



MSKCC ANNUAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS' PROFESSIONAL DAY

Over 225 people attended MSKCC's 2nd Annual Research Administrators' Professional Day on March 22, 2013. The day's events included talks by Dr. Thomas Kelly, a keynote address by Dr. Eric Cottingham, presentation of the 2013 Research Administrators of Excellence Awards by Dr. Craig Thompson, poster sessions, networking events, workshops, and lab tours. Our very own **Brendan Phalan** was involved in the planning as a member of the marketing sub-committee. Follow the links for a list of the [poster sessions](#) and the [day's events](#).

CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS WEEK

In recognition of the efforts of the research support staff, this year's Clinical Research Professionals Week celebration will be held June 17th-21st. Events include speakers, a lunch reception, raffle prizes, and poster presentations. **Meg Woods** and **Erin Onstad** will both be presenting posters.

TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM IN AUGUST 2013

A two-day symposium on "Advances in Statistical Methods for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology" will be held at MSKCC on August 22nd and 23rd, 2013. This symposium, organized in collaboration with MD Anderson Cancer Center, is being hosted by our department. All of those interested are welcome to attend. A call for abstracts and the symposium details are available at the [symposium's web page](#).

MSKCC INTRODUCES EMPLOYEE RESOURCE NETWORKS

Employee Resource Networks (ERNs) are a major contributor towards the Center's goal of developing a more effective and inclusive environment for both employees and patients. ERNs provide a forum in which employees of similar and different cultures, backgrounds, and lifestyles can grow personally and professionally around a shared affinity. These networks are formed and led by employees.

Congratulations to **Brendan Phalan** who led the effort to establish LGBT Pride, the first approved ERN at MSKCC. The mission of LGBT Pride is to foster an MSKCC environment in which our LGBT employees, patients and families, and community partners feel respected, comfortable, and valued, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Natalie Barragan is involved with creating and establishing the charter for a Multicultural Employee Resource Network. This group will be submitting a charter in the next few weeks.

Please contact them if you have suggestions or would like more information on how to participate.



DEPARTMENT CHAIR
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ROXANA DAMIAN AWARDED RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

It comes as no surprise that Roxana Damian was one of seven recipients of the Research Administrator of Excellence Award at the 2nd Annual Research Administrators' Professional Day event held on March 22nd. This award was in recognition of all her hard work and dedication to our department and the institution as a whole. Her positive attitude and happy disposition make her a pleasure to work with. Roxana joined MSKCC in 2003 as a Fund Coordinator in Research Administration. She later transferred to the Grants and Contracts Accounting office prior to joining our department as the Grants Administrator in 2008. Since then, she has enhanced and streamlined the grant submission process and award monitoring for investigators in our department. She works closely with the Office of Research and Project Administration (ORPA), the Finance Office, and Human Resources Department to provide faculty with the support needed to carry out their research.



Left to right: Dr. Craig Thompson, [Roxana Damian](#), and Dr. Eric Cottingham

Roxana completed her undergraduate degree in Romania. She also holds an MBA from James Madison University in Virginia. When not in the office meeting 5pm submission deadlines, she enjoys roller skating and playing volleyball. Every summer you can find her in Romania connecting with family and friends and exposing her two young boys to the Romanian language and culture. We thank Roxana for her continued support in our Department's research efforts!



Roxana pictured with her husband Dragos and their two sons, Andrei and Matei

PUBLICATION



Strategy for detection of prostate cancer based on relation between prostate specific antigen at age 40-55 and long term risk of metastasis: case-control study

Andrew Vickers, D.Phil. and collaborators from MSKCC and Sweden performed a case-control study using data from the Swedish Malmö Preventive Project cohort to assess the ideal timing and frequency of PSA screening. The researchers measured PSA in blood provided at baseline and looked at the risk of metastasis or death from prostate cancer 25-30 years later. The research team concluded that by starting PSA screening in their mid-to-late 40s, men with high PSAs can be selected for more intense screening due to their high risk of death from prostate cancer (44% of deaths occurred in men with PSA levels in the top tenth). Men with a low risk of prostate cancer may only need three lifetime PSA tests (mid-to-late 40s, early 50s, and 60), since men with low PSAs levels had low 15-year risk of metastasis and death from prostate cancer.

BIOSTATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES

307. E 63rd Street, 3rd Floor, Rm. 331
From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

- ❖ May 15 2013 [Mithat Gönen](#) MSKCC
- ❖ May 22 2013 David Conti University of Southern California
- ❖ May 29 2013 [Li-Xuan Qin](#) MSKCC
- ❖ June 05 2013 [Marinela Capanu](#) MSKCC

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS

From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

- ❖ May 03 2013 [Yvonne Bombard](#)
300 E. 66th Street, 9th Floor, Room #917A
- ❖ May 17 2013 [Andrew Vickers](#)
307 E. 63rd Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room
- ❖ June 14 2013 [Talva Salz](#)
307 E. 63rd Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room
- ❖ June 28 2013 [Victoria Blinder](#)
300 E. 66th Street, 9th Floor, Room #917A

UPCOMING CONFERENCE LIST

- ❖ [ASCO \(American Society of Clinical Oncology\)](#):
May 31-June 4, Chicago, IL
- ❖ [SER \(Society for Epidemiologic Research\)](#):
June 18-21, Boston, MA
- ❖ [JSM \(Joint Statistical Meetings\)](#):
August 3-8, Montréal, Québec, Canada

CRDB UPDATE

The Clinical Research Database (CRDB) runs on three platforms including CRDB Client, CRDB Web, and CRDBi. The GTSCE Facility Specimen check in form is the newest module added to CRDB.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

❖ **Patrick Hilden, M.S.** Assistant Research Biostatistician

Patrick graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in Statistics and a M.S. in Biostatistics. While in graduate school he supported the Cardiovascular Division at the University of Minnesota with ongoing research. Patrick is currently working with Sean Devlin on a project related to bone marrow transplantation, and with Cami Sima on a lung cancer project. He is also working with Mithat Gönen on a project related to predicting recurrence and survival among patients with liver cancer.



FACULTY AND STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ **Eve Burstein**, promoted to Research Project Coordinator
- ❖ **Prusha Patel**, promoted to Research Project Coordinator
- ❖ **Zhigang Zhang**, promoted to Associate Attending

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ **Natalie Barragan** is graduating from NYU's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service in May. She will hold a Master of Public Administration, with a focus on Health Policy and Management and a specialization in Health Services Management. Natalie's capstone project involved working with a health center to evaluate patient participation in a recently added portal that allows patients to access their own health records.
- ❖ **Melissa Budnick** is graduating from Baruch College in May. She will hold a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Non-profit Management and Master of Public Health with a concentration in Health Policy and Management. Melissa's capstone project consisted of a business plan for her nonprofit to build a secondary school in Mubende, Uganda. She will use this plan to seek funding opportunities for her organization.

Be Well

May is Skin Cancer Prevention and Detection month and MSKCC is hosting free skin cancer screenings on Thursday, May 2nd at the main campus from 9am to 4pm and Thursday, May 23rd from 4pm to 7pm at 53rd street. All visits are by appointment only and can be scheduled by calling 908-542-3400.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS! FREE BIOMETRIC SCREENING & HEALTH FAIR

Ever wondered what your blood pressure, BMI, blood glucose level, or cholesterol level is? Find out on Friday, May 10th at the BAIC! [Sign up for a free 15-minute screening](#), have a quick fingerstick, and then review your results immediately with a registered nurse. Sign up for an appointment slot today, and be sure to save some extra time to stop by the Employee Wellness Program health fair in room 917 for information about other MSK health offerings.

TAKE THE STAIRS WITH THE MSKCC EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Celebrate Global Employee Health and Fitness Month by participating in the [MSKCC Take the Stairs Challenge!](#) For four weeks, commit to taking the stairs whenever and wherever you can, and enjoy the benefits of the extra exercise. Sign up by May 5th to receive motivational emails from Employee Wellness, and be entered into a lottery for a prize by reporting the number of flights you've climbed each week.