



NEED CUSTOMIZED FUNDING SEARCHES?

Grants & Contracts (formerly OSP) has hired a Senior Proposal Development Manager, Annmarie L. Pacchia, PhD (Molecular Biology, Rutgers), and formed a new **Fund Development Team** to provide customized funding searches to the MSKCC research community. This new service could be tailored to individual, service, or department needs. Please contact Dr. Pacchia directly or email Brendan Phalan to help coordinate a visit to the department.

MULTICENTER TRIAL COORDINATION TOOLKIT

NEW Multicenter SOPs go into effect on June 1st. These are for studies in which MSKCC is the sponsor and/or data coordinating center and there is at least one site external to MSKCC. These procedures apply to:

- ❖ Investigator-initiated protocols with at least one external site, regardless of whether or not participants will also be enrolled at MSKCC. External sites include the Minority Serving Institutions. The Regional networks are NOT considered external.
- ❖ NCI/CTEP protocols for which MSKCC is the data and/or regulatory coordinating center.
- ❖ Cooperative group protocols which include sites at the Minority Serving Institutions.

Questions on multicenter protocols?
E-mail: multicntrproc@mskcc.org or
Phone: 646-888-0924

CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS WEEK

Monday, July 26th, to Friday, July 30th, the Center will celebrate Clinical Research Professionals Week to recognize the efforts of the clinical research staff.

Wednesday, July 28th

- ❖ Poster Session
- ❖ Movie Screening, *The Physician As Patient*
- ❖ Clinical Research Staff Presentations
- ❖ Clinical Research Expo

Friday, July 30th

- ❖ Survivorship Panel



DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Colin Begg, PhD

EDITORS

Sharon Bayuga, MPH
Rick Church, MPH
Angel Cronin, MS
Joshua Mirkin
Brendan Phalan

NEW PROTOCOL APPROVED FOR VICTORIA BLINDER

Prospective Study: Breast Cancer Impacts among Ethnic Groups

Victoria Blinder, MD, recently received a Career Development Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology for her research on ethnic disparities in employment outcomes among survivors of breast cancer. She received IRB approval for her new protocol (IRB 10-071) and will start accruing participants this summer. This prospective cohort study will evaluate the impact of breast cancer on the employment status of women from different ethnic groups and will assess how this effect may vary between groups. 750 breast cancer patients will be recruited from MSKCC & the Regional Networks (Basking Ridge, Commack, Rockville Center, Sleepy Hollow), The Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention, Queens Cancer Center of Queens Hospital, The Breast Center at New York Hospital Queens, Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, Bellevue Hospital Center, and Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center. These patients will be ethnicity-matched to healthy peer controls who are African American, Caucasian, Chinese, Korean, or Latina. The use of a control arm of ethnicity-matched healthy peers surveyed in a corresponding timeframe will allow the investigators to separate the impact of breast cancer from that of fluctuations in the economy. Participants will have the option of completing a web-based survey or a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI). By identifying and describing disparities in these outcomes, the investigators will obtain the tools needed to design interventions to address these disparities in a culturally competent and relevant manner.

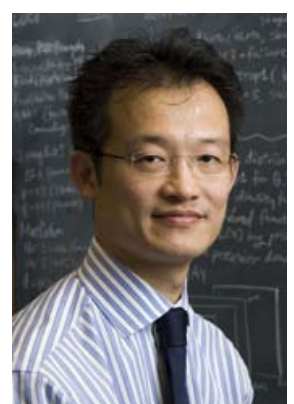


Victoria Blinder, MD

Departmental colleagues involved in this study are **Ethan Basch** (Co-PI), **Sujata Patil** (Investigator), **Elena Elkin** (Investigator), and **Amy Hamilton** (RPC). **Marwan Shouery** from **Ethan Basch's Webcore** is developing the electronic surveys. These will be used by participants who choose to complete the surveys online as well as by the Cornell Survey Research Institute, who will administer the CATIs to those who opt for a telephone survey. This study is also funded by the MSKCC Cancer Survivorship Initiative Grant and the CCNY/MSKCC U54 Partnership.

NEW GRANT FOR YUELIN LI RESEARCH

Yuelin Li, PhD, recently received an NCI grant for his study "Using Cellular Phones to Capture Social Network Dynamics in Young Adult Smoking". It is an R21 grant to use cellular phones as automatic social network sensors. The study will buy phones for young adult smokers and members of their social network. Utility programs installed on the phones will periodically sample the Bluetooth and GPS chips. They will also ask users to enter daily smoking and link smoking behavior to the social network characteristics derived from phone sensor data. The study proposes to show that social network ties strongly affect young adults' smoking behavior, perhaps more so than psychological factors such as stress.



Yuelin Li, PhD

NEW PROTOCOLS APPROVED

- ❖ A usability testing study protocol for which **Ethan Basch** is PI and Jennifer Hay is Co-PI was IRB approved (*Refinement of the Patient-Reported Outcomes Version of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (PRO-CTCAE): Usability Testing*, IRB #10-072). This study will evaluate software developed as a part of the NCI PRO-CTCAE initiative in terms of patient and staff user experiences with the platform.
- ❖ **Sara Olson and Jonine Bernstein's** protocol "Glioma International Case-Control Study," IRB 10-073, has been approved. Their study is testing the hypothesis that inherited variation influencing susceptibility to glioma can be identified by high density single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis.



CRDBi is the web client platform of the Clinical Research Database. The release version is currently CRDBi 1.17. The Computer Resource Group (CRG) recently introduced additional data collection tools including:

- ❖ Survivorship Report
- ❖ Participant Study Report
- ❖ LC-MAP Module
- ❖ 05-118 Module
- ❖ 09-141 Module

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Welcome to **Antonia Bennett, PhD**, who will be starting as a post-doctoral fellow with Ethan Basch. Antonia received her PhD in psychometric methodology at the University of Washington in Seattle. She will be conducting studies on patient symptom reporting, with a focus on recall period assessment. She will be sitting at workstation 222D on the 2nd floor.

INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

The department would like to welcome our interns and volunteers for this summer. We appreciate all of your help and hard work.

- ❖ Xiaowei “Rebecca” Zhou (Ann Zauber)
- ❖ Jermaine Myers (Sara Olson)
- ❖ Jolanta Jozefara (Ethan Basch)
- ❖ Maya Marzouk (Jonine Bernstein & Malcolm Pike)
- ❖ Wissam Bahsoun (Andrew Vickers)

STAFF PROMOTIONS

Mary Shaw was promoted to RSA II in the Health Outcomes Group.

Lauren Rogak was promoted to RSA Specialist in the Health Outcomes Group.

Matt Chang was promoted to Application Analyst in the Computing Resource Group.

Rachel Jia was promoted to Research Biostatistician in the Biostatistics Service.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Ravi Jagannathan who completed his 3rd marathon, running the NJ marathon on May 2nd. Ravi will also run the New York City Marathon this year in November.

TWO-YEAR PILOT GRANT FOR ELENA ELKIN

Elena Elkin, PhD, was awarded a two-year pilot grant from the Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC), the multi-institutional consortium which includes MSKCC, Weill Cornell Medical College, and others. The study, “Development and Evaluation of Web-Based Decision Aid for Screening Mammography,” aims to facilitate the mammography decision-making process for women in their 40s, using a web-based decision support tool with individualized information about the risks and benefits of screening mammography. The study team includes clinicians and researchers from MSKCC and WCMC and will capitalize on the talent and skills of the MSKCC Online Research Tools Core Facility to develop and implement the web-based decision aid.



Elena Elkin, PhD

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Ethan Basch, MD, published a perspective piece on patient-reported outcomes in the *New England Journal of Medicine* titled “The Missing Voice of Patients in Drug-Safety Reporting.” This piece was subsequently highlighted in a *New York Times* article titled “In Reporting Symptoms, Don’t Patients Know Best?”



POSTER PRESENTATIONS FROM DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK 2010

- ❖ *Elimination of Racial Disparities in Screening Colonoscopy Participation by using a Patient Navigator System: Results from the National Colonoscopy Study*
Michael Dorfman, **Ann Zauber**, Glenn Mills, **Julie Ruckel**, Timothy Church, Margaret Mandelson, Paul Jordan, Michael O’Brien, John Allen, Andrew Feld, Victoria Serrano, **Sharon Bayuga-Miller**, Sidney Winawer
- ❖ *African-Americans Have the Same Prevalence and Proximal Distribution of Adenomas as Whites in the National Colonoscopy Study*
Georgia Close, **Ann Zauber**, Glenn Mills, Paul Jordan, **Julie Ruckel**, Michael O’Brien, Timothy Church, Margaret Mandelson, John Allen, Andrew Feld, **Sharon Bayuga**, Victoria Serrano, Noah Kauff, Sidney Winawer
- ❖ *Risk of Colorectal Adenoma Recurrence Due to Red Blood Cell Folate Level in the Post Folate Fortification Era: Results from the Adenoma Prevention with Celecoxib (APC) Trial*
Joanne Chou, Guy Eslick, Mara Vitolins, Janet Tooze, Jason Bacher, Edward Giovannucci, Monica Bertagnolli, **Ann Zauber**

RECENT FACULTY PROMOTIONS

- ❖ **Shari Goldfarb, MD**, is completing her Medical Hematology/Oncology fellowship and has been appointed to a faculty position with dual academic appointments in the Department of Medicine (Breast Cancer Medicine Service) and in the Health Outcomes Group of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Her appointment will begin on July 1st. Shari’s research focuses on characterizing and improving the negative effects of cancer therapy on sexual health and fertility in cancer survivors. Shari is co-mentored by Drs. Ethan Basch and Maura Dickler.
- ❖ **Thomas Atkinson, PhD**, is completing his post-doctoral fellowship in the Health Outcomes Group and has been appointed to a faculty position in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He will become the head of the Behavioral Sciences Core. Thomas is co-mentored by Drs. Ethan Basch and Jennifer Hay.

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Reviewing the Application Process

Brendan Phalan and Lorraine Ladra (HOPP) interviewed 12 hospital departments to capture current pre-award processes, to share useful methods and tools, and to identify needs and opportunities for enhanced services from Grants & Contracts (formerly OSP), a unit of the Research and Technology Management (RTM) division. Findings have been presented to the RTM leadership, the Research Management Working Group, and the Chief of Strategic Planning and Innovation, Wendy Perchick. With guidance from **Roxana Damian** and Ederlinda Paraiso (HOPP), discussions are underway to further analyze the data and to implement the recommendations.