



BIOSTATISTICS SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM

485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- ❖ February 26, 2020 **Xiao-Li Meng**
Harvard
- ❖ March 4, 2020 **Andriy Derkach**
MSK
- ❖ March 11, 2020 **Jason Fine**
University of North Carolina
- ❖ March 18, 2020 **Chaya Moskowitz**
MSK
- ❖ April 1, 2020 **Hongzhe Li**
University of Pennsylvania
- ❖ April 15, 2020 **Glenn Heller**
MSK

COMPUTATIONAL ONCOLOGY SEMINARS

ZRC Auditorium

- ❖ March 24, 2020 **Cheng-Zhong Zhang**
Harvard Medical School
- ❖ April 14, 2020 **Simon Tavaré**
Columbia University
- ❖ May 12, 2020 **Hannah Carter**
University of California

EPIDEMIOLOGY SERVICE MEETINGS

485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

Please see emails for updates

- ❖ March 2, 2020 **Sigrid Carlsson**
MSK
- ❖ March 16, 2020 **Irene Orlow**
MSK
- ❖ April 20, 2020 **Jonine Bernstein**
MSK
- ❖ May 4, 2020 **Jeanine Genkinger**
Columbia Mailman
School of Public Health

POPULATION SCIENCES RESEARCH PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES

- ❖ May 7, 2020 **Sir John Burn**
Newcastle University

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM

485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- ❖ March 20, 2020 **Andrew Vickers**
MSK
- ❖ April 3, 2020 **Erin Gillespie & Allison Lipitz-Snyderman**
MSK
- ❖ April 17, 2020 **Mike Curry**
MSK
- ❖ May 1, 2020 **Ryan Nipp**
MGH



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ANN ZAUBER RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ann Zauber received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable and the American Cancer Society at their annual meeting in November 2019. Dr. Zauber has long been at the forefront of colorectal cancer research. Presently, she is the head of the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) colorectal group. CISNET is a multi-institutional group, supported by the NCI, that uses micro-simulation modelers to reduce colorectal cancer burden. With Dr. Zauber at the helm, the group has contributed greatly to the advancement of colorectal cancer care and prevention.



Ann Zauber, PhD

In 2008 and 2016, CISNET conducted decision analyses for the US Preventative Services Task Force regarding screening intervals and the optimal age to begin screening. As a result of research conducted by the CISNET group, the American Cancer Society changed their recommended age to begin screening for colorectal cancer from 50 to 45. One of the group's seminal works was a study that showed that screening, colonoscopies specifically, drastically reduced colorectal cancer incidence and mortality. Dr. Zauber was the lead author of the paper, which was published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2012.

In addition to CISNET, Dr. Zauber has leadership roles in several other prominent organizations and studies, such as the lead investigator for the National Colonoscopy Study, co-principal investigator on the NCI PROSPR I consortium, and lead biostatistician for the Nordic-European Initiative on Colorectal Cancer. In brief, Dr. Zauber's career has been nothing short of prolific, making her a most-deserving recipient of this award.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Zauber on this remarkable achievement!

SHIREEN LEWIS PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR

In December, **Shireen Lewis** was announced as the new director of the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics. In her previous role as financial manager, she supervised the day-to-day financial activities of the department. Shireen also stepped in to fulfill additional responsibilities in the absence of a departmental director.

As part of Shireen's new leadership role within the department, you can expect to receive semi-regular e-mail updates from her.

We wish Shireen nothing but success as the new departmental director!



Shireen Lewis, MPA

CYCLE FOR SURVIVAL - THE BELL CURVES!

Our departmental team, **The Bell Curves**, will be participating in Cycle for Survival on Saturday, March 7th. The Bell Curves are asking for your support to help us reach our fundraising goals. We are working hard to beat last year's fundraising goal of \$18,000! **100%** of the money raised goes directly to MSK to fund research on rare cancers.



Here is the link to our team fundraising page, where you can make a 100% tax-deductible online donation: <http://mskcc.convio.net/goto/TheBellCurves>.

The Bell Curves: **Renee Gennarelli, Mithat Gonen, Margie Hannum, Jenn Hsu, Jessica Lavery, Shireen Lewis, Stephanie Lobaugh, Maha Mamoor, Axel Martin, Jenn Ohn, Lauren Rogak, Molly Samson, Venkat Seshan, Karissa Whiting**

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Sigrid Carlsson was invited to join the editorial board as Associate Editor of British Journal of Urology International.

On February 12th, **Andrea Knezevic** participated in NYU's Department of Biostatistics' Careers in Biostatistics and Data Science panel discussion. She was part of a group of six distinguished professionals that discussed their current positions and shared their unique career paths.

The **Web of Science Group** recently identified the world's most cited researchers of 2019 and included 4 researchers from our department. **Mithat Gönen, Ronglai Shen, Niki Schultz,** and **Barry Taylor** were included in the list of Highly Cited Researchers and recognized for their exceptional research influence, demonstrated by the production of multiple highly-cited papers that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and year in Web of Science.

STAFF PROMOTIONS

Kay See Tan promoted to Assistant Attending Biostatistician

STAFF FAREWELLS

Vinny Madonia has left our department after supporting Epi-Bio for over 7 years in a variety of different roles, most recently as a Grants Management Analyst. We wish him all the best as he begins his new role as a Grants Manager in the Department of Research and Technology Management at MSK.

For the past 3 years **Tiffany Le** has supported the Health Outcomes group as a Clinical Research Coordinator. In March 2020, she will transition to her new role as a Research Project Associate in the MSK Department of Medicine's Gastrointestinal Oncology service. Best wishes in your new role, Tiffany!

RESTAURANTS

The recently opened **Zorba Grill** provides another quick stop for Mediterranean salads, wraps, and grain bowls with options of falafel, chicken or lamb/beef doner, and vegetables with mezzes. *723 3rd Ave between 45th St and 46th St.*

Alidoro is a specialty sandwich shop with both hot and cold sandwiches filled with Italian cold cuts, cheeses, and spreads, on your choice of bread. *18 E 39th St between 5th Ave and Madison Ave.*

Tibetan Nomad Momo is a food cart serving tasty Tibetan dumplings with beef, chicken, or vegetables. Order them steamed, fried, or with gravy for only \$6-8. A variety of sauces are also available. *Corner of Lexington Ave and 46th St.*

PUBLICATIONS

Peter Bach, Jennifer Ohn, and colleagues Dhruv Khullar and Mark Trusheim published a paper, "[Understanding the Rewards of Successful Drug Development — Thinking Inside the Box](#)" in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. They describe the structure of the pharmaceutical system of costs and rewards for the development of drugs, the system they name the "reward box". This "reward box" summarizes the financial returns to pharmaceutical companies of approved drugs across the phases of drug development and eventual marketing and sales. Federal policies construct and act on this system, and readers can view their effects through the accompanying interactive graphic.

Sigrid Carlsson, Nicole Benfante, Maha Mamoor, Dan Sjoberg, Andrew Vickers, and colleagues from MSK Urology released two joint-publications in *Journal of Urology*. These papers, "[Long-Term Outcomes of Active Surveillance for Prostate Cancer - The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Experience](#)" and "[Risk of Metastasis in Men with Grade Group 2 Prostate Cancer Managed with Active Surveillance at a Tertiary Cancer Center](#)", report on MSK's clinical experience with active surveillance for men with low- and low-intermediate risk prostate cancer, concluding that it is a safe strategy over medium-term follow-up for appropriately selected patients following a well-defined monitoring plan.

Andrew McPherson and **Sohrab Shah** published "[Clonal Decomposition and DNA Replication States Defined by Scaled Single-Cell Genome Sequencing](#)" in *Cell*, describing Direct Library Preparation+ (DLP+), a new approach they developed with the University of British Columbia/BC Cancer for high-throughput single-cell DNA sequencing. DLP+ is a scalable single-cell whole-genome sequencing platform implemented using commodity instruments, image-based object recognition, and open source computational methods that provides an unprecedented understanding of tumor evolution. Dr. Shah and colleagues used DLP+ to sequence and analyze the genomes of nearly 52,000 single-cell genomes. The data from this resource are available in an online database for the research community.

GRANTS

Mithat Gonen was awarded a grant from MSK Mind titled "Integrated Analysis of Liver Metastases from Colorectal Cancer."

Elli Papaemmanuil was awarded a grant from Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation titled "Biological and clinical implications of allelic imbalances in clonal hematopoiesis and subsequent risk of therapy related leukemia."

Niki Schultz was awarded a grant by the Functional Genomics Initiative titled "Identification and characterization of novel mutations in non-unique regions of cancer genes." Niki was also awarded a grant from MSK MIND titled "Retrieval of clinical data elements for the identification of genomic predictors of outcome and treatment response in cancer."

JJ Gao received an award from the Brown performance Group titled "A population-scale resource of germline variants and accompanying somatic alterations in cancer."

Talya Salz and **Debbie Korenstein** received a PSRP grant titled "Pain management for complex cancer survivors."

Allison Lipitz Snyderman and **Erin Gillespie** received a grant from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network titled "Enhancing Academic-Community-Patient Partnerships."

COMPUTATIONAL ONCOLOGY HAS MOVED BUILDINGS

The Computational Oncology Service led by **Sohrab Shah** has moved to the new Joy Building located at 321 East 61st Street. A list of updated telephone numbers for staff may be requested, and the tie-line to the building is 127-XXXX (4-digit extension). Please contact Cynthia Berry or Yesenia Werner with questions.

ARSHI ARORA GETS MARRIED

Arshi tied the knot in January 2020 at her hometown in Jaipur! The wedding was held in a Gurudwara and followed traditional Gursikh traditions. She chose to wear a pink bridal lehenga (a crop top with a full bodied heavy skirt) and the groom chose to ride on an elephant as part of the baraat (groom's wedding procession). The festival of Makar Sankranti coincided around the same time, and everyone enjoyed some kite flying after the wedding ceremony.



NEW STAFF

Sammi Brown, Assistant Research Biostatistician

Sammi joins MSK as she finishes her Master of Science in Biostatistics at Columbia University. During her time there, she worked as a Teaching Assistant for two biostatistics courses and as a Research Assistant in a genetics lab. She will be supporting the Biostatistics Service as an Assistant Research Biostatistician.



Megan Fiasconaro, Assistant Research Biostatistician

Megan will be supporting the Biostatistics Service as an Assistant Research Biostatistician, having previously worked as a biostatistician within Hospital for Special Surgery's Anesthesiology department. She completed her MS in Biostatistics from Columbia University in 2018, and during that time worked as a student analyst for the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Program and as research assistant with CUNY's Urban Food Policy Institute.



Eliyahu Havasov, Data Engineer

Eli joins us having previously worked for Canon U.S.A. as a developer and data analyst. Eli received his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Queens College at the City University of New York. His recent industry switch was inspired by the desire to work on more meaningful projects. He joins Sohrab Shah's lab as a Data Engineer.



Jasme Lee, Assistant Research Biostatistician

Jasme joins MSK as an Assistant Research Biostatistician. She received her MS degree in Statistics from North Carolina State University while working on psychoacoustics research at NASA Langley Research Center. She is excited to explore statistical application in different research areas, with interest in Bayesian modeling and methods.



Florian Uhlitz, Research Fellow

Florian Uhlitz studied biology and graduated with a M.Sc. in Molecular Life Sciences at Humboldt-University of Berlin. During his PhD at Berlin School of Integrative Oncology he moved to computational biology in the lab of Prof Nils Blüthgen at Charité University Hospital Berlin, where he worked on cellular decision making and single cell biology of colorectal cancer. He is excited to join Sohrab Shah's lab to continue his research into single cell biology of different carcinomas using multi-modal approaches.



UPDATES FROM THE BEACH GREEN TEAM

The green team at 485 Lex successfully started a new mug share initiative beginning of 2020. The goal is to reduce single usage of paper cups and move towards a more sustainable BEACH community. We are encouraging colleagues to follow **BYOM (Bring Your Own Mug)** and **BYOS (Bring Your Own Silverware)**. A drying rack has also been placed in the pantries to make washing, drying and reusing dishes easy. Spare a minute before using other **single use** items in the pantry like the red plastic stirrers. They are used for 20 seconds and then find their spot in the trash. Plastic bags and electronic items are also recycled at designated bins in the pantry. For composting and recycling textiles needs, NYC Sanitation Department of Sanitation along with Greenmarket provides clothes and composting bins at farmers market held across all 5 boroughs. For more information check out <https://www.grownyc.org/greenmarket>. The one closest to 485 Lex is located at the intersection of 47th and 2nd Ave and is open Wednesdays year-round from 8:00am-4:00pm.

A bike storage room is also located in the building if you commute by bike. Please note that the room is to be used for storing bikes when at work and not as a long-term storage. For more questions, contact Tricia Neary.

INTRODUCING MICROSOFT TEAMS

This month MSK upgraded our workstations to include **Microsoft Teams**. With no thorough introduction to the software, and it programmed to automatically start when your PC boots up, it left many people feeling very confused and annoyed by the program.

Don't be mistaken though: Microsoft Teams is anything but annoying. It is essentially a system that promotes collaboration and communication by offering a single platform for chat, video meetings, file sharing, document editing and information sharing.

Working off of the backbone established by Sharepoint, **Teams** offers the ability to create a group, invite members, chat instantly, share files, create Wikis, assign tasks, write notes and much more. Each team that is created provides the ability for users to fully customize the content and experience.

If you're interested to learn more, reach out to **Joey Kanik** who will begin providing demonstrations to small groups in the department starting February 24.

