HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Kay See Tan received her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was awarded the 2014 Saul Winegrad Award for Outstanding Dissertation. The focus of her methods research is the joint modeling of longitudinal and recurrent-event data, particularly when an adverse event triggers outcome assessment in between prescheduled follow-up visits. She developed a set of models to estimate covariate-outcome associations when observation times may depend on outcome values to ensure patients with more visits are not over-represented in the analysis. Dr. Tan is also interested in methodological issues pertaining to patient-reported measures and cancer surveillance. During her graduate career she collaborated with investigators and physicians at the University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center on a variety of projects ranging from tumor imaging analysis to quality of life changes in patients receiving radiation therapy. Dr. Tan looks forward to successful collaborations with investigators at MSK as a member of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

FUNDING SUCCESS

Irene Orlow received the Survivorship Outcomes and Risk (SOAR) grant from the Brain Tumor Center (BTC) for her proposal entitled: “Aging-related genes, cognitive functions, and amyloid imaging in brain tumor patients.” This study will assess the effect of aging-related genetic variants in relation to cognitive outcome, and will test the effect of APOE ε-4 allele on cortical amyloid retention in patients treated with radiotherapy with or without chemotherapy. Denise Correa is the Co-PI, and Jaya Satagopan will also collaborate.

Andrew Vickers received as Co-PI an R01 grant from the NCI (CA179115) entitled: “Dynamic, multi-cohort prediction modeling of prostate biopsy outcome.” The project involves collection of data on prostate biopsy from multiple sites including UCSF, Mayo Clinic, Durham VA, Puerto Rico VA and the Cleveland Clinic, as well as several foreign institutions including a consortium of Canadian centers and the San Raffaele hospital in Milan. Prediction of biopsy outcomes will be explored with particular reference to: differences between cohorts, statistical methods and the Cleveland Clinic, as well as several foreign institutions including a consortium of Canadian centers and the San Raffaele hospital in Milan. Prediction of biopsy outcomes will be explored with particular reference to: differences between cohorts, statistical methods and the incorporation of additional molecular markers, and updating of prediction models.

PUBLICATION

“Development of the National Cancer Institute’s Patient-Reported Outcomes Version of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (PRO-CTCAE)”

Ethan Basch, MD, MSc, Lauren Rogak, MA and colleagues have published a commentary in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute describing the development of a Patient-Reported Outcomes version of the NCI’s Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (PRO-CTCAE). This group of multidisciplinary investigators, including patient representatives and key personnel from the NCI conducted a systematic evaluation of all 790 AEs listed in the CTCAE and identified 78 appropriate for patient self-reporting. These 78 AEs have undergone rigorous testing, including cognitive interviews, and validation analysis. This paper provides an overview of qualitative and quantitative studies of measurement properties and discusses the future of the PRO-CTCAE.
STAFF KUDOS

Jonine Bernstein was elected president of the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) for the 2015 - 2016 term. ACE is one of the largest professional membership societies in the field of epidemiology.

Thanks to Yasmeen Majoka, Melissa Budnick, Britanny Soto, Joey Kanik, Sean Ryan, Jaya Sataogapan, Shireen Lewis and Roxana Damian who assisted in piloting our first Summer Administrative Internship Program. Our internship program is focused on bringing in students interested in careers in healthcare, research or administration, to assist in supporting the needs of the department during the summer months. Summer interns will work on general administrative projects to develop basic professional and interpersonal skills that they will utilize for the duration of their careers. Additionally, investigators interested in mentoring the interns may designate special assignments, with the goal of exposing them to a particular area of expertise. If an investigator is interested in mentoring students and having them assist with projects, he or she can speak to Shireen or Roxana for more details.

Congratulations to the 2013 members of the Perfect Attendance Club! We thank you on behalf of MSK.

Arshi Arora
Debra Goldman
Joey Kanik
Matthew Kent
Kai Lin
Elyn Stubblefield
Katherine Wong

STAFF PROMOTIONS

- Marinela Capanu promoted to Associate Attending
- Joseph Christoff promoted to Grants Mgt Coordinator
- Matt Kent promoted to Data Analyst II
- Vincent Madonia promoted to Research Technician
- Yasmeen Majoka promoted to Department Fund Manager I
- Amethyst Saldiva promoted to Department Research Project Coordinator
- Mary Shaw promoted to Research Study Specialist

FALL INTERN

Omi Singh, a Columbia University MPH student, will be interning with Jonine Bernstein and Meg Woods during the fall semester to assist with the preparation and analysis of WE CARE Study data.

STAFF FAREWELL

Brendan Phalan, one of our Department Fund Managers for the past 6.5 years, has joined HR as Manager, Benefits Education. Brendan

NEW STAFF

Renée Gennarelli, MS, Data Analyst II

Renée earned a MS in Biostatistics from Washington University in St. Louis. She previously worked as a data analyst in the Division of Public Health Sciences at Washington University, studying health literacy and racial disparities. At MSK she will be working with Elena Elkin, Allison Snyderman and other investigators on studies of treatment patterns and outcomes, using SEER-Medicare and other large datasets.

Justin Lee, MD, Research Fellow

Justin recently completed his Urology residency at the University of Toronto in June 2014. He is concurrently completing his MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health. Justin will be working with Andrew Vickers’ team, with a special interest in molecular markers.

Hanssen Li, Data Analyst

Hanssen recently graduated magna cum laude in computational biology from the University of Pennsylvania. He has served as a bioinformatics intern at the NIH. At the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, he designed the software for a ketogenic diet planner application. He is joining Andrew Vickers and his group to work as a coder and data analyst for informatics applications.

Emily Nadelmann, Research Study Assistant

Emily will be working with Jonine Bernstein, Malcolm Pike, and Meg Woods on the new IMAGINE Study. Emily graduated this past May from Johns Hopkins with a BA in Public Health Studies. She has assisted in research as an undergraduate at the Johns Hopkins Weight Management Center, Yale Cardiovascular Research Center, and Yale Sleep Center.

Hiep Truong, Web Developer

Hiep graduated from Stony Brook University with a BS in computer science. He comes to us skilled in the programming language Java, once even creating a 3-matched board game program similar to the notorious Candy Crush Saga with JavaFX. Hiep will be working with Kai Lin and the rest of the Computer Resource Group.

Jenny Yang, Research Study Assistant

Jenny graduated from Wellesley College with BAs in East Asian Studies and in Biological Sciences. Before coming to MSK, Jenny was a medical scribe at CityMD Urgent Care in Astoria. She will be supporting the research needs of Sara Olson and Victoria Blinder along with other investigators in the Epidemiology and Health Outcomes services.

Zahra Walijj, MPH, Project Coordinator

Zahra has a graduate degree from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, in International Policy and an MPH New York University. Zahra was born in Kenya, attended high school in Tanzania and speaks English, Swahili and a South Indian language called Gujarati. Zahra comes to us from the Department of Surgery where she supported Dr. Peter Scardino, the Departmental Administrator and the surgeons. Zahra will support the pre-award needs of the department as well as work with PMCID compliance and our financial database.

Know Your Numbers On-Site Screening

Friday, October 31st 8am-12:30pm – Basement Conference Room

As part of the 2014 Wellness Incentive Program, employees are encouraged to participate in a FREE confidential Know Your Numbers screening to get your weight, height, waist size, blood pressure, blood cholesterol, and sugar measured with Quest Diagnostics. To make it easier to participate, we have organized an onsite screening right here, in the basement conference room at 63rd Street!

Learn how you can earn $250 by participating in a Know Your Numbers screening and filling out your WellBeing Assessment by clicking here. The screenings take approximately 10 minutes to complete and blood will be drawn via venipuncture. Fasting for 9-12 hours is required for these screenings. Results of the screenings will be mailed 7-10 days after the screening. Walk-ins are welcome but scheduled appointments will have priority so please schedule your appointment here (Registration Key: MSK).