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# The Colin Begg Lab

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**Research**



Colin Begg, PhD  
Chairman, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

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Dr. Begg has research interests spanning cancer epidemiology and statistical methods that are applicable to clinical research more broadly. In recent years Dr. Begg has been developing methods to identify etiologically distinct cancer sub-types, statistical tests of clonal relatedness of pairs of tumors, and more recently, efforts to detect clinically relevant signals from rare somatic mutations. Dr. Begg is Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics that conducts quantitative research across the cancer spectrum ([link to dept website here](#)). Dr. Begg has also served since 2014 as Editor-in-Chief of the international scholarly journal, *Clinical Trials*.



## Publications Highlights

Mauguen A, Zabor EC, Thomas NE, Berwick M, Seshan VE, Begg CB. Defining cancer subtypes with distinctive etiologic profiles: an application to the epidemiology of melanoma. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 2017;112:54-63. PMID: PMC5460661.

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Mauguen A, Seshan VE, Ostrovnaya I, Begg CB. Estimating the probability of clonal relatedness of pairs of tumors in cancer patients. *Biometrics*. 2018 Mar;74(1):321-330. PMID: PMC5677588.

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Begg CB, Ostrovnaya I, Geyer FC, Papanastasiou AD, Ng CKY, Sakr RA, Bernstein JL, BurkeKA, King TA, Piscuoglio S, Mauguen A, Orlow I, Weigelt B, Seshan VE, Morrow M, Reis-Filho JS. Contralateral breast cancers: Independent cancers or metastases?

International Journal of Cancer 2018;142:347-356.

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Chakraborty S, Arora A, Begg CB, Shen R. Using somatic variant richness to mine signals from rare variants in the cancer genome. Nat Comm. 2019 Dec 3;10(1):5506. PMCID: PMC6890761.

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Begg CB. In defense of p-values. JNCI Cancer Spectr. 2020 Feb 26;4(2): pkaa012. PMID: 32373778; PMCID: PMC7191891.

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## People

A portrait of Colin Begg, PhD, a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a light purple shirt and a green tie. He is smiling slightly. The background is a blurred bookshelf with various colored books.

## Colin Begg, PhD

*Chairman, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

- Biostatistician Colin Begg has research interests spanning cancer epidemiology and statistical methods that are applicable to clinical research more broadly.

✉ [beggc@mskcc.org](mailto:beggc@mskcc.org)

Email Address

☎ [646-888-8239](tel:646-888-8239)

Office Phone

Lab Affiliations

## Open Positions

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## Get in Touch

✉ [beggc@mskcc.org](mailto:beggc@mskcc.org)

Lab Head Email

☎ [646-888-8239](tel:646-888-8239)

Office Phone

 [929-321-1517](tel:929-321-1517)

Office Fax

 [Samantha Vasquez \(assistant\)](mailto:Samantha.Vasquez@mskcc.org)

646-888-8347

## Disclosures

Members of the MSK Community often work with pharmaceutical, device, biotechnology, and life sciences companies, and other organizations outside of MSK, to find safe and effective cancer treatments, to improve patient care, and to educate the health care community. These activities outside of MSK further our mission, provide productive collaborations, and promote the practical application of scientific discoveries.

MSK requires doctors, faculty members, and leaders to report (“disclose”) the relationships and financial interests they have with external entities. As a commitment to transparency with our community, we make that information available to the public. Not all disclosed interests and relationships present conflicts of interest. MSK reviews all disclosed interests and relationships to assess whether a conflict of interest exists and whether formal COI management is needed.

Colin Begg discloses the following relationships and financial interests:

*No disclosures meeting criteria for time period*

The information published here is a complement to other publicly reported data and is for a specific annual disclosure period. There may be differences between information on this and other public sites as a result of different reporting periods and/or the various ways relationships and financial interests are categorized by organizations that publish such data.

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This page and data include information for a specific MSK annual disclosure period (January 1, 2024 through disclosure submission in spring 2025). This data reflects interests that may or may not still exist. This data is updated annually.

Learn more about MSK’s COI policies [here](#) . For questions regarding MSK’s COI-related policies and procedures, email MSK’s Compliance Office at [ecoi@mskcc.org](mailto:ecoi@mskcc.org) .

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