



EPIDEMIOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR

“Epigenetics in Molecular Cancer Epidemiology”

Monday, August 2, 2010
3rd Floor Conference Room
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

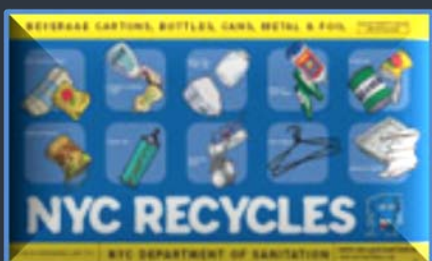
Join Epidemiology members for the upcoming seminar by Karl Kelsey, MD, MOH. Dr. Kelsey is a Professor of Community Health & Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Brown University.

FACULTY UPDATES

- ❖ **Mithat Gonen** was recently appointed as the biostatistics course director for the Vail workshop (www.vailworkshop.org) jointly organized by AACR and ASCO. He has been serving on the faculty of this course since 2007. His appointment is from 2011-2013.
- ❖ **Ethan Basch** was elected to the Executive Committee of the CALGB. The CALGB Executive Committee sets the scientific agenda of the cooperative group by approving protocols at the concept stage. In addition, the Executive Committee approves the appointment of the Chairs of the Disease and Modality committees and is responsible for the management of Group affairs. He is also currently Chair of the Health Outcomes Subcommittee and a member of the Cancer Control Steering Committee with the Group.

RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM

Now more than paper!



Our department will be joining with the Office of Clinical Research to recycle according to the NYC **Blue decal** rules. One bin will be centrally located on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Items disposed **must** be washed out before disposal as pickup is only once per week. Blue decals to describe what's allowable will be posted by each bin. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Neary.



DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Colin Begg, PhD

EDITORS
Sharon Bayuga, MPH
Rick Church, MPH
Brian Denton, MS
Joshua Mirkin
Brendan Phalan

WELCOME HELENA FURBERG-BARNES!

New Faculty in Epidemiology Service

Helena Furberg-Barnes, Ph.D. has been appointed as Assistant Attending Epidemiologist in the Epidemiology Service. Her research interests focus on identifying genetic loci that are associated with addiction. She established the Tobacco and Genetics (TAG) Consortium for this purpose and conducted a meta-analysis of 16 GWAS among 75,000 individuals of European ancestry to identify genetic variants for tobacco addiction. She is involved with two other consortia performing GWAS for prospective smoking cessation among European ancestry smokers (CHARGE Consortium) and for smoking behavior among African-American and Hispanic women (Women's Health Initiative). She is also examining low nitrosamine Swedish snus in relation to smoking cessation. She holds a K07 career development award. Helena hopes to collaborate with other investigators at MSKCC who work on tobacco-related cancers to study the impact of continued tobacco use among cancer patients.



Helena Furberg-Barnes, Ph.D.

NEW MSKCC CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY AND OUTCOMES

In June, MSKCC approved the formation of the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes. The new center will conduct cancer care research in the areas of comparative effectiveness, health care cost-containment, quality of care, health information technology, endpoints for drug and device studies, and improving end of life care. [Dr. Peter Bach](#) will lead the new center. The Center is currently searching for new faculty members that will join existing MSKCC faculty members across the institution.

ACUPUNCTURE TRIALISTS' COLLABORATION MEETING

[Andrew Vickers](#) hosted the international meeting of the Acupuncture Trialists' Collaboration (ATC) in Munich, Germany on July 5th. Andrew received an R21 grant from the NIH to fund the ATC, with the overall objective of combining raw data from high quality randomized trials of acupuncture for chronic pain to create an individual patient level data set. Andrew, with the assistance of Ally Maschino and Angel Cronin, presented preliminary results from meta-analyses of this data set, which includes over 18,000 patients in 30 randomized trials. Investigators from several research institutions from the United States and Europe took part.

SPORE GRANT IN SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA

[Li-Xuan Qin](#), PhD is the Biostatistics/Bioinformatics Core co-Director with Chris Sander, PhD for the recently awarded SPORE grant in soft tissue sarcoma ([P50 CA140146](#), PI Samuel Singer, MD FACS). The grant aims to reduce morbidity and mortality from soft tissue sarcoma by developing therapies targeted to the molecular, genetic, epigenetic, and signaling pathway alterations that are specific to sarcoma types and subtypes. It focuses on three broad translational research objectives: (1) define molecular mechanisms of sarcomagenesis to identify new rational therapeutic targets, (2) define mechanisms of resistance to targeted therapies, and (3) develop and validate targeted therapies in clinical studies.



Li-Xuan Qin, Ph.D.

CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS WEEK

Monday, July 26th, to Friday, July 30th, MSKCC recognized the efforts of clinical research staff. Three of our staff from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics presented posters during Clinical Research Professionals Week.

- ❖ **Julie Ruckel** presented “African-Americans Have the Same Prevalence and Proximal Distribution of Adenomas as Whites in the National Colonoscopy Study (NCS)”. Georgia Close, Ann Zauber, Glenn Mills, Paul Jordan, Julie Ruckel, Michael O’Brien, Tim Church, Margaret Mandelson, John Allen, Andrew Feld, Sharon Bayuga, Victoria Serrano, Noah Kauff, Sidney Winawer.
- ❖ **Amy Hamilton** presented “Cancer Worries and Income of Elderly Patients Treated for Stage II or III Colorectal Cancer”. Amy Hamilton, Alexis Stevenson, Shilpa Patel, Elisa Weiss, Larissa Temple, Elena Elkin
- ❖ **Laura Sit** presented “Reliability of Clinician vs. Clinician Adverse Symptom Reporting”. Laura Sit, Lauren Rogak, Dawn Lavene, Mary Shaw, Liora Pollick, Mike Fruscione, Thomas Atkinson, Antonia Bennett, Yuelin Li, Mithat Gonen, Sharon Bayuga and Ethan Basch

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ **Ally Maschino** will be starting a masters program at Columbia in epidemiology this summer.

FAREWELL TO STAFF LEAVING

- ❖ **Angel Cronin**, Research Biostatistician who works closely with Andrew Vickers, will be leaving MSKCC after 5 years. Angel is relocating to Boston and will join the Outcomes Research Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.
- ❖ **Mike Fruscione**, Research Study Assistant for Ethan Basch, will be leaving us to pursue his medical degree.
- ❖ **Amy Hamilton**, Research Project Coordinator working with Elena Elkin & Victoria Blinder, will be leaving us to pursue a doctoral degree in Clinical Forensic Psychology.

RECENT FACULTY PROMOTION

- ❖ **Jonine L. Bernstein**, Ph.D. has been promoted to Member in the Epidemiology Service. Her signal career achievement is her creation and leadership of the Women’s Environmental Cancer and Radiation Epidemiology (WECARE) study. A follow-up study (WECARE II) is funded by the National Cancer Institute to examine risks associated with genetic variants across the entire genome.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Staff!

- ❖ **Liora Pollick**, BA Research Study Assistant, Health Outcomes Group
Liora recently graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BA in Psychology. She has research experience investigating treatment effects on pediatric cancer patients and loves crossword puzzles. Liora will be involved in facilitating patient self-reports of symptoms for Ethan Basch’s STAR study (IRB 04-020), interviewing patient and clinician experience with the PRO-CTCAE platform (IRB 10-072), as well as validation of the PRO-CTCAE items (study pending).
- ❖ **Carolyn Eberle**, MPH Research Project Coordinator, Health Outcomes Group
Carolyn recently received an MPH in Epidemiology from Columbia University. She will be working with Victoria Blinder and her study of *Ethnic Differences in the Impact of Breast Cancer on Employment Status, Financial Situation, and Quality of Life* (IRB 10-071).
- ❖ **Coral Swartz**, MPH Data Analyst, Health Outcomes Group
Coral recently received an MPH in Biostatistics from the Yale School of Public Health. She will be working with Elena Elkin on studies involving SEER-Medicare data and geographic information systems (GIS).
- ❖ **Chelsea Schneider**, BA Research Study Assistant, Epidemiology Service
Chelsea will be working with Ann Zauber and the *National Colonoscopy Study* (IRB 00-046) She will also recruit participants for the *Pancreatic Cancer Family Registry* (IRB 02-102) and Sara Olson’s *Glioma Case-Control Study* (IRB 10-073). Prior to coming to our department, Chelsea was working as a session assistant for the past 2 years in the Urology department.
- ❖ **Dan Sjoberg**, MA Assistant Research Biostatistician, Health Outcomes Group
Dan has joined Andrew Vickers’ team in the Health Outcomes Research Group as Assistant Research Biostatistician. Dan completed his Masters in Biostatistics at Boston University and then spent 18 months at a Contract Research Organization before accepting the position at MSKCC.
- ❖ **Caitriona O’Neill**, BSc, MBA is a doctoral candidate from Trinity College Dublin. She will be working with Elena Elkin on studies related to pharmacoconomics and the cost of cancer care.

RECENT PUBLICATION



[The Future of Mammography: Radiology Residents' Experiences, Attitudes, and Opinions](#)

Shrujal S. Baxi, Jacqueline G. Snow, Laura Liberman and Elena B. Elkin

Shrujal Baxi had a paper published in American Journal of Roentgenology which assessed the experiences and preferences of radiology residents with respect to breast imaging.

CRG CORNER

CRDBi is the web client platform of the Clinical Research Database. The release version is currently CRDBi 1.19. The Computer Resource Group (CRG) recently introduced additional data collection tools including:

- ❖ Lesion
- ❖ Disease
- ❖ Phase 1 Clinic PIMS Integration
- ❖ Female Fertility Questionnaire
- ❖ Male Fertility Questionnaire

