



## NEWS AND UPDATES

### NIH NEWS

#### Applications for \$1.5 Billion in Recovery Act Funds Now Available

Grants are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for scientific research, construction and improvement of research facilities, and the purchase of scientific equipment.

### 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2008 Annual Report is now available and can be found on the [H.; Shared Drive](#). Thank you to all who helped put this together.

### WEBSITE UPDATE

The [Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics](#) internet website is complete with updates for 2009, incorporating images designed with help from the Public Affairs Department and text updates primarily gathered from the 2008 Annual Report. Please contact Rick Church at the CRG Helpline (x58180) regarding changes to your staff or service pages.

### IN THE NEWS

**NewsHour with Jim Lehrer**  
PBS-TV, Ch. 13 - 03/19/2009  
**Andrew Vickers** recently appeared on NewsHour to discuss the results reported in two large studies looking at the benefits of PSA screening for prostate cancer and whether it saves lives. [View Video](#)

### MSK Research Weekly

Delivered each Monday by e-mail, this Research and Technology Management (RTM) publication is a great way to stay abreast of internal/external award opportunities, federal grants policy, as well as upcoming workshops and events. [Sign up now!](#)



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### NEW FACULTY: WELCOME MALCOLM PIKE!

[Malcolm Pike](#), PhD is a University Professor and Professor of Preventive Medicine at the Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles. Dr. Pike's research interests focus on the cause and prevention of female cancers. His current research includes the development of a hormonal contraceptive designed to significantly reduce breast cancer in young women, and the effects of diet on risk of female cancers in a large multi-ethnic cohort (African-Americans, Japanese-Americans, Latinas, Native-Hawaiians, Whites). Further, Dr. Pike is involved in studies of the genetics of hormonal factors of importance in the cause of female cancers in the multi-ethnic cohort and in case-control studies, as well as studies designed to find improved forms of menopausal hormone replacement therapy.



Malcolm Pike, PhD

In February, Dr. Pike gave a seminar at MSK entitled [The Hormonal Etiology and Prevention of Breast, Endometrial and Ovarian Cancers](#) as part of the President's Research Seminar Series. Dr. Pike is an eminent scientist who has made important contributions to both biostatistical theory and cancer epidemiologic research. We are thrilled that he will be joining our Department in a half-time position, expected to begin in early April. We look forward to future collaborations and learning from his extensive expertise in the chemoprevention of breast, endometrial and ovarian cancers.

### PUBLICATIONS

***A Class of Transformed Mean Residual Life Models with Censored Survival Data***  
Liuquan Sun, PhD and Zhigang Zhang, PhD

Dr. Zhang and his co-author Dr. Sun developed a method to analyze censored data that directly models the survival time, based on mean residual life, which has applications in clinical trials and medical studies. The paper is set to appear in the June issue of the [Journal of the American Statistical Association](#).

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**[2009 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium](#)** February 26-28<sup>th</sup> in Orlando, Florida

Assessing Individual Prostate Cancer Risk  
*New Prognostic Markers: Pitfalls in the Pathway from Research to Clinical Practice*  
**Andrew Vickers, PhD**

**[2009 ENAR Spring Meeting](#)** March 15-18<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, Texas

Contributed Papers: ROC Analysis  
*Optimal Cutpoint Estimation with Censored Data*  
**Mithat Gönen, PhD and Cami Sima, MS**

Evaluation Markers for Risk Prediction  
*Decision Curve Analysis: A Simple, Novel Method for the Evaluation of Prediction Models, Diagnostic Tests and Molecular Markers*  
**Andrew Vickers, PhD**

## SWING SPACE

The Department has an office (aka: Swing Space) at Main Campus. The office is located in the Schwartz Building on the 13th floor, office # 1302B. To gain access to this office, you need the code for the punch lock and must sign-up in advance. Please see Patricia Neary for the code and sign-up sheet.

## MORE STAFF NEWS

### RECENT PROMOTIONS

- **Sharon Bayuga-Miller** was promoted to Manager of the EPI/BIO Research Program
- **Cami Sima** was promoted to the professional staff in the Biostatistics Service
- **Jennifer Simon** was promoted to RSA III
- **Christine Zhou** was promoted to Research Biostatistician

## JOB POSTINGS

The Epidemiology Department is currently recruiting for a RSA, RPC and Data Analyst.

## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME NEW STAFF!

#### **Simone Hutchinson**

After spending a year working as an Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Nuclear Medicine Training Program in 2006-2007, Simone returns to MSK joining the Administration team in our Department.

#### **Secretary, Epidemiology Service**

#### **Dawn Lavene**

Dawn comes to us from Wyeth where she worked as a Regulatory Toxicology Technician. She will be involved in STAR 04-020, the multi-institutional CALGB 07-034 study, a data mining project with the FDA, and with the cognitive interviewing portion of the PRO-CTCAE contract with the NCI.

#### **RSA, Health Outcomes**

#### **Shireen Lewis**

Shireen has worked at MSK for the past 5 years. Her recent positions include Project Coordinator in Urology and Strategic Planning. She is involved in the NIH Public Access Policy project, supervises administrative staff, and is the Departmental liaison with Human Resources. Shireen has a Master's of Public Administration from the NYU Wagner program.

#### **Administrative Manager**

### EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### **Rick Church**

Rick completed his Master's of Public Health in Community Health Education from Hunter College and received the Beatrice Konheim Graduate Scholarship in the Life Sciences this January 2009.

#### **Nicole Ishill**

Nicole was accepted to Columbia University for a DrPH in Biostatistics.

### ... AND GOODBYE & GOODLUCK!

#### **Jessica Hill**

After working in the department for 2½ years, Jessica is leaving MSK to return to school. She has served as both Epidemiology Secretary and Research Study Assistant. Jessica will be attending Columbia University's School of Nursing for a combined BS/MS program, specializing as Nurse-Midwife & Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

#### **Brendan Sayers**

Brendan was accepted to Cornell's Graduate School of Health Sciences program for a Master's of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. He has been at MSK for almost 1 year working in Irene Orlow's lab as a Sr. Research Technician.

## CRG CORNER



### CRDBi UPDATE:

The Computing Resource group introduced several additional data collection forms in the CRDBi platform of the Clinical Research Database.

The "CDUS" menu tab (as shown above) includes all the necessary elements for a Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP) compliant protocol.

New **CDUS forms** rolled out this **February** include:

- Patient Information
- Treatment
- Publications
- Prior Therapy
- Toxicity
- Physical Exam/Vitals
- Correlative Studies

Additionally, a new "CRF" menu tab includes Case Report Forms available for data collection on a wide variety of protocols.

New **CRF forms** rolling out this **March** include:

- Surgery
- Hospitalization
- Physical Exam