



BIOSTATISTICS SEMINARS

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

- ❖ May 16th, 2018 [Sean Devlin](#)
MSK
- ❖ May 23rd, 2018 [Irina Ostrovna](#)
MSK
- ❖ May 30th, 2018 [Li-Xuan Qin](#)
MSK
- ❖ June 6th, 2018 [Jaya Satagopan](#)
MSK
- ❖ June 13th, 2018 [Zhigang Zhang](#)
MSK
- ❖ June 20th, 2018 [Sujata Patil](#)
MSK
- ❖ June 30th, 2018 [Genevera Allen](#)
Rice University

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS

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

- ❖ May 18th, 2018 [Stephen Schleicher](#)
MSK
- ❖ June 1st, 2018 [Andrew Vickers](#)
MSK
- ❖ June 15th, 2018 [Sigrid Carlsson](#)
MSK

EPIDEMIOLOGY SERVICE MEETINGS

All meetings will be held at 485 Lexington Ave,
2nd Floor, Conference Room B (2137)
Please see emails for updates.

- ❖ May 21st, 2018 [Emily Tonorezos](#)
MSK

POPULATION SCIENCES RESEARCH PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES

Please see emails for updates.

- ❖ June 18th, 2018 [Eliseo Perez-Stable](#)
National Institute of Health

STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ [Melissa Assel](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician II
- ❖ [Jessica Lavery](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician
- ❖ [Renee Gennarelli](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician
- ❖ [Jen Chen](#) promoted to Project Portfolio Manager
- ❖ [Junting Zheng](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician II
- ❖ [Emily Zabor](#) promoted to Senior Research Biostatistician
- ❖ [Debra Goldman](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician II
- ❖ [Patrick Hilden](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician II
- ❖ [Arshi Arora](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician II
- ❖ [Esther Drill](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician II
- ❖ [Vincent Madonia](#) promoted to Grants Management Analyst



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EPI/BIO WELCOMES DR. SOHRAB SHAH AS NEW CHIEF OF COMPUTATIONAL ONCOLOGY

[Dr. Sohrab Shah](#) has joined Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as the inaugural Chief of Computational Oncology in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.



Sohrab Shah, PhD

Dr. Shah received a PhD in computer science from The University of British Columbia in 2008 and developed his research program in computational biology at BC Cancer Agency and the University of British Columbia starting in 2010. His research focuses on developing and using computational methods to understand cancer initiation and evolution. This encompasses advanced machine learning and Bayesian statistical methods to analyze and interpret large scale datasets in cancer research. Dr. Shah's objective at MSK is to build new and innovative capacity in computational methods across the spectrum of data intensive research activity. This includes multi-modal data integration such as genomics and imaging, high resolution single cell genomics, and transcriptomics. His translational focus lies in breast and ovarian cancer where he has pioneered discovery of prognostic mutational signatures and large scale studies of mutational landscapes of these cancers. Dr. Shah is a former Canada Research Chair and is a current Komen Scholar.

GRANTS

[Sigrid Carlsson, along with Andrew Vickers and Tiffany Le](#), received a grant from the Patty Brisben Foundation to improve patient-reported outcomes about women's sexual health. This work is in collaboration with the Web Survey Core, BRM Core, Penelope Damaskos in Social Work, and Chasity Burrows Walters in Patient and Caregiver Education.

[Talya Salz](#) received a grant from the ACS for "Effectiveness trial of a head and neck cancer survivorship tool." The goal of the project is to improve the health and well-being of HNC survivors by using easily implemented, dynamic survivorship care plans (SCP) that promotes coordinated multidisciplinary care and self-management.

[Ronglai Shen](#) obtained a Parker Foundation grant with her project "Linking peripheral blood T cell phenotype with genomic features and clinical outcome in patients treated with checkpoint inhibition." The project hypothesizes that high dimensional analysis of multiple flow cytometry parameters on peripheral blood samples in a large patient population will allow development of a robust, multiparameter flow-cytometry based peripheral blood biomarker that correlates with clinical outcomes in patients treated with checkpoint blockade.

Making quick work after arriving at MSK, [Sohrab Shah](#) obtained a Susan G. Komen grant for "Exploiting new patterns of genome damage in triple negative breast cancer." The study aims to explore how DNA mutations in cancer cells of triple negative breast cancer, the most lethal form of breast cancer, can be used to discover new groups of patients.

PUBLICATIONS

[Anne Reiner, Marinela Capanu, Xiaolin Liang, Meg Woods, Jonine Bernstein](#), and WECARE colleagues published an article, [Breast Cancer Family History and Contralateral Breast Cancer Risk in Young Women: An Update From the Women's Environmental Cancer and Radiation Epidemiology Study](#), in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. With the completion of the WECARE II Study, they updated risk estimates for the association between breast cancer family history and contralateral breast cancer (CBC) risk in young women (<55 years of age at first breast cancer diagnosis). They reported a 10-year cumulative risk of CBC of 8.1% for women with any first-degree family history of breast cancer. Risks were also increased, and comparable to the CBC risk for BRCA1/2 deleterious mutation carriers, if the first-degree relative was diagnosed younger than 40 years or with CBC. Furthermore, in a subset of women testing negative for deleterious mutations in BRCA1/2, ATM, CHEK2*1100delC, and PALB2, risk estimates were unchanged. Adjustment for known breast cancer SNPs did not affect estimates. Clinicians should obtain and use detailed family histories to guide treatment and future screening decisions for young women with breast cancer.

STAFF FAREWELLS

After two years, **Sergio Corrales Guerrero** is leaving our department to pursue a doctoral degree through the Biomedical Science Graduate Program at Ohio State University. Sergio worked with Irene Orlow and contributed to the Integration of Clinical and Molecular Biomarkers for Melanoma Survival Project and other studies. We thank him for his great work, and wish him all the best. He will be missed!

Preston Atteberry is wrapping up his work as a visiting research fellow with Peter Bach and the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes. In June, he will be leaving our department to start his residency in internal medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. If all goes according to plan, Preston won't really be leaving MSK since he will be so close by! Preston plans on staying involved with the Health Policy team.

Chelsea McKoy has accepted a position as an Administrative Coordinator at NYU Langone. She has spent the past 2 years working with Peter Bach, Anna Kaltenboeck, the Center for Health Policy, and the Health Outcomes Group to ensure everything runs smoothly. We thank Chelsea for all her hard work and wish her well in her new position!

Christine Chien, after 3 years as a Data Analyst with Health Outcomes, is leaving to attend medical school at Carle Illinois College of Medicine in Urbana, Illinois. She will be in the inaugural class of the world's first engineering-based college of medicine.

After 6 years as a Program Analyst with Health Outcomes, **Ranjit Sukhu** was promoted to Senior Systems Analyst with the Department of Health Informatics at MSK. In Health Informatics, his responsibilities will include building the patient cohorts for surveys taken through MSKEngage portal.

After working as a Research Study Assistant on the IMAGINE Study for 2 years, **Katie Parra** will be leaving MSK to pursue a PhD in Behavioral Neuroscience at University at Albany. Her chipper personality and love of TV pop culture will be missed.

FOOD RECOMMENDATIONS

Mulberry & Vine: Customizable bowls and plates; choose sides and a protein from a wide array of healthy options. Gluten and dairy free options are available as well! 155 E 44th St, between Lex and 3rd Ave

Katagiri: Have you been missing this Japanese spot near the old office? Check out their 2nd location near Grand Central with rice balls, bento boxes, sushi, ramen, and grocery items. 370 Lexington Ave, entrance on 41st St, between Lex and Park Ave

THANK YOU SHARON!

We want to thank Sharon Bayuga for all her hard work on the BEACH Newsletter Committee over the past 9 years. Sharon helped start the newsletter and has been an editor since 2009. We appreciate her leadership and expertise in its continued success. Thank you, Sharon!!

NEW STAFF

Jessica Kenney, Research Assistant

Jessica Kenney will participate in research designed to evaluate markers associated to melanoma survival, and in other studies. She holds a BA in Biology. Jessica previously worked as a Research Technician in the Precision Pathology Biobanking Center at MSK; and prior to that, she worked for 13 years researching HIV and AIDS research in the Robbiani and Derby labs at the Population Council in the Rockefeller University campus.



Andrew Pangilinan, Project Coordinator

Andrew recently joined MSK and will aid Ann Zauber with her colorectal cancer research. He recently graduated from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health with a MPH in Epidemiology. Andrew has a research background in clinical psychology and neurological disorders.



STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

In November 2017, **Peter Bach** gave a TEDMED Talk at their annual event in Palm Springs, CA. Dr. Bach explained, in human terms, the consequences of and proposed solutions to rising prescription drug costs. His talk was part of larger series focusing on where the gaps of knowledge are in our current health system. The talk can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulADmDZ9hu8>

Sujata Patil has been selected by the 2018 International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) Awards Committee to be a recipient of the Young Statistical Scientist Award in the Applications category. Sujata is recognized for her collaborative works with colleagues at MSK and other institutions for the treatment of rare cancers that have informed cancer treatment policies, sustained contributions to statistics education for MSK clinical fellows and lab scientists, and boosted efforts to develop mentoring programs for junior researchers through the Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium and the American Statistical Association. The award will be presented on May 18th during the banquet dinner at the IISA Conference in Gainesville, FL. Dr. Patil's selection, in an extremely competitive process, is a testament to her accomplishments and impactful contribution to the field of medicine through her statistical collaborations. We wish her continued success and a productive career ahead.



Sujata Patil, PhD

Jessica Lavery published a column in AmStat News (The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association) based on her talk at the Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference in October 2017. In her column, "[Early-Career Statistician Offers Language, Tools for Establishing Influence](#)", Jessica shares tools that she has learned since beginning her career as a biostatistician. From managing and setting expectations, establishing the scope of responsibilities, to communication and collaboration, Jessica highlights important points and lessons to share with her colleagues.

CYCLE FOR SURVIVAL

The Epi-BioCyclers would like to thank everyone for their support and donations. Our team raised a total of \$33,000! Being a part of Cycle for Survival was inspiring, humbling, and motivating. We are so excited for next year's ride and invite you to join our team!

Epi-BioCyclers: Cynthia Berry, Melissa Assel, Roxana Damian, Jessica Flynn, Renee Gennarelli, Jessica Lavery, Shireen Lewis, Vinny Madonia, Lauren Rogak, Molly Samson, and special guest rider, Caden Berry.

