

**PETER BACH ELECTED TO SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS**

Peter Bach was elected to membership in the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars. The Society was established in May 1967 by the trustees of the University to honor distinguished former Johns Hopkins postdoctoral fellow and junior or visiting faculty. The induction will take place on Thursday, April 11th, 2013.

**TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM IN AUGUST 2013**

Plans are underway for a two-day symposium on “Advances in Statistical Methods for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology” to be held at MSKCC on August 22nd and 23rd 2013. This symposium is organized in collaboration with MD Anderson Cancer Center and is being hosted by our department under the auspices of a R13 conference grant awarded to Jaya Satagopan. A call for abstracts will be announced in early March. Please bookmark the symposium web page.

**2ND ANNUAL MSKCC RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS’ PROFESSIONAL DAY (RAPD)**

Friday, March 22, 2013

All staff involved in research administration—including those in central offices, departments, programs, laboratories, operations, information systems, finance, and fundraising—are invited. To stay informed about registration, please follow the MSK Research Weekly newsletter. (If you currently do not receive this weekly e-mail bulletin, you can be added to the distribution list by emailing the editor, Debra Schaller-Demers.

**CRDB UPDATE**

The Clinical Research Database (CRDB) runs on three platforms including CRDB Client, CRDB Web, and CRDBi. New modules on CRDB include the Sarcoma Upload Form, eRECIST Radiology Review, and eRECIST Radiology EMR Review.

**FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: MALCOLM PIKE**

Although Malcolm Pike, PhD, came to the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in 2009, New York City is just the latest in a long list of places Malcolm has lived. Malcolm grew up in South Africa before studying statistics at the University of Cambridge and earning his PhD in mathematical statistics from Aberdeen University in Scotland. He spent several years studying Burkitt’s lymphoma in Uganda, and served as a University Professor of Preventive Medicine at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, as well as the Director of the Cancer Epidemiology Unit at Oxford University. Malcolm enjoys working at MSK now, but it was his wife, Carolyn Westoff, MD, who was the real reason for his move; she practices and teaches at Columbia University, and serves as the Senior Medical Advisor to Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Malcolm is particularly interested in the etiology and chemoprevention of breast, endometrial, and ovarian cancers, and he currently works with the Department of Pathology to study the effects of a woman’s hormonal milieu on cell proliferation rates in the ovary and fallopian tube. He also works with the Department of Radiology to study a breast MRI characteristic called background parenchymal enhancement and its implications for breast cancer risk.

**RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS**

- **Colin Begg, PhD**, and **Jonine Bernstein, PhD**, received an R21 grant from the NCI titled “Identification of Etiologically Distinct Sub-Types of Breast Cancer.” The premise of this study is that the discovery of new genetic risk factors for breast cancer is hampered by the fact that breast cancer is really a collection of diseases with distinct etiologies. The study will seek to identify etiologically distinct sub-types of breast cancer using genomic profiling of tumors to improve the statistical power for discovering genetic factors that influence the risk of individual sub-types.

- **Irene Orlow, PhD**, was awarded an R03 grant from NCI titled “Validation of the use of whole-genome amplified DNA in a population-based study.” This study’s objective is to assess the accuracy of whole-genome amplification of germline DNA for identifying germline variants. If the technique is shown to be accurate it will allow investigators to conduct new genetic studies using DNA from existing studies when the available DNA has become too diminished to be used.

- **Talya Salz, PhD**, received the Scholar in Clinical Research Award from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Her study, titled “Toward risk-stratified care for lymphoma survivors,” aims to use linked data from Danish registries to predict the risk of cardiovascular disease among survivors of lymphoma. The prediction of individual cardiovascular risk for lymphoma survivors, taking into account treatments and comorbidities, will enable clinicians to provide personalized, risk-stratified cardiovascular care to each lymphoma survivor. Talya will be working closely with Drs. Kevin Oeffinger and Andrew Vickers at MSKCC, and Dr. Christoffer Johansen at the Danish Cancer Society.

**RECENT PRESENTATION**

Ann Zauber was a panelist and discussant at the conference “Trends in 21st Century Epidemiology: from Scientific Discoveries to Population Health Impact,” at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD on December 12-13, 2012. She was involved in the session: “The role of epidemiology in knowledge integration and meta-research.” The goal of the meeting was to bring together thought leaders in epidemiology and adjacent fields to discuss future challenges and plan how epidemiology needs to evolve in a changing landscape. The major outcome of the workshop is to draft 12 recommendations for action to influence the field of epidemiology within the next 12 years.
**March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month!**

Colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented through screening, as our esteemed colleague Ann Zauber would tell you from her work on the National Colonoscopy Study which was featured in the New England Journal of Medicine last year.

Employees or covered dependents with a high risk of developing colorectal cancer (this usually means a family or personal history of colorectal or polyps) as defined by the MSKCC guidelines should call the MSKCC GI Service at 646-497-9065 to schedule a colorectal cancer screening appointment. Employees or covered dependents 50 years of age or older, without a high risk of developing colorectal cancer (average risk) should contact their personal primary care physician for colorectal cancer screening referral.