**ANN ZAUBER PAPER NOMINATED FOR RESEARCH PAPER OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations to Ann Zauber and colleagues for their nomination for the Research Paper of the Year award at the 2013 British Medical Journal (BMJ) Group Improving Health Awards. This annual BMJ award recognizes outstanding original research with potential to contribute considerably to improving health and healthcare. Their publication “Colonoscopic Polypectomy and Long-Term Prevention of Colorectal Cancer Deaths” was one of only six papers chosen to be nominated for the award. This long term follow-up of the National Polyp Study in the United States looked at the death rate among patients who had had adenomatous polyps removed compared with mortality from colorectal cancer in the general population and in an internal concurrent control group of patients with non-adenomatous polyps. Their results suggested that polypectomy significantly reduced the risk of death from colorectal cancer.

**RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS**

Colin Begg, PhD, received a two-year $400K grant from the Metastasis Research Center at MSKCC with several co-investigators including Jonine Bernstein, Irina Ostrovnya, and Venkatraman Seshan from Epi/Bio; Monica Morrow and Tari King from Surgery; and Jorge Reis-Filho from Pathology and HOPP. The study titled “Contralateral Breast Cancers: Independent Cancers or Metastases?” will look at tumor specimens from both breasts for a large number of cases with contralateral breast cancer (CBC) from MSK tumor archives and other sources, and use up-to-date sequencing technology and specialized statistical methods to classify the tumor pairs as either independent or of clonal origin. This will allow individualization of the extent of surgery on the contralateral breast and axilla based on a diagnosis of metastatic disease versus new primary cancer, and will influence the choice and duration of systemic therapy in patients diagnosed with CBC in the future.

**BIOSTATISTICS SYMPOSIUM**

The two-day symposium on Advances in Statistical Methods for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology was held on August 22-23 at MSKCC. Jaya Satagopan (MSKCC) and Sanjay Shete (MD Anderson Cancer Center) were awarded a R13 conference grant (R13 CA168331) by NIH to support the symposium. 70 established and junior investigators were in attendance. 19 talks spanning 7 sessions and a poster session addressed topics on statistical methods for modern cancer epidemiology studies. The emphasis of all the talks and posters was on statistical science – how each investigator is developing novel analytic tools based on fundamental statistical principles to address pivotal questions arising in modern cancer genetic epidemiology studies. The symposium owes many thanks to our administrative staff, particularly Katherine Wong, Melissa Budnick, and Farheen Ajmeri, for all their help.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

*An assessment of estimation methods for generalized linear mixed models with binary outcomes.*

Marinela Capapan, Mithat Gönen, and Colin Begg, co-authored a paper in Statistics in Medicine which evaluates the properties of their proposed hybrid Bayesian Laplacian approach in the setting of generalized linear mixed models with binary responses, and compares its performance with several other available techniques. Their simulation results indicate that for moderate to large numbers of observations per random effect, adaptive Gaussian quadrature and the Laplacian approximation are very accurate, while the hybrid approach shows superiority for data with very sparse random effects.
STAFF FAREWELLS
Rick Church has served our department for over 11 years providing a range of computer support as a member of the Computing Resource Group. Rick has accepted the position of Clinical Research IT Analyst at NYU Langone Medical Center in the School of Medicine. Almost all of our Department staff has worked with Rick directly at one time or another and we wish him all the best at his new job.

BIOSTATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES
All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM in the 3rd floor conference room (307 63rd St) unless otherwise noted.

- **September 11, 2013 10 – 11AM**
  Sean Devlin
  MSKCC
  - **September 18, 2013**
  Li-Xuan
  MSKCC
  - **September 25, 2013**
  Adam Olshen
  UCSF
  - **October 02, 2013 4 – 5PM, ZRC-105**
  Richard Simon
  NCI
  - **October 09, 2013**
  Mithat Gonen
  MSKCC
  - **October 16, 2013 4P – 5PM, ZRC-105**
  Robert Tibshirani
  Stanford
  - **October 23, 2013**
  Kathy Panageras
  MSKCC
  - **October 30, 2013 11AM – 12PM, RRL-101 FHRC

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP (HORG) SEMINARS
From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
- **September 20, 2013**
  Dr. Craig Pollack
  Johns Hopkins Medicine
  BAIC 300 E. 66th St., 9th Floor Rm # 917A
- **October 04, 2013**
  Carolyn Eberle
  MSKCC
  307 E. 63rd St., 3rd floor conference room
- **October 18, 2013**
  Matthew Press
  MSKCC
  BAIC 300 E. 66th St., 9th Floor Rm # 917A

SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RESEARCH (SOAR) SEMINAR SERIES
- **October 03, 2013 12:30-1:30PM**
  Chris Amos, PhD
  Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center (NCCC)
  1275 York Avenue, Rm. M-107
- **October 31, 2013 11:30 – 12:30PM**
  Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
  RRL-101

STAFF PROMOTIONS
- **Darren Tang** promoted to Senior Programmer Analyst
- **Sean Ryan** promoted to Research Project Coordinator
- **Lauren Rogak** promoted to Research Project Manager

WELCOME NEW STAFF!
Debra Goldman, Assistant Research Biostatistician
Debra joins our department from the Department of Radiology where she was a Research Project Coordinator since 2010. She completed her MS in Statistics from Baruch College in December of 2012 and holds a BS in Human Development from Cornell University. Debra was a Visiting Researcher at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge University, during the summer of 2013, and is an avid Doctor Who fan. Debra will be working with Mithat Gonen and Chaya Moskowitz.

Mariam Imnadze, Research Fellow
Mariam graduated from SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine in 2008. In June 2013 she completed her Urology Residency at SUNY Downstate School of Medicine. Mariam joins MSKCC as a two-year Urologic Oncology fellow and will be working with Andrew Vickers, and his team during her first year. Next year Mariam will complete her clinical year with the Department of Urology.

Amy Tin, Data Analyst
Amy joined the Health Outcomes group in August 2013 to work with Andrew Vickers and his research team. Amy holds Bachelor and Master Degrees in Statistics from Boston University.

Sweeney Verma, Data Analyst
Sweeney graduated from the SUNY at Stony Brook with a BS in Applied Mathematics and Statistics and a BA in Psychology. During her undergraduate study she was a research assistant at Stony Brook University’s Family Translation Research Group in the Psychology department; the study she worked on was measuring the effects of parental conflict on self esteem in children. Sweeney joined the Health Outcomes Group in July 2013 and will be working with Andrew Vickers and his research team.

Kaitlin Woo, Assistant Research Biostatistician
Kaitlin completed a MS in Biostatistics from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013 and a BS in Mathematics from Georgetown University in 2011. She holds dual citizenship-US and Panama. Kaitlin will be working closely with Cami Sima and Sujata Patil.

MSKCC DRAGONS
Congratulations to Anne Eaton, Ling Chen and Ken Cheung for their participation in the MSKCC Dragon Boat team at the 2013 Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival. The Festival was held at Flushing Meadows Park on August 10-11. The MSKCC Dragons won a silver medal in the Women’s Invitational, a silver medal in the Health Care Invitational, and a bronze medal in the 250 meter Heritage Mixed.