NEW FACULTY: WELCOME MALCOLM PIKE!

Malcolm Pike, PhD is a University Professor and Professor of Preventive Medicine at the Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles. Dr. Pike’s research interests focus on the cause and prevention of female cancers. His current research includes the development of a hormonal contraceptive designed to significantly reduce breast cancer in young women, and the effects of diet on risk of female cancers in a large multi-ethnic cohort (African-Americans, Japanese-Americans, Latinas, Native Hawaiians, Whites). Further, Dr. Pike is involved in studies of the genetics of hormonal factors of importance in the cause of female cancers in the multi-ethnic cohort and in case-control studies, as well as studies designed to find improved forms of menopausal hormone replacement therapy.

In February, Dr. Pike gave a seminar at MSK entitled The Hormonal Etiology and Prevention of Breast, Endometrial and Ovarian Cancers as part of the President’s Research Seminar Series. Dr. Pike is an eminent scientist who has made important contributions to both biostatistical theory and cancer epidemiologic research. We are thrilled that he will be joining our Department in a half-time position, expected to begin in early April. We look forward to future collaborations and learning from his extensive expertise in the chemoprevention of breast, endometrial and ovarian cancers.

PUBLICATIONS

A Class of Transformed Mean Residual Life Models with Censored Survival Data

Lioukan Sun, PhD and Zhigang Zhang, PhD

Dr. Zhang and his co-author Dr. Sun developed a method to analyze censored data that directly models the survival time, based on mean residual life, which has applications in clinical trials and medical studies. The paper is set to appear in the June issue of the Journal of the American Statistical Association.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2009 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

February 26-28th in Orlando, Florida

Assessing Individual Prostate Cancer Risk
New Prognostic Markers: Pitfalls in the Pathway from Research to Clinical Practice
Andrew Vickers, PhD

2009 ENAR Spring Meeting

March 15-18th in San Antonio, Texas

Contributed Papers: ROC Analysis
Optimal Cutpoint Estimation with Censored Data
Mithat Gönen, PhD and Cami Sima, MS

Evaluation Markers for Risk Prediction
Decision Curve Analysis: A Simple, Novel Method for the Evaluation of Prediction Models, Diagnostic Tests and Molecular Markers
Andrew Vickers, PhD

WEBSITE UPDATE

The Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics internet website is complete with updates for 2009, incorporating images designed with help from the Public Affairs Department and text updates primarily gathered from the 2008 Annual Report. Please contact Rick Church at the CRG Helpline (x58180) regarding changes to your staff or service pages.

IN THE NEWS

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer
PBS-TV, Ch. 13 - 03/19/2009
Andrew Vickers recently appeared on NewsHour to discuss the results reported in two large studies looking at the benefits of PSA screening for prostate cancer and whether it saves lives. View Video

MSK Research Weekly

Delivered each Monday by e-mail, this Research and Technology Management (RTM) publication is a great way to stay abreast of internal/external award opportunities, federal grants policy, as well as upcoming workshops and events. Sign up now!

NIH NEWS

Applications for $1.5 Billion in Recovery Act Funds Now Available

Grants are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for scientific research, construction and improvement of research facilities, and the purchase of scientific equipment.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2008 Annual Report is now available and can be found on the H+, Shared Drive. Thank you to all who helped put this together.

Malcolm Pike, PhD
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Simone Hutchinson  
Secretary, Epidemiology Service
After spending a year working as an Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Nuclear Medicine Training Program in 2006-2007, Simone returns to MSK joining the Administration team in our Department.

Dawn Lavene  
RSA, Health Outcomes
Dawn comes to us from Wyeth where she worked as a Regulatory Toxicology Technician. She will be involved in STAR 04-020, the multi-institutional CALGB 07-034 study, a data mining project with the FDA, and with the cognitive interviewing portion of the PRO-CTCAE contract with the NCI.

Shireen Lewis  
Administrative Manager
Shireen has worked at MSK for the past 5 years. Her recent positions include Project Coordinator in Urology and Strategic Planning. She is involved in the NIH Public Access Policy project, supervises administrative staff, and is the Departmental liaison with Human Resources. Shireen has a Master’s of Public Administration from the NYU Wagner program.

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Rick Church
Rick completed his Master’s of Public Health in Community Health Education from Hunter College and received the Beatrice Konheim Graduate Scholarship in the Life Sciences this January 2009.

Nicole Ishill
Nicole was accepted to Columbia University for a DrPH in Biostatistics.

... AND GOODBYE & GOODLUCK!

Jessica Hill
After working in the department for 2½ years, Jessica is leaving MSK to return to school. She has served as both Epidemiology Secretary and Research Study Assistant. Jessica will be attending Columbia University’s School of Nursing for a combined BS/MS program, specializing as Nurse-Midwife & Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner.

Brendan Sayers
Brendan was accepted to Cornell’s Graduate School of Health Sciences program for a Master’s of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. He has been at MSK for almost 1 year working in Irene Orlow’s lab as a Sr. Research Technician.

MORE STAFF NEWS

RECENT PROMOTIONS

- Sharon Bayuga-Miller was promoted to Manager of the EPI/BIO Research Program
- Cami Sima was promoted to the professional staff in the Biostatistics Service
- Jennifer Simon was promoted to RSA III
- Christine Zhou was promoted to Research Biostatistician

JOB POSTINGS

The Epidemiology Department is currently recruiting for a RSA, RPC and Data Analyst.

CRGB CORNER

The Computing Resource group introduced several additional data collection forms in the CRDBi platform of the Clinical Research Database.

CRDBi v1.2

Welcome

CRDBi UPDATE:

The “CDUS” menu tab (as shown above) includes all the necessary elements for a Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP) compliant protocol.

New CDUS forms rolled out this February include:
- Patient Information
- Treatment
- Publications
- Physical Exam/Vitals
- Correlative Studies

Additionally, a new “CRF” menu tab includes Case Report Forms available for data collection on a wide variety of protocols.

New CRF forms rolling out this March include:
- Surgery
- Hospitalization
- Physical Exam

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