



## 2016 SUMMER STUDENTS AND MENTORS

- ❖ Katherine Fleshner – working with Sigrid Carlsson
- ❖ Andrew Tsao - working with Irene Orlow
- ❖ Alexander Rief – working with Irene Orlow
- ❖ Ariel Chernofsky – working with Jaya Satagopan
- ❖ Charlotte Wong – working with Kay See Tan
- ❖ Soyi Sarkar – working with Mithat Gonen and Kristen Cunanan
- ❖ Avital Elias – working with Ray Baser and Kathy Panageas
- ❖ Jennifer Lin – working with Li-Xuan Qin and Rebecca Huang
- ❖ Lindor Qunaj – working with Peter Bach and Zach Helms
- ❖ Alex Studer – working with Venkat Seshan
- ❖ Tiffany Le – working with Ling Chen and Andrew Vickers
- ❖ Stephen Martinez-Hamilton – Admin / Health Outcomes
- ❖ Jessica Poon – working with Andrew Vickers
- ❖ Jamie Cabigas (SCORE) – working with Margaret Du
- ❖ Sarah Phillips (GME) – working with Victoria Blinder and Carolyn Eberle



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## DEPARTMENTAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics has launched its first summer research experience program for students to work with a faculty member or senior staff member in the areas of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Health Outcomes. Students will learn about the crucial role of quantitative methods for addressing clinically important hypotheses about cancer etiology, progression, prevention, control, and cure, thus enhancing their knowledge of cancer.

The internship application process required the students to formally apply via the MSK website. Applications were reviewed by Administration in conjunction with the faculty to match students with a mentor based upon their academic background and interests. Close to 50 students applied and 12 interns in total were accepted to the program. The level of education of this year's interns varies from high school to graduate students. The department will also host interns affiliated with the GME and SCORE programs.

In addition to working on mentored projects, the interns will be participating in workshops offered by the department. Some of our internal workshops include; "Overview of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics" presented by [Roxana Damian](#) and "What is Clinical Research?" presented by [Sharon Bayuga](#) and [Lauren Rogak](#). Each service will also give a presentation allowing the students the opportunity to learn about the research and objectives of our department as a whole. Students will also be exposed to the larger MSK community through attendance at seminars, employee events, and facility tours offered institution-wide all posted on the "MSK Interns" page and Sphere posted on One MSK.

The Cluster A intern group started on Monday, June 6th and Cluster B will begin their internship on Tuesday, July 5th. As a requirement of the program, the interns will be expected to produce a report that includes a description of their project and what they learned from the internship at the "Final Presentation Event" taking place on Wednesday, July 27th.

The Department is appreciative of all the mentors who have made the commitment to take on a student this summer; providing them with projects to enrich their academic experience and guidance on how to continue on in their careers. A special thank you goes to [Kay See Tan](#) and [Jaya Satagopan](#), both instrumental in designing and providing guidance on the program in collaboration with Administration.

## SYMPOSIUM

[Jaya Satagopan](#) is a Co-Chair for the symposium on "Statistical and Computational Methods for Pharmacogenetic Epidemiology of Cancer," which will be held at MSK's Rockefeller Research Laboratory building on August 11th and 12th. The symposium is organized in collaboration with MD Anderson Cancer Center. Topical sessions include emerging statistical methods in the areas of: gene-treatment interactions in statistical models, heterogeneity of cancer etiology, progression, and response to treatment, targeted screening and intervention in clinical and population-based studies, statistical and computational software packages, and novel sampling designs for evaluating treatment effects according to biomarker status. Detailed information about the symposium agenda, registration and abstract submission can be found at: <http://odin.mdacc.tmc.edu/~ryu/2016StatSymp/>. The symposium is supported, in part, by NCI, NIEHS, NHGRI, and a R13 grant (PI: Jaya Satagopan and Co-PI: Dr. Sanjay Shete, MDACC). All are welcome to attend.



## GRANTS

[Irina Ostrovnya](#) received a Society Research Grant for her proposal "Using Publicly Available Multi-Regional Sequencing Data to Identify the Accurate Summary Measure of Intra-Tumor Heterogeneity." Recently, many methods have emerged that attempt to estimate the subclonal composition of a tumor using information obtained from sequencing of tumor's DNA, namely the list and prevalence of mutations and copy number alterations present in that particular tumor. However, inferring intra-tumor heterogeneity (ITH) structure based on a snapshot of a single sequenced section of a tumor is conceptually and computationally difficult. She will evaluate several computational algorithms and various simple metrics that quantify genetic intra-tumor heterogeneity of a given tumor using a set of published studies that have profiled multiple regions of each tumor.

## CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS WEEK

[Carolyn Eberle](#) won third prize for her poster "Correlates of work status during adjuvant chemo- or radiation therapy for breast cancer." Co-authors included [Victoria Blinder](#), [Sujata Patil](#), Kevin C. Oeffinger, Cathy Bradley, and Francesca Gany.

[Sergio Corrales](#) presented "Effect of APOE, smoking status, and chemotherapy on cognition in breast cancer survivors." Co-authors included: [Bobak Hedavati](#), Molly Crowe, Rebecca Wellner, [Jessie Leong](#), Tim Ahles, and [Irene Orlow](#).

Special thanks to those who helped out with the EPI/BIOSTAT table during the Clinical Research Expo: [Val Pocus](#), [Vinnny Madonia](#), [Lauren Rogak](#), [Meg Woods](#), [Mary Shaw](#), [Prusha Patel](#), [Liz Fortier](#), [Amethyst Saldia](#), [Narre Heon](#), [Zach Helms](#), [Christine Chien](#) and [Ranjit Sukhu](#).

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT THE 2016 ASCO ANNUAL MEETING, CHICAGO, IL

[Elizabeth Fortier](#) presented "A patient safety approach to assessing adverse events in oncology: Results from CHARM (Cancer Harm) study." Co-authors included [Allison Lipitz-Snyderman](#), David Classen, David Pfister, Aileen Killen, Andrew Epstein, Christopher Anderson, [Coral Atoria](#), and Saul Weingart.

[Carolyn Eberle](#) presented "Correlates of work status during adjuvant chemo- or radiation therapy for breast cancer." Co-authors included [Victoria Blinder](#), [Sujata Patil](#), Kevin Oeffinger, Cathy Bradley, and Francesca Gany.

## STAFF PROMOTIONS

- ❖ **Ronglai Shen** promoted to Associate Attending
- ❖ **Joseph Christoff** promoted to Dept Fund Manager I
- ❖ **Zach Helms** promoted to Project Coordinator
- ❖ **Emily Vertosick** promoted to Assistant Research Biostatistician
- ❖ **Vinny Madonia** promoted to Grants Management Coordinator
- ❖ **Tania Celea** promoted to Research Secretary II

## STAFF FAREWELLS

After five years of working with Dr. Andrew Vickers, **Matt Kent** will be joining the informatics group at the Simons Foundation to help support a new autism research initiative. Matt has said that his time at MSK has been an incredible learning experience and would like to thank everyone he collaborated with over the past five years.

**Bobak Hedayati** joined the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory for six months. He is returning to his home state to attend the Medical School at the University of Southern California at Irvine. He assisted current research efforts by processing incoming samples (e.g., MSK Pancreatic Family Registry, DETER study, and APOE, smoking and cognition study) and with genotyping.

After 2 ½ years of service working with Drs. Malcolm Pike, Noah Kauff, Kay Park and Prusha Patel, **Anjali Jotwani** will be leaving our department to attend Stanford University School of Medicine.

**Hanssen Li** has been working with Dr. Vickers and the Web Survey Core to design interfaces as well as reports for the past 2 years. He has greatly improved the visual design of Webcore and Amplio. He will begin medical school at Medical College of Georgia in August.

**Kaitlin Woo** has relocated to Madison, WI where she will be working for the biostatistics department at the University of Wisconsin. She would like to thank the Epi/Bio department for a truly enjoyable and collaborative experience at MSK.

After two years recruiting over 600 MSK women to the IMAGINE Study, **Emily Nadelmann** will be heading off to medical school at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Emily's clinic observations also led to improvements in recruitment. We thank her and wish her well!

## RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS

**La Bellezza:** Small pizza joint with friendly staff and delicious heroes: chicken parm, eggplant parm, veal parm, shrimp parm... 145 E 49th St btwn Lex and 3rd Ave

**Pickler & Co:** Deli with creative breakfast and lunch offerings, including gluten free and vegan options! Sandwiches come with your choice of pickle and coleslaw. 216 E 45th St btwn 2nd and 3rd Aves

## NEW STAFF

### Vikram Mavinkurve, Senior Research Technician

Vikram will be working with [Irene Orlow](#) in studies designed to elucidate the role of individual and environmental factors in cancer development and progression, and in cognitive impairment among long-term cancer survivors. He received his MS in Biotechnology from Purdue University, and comes to MSK with over 4 years of laboratory experience in cancer immunotherapy, tumor immunology, and antibody development.



### Kelli O'Connell, Assistant Research Biostatistician

Kelli will be working with [Elizabeth Kantor](#) and [Margaret Du](#) on a variety of epidemiologic studies. She received her Master of Science in Public Health in Biostatistics from Emory University. Prior to joining MSK, Kelli worked with investigators at the Winship Cancer Institute in Atlanta to compare the efficacy of proton therapy to standard radiation therapy for the treatment of stage III non-small cell lung cancer.



### Katherine "Katie" Parra, Research Study Assistant

Katie will be working with [Jonine Bernstein](#), [Malcolm Pike](#), and [Meg Woods](#) on the IMAGINE Study. Katie received her BA in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. She has assisted in a variety of research projects at the Penn Laboratory for Experimental and Evolutionary Psychology, Mood and Anxiety Research Program, and Smell and Taste Center.



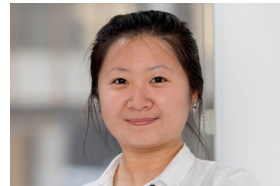
### Marguerite "Molly" Samson, Research Study Assistant

Molly will be assisting [Sara Olson](#) and [Amethyst Saldia](#) on the Pancreatic Tumor Registry Study, and Helena Furberg-Barnes and Stacey Petruzella on the DETER Study. Molly received her BA in Cultural Psychology from Franklin and Marshall College. She is a certified EMT and has worked with various refugee integration projects in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



### Zhenlan "Lan" Wang, Research Study Assistant

Lan joined the Health Outcomes Research Group in April. She received a BA in Psychology from Belarusian State University in Minsk, Belarus and a MA in Psychology from the New School for Social Research in May 2016. In her prior research, she has published on cross-cultural comparisons in parent-child dynamics. Lan will be working on [Victoria Blinder's](#) Breast Cancer and the Workforce study.



## PUBLICATIONS

["Phase II Study of a Non-platinum-containing Doublet of Paclitaxel and Pemetrexed with Bevacizumab \(PPB\) as Initial Therapy for Patients with Advanced Lung Adenocarcinomas"](#)

[Ethan Basch](#), [Marwan Shouery](#), [Mary Shaw](#), [Lauren Rogak](#) and [Patrick Hilden](#) co-authored a manuscript with their colleagues in the Department of Thoracic Oncology at MSK. It reported their work within a clinical trial developing a non-platinum regimen using two active agents plus bevacizumab. Patients enrolled in this trial electronically self-reported 13 toxicity and disease-related symptoms using the Symptom Tracking and Reporting (STAR) system. This correlative study assessed the feasibility of obtaining response of side-effect data in real time by collecting patient-reported outcomes, in clinic, using tablet computers. Using the STAR reports, the results of this clinical trial revealed that the majority of patients with baseline fatigue, pain, dyspnea, cough and anorexia experienced an improvement of at least one CTCAE grade while receiving treatment.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

[Ann Zauber](#) is selected as a 2016 Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) "for exceptional leadership and effective development and dissemination of microsimulation modeling practices to inform health policy for colorectal cancer screening; for influential statistical contributions to chemoprevention of colon cancer; for outstanding mentoring of junior researchers; and for sustained service to the profession". Ann is an inaugural member of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a 2007 Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association. Ann will be inducted as an ASA Fellow at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Chicago on August 2nd. [Jaya Satagopan](#), ASA Fellow of 2015, nominated Ann. Ann now joins [Jaya](#), [Colin](#), [Glenn](#), [Venkat](#), and [Mithat](#) as ASA fellows. We are fortunate to have this many ASA Fellows at MSK!

