ANDREW VICKERS PROMOTED TO MEMBER

Congratulations to Andrew Vickers, PhD, who was promoted from Associate Attending Methodologist to Member. Andrew has been with the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics since 1999 and focuses primarily on prostate cancer, with a particular focus on early detection and initial treatment. He is currently working on a series of studies that assess prostate-specific antigen (PSA) for long-term prediction of cancer-specific mortality. Andrew’s research demonstrates that a single PSA before the age of 50 can predict aggressive disease up to 30 years subsequently. He has developed novel methodologies for randomized trials, integrating research with clinical practice in order to compare different approaches to surgery. Andrew is credited with pioneering web-interfaces for obtaining quality of life data from radical prostatectomy patients. His statistical research focuses on novel methods for assessing the clinical value of predictive tools. Andrew developed a number of decision analytic tools that can be directly applied to a data set, with no need for formal elicitation of patient preferences or utilities from individual patients or clinicians. Andrew also enjoys teaching: he is course leader for the MSKCC biostatistics course and author of the introductory textbook “What is a p-value anyway?”

MITHAT GÖNEN ELECTED AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION FELLOW

Mithat Gönen, PhD, has been elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA). He was one of 48 members honored this year, representing 18 states and six countries. Candidates for ASA Fellowship are nominated by their peers. Each year no more than one-third of one percent of the current ASA membership can be elected a Fellow. The selection process evaluates the candidate’s contributions in the areas of research, teaching, and service to the statistics profession. Election as an ASA Fellow is one of the highest professional achievements in statistics. Mithat was selected for his important research on predictive modeling, ROC analysis, his service to the profession, and for extraordinary collaborative work. The ceremony for the newly elected Fellows will be held at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego, California, on July 31st. We congratulate Mithat on this momentous achievement and well-deserved recognition of his continuing contributions to the field of statistics!

JONINE BERNSTEIN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Jonine Bernstein, PhD, was elected to the membership of the American Epidemiological Society (AES). AES is a small elite group of senior epidemiologists and applied biostatisticians with only 250 active, 150 emeritus, and a few honorary members. The society holds free and vigorous discussions of epidemiological investigations across the field.

RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS

Tari King, MD, FACS and Colin Begg, PhD will be awarded a three year grant from Susan G. Komen for the Cure. This project, entitled “Clonality Analysis of Lobular Carcinoma in Situ (LCIS),” will address an important clinical controversy concerning whether LCIS is a direct precursor of invasive breast cancer, or is merely a generalized marker of substantially increased risk of the disease. Collaborators in the department will include Venkatraman Seshan and Irina Ostrovnya.
WHO IS CHRNA5

Has been a part of the department of epidemiology at MSKCC for over 2

B.E.A.C.H. has launched a non-

Dan Sjoberg

Adele Meyer

Yuelin Li

June 29 Andrew Vickers

307 E 63rd St, 3rd Floor Conference Room

STAFF UPDATES

Yuelin Li, PhD promoted to Associate Member

Yasmeen Majoka, promoted to Research Secretary II

Adele Meyer, promoted to RSA II

Dan Sjoberg, promoted to Research Biostatistician

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Joey Kanik who is graduating with a BA from Hunter College this spring with a major in Economics and a minor in Sociology! Kutlama Joey!

A few members of the biostatistics team laced up their sneakers and hit the basketball court for a game of 3 on 3 hosted by the Employee Health and Wellness Department this past May. Good job Larry Norton, Deputy Physician in Chief,

Elena Elkin and, much to her coworkers’ dismay, will be returning to Ireland in June. No Irish goodbyes here – her kind spirit will be noticeably missed by all of her coworkers and friends.

Radhai Rastogi has been a part of the department of epidemiology at MSKCC for over 2 years. She has supported the research needs of Drs. Sara Olson and Irene Orlow on their research studies involving brain tumors, endometrial and pancreatic cancer. Radhai has been a pleasure to work with and we wish her the best as she starts this new chapter of life.

Arshi Arora holds a Masters in Computational Biology from Carnegie Mellon University. She will be working on various genomics project in the department. Before joining MSKCC, she worked at University of Pittsburgh as a Health Sciences Fellow. Her Masters thesis is titled “Studying gene expression networks through mathematical models.”

Melia is currently studying for a PhD in Health Services Research at Trinity College, Dublin with research interests including population-based analysis of costs and outcomes of cancer treatment among the elderly population. She has just completed a 2-year overseas placement at MSKCC in the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes where she worked with Erica Elkin and, much to her coworkers’ dismay, will be returning to Ireland in June. No Irish goodbyes here – her kind spirit will be noticeably missed by all of her coworkers and friends.

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CRDB UPDATE

The Clinical Research Database (CRDB) runs on three platforms including CRDB Client, CRDB Web, and CRBi. New modules on CRDB include:

- Participant Registration Report
- Recist Unidimensional Report

PREVENT A DATA LEAK!

PowerPoint presentations are a means through which sensitive data can be unknowingly shared. Charts and graphs in slide decks are often generated based on large patient data sets “hidden” behind the slides. When the PowerPoint file is shared, a serious data disclosure can result. How to stay compliant? Convert graphs and charts to images, or convert the entire presentation to a PDF file.

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Arshi Arora

Research Biostatistician

Ajay Sharma

Research Biostatistician

Ajay Sharma joined the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory in April 2012 as a Research Laboratory Technician. He is currently involved in the Genes, Environment and Melanoma Study (GEM), a study aimed to unveil host genetic characteristics that predispose subjects to the development or progression of melanoma.

The 2012 INFORMS Prize was presented to

Richard Triboulet

Caitriona O’Neill is currently studying for a PhD in Health Services Research at Trinity College, Dublin with research interests including population-based analysis of costs and outcomes of cancer treatment among the elderly population. She has just completed a 2-year overseas placement at MSKCC in the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes where she worked with Elena Elkin and, much to her coworkers’ dismay, will be returning to Ireland in June. No Irish goodbyes here – her kind spirit will be noticeably missed by all of her coworkers and friends.

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National Cancer Survivors Day!

MSKCC has long emphasized the importance of quality of life for survivors of cancer and offers services through its survivorship program that can be accessed on the internet at:

www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/survivorship

The survivorship program offers patients, family members and health care providers resources that vary from follow-up care to emotional support services that focus specifically on what happens after treatment.

Tips to stay compliant

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS ARE A MEANS THROUGH WHICH SENSITIVE DATA CAN BE UNKNOWINGLY SHARED. CHARTS AND GRAPHS IN SLIDE DECKS ARE OFTEN GENERATED BASED ON LARGE PATIENT DATA SETS “HIDDEN” BEHIND THE SLIDES. WHEN THE POWERPOINT FILE IS SHARED, A SERIOUS DATA DISCLOSURE CAN RESULT. HOW TO STAY COMPLIANT? CONVERT GRAPHS AND CHARTS TO IMAGES, OR CONVERT THE ENTIRE PRESENTATION TO A PDF FILE.

PREVENT A DATA LEAK!