



The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Pancreatic Tumor Registry Newsletter

Study Update: Pancreatic Cancer and Bacteria in the Mouth

We hope this issue finds you all well! In our last issue, we mentioned that Dr. Sara Olson and Dr. Robert Kurtz received a grant from the Lucille Castori Center for Microbes, Inflammation, and Cancer. This was for a pilot study of the bacteria in people's mouths and how they might be related to risk of pancreatic cancer. We were interested in this question because studies have shown that people with poor oral health are more likely to get pancreatic cancer. In our study, there were 40 people with pancreatic cancer, 39 with a pancreatic cyst called IPMN, and 58 healthy people. Participants completed surveys and gave saliva (spit) samples for research. Our MSK laboratory used state-of-the-art methods to analyze the types of bacteria found in the saliva samples.



As part of our study, we looked at whether there were lots of different types of bacteria in each person's saliva or only a few different types. The 3 groups of participants did not show any differences in the number of different types of bacteria. But when we looked at the specific bacteria found in the 3 groups, we did find some differences between people with pancreatic cancer versus the IPMN and healthy groups. Since our study was small, these findings need to be repeated in larger studies. Ideally, future studies should also collect samples before people get IPMNs or pancreatic cancer.

Other studies have found that some bacteria known to cause gum disease are more common in people with pancreatic cancer than in healthy people. We did not find these bacteria in our study, possibly because of our laboratory methods. Because our study included a survey about lifestyle and health, we were able to explore what kinds of things were related to the types of oral bacteria. We found that a person's age and whether they used mouthwash influenced the types of bacteria. This will be helpful in planning future research studies.

Thank you to all who took part in this study. We appreciate your time and interest in our work!



Want to learn more?

If you would like to learn more about the results of this study or have any questions, feel welcome to contact Dr. Sara Olson at FPCRegistry@mskcc.org.

Meet Our Team!



Molly Samson joined the MSK Pancreatic Tumor Registry in June 2016. She graduated from Franklin and Marshall College with a bachelor's degree in Cultural Psychology.

As a Research Study Assistant (RSA), Molly helps us with follow-up calls, gets consent from patients, and assists Dr. Kurtz at clinic. She also supports the research needs of other researchers in MSK's Epidemiology Department.

Other Study Announcements



Our research study assistants are contacting relatives by phone and mail to complete the **2-year follow-up survey**. The purpose of this survey is to update your health and family history information. The survey will only take 10 to 15 minutes of your time.



For those of you who have questions about genetic counseling and testing, please note that our study staff are unable to schedule these types of appointments. Please contact the **MSK Clinical Genetics** office directly at 646-888-4050 for more information.



If you have questions about or need to reschedule your clinic appointment with **Dr. Robert Kurtz**, please call his office at 212-639-7620.

Contact the MSK Pancreatic Tumor Registry

Robert C. Kurtz, MD | Principal Investigator 212-639-7620
Participants may call Dr. Kurtz's office to schedule appointments.

Pam Nunes | Research Study Assistant 646-888-8319
Contact Pam with questions about eligibility, to update contact information and participant status, and for other questions about the study.

Amethyst Saldia | Clinical Research Supervisor 646-888-8310

E-Mail FPCRegistry@mskcc.org

Website www.mskcc.org/departments/epidemiology-biostatistics/epidemiology/pancreatic-family-registry
Visit our website to view the current eligibility requirements and to download past issues.

Mail

Attention: Pam Nunes, Epidemiology Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
485 Lexington Avenue, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10017

You received this newsletter because you or a loved one participate in the MSK Pancreatic Tumor Registry study.