BIOSTATISTICS SEMINARS
All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM
485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- March 1, 2017  Emily Zabor  MSK
- March 8, 2017  Kay See Tan  MSK
- March 22, 2017  Venkatraman Sehan  MSK
- March 29, 2017  Chaya Moskowitz  MSK
- April 5, 2017  Jeffrey Dawson  University of Iowa
- April 12, 2017  Katherine Panagreas  MSK
- April 19, 2017  Li-Xuan Qin  MSK
- April 26, 2017  Mithat Gonen  MSK

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS
All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM
485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- February 17, 2017  Alexy Petersen  CUNY School of Public Health
- March 3, 2017  Jun Mao  MSK Integrative Medicine
- March 17, 2017  Benjamin Roman  MSK Surgery
- March 31, 2017  Emilie Aukin  MGH Surgery
- April 7, 2017  Deborah Korenstein  MSK Medicine/MSK Health Policy
- April 14, 2017  Sigrid Carlson  MSK Epithelial Biology
- April 28, 2017  Shari Goldfarb  MSK Medicine

SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RISK PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES
All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM
1275 York Ave, M-107

- March 14, 2017  Sara Armenian  City of Hope
- March 30, 2017  Douglas Easton  University of Cambridge

EPIDEMIOLOGY SERVICE MEETINGS
All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM
485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- March 20, 2017  Sara Olson  MSK
- April 17, 2017  Irene Orlow  MSK

PETER BACH ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
Peter Bach, Director for Health Policy and Outcomes, was recently elected to the National Academy of Medicine, one of the highest honors in the field of health and medicine. Dr. Bach was recognized for his instrumental work in addressing the affordability of cancer treatment, racial disparities in cancer care, and the fragmentation of Medicare delivery. Additionally, Dr. Bach’s data-driven advocacy has continued in the introduction of DrugAbacus, a user-friendly tool that integrates factors of clinical efficacy, side effects, and cost in an effort to highlight the ongoing problem of increasing drug prices.

GRANTS
A team led by Andrea Pusic (MSK Surgery), which includes Andrew Vickers and the Webcore staff, has received a grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to study the use of patient-reported outcomes in the few days after surgery to decrease the risk of complications and readmissions.

PUBLICATIONS
Victoria Blinder, Carolyn Eberle, Sujata Patil and their colleagues, including Francesca Gany (Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences) co-authored a manuscript, “Women with Breast Cancer who work for accommodating employers more likely to retain jobs after treatment”, that was recently accepted to Health Affairs. Victoria presented results from her study at a press conference that was held on February 7th. In what may be one of the first studies to evaluate the role of employer accommodations of low-income minority women following breast cancer treatment, the authors conducted a longitudinal study of a racially and ethnically diverse sample of employed women undergoing early-stage breast cancer treatment in New York City. Of the 267 participants, 32% had low household incomes (defined as <200% of the federal poverty level). The authors found that women with low incomes were half as likely as middle- and high-income women to have accommodating employers and only one-fourth as likely to retain their jobs. They concluded that this study provides strong evidence of a disparity in job accommodations and retention that affects women in low-income households.

Peter Bach and Raina Jain published two reports in January: “Physician’s office and hospital outpatient setting in Oncology: It’s about prices, not use”, in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, and “Hospital outpatient versus physician office cost for physician administered cancer drugs”, online at drugabacus.org on behalf of the Evidence Driven Drug Pricing Project. In both reports, Dr. Bach and Raina discuss cost differentials across two sites of oncology care: the hospital outpatient department and physician’s office. The JCO piece responds to an accompanying article on the topic, while the EDDPP report reviews previous studies, focusing on the underlying differences between their methodologies and results.

Thomas Atkinson, Lauren Rogak, Narre Heon, Mary Shaw, Ethan Basch and their colleagues have co-authored a manuscript, “Exploring differences in adverse symptom event grading thresholds between clinicians and patients in the clinical trial setting”, in the Journal of Cancer Research Clinical Oncology. The purpose of this manuscript was to characterize differences in adverse event grading thresholds between clinicians and patients using the Bayesian Graded Item Response Model (GRM). Using the physician, nurse, and patient reported adverse events from the medical charts of 393 patients receiving chemotherapy, a GRM was fitted to calculate the latent grading thresholds between the three groups. This analysis showed the different thresholds by symptom between physicians, nurses, and patients. This study provides evidence to support the assertion that patients report some adverse events that clinicians might not consider unless they are more severe. Further, GRM methodology could serve to enhance clinical understanding of the patient symptom-atric experience and aid in the discussion where AE discrepancies exist.

PRESENTATIONS
In October, Carolyn Eberle and Victoria Blinder presented Patient-Reported Proxies to Control for Secular Trends in Longitudinal Research at the International Society of Life Research Annual Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Peter B. Bach, MD, MAPP

B.E.A.C.H.
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485 Lexington Ave, 2nd floor, NY 10017 | TEL: 646.888.8300(BIO)/8308(EPI)/8216(HO)/8336(CRG) | WEB
NEW STAFF
Laritza Diaz, Research Study Assistant
Laritza will be working with Jonine Bernstein, Malcolm Pike, Meg Woods, and Katie Parra on the IMAGINE Study. Laritza recently received her BA in Evolutionary Biology of the Human Species from Columbia University. She has previously assisted in research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and was a student advocate helping families obtain needed resources at Health Leads.

Albert Pi, Program Analyst
2017 begins with an addition to the Computer Resource Group (CRG) in the form of their new Program Analyst, Albert Pi. Albert lives in the Long Island town of Syosset, where he enjoys spending his time reading and being with his loved ones. Albert’s interests include sports, exercise, being a dog owner and exhibiting a keen interest in artificial intelligence.

CRA UPDATE
Clinical Research Administration is comprised of two offices: Clinical Research Compliance (directed by Collette Houston) and Clinical Research Operations (directed by Dorothy Damron). A number of new leadership positions within CRA have been filled and recruitment for the few remaining CRA leadership positions is nearing completion.

Director, Protocol Operations – Karima Yataghene, MD
Director, Protocol Core Services – Stephanie Terzulli, PhD
Director, Protocol Activation and HRPP – Ann Rodavitch
Sr Manager, CR Information Technology – Joe Lengfelder
Manager, CR Education/Outreach – Mayra Nicola
Assistant General Counsel, CR Contracting – Lee Stetson, JD
Director, Clinical Research Finance – Rocio Peña, MPH
Manager, Regulatory Oversight and Product Development – Richard Ellis

These individuals will soon begin their new roles in optimizing clinical research administration. For the most current CRA Table of Organization that reflects this change, please go to: https://one.mskcc.org/sites/pub/ha/Pages/Clinical%20Research%20Administration/home.aspx

CYCLE FOR SURVIVAL
For the second year, our staff will be participating in Cycle for Survival. Last year, the Epi-BioCyclers raised $8,600; this year our goal is to raise $10,000. Our team will be riding on Saturday, March 11th.

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DEPARTMENTAL BOOK EXCHANGE
Looking to purge your home bookshelf of old books but not sure what to do with them? Bring them to the Epi/Bio Book Exchange located outside the Lactation Room near the wet pantry. Pick up a new book to read or drop off for the exchange. Happy Reading!

HOLIDAY PARTY