Health System in Manhasset, NY. Luke joins MSKCC for a two year research fellowship primarily with the Gastric and Mixed Tumor Service in the Department of Surgery. He will also be collaborating with **Andrew Vickers** on developing a prediction model for complications after gastric or abdominal sarcoma resection.

be well  
august  
National Immunization Awareness Month  
Do you have questions regarding immunizations?  
Consult the [Employee Health and Wellness website](#)  
and have access to all the information you need.