



MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS

B.E.A.C.H.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWSLETTER
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WORK ON THE BEACH

Join the editors of the BEACH Newsletter! We need volunteers to help with our bi-monthly newsletter. Please contact our editorial group at our email address.

zzPDL_EpiBioStat_Newsletter@mskcc.org



DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Colin Begg, PhD
EDITORS
Sharon Bayuga, MPH
Prusha Patel, MPH
Joseph Kanik

BIOSTATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES

All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM in the 3rd floor conference room (307 63rd St)

- ❖ November 20, 2013 [Sujata Patil](#)
MSKCC
- ❖ December 4, 2013 [Tyler VanderWeele](#)
Harvard University
- ❖ December 11, 2013 [Zhigang Zhang](#)
MSKCC
- ❖ December 18, 2013 [Cami Sima](#)
MSKCC

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP (HORG) SEMINARS

From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

- ❖ November 22, 2013 [Stuart Gardos](#)
MSKCC
307 E. 63rd St., 3rd floor conference room
- ❖ December 13, 2013 [Sigrid Carlsson](#)
MSKCC
307 E. 63rd St., 3rd floor conference room

SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RESEARCH (SOAR) SEMINAR SERIES

- ❖ November 21, 2013 [Mark Robson, MD](#)
11am - 12pm
MSKCC
Zuckerman Bldg, ZRC 105
- ❖ December 3, 2013 [Eva Grunfeld, MD, DPhil](#)
4pm - 5pm
Cancer Care Ontario and the Ontario Institute for Cancer
M-107

COLIN NAMED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

[Dr. Colin Begg](#), is taking over the role of **Editor-in-Chief** of *Clinical Trials*, an international scholarly journal devoted to clinical trials methodology, covering data management, trial logistics, design and conduct of trials, statistical methods, impact of trials on practice and policy, ethics, law and regulation, synthesis and evidence evaluation, history, education and training, patient-related issues, decision analysis, and commentaries on current or controversial issues in clinical trials. Dr. Begg's editorial team consists of five **Deputy Editors**, one of whom is [Mithat Gönen](#). [Katherine Wong](#) has assumed the role of **Assistant Editor** for the journal. In this role she will function as the nerve center of all activities, tracking submitted manuscripts, preparing material for the production team at the publishers, and communicating with authors. Since September the new team has been handling all submitted manuscripts. Dr. Begg's official position as Editor-in-Chief begins in January, 2014. *Clinical Trials* is published bi-monthly and is sponsored by the international Society for Clinical Trials.



Colin Begg, PhD

ALLISON LIPITZ-SNYDERMAN AWARDED GRANT FROM UNITED HOSPITAL FUND

[Allison Lipitz-Snyderman](#) was awarded a \$70K grant from the [United Hospital Fund](#), which was one of nine grants totaling \$475, 000 for projects to improve healthcare services in New York. Her study titled "Adverse events in cancer care: Development of a medical record-based screening tool to detect adverse events in cancer care" will hope to improve cancer care by creating a low burden screening tool to help detect adverse events and harm from patient medical records. Information obtained using this tool can help to estimate the burden of adverse events in cancer care, identify patient subgroups at high risk, prioritize issues for improvement, and develop quality measures for surveillance and policy initiatives. A comprehensive understanding of adverse events in cancer care, and an effective and efficient mechanism to obtain this information, can help to improve the quality of care and patient outcomes. [Cami Sima](#), Aileen Killen, David Pfister, David Classen (Pascal Metrics and University of Utah School of Medicine), and Saul Weingart (Tufts Medical Center) are also investigators on this project.



Allison Lipitz-Snyderman, PhD

PUBLICATION

[Design Considerations for Dose-Expansion Cohorts in Phase I Trials](#)

[Alexia Iasonos](#) recently co-authored an article in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* evaluating on the design and safety monitoring of Phase I trials. The inclusion of dose expansion cohorts has been increasingly used in Phase I trials with the aim to further assess the experimental agent's safety profile and obtain preliminary efficacy results. They are also used to identify a more homogenous group of patients and decide which disease indication to take further into the Phase II testing. The design and safety monitoring of such trials should be considered in the context of dose expansion cohorts within Phase I trials and the article discusses the challenges of dose expansion cohorts in Phase I trials.

PRESENTATION AT APHA

Carolyn Eberle presented at a roundtable discussion at the recent 2013 American Public Health Association meeting held in Boston, MA. The discussion was titled "Employer accommodations defined by women undergoing treatment for breast cancer."

STAFF FAREWELLS

- ❖ **Natalie Barragan** was promoted to Department Fund Manager in the Human Oncology & Pathogenesis Program (HOPP). She worked as Project Coordinator for Ethan Basch and departmental administration for over 2.5 years.
- ❖ After 5 years of service, **Chelsea Seaberg** will be leaving MSKCC and relocating to Philadelphia. She hopes to eventually attend nursing school.

UPCOMING EMPLOYEE WELLNESS EVENTS

- ❖ **Nutrition Lecture Series: Celiac Disease**
Employee Wellness Dietitian, Erica Lokshin will discuss management of celiac disease and gluten free diet
November 13th, 12pm – 1pm RRL 116
- ❖ **Diabetes and You: What you Need to Know and How to Take Control of Your Health**
Presentation from Registered Nurse and Certified Diabetes Educator, Ellen Coonerty and Registered Dietitians, Michele Sandone and Erica Lokshin
November 20th , 12pm - 1pm
Zuckerman Auditorium.
- ❖ **Great American Smoke Out Health Fair**
Tobacco Cessation experts will be available
November 21st, 12pm – 3pm
West Dining Room cafeteria.
- ❖ **The Truth Behind Electronic E Cigarettes**
A talk with Dr. Jack Burkhalter
November 22nd, 12pm - 1pm
Zuckerman Auditorium.

BE WELL

November is National Lung Cancer Awareness Month!

Learn more about tobacco cessation programs at MSK on the Employee Wellness website. MSK offers several programs offering education, counseling and group support to help smokers quit.

STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ [Talya Salz](#) promoted to Assistant Attending
- ❖ [Yasmeen Majoka](#) promoted to Project Coordinator
- ❖ [Dan Sjoberg](#) promoted to Research Biostatistician II
- ❖ [Valerie Pocus](#) promoted to Research Study Assistant II

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

- ❖ **Brittany Soto**, Project Coordinator
Brittany joins our department from the Medicine department where she was the Administrative Secretary for the Hematology Service. She is currently pursuing an MPH at Columbia University with a focus in Health Policy and Management. She will be working with [Ann Zauber](#).



- ❖ **Anjali Jotwani**, Research Study Assistant I
Anjali graduated from Yale University with a BS in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. She recently moved to NYC from Austin, Texas. She will be supporting the research needs of [Malcolm Pike](#) and [Noah Kauff](#).



- ❖ **Vincent Madonia**, Research Trainee
Vincent received a BA in Economics from the University at Albany, SUNY in May 2013. He joined MSKCC as an intern for the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department in July 2012, and began working full time as a Research Trainee in the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory in October 2013.



- ❖ **Brittany Garr**, Research Study Assistant II
Brittany will be working with [Malcolm Pike](#) and [Jen Brooks](#). She transferred to our department from the Medicine Clinical Trials Office where she was an RSA working on protocols sponsored by the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology. She is currently a student at Hunter College pursuing an MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.



STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ [Dan Sjoberg](#) is a statistical editor for the European Urology journal.
- ❖ [Marinela Capanu](#) and [Andrew Vickers](#) ran the ING NYC Marathon. (*Rick Church also ran!*)

DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY PARTY!

