



BIOSTATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES

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

- ❖ October 8, 2014 [Jaya Satagopan](#)
MSK
- ❖ October 15, 2014 [Pei Wang](#)
Icahn School of Medicine
Mount Sinai
- ❖ October 22, 2014 [Lorenzo Trippa](#)
Harvard University
- ❖ October 29, 2014 [Sujata Patil](#)
MSK
- ❖ November 5, 2014 [DuBois Bowman](#)
Columbia University
- ❖ November 12, 2014 [Masha Kocherginsky](#)
University of Chicago
- ❖ November 19, 2014 [Mithat Gönen](#)
MSK

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP (HORG) SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM
BAIC 300 E. 66th Street, 9th Floor
Room 917B

- ❖ October 10, 2014 [Brad Zacharia](#)
Columbia
University
- ❖ October 31, 2014 [Talya Salz](#)
MSK
- ❖ November 14, 2014 [Hsien Seow](#)
McMaster
University
- ❖ December 12, 2014 [Elena Elkin](#)
MSK

SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RESEARCH (SOAR) SEMINAR SERIES

- ❖ October 16, 2014 [David E. Goldgar, PhD](#)
8:00am – 9:00am
ZRC- 105
Professor, Dept of
Dermatology
Huntsman Cancer
Institute
University of Utah
- ❖ November 11, 2014 [Romana Hasnain-Wynia, PhD](#)
4:00pm – 5:00pm
1275 York Ave, M-107
Program Director,
Addressing Health
Disparities
The Patient-Centered
Outcomes Research
Institute (PCORI)



DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Colin Begg, PhD

EDITORS

Sharon Bayuga, MPH
Prusha Patel, MPH
Narre Heon
Lauren Rogak, MA
Mary Shaw
Brittany Soto, MPH
Shireen Lewis, MPA
Joseph Kanik

HIGHLIGHT

[Dr. Kay See Tan](#) received her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was awarded the 2014 Saul Winegrad Award for Outstanding Dissertation. The focus of her methods research is the joint modeling of longitudinal and recurrent-event data, particularly when an adverse event triggers outcome assessment in between prescheduled follow-up visits. She developed a set of models to estimate covariate-outcome associations when observation times may depend on outcome values to ensure patients with more visits are not over-represented in the analysis. Dr. Tan is also interested in methodological issues pertaining to patient-reported measures and cancer surveillance. During her graduate career she collaborated with investigators and physicians at the University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center on a variety of projects ranging from tumor imaging analysis to quality of life changes in patients receiving radiation therapy. Dr. Tan looks forward to successful collaborations with investigators at MSK as a member of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.



Kay See Tan, PhD

FUNDING SUCCESS

[Irene Orlow](#) received the Survivorship Outcomes and Risk (SOAR) grant from the Brain Tumor Center (BTC) for her proposal entitled: “Aging-related genes, cognitive functions, and amyloid imaging in brain tumor patients.” This study will assess the effect of aging-related genetic variants in relation to cognitive outcome; and will test the effect of APOE ε-4 allele on cortical amyloid retention in patients treated with radiotherapy with or without chemotherapy. Denise Correa is the Co-PI, and [Jaya Satagopan](#) will also collaborate.



Irene Orlow, PhD

[Andrew Vickers](#) received as Co-PI an R01 grant from the NCI (CA179115) entitled: “Dynamic, multi-cohort prediction modeling of prostate biopsy outcome.” The project involves collection of data on prostate biopsy from multiple sites including UCSF, Mayo Clinic, Durham VA, Puerto Rico VA and the Cleveland Clinic, as well as several foreign institutions including a consortium of Canadian centers and the San Raffaele hospital in Milan. Prediction of biopsy outcomes will be explored with particular reference to: differences between cohorts, statistical methods for the incorporation of additional molecular markers, and updating of prediction models as data accrues.

PUBLICATION

[“Development of the National Cancer Institute’s Patient-Reported Outcomes Version of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events \(PRO-CTCAE\)”](#)

[Ethan Basch, MD, MSc](#), [Lauren Rogak, MA](#) and colleagues have published a commentary in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute describing the development of a Patient-Reported Outcomes version of the NCI’s Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (PRO-CTCAE). This group of multidisciplinary investigators, including patient representatives and key personnel from the NCI conducted a systematic evaluation of all 790 AEs listed in the CTCAE and identified 78 appropriate for patient self-reporting. These 78 AEs have undergone rigorous testing, including cognitive interviews, and validation analysis. This paper provides an overview of qualitative and quantitative studies of measurement properties and discusses the future of the PRO-CTCAE.

STAFF KUDOS

[Jonine Bernstein](#) was elected president of the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) for the 2015 - 2016 term. ACE is one of the largest professional membership societies in the field of epidemiology.

Thanks to [Yasmeen Majoka](#), [Melissa Budnick](#), [Brittany Soto](#), [Joey Kanik](#), [Sean Ryan](#), [Jaya Satagopan](#), [Shireen Lewis](#) and [Roxana Damian](#) who assisted in piloting our first Summer Administrative Internship Program. Our internship program is focused on bringing in students interested in careers in healthcare, research or administration, to assist in supporting the needs of the department during the summer months. Summer interns will work on general administrative projects to develop basic professional and interpersonal skills that they will utilize for the duration of their careers. Additionally, investigators interested in mentoring the interns may designate special assignments, with the goal of exposing them to a particular area of expertise. If an investigator is interested in mentoring students and having them assist with projects, he or she can speak to Shireen or Roxana for more details.

Congratulations to the 2013 members of the **Perfect Attendance Club!** We thank you on behalf of MSK.

[Arshi Arora](#)

[Debra Goldman](#)

[Joey Kanik](#)

[Matthew Kent](#)

[Kai Lin](#)

[Elyn Stubblefield](#)

[Katherine Wong](#)

STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ [Marinela Capanu](#) promoted to Associate Attending
- ❖ [Joseph Christoff](#) promoted to Grants Mgt Coordinator
- ❖ [Matt Kent](#) promoted to Data Analyst II
- ❖ [Vincent Madonia](#) promoted to Research Technician
- ❖ [Yasmeen Majoka](#) promoted to Department Fund Manager I
- ❖ [Amethyst Saldia](#) promoted to Department Research Project Coordinator
- ❖ [Mary Shaw](#) promoted to Research Study Specialist

FALL INTERN

[Omi Singh](#), a Columbia University MPH student, will be interning with [Jonine Bernstein](#) and [Meg Woods](#) during the fall semester to assist with the preparation and analysis of WECARE Study data.

STAFF FAREWELL

[Brendan Phalan](#), one of our Department Fund Managers for the past 6.5 years, has joined HR as Manager, Benefits Education. Brendan

NEW STAFF

Renee Gennarelli, MS, Data Analyst II

Renee earned a MS in Biostatistics from Washington University in St. Louis. She previously worked as a data analyst in the Division of Public Health Sciences at Washington University, studying health literacy and racial disparities. At MSK she will be working with [Elena Elkin](#), [Allison Snyderman](#) and other investigators on studies of treatment patterns and outcomes, using SEER-Medicare and other large datasets.



Justin Lee, MD, Research Fellow

Justin recently completed his Urology residency at the University of Toronto in June 2014. He is concurrently completing his MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health. Justin will be working with [Andrew Vickers](#)' team, with a special interest in molecular markers.



Hanssen Li, Data Analyst

Hanssen recently graduated magna cum laude in computational biology from the University of Pennsylvania. He has served as a bioinformatics intern at the NIH. At the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, he designed the software for a ketogenic diet planner application. He is joining [Andrew Vickers](#) and his group to work as a coder and data analyst for informatics applications.



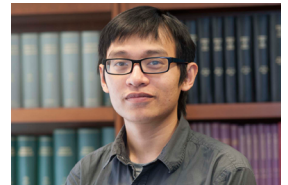
Emily Nadelmann, Research Study Assistant

Emily will be working with [Jonine Bernstein](#), [Malcolm Pike](#), and [Meg Woods](#) on the new IMAGINE Study. Emily graduated this past May from Johns Hopkins with a BA in Public Health Studies. She has assisted in research as an undergraduate at the Johns Hopkins Weight Management Center, Yale Cardiovascular Research Center, and Yale Sleep Center.



Hiep Truong, Web Developer

Hiep graduated from Stony Brook University with a BS in computer science. He comes to us skilled in the programming language Java, once even creating a 3-matched board game program similar to the notorious Candy Crush Saga with JavaFX. Hiep will be working with [Kai Lin](#) and the rest of the Computer Resource Group.



Jenny Yang, Research Study Assistant

Jenny graduated from Wellesley College with BAs in East Asian Studies and in Biological Sciences. Before coming to MSK, Jenny was a medical scribe at CityMD Urgent Care in Astoria. She will be supporting the research needs of [Sara Olson](#) and [Victoria Blinder](#) along with other investigators in the Epidemiology and Health Outcomes services.



Zahra Waliji, MPH, Project Coordinator

Zahra has a graduate degree from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, in International Policy and an MPH New York University. Zahra was born in Kenya, attended high school in Tanzania and speaks English, Swahili and a South Indian language called Gujarati. Zahra comes to us from the Department of Surgery where she supported Dr. Peter Scardino, the Departmental Administrator and the surgeons. Zahra will support the pre-award needs of the department as well as work with PMCID compliance and our financial database.



Know Your Numbers On-Site Screening

Friday, October 31st 8am-12:30pm – Basement Conference Room

As part of the 2014 Wellness Incentive Program, employees are encouraged to participate in a FREE confidential Know Your Numbers screening to get your weight, height, waist size, blood pressure, blood cholesterol, and sugar measured with Quest Diagnostics. To make it easier to participate, we have organized an onsite screening **right here**, in the basement conference room at 63rd Street!

Learn how you can earn \$250 by participating in a Know Your Numbers screening and filling out your WellBeing Assessment by [clicking here](#). The screenings take approximately 10 minutes to complete and blood will be drawn via venipuncture. Fasting for 9-12 hours is required for these screenings. Results of the screenings will be mailed 7-10 days after the screening. Walk-ins are welcome but scheduled appointments will have priority so schedule your appointment [here](#) (Registration Key: **MSK**).