NEW GRANTS: CONGRATULATIONS JONINE!

Jonine L. Bernstein, PhD was awarded a five-year grant from the NIH, “Genome-Wide Association Study of Radiation Exposure and Bilateral Breast Cancer ([R01CA129639])”, which builds upon her on-going Women’s Environment, Cancer and Radiation Epidemiology (WECARE) Study. The goal of the study (Protocol #09-040) is to identify novel genetic factors that influence susceptibility to breast cancer and possibly radiogenic cancer in particular. The 1,500 cases in this study will be women with contralateral breast cancer and the 2,200 controls will be women with unilateral breast cancer. This international study involves investigators from over 25 institutions.

The study team from MSKCC includes: Jonine Bernstein, Colin Begg, Irene Orlow, Marinela Capanu, Anne Reiner, Xiaolin Liang, Tracy Layne, Ken Offit and Robert Klein.

MSKCC Center News

Glenn Heller, PhD was mentioned in the May issue of Center News for his involvement in a MSK study led by medical oncologist Howard I. Scher, Chief of the Genitourinary Oncology Service and Martin Fleisher, Chair of the Department of Clinical Laboratories. According to the study, measuring circulating tumor cells (CTCs) could help physicians in making treatment decisions for patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) and facilitate clinical studies. Findings were published in the February 11th issue of Lancet Oncology.

RECENT CONFERENCES

American Urological Association Annual Meeting  
April 25-30th in Chicago, Illinois

- Andrew Vickers, PhD was a panelist for the special debate on long-term prediction of prostate cancer.

Podium Presentations:
- “Racial Disparities in the Treatment and Survival of Locally Advanced Prostate Cancer”; Lowrance WT, Jacks LM, Yee DS, Eastham JA, Scardino P, Elkin EB.
- “Ethnic differences in bladder cancer survival”; Yee DS, Lowrance WT, Ishill NM, Herr HW, Elkin EB.

Poster Session:
- “Long-term followup of 3-month neoadjuvant hormone therapy before radical prostatectomy in a randomized trial”; Yee DS, Lowrance WT, Eastham JA, Maschino AC, Cronin AM, Rabbani F.

30th Annual Society for Clinical Trials (SCT) Meeting 
May 3-6th in Atlanta, Georgia

The SCT is an international professional organization dedicated to the development and dissemination of knowledge about the design, conduct and analysis of government and industry-sponsored clinical trials and related health care research methodologies.

- Our Department Chair, Colin Begg, PhD has assumed the role of President for one year.
- Dawn Caron and Marcia Latif from the Office of Clinical Research presented on the CRDB, which was developed in our Department.
**NIH REGIONAL SEMINAR**

In April, Shireen Lewis attended NIH’s 2-day Regional Seminar in Atlanta, GA. The Seminar focused on sessions related to program funding and grants administration. It offered a wide range of workshops geared for both investigators and administrative staff focusing on topics such as public access policy, updates on the peer review process, and features and functionality of eRA Commons.

**Top 15 Highly Cited MSK Publications from 2008**

In early 2009, a search to find these citations was done in the SCOPUS database. Congratulations to our colleagues who made the Top 15!

- **15th Place** – Cited 10 Times
  
  "Variation of breast cancer risk among BRCA1/2 carriers."
  
  Colin B. Begg, PhD, Marinela Capanu, PhD, Xiaolin Liang, MD, MA, Cami Sima, MD, MS, Jonine L. Bernstein, PhD

- **12th Place** – Cited 13 Times
  
  "Molecular characteristics of bronchioloalveolar carcinoma and adenocarcinoma, bronchioloalveolar carcinoma subtype, predict response to erlotinib."
  
  Glenn Heller, PhD

- **11th Place** – Cited 14 Times
  
  "Design and end points of clinical trials for patients with progressive prostate cancer and castrate levels of testosterone: Recommendations of the Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Working Group."
  
  Ethan Basch, MD, MSc

- **3rd Place** – Cited 35 Times
  
  "A genome-wide association study implicates diacylglycerol kinase eta (DGKH) and several other genes in the etiology of bipolar disorder."
  
  Jaya Satagopan, PhD

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**MORE STAFF NEWS**

**RECENT PROMOTIONS**

- **Larry Engel** was promoted to Associate Attending Epidemiologist in the Epidemiology Service.
- **Tricia Neary** was promoted to Office Services/Facilities Coordinator.

**EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **Karl Minges**
  Karl received his Master’s of Public Health from Columbia University. As well, he will be leaving MSKCC in July to spend a year in Australia as a Fulbright Scholar.

- **Caroline Savage**
  Caroline received her Master’s of Public Health in Epidemiology from Columbia University.

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**GOODBYE & GOODLUCK!**

- **Adam Olshen**
  We are bidding farewell to Adam Olshen who has been with the Biostatistics Service since 2001. Adam will be the Co-Director of the Biostatistics Core at the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of California San Francisco.

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**CRG CORNER**

- **Welcome**
  - The new “Specimen” menu tab (as shown above) hosts the Liquid Specimen Form.
  - The Laboratory form is a new addition to the Case Report Forms (CRF) menu items.
  - The Transfusion form is a new addition to the Reports menu items.

  Additionally, enhancements to Protocol Phase 1 and Protocol Phase 2 Reports provide improved Survival Curve calculation.

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**CRDB UPDATE:**

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