

CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS WEEK JUNE 18-22, 2012

This year's Clinical Research Professionals Week celebration will be held June 18-22, 2012. Each year MSKCC recognizes the efforts of the research support staff. Events include poster presentations, speakers, lunch reception, and raffle prizes.

SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL TRIALS ANNUAL MEETING

Mithat Gönen is the program chair for the upcoming annual Society for Clinical Trials meeting in Miami on May 20-23, 2012. The theme of the 2012 meeting is "Clinical Trials in Vulnerable Populations". Visit www.sctweb.org for more details. See you in Miami!

2012 AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE ON RADIATION AND HEALTH

Jonine Bernstein is one of the program co-chairs for the **2012 American Statistical Association (ASA) Conference on Radiation and Health**. This meeting offers an opportunity for discussing the qualitative aspects of radiation health research in a multi-disciplinary setting. The conference includes over 20 invited speakers and discussants, Chaya Moskowitz among them. The conference will be held in Kennebunkport, Maine from June 10th - 13th. Hope to see you there!

be well

April is
National Cancer Control
Month!

Learn more about how you can reduce your risk of cancer by staying active and eating healthy at the Employee Wellness website. The MSK Employee Wellness program provides information on fitness guidance, nutrition and also gives a list of local gyms that offer reduced rates for MSK employees. To learn more about the Employee Wellness program call (646) 888-WELL.

May is
Melanoma/Skin Cancer
Detection and
Prevention Month!

MSKCC provides a Melanoma detection clinic yearly, check the Center Bulletin or Employee Wellness website for more details and to learn more about skin cancer screening guidelines.

May 31st is
World No Tobacco Day!

Visit the MSK Employee Wellness tobacco cessation webpage to learn more about what MSK is doing to help smokers quit. MSK also offers its employees access to the Smoking Cessation Quit Line at (646)888-WELL.

april may

CRDB CORNER

The Clinical Research Database (CRDB) runs on three platforms including CRDB Client, CRDB Web, and **CRDBi**. New modules on CRDB Client and CRDBi include the Inventory Report for Immune Monitoring Facility (IMF), IMF Protocol Search, External Beam Radiation, E-RECIST, IMF Check In, IMF Check Out, IMF Relocation, and IMF Reserve for Protocol.

WELCOME CHRISTOFFER JOHANSEN

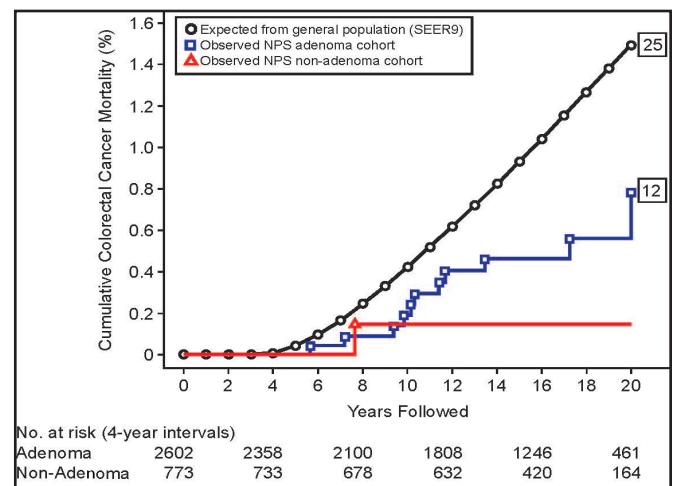
Christoffer Johansen is Head of the Unit of Survivorship at the Danish Cancer Society Research Center. Since 2011 Christoffer has also been affiliated with the University of Hamburg, Germany as adjunct professor on the Faculty of Medicine. Beginning March 2012, Christoffer will be spending a 6 month sabbatical in the Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Psychiatry. His main research area is psychological and social factors in relation to cancer, electromagnetic fields and cancer, and genetic factors in relation to brain tumors. He is hosted by Jonine Bernstein and is currently collaborating with Sara Olson and Jonine on the international GLIOGENE Studies identifying genetic risk factors associated with gliomas. Christoffer received his MD in 1986, his PhD in psychosocial cancer epidemiology in 1994, and his degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences in environmental cancer epidemiology in 2004 at the University of Copenhagen. Since 1989 he has been involved in several research and development projects integrating register based and clinical data into a research agenda, which focus on how psychological and social factors are associated with cancer in terms of risk, prognosis, and intervention. During his tenure here at MSKCC, he is interested in forging research collaborations in survivorship and will also be working with us on our training grant application. Please join us in welcoming Christoffer!



Christoffer Johansen, MD, PhD

COLONOSCOPY & THE NATIONAL POLYP STUDY

Ann Zauber, in collaboration with Dr. Sidney J. Winawer, Weiji Shi and other investigators from the National Polyp Study provided compelling evidence that colonoscopy not only reduces the incidence of colorectal cancer but also reduces mortality from this disease. As the lead article in The New England Journal of Medicine on February 23rd, this multi-center study reported long-term follow-up (median 16 years) of 2,602 patients who received a polypectomy via colonoscopy from 1980-1990. The investigators compared the number of colorectal cancer deaths in the group of patients that had adenomas removed with the expected number in the general population using data from the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program and an internal control group of patients that had non-adenomatous polyps removed. Results found a 53% reduction in colorectal cancer mortality rate for those participants who had adenomatous polyps removed, compared



to the mortality rate from colorectal cancer in the general population. Using general population estimates, the expected number of colorectal cancer deaths was 25.4 for the study population size; Zauber et al. observed 12 deaths from colorectal cancer among patients with adenomas removed. Furthermore, in the first 10 years after initial colonoscopy, colorectal cancer mortality rates were comparable in the adenoma patient group and the benign polyp group. The New York Times featured these results in a front-page article on February 23rd followed by an editorial on February 25th and the February 23rd issue of NEJM provided an editorial in response to the study.

PUBLICATION

Jaya Satagopan co-edited the book "Statistical Human Genetics: Methods and Protocols" (published by Humana Press of Springer; ISBN 978-1-61779-554-1) with Professors Robert Elston and Shuying Sun of Case Western Reserve University. In this book, expert researchers in the field describe statistical methods for the analysis of human genetics data and provide relevant computer programs in the detail necessary to make the methods more easily accessible to the beginner. This book contains 30 chapters addressing various contemporary topics on statistical methods for human genetics. Our very own Venkatraman Seshan is a contributing author of this book. The year 2012 marks the 80th birthday of Professor Elston, and Jaya is enormously honored to collaborate with him on this book and witness his continued enthusiasm and dedication for statistical genetics research.

PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND POPULATION RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

PCPR seminars take place at 1275 York Avenue, Rm. M-107, 4:00-5:00 PM

» **April 10,** **Tim A. Ahles**
"Cognitive Change Associated with Cancer and Cancer Treatment"

Attending Clinical Psychologist, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

» **May 8,** **Susan L. Neuhausen**
Professor, Department of Population Sciences, City of Hope, Duarte, CA

» **May 15,** **Lindsay Morton**
"Risk of treatment-related stomach and pancreatic cancers among Hodgkin lymphoma survivors."

Radiation Epidemiology Branch (REB), Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG), National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

BIOSTATISTICS SEMINARS

All Biostatistics seminars take place at 307 E. 63rd Street, 3rd Floor, Rm. 331, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

» **April 11,** **Colin Begg** MSKCC

» **April 18,** **Ying Qing Chen** Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

» **April 25,** **Ronglai Shen** MSKCC

» **May 2,** **Jay Herson** John Hopkins University/ (4:00-5:00PM)

» **May 9,** **Zhigang Zhang** MSKCC

» **May 16,** **Camelia Sima** MSKCC

» **May 23,** **Wenge Guo** New Jersey Institute of Technology

» **May 30,** **Sujata Patil** MSKCC

IVR FOR WEBCORE

The Web Survey Core ([WEBCORE](#)), directed by [Ethan Basch](#), is a Core Facility, which creates online surveys for data capture. After a year of exploration, setup, and testing by [Marwan Shouery](#), Sr. Programmer, WEBCORE is pleased to offer Interactive Voice Response (IVR) as an option for its clients. Marwan was able to set up a special server connected to phone lines which can make/receive calls from patients based on a predefined schedule. Data are saved and secured in the WEBCORE database. One of the first MSKCC studies to use the WEBCORE IVR option is a protocol developed by Larissa Temple, [Antonia Bennett](#), and Ethan Basch, *A Comparison of the Feasibility and Psychometric Properties of Paper vs. Web vs. Automated Telephone Administration of Patient Reported Outcome Surveys*. This is an initial proof-of-concept and will assess patient-reported outcomes (PROs) after colorectal cancer therapy.

STAFF UPDATES

» [Chaya Moskowitz](#), PhD promoted to Associate Attending Biostatistician

» [Eve Burstein](#) promoted to Research Study Assistant II

» [Lauren Rogak](#), MA promoted to Clinical Research Coordinator

NEW STAFF



Niccolò Maria Passoni

Research Fellow

Niccolò is a fellow from the Department of Urology, University Vita Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy. Dr Passoni is joining Dr Vickers' team for 12 months.



Elizabeth Rivera

Research Secretary, Health Outcomes Group Elizabeth has her BA in Psychology from Manhattan College. Before coming to MSKCC, Elizabeth volunteered at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and worked at the Health Services and the Residence Life Departments at Manhattan College.

BAIC MIXER

The Center for Health Policy and Outcomes and the Head and Neck Service sponsored a breakfast this February for employees on the 14th floor of BAIC. This event gave members of our team the opportunity to get to know employees across other departments who share the floor and to create a greater sense of community.



HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINAR SERIES

From 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

» **April 6,** **Matt Baldwin**
BAIC 300 E. 66th Street, 9th Floor -Room 917B.

» **April 20,** **Caitriona O'Neill**
307 E. 63rd Street, 3rd Floor

» **May 4,** **Yvonne Bombard**
BAIC 300 E. 66th Street, 9th Floor -Room 917B.

» **May 18,** **Andy Ryan** (visiting speaker from Cornell), 307 E. 63rd Street, 3rd Floor

WHEN YOU CALL INTEROFFICE, DO YOU DIAL 9? NO!

Using the three digit tie line prefix is not just a convenience, but saves the department on telecommunications charges. Tie lines utilize the Center's internal network to connect exchanges—and thus bear no departmental cost. Dialing 9 gets you an outside line, but at a cost. **Try this!**

» 307 E 63rd Street (120+Last Four Digits)

» Molecular Epi Lab/Main Campus (122+Last Four Digits)

» Center for Health Policy /Zuckerman/BAIC (125+Last Four Digits)

» 633 Third Avenue (123+Last Four Digits)

» NJ Data Center (127+Last Four Digits)

*Each individual's tie line is italicized in the MSK Phone Directory or can be found in everyone's Outlook Properties under the Phone/Notes tab.