NEW FACULTY: WELCOME BACK VENKAT!

Venkatraman E. Seshan, PhD, (a.k.a. “Venkat”) returned to our Department on October 19th to pursue the role of Director of Biostatistics Computer-Intensive Support Services. Before his return, Dr. Seshan was previously a Professor in the Department of Biostatistics at the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Seshan received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta and his PhD from Stanford University, California. Upon graduation, he joined the Department of Statistics at the University of Arizona in Tucson. After spending a year and a half there, he moved to the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at MSKCC.

Dr. Seshan’s role as Director involves support for genomics and other computer-intensive activities, computing support for the Biostatistics Service, as well as collaborative research with clinical investigators and a methodological resource for junior biostatisticians. We are thrilled to have Dr. Seshan back in our Department and look forward to learning from his expertise.

NEW GRANTS

Talya Salz, PhD, was awarded an R03 grant (CA144682) from the NCI to evaluate the need for post-treatment (survivorship) information and preferences for care plans among colorectal cancer survivors, cancer specialists, and primary care physicians. This 2-year project was recently approved by IRB (Colorectal Cancer Survivors’ Needs and Preferences for Survivorship Information, IRB #09-133) and will recruit patients from MSKCC and Queens Cancer Center. Colleagues involved in this study are Talya Salz (PI), Elena Elkin (Co-Investigator), Chaya Moskowitz (Co-Investigator), and Tracy Layne (RPC).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- **Nodal Staging Score: A Tool to Assess Adequate Staging of Node-Negative Colon Cancer**
  Mithat Gönen, Deborah Schrag, and Martin R. Weiser

- **Bayesian Modeling of ChIP-chip Data Through a High-order Ising Model**
  Mo, Q., and Liang, F.
  Biometrics. In press.

WEB SITE UPDATE: Resources for Professionals

A new page titled Resources for Professionals was added to our Departmental web site. This new page is highlighted on the Epi & Bio homepage, just below the Letter from the Chairman. The homepage link directs web site traffic to the new page which features our Newsletter, Faculty Profiles, Research Projects, and Seminars. Resources for Professionals is targeted to faculty candidates and other prospective staff who are interested in key areas of our Department’s work. It is also notable that several additional projects are now posted on the Epidemiology Projects page. Updates to our web site will continue – Stay tuned!
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS
WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Shari Damast
Radiation Oncology Resident, Health Outcomes
Shari will be working as part of Ethan Basch’s team conducting research on symptoms in patients receiving radiation treatment.

Joshua Mirkin
Data Assistant, Health Outcomes
Josh will be supporting the research needs of Elena Elkin and Peter Bach. He recently graduated from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in Biology and Economics.

Lauren Rogak
RSA II, Health Outcomes
Lauren will be coordinating various multi-institutional clinical trials inherited with Ethan Basch’s new appointment as CALGB chair of the Quality of Life and Health Outcomes subcommittee. She holds a M.A. in Clinical Psychology from the New School for Social Research.

Meghan Woods
RPC, Epidemiology Service
Meghan will be working with Jonine Bernstein and The Women’s Environmental Cancer and Radiation Epidemiology (WECARE) Study. She comes to us from the NCI Cancer Information Service (CIS) at MSKCC.

GREEN INITIATIVE: *Computer Shutdown Campaign*

Two new tools are available as part of our Departmental campaign to keep our office computers in the shutdown mode during non-work hours. Several of our staff use their PCs remotely and these tools may be very useful.

1. MSKCC Shutdown Scheduler found on the Start menu at:
   START > WORKSTATION HELP > MSKCC SHUTDOWN SCHEDULER V1.1

2. PC Wake-UP Page found at the web site:
   http://pcwakeup/wolpage/webform1.aspx

It is important to note that the Shutdown Scheduler can hold multiple scheduled tasks that will ensure the computer is shutdown even after automatic reboots for necessary maintenance and software upgrades. For help with the automatic shutdown or remote wake-up of your PC, please contact Rick Church at the CRG Helpline 646-735-8180.

DID YOU KNOW?: MSKCC Library Edition

- Track Your Article’s Influence with Scopus
  The MSKCC Library offers several resources to track an article’s influence, including Scopus, a comprehensive database including over 14,000 scientific, technical, and medical journals. Find out how often your articles have been cited by using Scopus’s Citation Tracker. You can also sort search results using the “Cited By” column, which allows you to see some of the most influential papers on a particular topic.

- Redesigned PubMed
  On October 28th, PubMed launched a redesign of their website. Don’t hesitate to ask a librarian if you have any questions about the new interface or if you need help with a literature search.

  Email the MSKCC Librarians at AskLibrarian@mskcc.org or give them a call at 212-639-7439.

DEPARTMENTAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics Holiday Party that will be taking place on Thursday, December 10th, 2009, from 5:30 - 8:30pm on the Top Floor of the Scholar’s Residence (google map).

Please join us for an evening of food, festivities and fun! If you haven’t already done so, please RSVP to the E-vite sent out on November 10th, so that the Party Planning Committee can get an accurate head count.

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