



2012 PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL PROCESS

This year's performance appraisals, for all non-faculty positions, have moved to an electronic format. Kara/Shireen will be available to help managers log on and initiate the review in the electronic system, called "Authoria". Once the manager populates the performance appraisal electronically, the process remains the same in that the employee and supervisor have an in person conversation to discuss and sign off on the review. The performance appraisal affords supervisors the opportunity to discuss how well the expectations and performance goals have been met and/or any developmental needs. If you have any questions on the performance appraisal process, please [contact Kara Fraga/Shireen Lewis](#).

CONGRATULATIONS: PEER-REVIEWED FUNDING SUCCESS

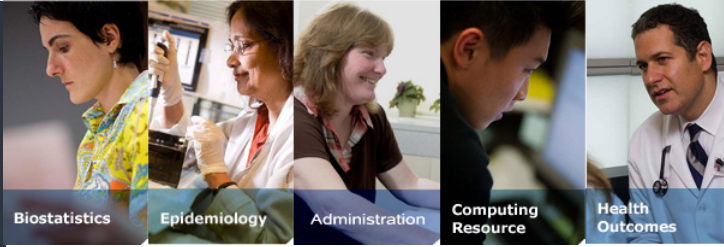
[Ronglai Shen](#), Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core PI "Targets for therapy for carcinomas of the lung" NCI, 2P01CA129243-06, 07/1/2012-06/30/2017 Epi-Bio Collaborator: [Cami Sima](#), Internal Advisor: [Venkatraman Seshan](#)

CRDB UPDATE

The Clinical Research Database (CRDB) runs on three platforms including CRDB Desktop Client, CRDB Web, and CRDBi. New modules in CRDB include GU Specimen Collection Request, GU Specimen Collection Result, and GU Specimen Collection Template.

SUBMIT 2012 EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS

It is always good practice to submit expense reimbursements in a timely manner, but it is ever more critical to do so as the end of the fiscal year approaches. If you have any 2012 expenses on departmental/operating funds, please work with your secretary to submit.



DEPARTMENT CHAIR
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JONINE BERNSTEIN BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

[Jonine Bernstein](#), Ph.D. was recently appointed a member of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Board of Scientific Counselors for Clinical Sciences and Epidemiology. The thirty member Board, appointed by the Director of the NCI, reviews and evaluates the intramural program and reports to the Director and Deputy Director of the NCI, the NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Research and the NIH Director on a wide variety of matters concerning scientific program policy, progress and future directions of research programs. Election to the Board of Scientist Counselors is a high achievement and Dr. Bernstein has just begun her 5 year term. Dr. Bernstein's research focuses on genetic susceptibility and radiation exposure in the development of breast cancer, specifically contralateral breast cancer (CBC). Her current international multi-center WECARE Study (Protocol #09-040) is part of a genome-wide association study (GWAS) that aims to: screen study cases/controls as a validation and replication dataset to identify single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) associated with CBC and radiation exposure. We congratulate Dr. Bernstein on her appointment to this important Board and her continuous efforts to further cancer research.



Jonine Bernstein, PhD

PUBLICATION

[Andrew Vickers](#) published an article on September 10th in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* that will inform the debate over the effectiveness of acupuncture for chronic pain. The article's findings show that acupuncture does indeed have a beneficial effect for patients suffering from back and neck pain, osteoarthritis, chronic headache, and shoulder pain. Vickers and his team reviewed raw data collected from 29 high-quality randomized control trials where patients were randomly assigned to acupuncture, sham acupuncture (where punctures from the needles are superficial or at non-traditional sites), or standard care without acupuncture. Individual patient data meta-analyses were performed for the 17,922 patients involved in the studies and showed that acupuncture was more effective than both sham acupuncture and standard care. "This has major implications for clinical practice," Dr. Vickers says. "Our findings provide the most-robust evidence to date that doctors are justified in making referrals to acupuncture for their patients with chronic pain. I hope that our findings help inform future clinical and policy decisions for acupuncture."



october

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

Learn more about breast cancer screening at "All You Wanted to Know about Mammograms" on October 25th at 12:30pm in the BAIC Conference Room 917 A & B.

MSKCC is now offering flu shots for all employees!

Bring your ID badge and the consent form (which you can find online by clicking [here](#)) to the Employee Health and Wellness Office at MG03 or 222 East 70th Street and get your flu shot for free!

november

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month!

Learn more about the smoking cessation services provided through MSKQuits! at the [Employee Wellness webpage](#).



HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINAR SERIES

From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

- ❖ October 19 National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCN) Group
307 E. 63rd St, 3rd Floor conference room
- ❖ November 2 Shari Goldfarb
BAIC 300 E. 66th St, 9th Floor – Room 917B
- ❖ November 16 Elena Elkin
307 E. 63rd St, 3rd Floor conference room
- ❖ November 30 Talya Salz
BAIC 300 E. 66th St, 9th Floor – Room 917B

SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RISK SEMINAR SERIES

1275 York Avenue, Rm. M-107

From 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

- ❖ Oct 9 Robert Smith, PhD
Senior Director, Cancer Screening, National Home Office, American Cancer Society, Inc.

BIOSTATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES

All Biostatistics Seminars take place at 307 E.
63rd St, 3rd Floor, Rm. 331,
From 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- ❖ October 10 Marinela Capanu MSKCC
- ❖ October 17 Irina Ostrovnaya MSKCC
- ❖ October 24 Do-Hwan Park University of Maryland, Baltimore
- ❖ October 31 Sujata Patil MSKCC
- ❖ November 7 Glenn Heller MSKCC
- ❖ November 14 Mithat Gonen MSKCC
- ❖ November 28* Robert Elston Case Western Reserve University, *from 4pm to 5pm

MANDATORY LEARNING PROGRAM VIA CONNECT

MSKCC has launched its new online Mandatory Learning Program, which is comprised of streamlined Joint Commission and regulatory compliance courses specific to each employee's role at MSKCC. If applicable, you should have received an e-mail notification, but this is a reminder that the deadline to complete is **Friday, December 7**. Please log in to CONNECT (CONNECT > Self Service > My Learning > All Learning) to find links. If you have any questions, please speak to your supervisor.

STAFF UPDATES

- ❖ **Victoria Blinder**, MD, promoted to Assistant Member
- ❖ **Anne Eaton**, MS, promoted to Research Biostatistician
- ❖ **Carolyn Eberle**, MPH, promoted to Assistant Research Epidemiologist
- ❖ **Narre Heon**, promoted to RSA II
- ❖ **Joey Kanik**, promoted to Project Coordinator
- ❖ **Deborah Kuk**, ScM, promoted to Research Biostatistician
- ❖ **Sang Hee Min**, promoted to RSA II
- ❖ **Paige Nobles**, MA, promoted to Research Study Specialist
- ❖ **Erin Onstad**, MPH, promoted to Research Project Coordinator
- ❖ **Amethyst Saldia**, promoted to RSA III
- ❖ **Mary Shaw**, promoted to RSA III
- ❖ **Darren Tang**, MS, promoted to Application Analyst
- ❖ **Meg Woods**, MPH, promoted to Research Project Manager
- ❖ **Qinfei Wu**, promoted to Application Analyst Specialist

WELCOME NEW STAFF

- ❖ **Melissa Assel** Assistant Research Biostatistician
Melissa Assel holds a Masters in Biostatistics from Columbia University. Melissa graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BS in Biochemistry and a BS in Statistics. For two years as an undergraduate, Melissa made contributions towards a publication in the journal Molecular Biology of the Cell by participating in research in a Biochemistry lab. Melissa has joined Dr. Andrew Vickers and his research team.
- ❖ **Esther Drill** Assistant Research Biostatistician
Esther Drill holds a Masters in Statistical Genetics from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, where she is currently a candidate for a DrPH in Biostatistics, with specific focus in statistical genomics. She will be working part-time on genomics and other projects in the department.
- ❖ **Angelica Grasso**, MD Research Fellow
Angelica graduated in 2008 from the University of Milan's medical school, in Italy. She then started her urology residency at Milan's Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico Mangiagalli and Regina Elena. She is currently working with Dr. Andrew Vickers' research team.
- ❖ **Jaipreet Rayar**, M.S. Senior Research Technician
Jaipreet joined the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory in September 2012 and will be working with Irene Orlow mainly on melanoma studies, including the Genes, Environment and Melanoma Study. Jaipreet holds a M.S. in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology. Before coming to MSKCC she was a research intern at the University of Washington, Seattle. Additionally, she has worked with private biotechnology companies in India and gained her prior research experiences as a research fellow in molecular medicine and as an application specialist in genome science.



STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to **Ling Chen** and her fellow MSKCC Dragons, our institution's first employee dragon boat team, for their win at the Health Care Invitational during the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in Queens, New York this August. Ling, a Data Analyst II in Health Outcomes, started training with the team as a right-paddler in January to add variation to her usual work-out routine. Coined the "ultimate team sport," Ling emphasizes that every member is integral to the success of a race, including the drummer at the front of the boat who sets the pace and the steerer at the back. Although Ling points out that "there are no real stars in dragon boating," it's clear it takes a stand-out person to be a part of something so challenging. For more information about the MSKCC Dragons, contact an employee wellness champion at employeehealth@mskcc.org.

