



CHAIR APPOINTMENTS

Jonine Bernstein was selected to co-Chair the 2011 Epidemiology Congress of the Americas. The meeting occurs every five years and is comprised of 20-25 epidemiologic societies that all come together to showcase their organization. The theme is the Diversity of Epidemiology. The third Congress will be held June 21st-24th, 2011 in Montréal, Québec. Currently, the Program Committee is welcoming ideas for symposiums, plenary sessions, and keynote speakers. Please let Jonine know if you have any ideas that you would like to propose.

Ethan Basch was appointed Chair of the Quality of Life Subcommittee of the CALGB (Cancer and Leukemia Group B), one of the NCI cooperative groups. Other MSKCC investigators who participate in this committee include Jimmie Holland (prior Chair), Jack Burkhalter, and Tim Ahles. Chris Nelson currently has a protocol through this subcommittee.

GREEN INITIATIVE

Reminders

* As part of the **Computer Shutdown Campaign**, please remember to turn off your computer and monitors when you leave the office at night. If you need to leave your computer on overnight for any computing reason, please contact Rick Church at the CRG Helpline (x58180).

* To help conserve energy, please remember to turn off your AC window units when you leave the office at night.

IN THE NEWS

[Reactions to the Speech: A Health Care Roundtable](#)
New York Times - 09/09/2009

A Systematic Search for Waste

Peter Bach continues to contribute to the New York Times regarding health policy issues. Most recently, Peter was invited to blog about his reaction to President Obama's speech to Congress about health care legislation.



DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Colin Begg, PhD

EDITORS

Lindsay Jacks, MS
Sharon Bayuga, MPH

CONTRIBUTORS

Rick Church, MPH | Brendan Phalan | Angel Cronin, MS

LEADING THE PACK: STATISTICIANS ORGANIZE FALL WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP IN PHASE I DESIGNS WITH A FOCUS IN THE CONTINUAL REASSESSMENT METHOD

On **October 2nd**, **Alexia Iasonos, PhD**, is organizing a Workshop at MSKCC to discuss theoretical advancements and practical implications in Phase I Clinical Trial designs, with a focus in the Continual Reassessment Method (CRM). Ten prominent researchers in this field, including statisticians from academic institutions and cancer centers in the United States, France, and Japan, have agreed to present their recent work and share their experience in using CRM. The workshop is co-organized with John O'Quigley from the University of Virginia.



Alexia Iasonos, PhD

CLINICAL TRIALS DESIGN WORKSHOP

The [Clinical Trials Design \(CTD\) Workshop](#) was first organized in October 2008, led by Workshop Director, **Mithat Gönen, PhD**. Four Senior Faculty members acted as teachers, while eight Junior Faculty participated in the Workshop. The CTD Workshop was inspired by the [Vail Workshop](#), jointly organized by ASCO and AACR. Dr. Gönen has been serving on the Faculty of the Vail Workshop since 2007, and in the fall of that year, proposed to Memorial Hospital Physician-in-Chief, Dr. Robert Witten, the idea of having a similar workshop for MSK Faculty only. With substantial support and input from Dr. Witten, along with Dr. Colin Begg's encouragement, this idea quickly became a reality.



Mithat Gönen, PhD

Junior Faculty attending the 5-day Workshop come prepared with a protocol idea. During the Workshop, their ideas are turned into an IRB protocol ready for Institutional review. The Workshop meets 2-3 hours each day, and attendees spend the remainder of the time researching and developing their protocols. Last year, due to high demand, eight attendees were selected out of 15 applicants. One attendee included their Workshop protocol in an R21 grant proposal that was subsequently funded. Due to the extensive positive input from last year's attendees, it was decided to offer the Workshop on an annual basis.

This year the CTD Workshop will be held **November 11th-17th**. Among the other Senior Faculty, Nancy Lee (Radiation Oncology) and Manish Shah (Medicine) are members of the IRB and graduates of the Vail Workshop, while Ronald DeMatteo (Vice Chairman of Surgery) is responsible for the Educational Program of the Surgical Oncology fellows.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

[Joint Statistical Meetings \(JSM\) 2009](#)

August 1st – 6th in Washington, DC

JSM is the largest gathering of statisticians held in North America. The theme of this year's conference was "Statistics: From Evidence to Policy".

Bayesian Methods for Gene Expression and Microarrays - Contributed - Papers Section on Bayesian Statistical Science

❖ **Quincy Mo** presented a paper titled "[Bayesian Modeling of ChIP-chip Data through a High-order Ising Model](#)"

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Mary Shaw**RSA I, Health Outcomes**

Mary started working in our Department this past summer as part of Ethan Basch's research team. She will continue her efforts as their new RSA.

Youming Xu**Data Analyst, Epidemiology Service**

Youming holds an M.A. in Sociology from Queens College and has worked as a Data Analyst for Research International in Stamford, CT for 2 years. He will be working with the Epidemiology investigators on their respective research projects.

RECENT PROMOTIONS

Joanne Chou was promoted to Research Biostatistician in the Biostatistics Service.

Mike Fruscione was promoted to RSA II in Health Outcomes.

Irene Orlow was promoted to Associate Attending Biologist in the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ As of September 1st, the [CRISP](#) (Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects) system was no longer supported and will become unavailable on **October 31st, 2009**. CRISP has been the standard source for searching grant information, but is being replaced by a new Web tool: [RePORTER](#) (RePORT Expenditures and Results) query tool.
- ❖ [Restructured Application Forms and Instructions for Submissions for FY2011 Funding](#)
The NIH has announced significant changes to the length and format of applications to be submitted on or after **January 25th, 2010**. Depending on the funding mechanism, the Research Plan will be shortened from 25 pages to 12 pages (or as few as 6). Biosketches will begin to include a personal statement, describing unique experiences and qualifications for application role, and the listing of peer-reviewed publications will be limited to no more than 15. Our Administration group and RTM will provide further clarification of these guidelines in the near future.
- ❖ This year the [Computing Resource Group](#) (CRG) participated in the annual [MSKCC Information Technology Expo](#). On September 16th, members of CRG and the Office of Clinical Research presented a table on the Clinical Research Database (CRDB) with informational displays and user demonstrations.
- ❖ Mark your calendars! On **Monday, October 26th**, there will be an information session for Epidemiology & Biostatistics staff regarding the Clinical Research Database (CRDB). The presentation will give an overview of the development and use of the CRDB. Please join us in the 3rd Floor conference room at 1:00PM on October 26th.
- ❖ You may have noticed the new computer stand in the **3rd floor library**. This new PC will be configured for logging out books and journals from the 3rd floor library, as well as publication searches of online resources available to our Department staff.

CRG CORNER

CRDB MIGRATION

The Computing Resource group (CRG) undertook an expansive migration of hardware and software products which run the Clinical Research Database. On **September 20th**, nine new servers launched at the MSKCC New Jersey Data Center to replace the previous five servers running Oracle Application Server and the Enterprise Database. The hardware migration provides more security, stability, and "24x7" support for CRDB servers. The software migration of the Enterprise Database to Oracle 10g also provides more security and stability as well as speed and functionality for CRDB users.

CRDB UPDATES

CRDB Menu

All CRDB applications are consolidated in a new **Start menu item**. The new folder can be found at START menu → PROGRAMS → EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS → CLINICAL RESEARCH DATABASE and contains all three applications:

- CRDB Desktop
- CRDB Web
- CRDBi

CRDB Web Update

CRG introduced a new Java plug-in for the CRDB Web platform of the Clinical Research Database. This enhancement provides the ability to run CRDB Web on a wider range of web browsers and workstations.

CRDBi Update

CRG introduced additional data collection tools in the CRDBi platform of the Clinical Research Database.

These include:

- Liquid Specimen Module
- Survivorship Module
- Concomitant Drug Module
- Pathology Module