



HELENA FURBERG SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Helena Furberg was selected to attend the annual Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar, sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Her participation is supported by the MSKCC Program for Women Faculty Affairs and she is one of three MSKCC faculty members who will attend. The seminar is designed to promote leadership in academic medicine and will be held at the Bolger Center in Maryland this July.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

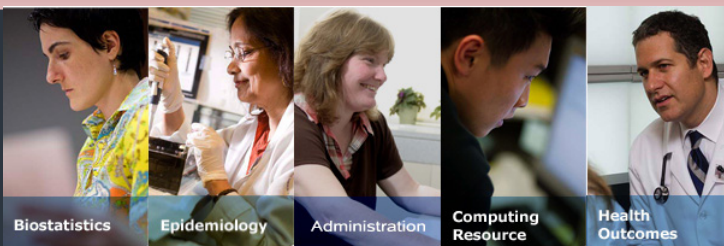
- ❖ **Carolyn Eberle** presented at The 4th Annual Partnership Translational Research Symposium on April 20th, 2012. "Disparities in Return to Work after Breast Cancer: Recruitment of a matched cohort of minority and immigrant women." **Carolyn Eberle, Sang-Hee Min, Suyoung Jung, Julia Ramirez, Javier Gonzalez, Prabal De, Thelma McNish, Charles Stern, Francesca Gany, and Victoria Blinder.**
- ❖ **Erin Onstad** presented her poster at the MSKCC Cancer in the Aging Research Day on May 25th, 2012. "Needs and Preferences for Information in Older Versus Younger Colorectal Cancer Survivors." **Erin Onstad, Talya Salz, Victoria Blinder, Elena Elkin, Margaret Kemeny, Mary McCabe, Chaya Moskowitz, Larissa Temple, and Kevin Oeffinger.**

CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS WEEK

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

Eve Burstein, Carolyn Eberle, and Meg Woods will be presenting posters during Clinical Research Professionals Week

- ❖ "Optimizing Self-Reported Data in a Study of Employment in Low-English Proficiency Breast Cancer Survivors." **Carolyn Eberle, Sang-Hee Min, Suyoung Jung, Julia Ramirez, Javier Gonzalez, Thelma McNish, Francesca Gany, Charles Stern and Victoria Blinder.**
- ❖ "Recruitment & Enrollment Process for an International Multicenter Epidemiological Study: the WECARE Study from registry to accrual." **Meghan Woods, Jennifer Brooks, Jonine Bernstein, and the WECARE Collaborative Group.**
- ❖ "Background Parenchymal Enhancement on Breast MRI and Breast Cancer Tumor Characteristics." **Valencia King, Jennifer Brooks, Jennifer Kaplan, Charles Fry, Eve Burstein, Mark Robson, Dilip Giri, Jonine Bernstein, Malcolm Pike, and Elizabeth Morris.**



DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Colin Begg, PhD
EDITORS
Sharon Bayuga, MPH
Rick Church, MPH
Paige Nobles, MA
Prusha Patel, MPH
Brendan Phalan
Chelsea Seaberg

ANDREW VICKERS PROMOTED TO MEMBER

Congratulations to **Andrew Vickers**, PhD, who was promoted from Associate Attending Methodologist to Member. Andrew has been with the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics since 1999 and focuses primarily on prostate cancer, with a particular focus on early detection and initial treatment. He is currently working on a series of studies that assess prostate-specific antigen (PSA) for long-term prediction of cancer-specific mortality. Andrew's research demonstrates that a single PSA before the age of 50 can predict aggressive disease up to 30 years subsequently. He has developed novel methodologies for randomized trials, integrating research with clinical practice in order to compare different approaches to surgery. Andrew is credited with pioneering web-interfaces for obtaining quality of life data from radical prostatectomy patients. His statistical research focuses on novel methods for assessing the clinical value of predictive tools. Andrew developed a number of decision analytic tools that can be directly applied to a data set, with no need for formal elicitation of patient preferences or utilities from individual patients or clinicians. Andrew also enjoys teaching: he is course leader for the MSKCC biostatistics course and author of the introductory textbook "What is a p-value anyway?"



Andrew Vickers, PhD

MITHAT GÖNEN ELECTED AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION FELLOW

Mithat Gönen, PhD, has been elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA). He was one of 48 members honored this year, representing 18 states and six countries. Candidates for ASA Fellowship are nominated by their peers. Each year no more than one-third of one percent of the current ASA membership can be elected a Fellow. The selection process evaluates the candidate's contributions in the areas of research, teaching, and service to the statistics profession. Election as an ASA Fellow is one of the highest professional achievements in statistics. Mithat was selected for his important research on predictive modeling, ROC analysis, his service to the profession, and for extraordinary collaborative work. The ceremony for the newly elected Fellows will be held at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego, California, on July 31st. We congratulate Mithat on this momentous achievement and well-deserved recognition of his continuing contributions to the field of statistics!



JONINE BERNSTEIN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Jonine Bernstein, PhD, was elected to the membership of the American Epidemiological Society (AES). AES is a small elite group of senior epidemiologists and applied biostatisticians with only 250 active, 150 emeritus, and a few honorary members. The society holds free and vigorous discussions of epidemiological investigations across the field.



RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS

Tari King, MD, FACS and **Colin Begg**, PhD will be awarded a three year grant from Susan G. Komen for the Cure. This project, entitled "Clonality Analysis of Lobular Carcinoma in Situ (LCIS)," will address an important clinical controversy concerning whether LCIS is a direct precursor of invasive breast cancer, or is merely a generalized marker of substantially increased risk of the disease. Collaborators in the department will include **Venkatraman Seshan** and **Irina Ostrovnya**.

BIostatistics Seminars

All Biostatistics Seminars take place at 307
E. 63rd St, 3rd Floor, Rm. 331,
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

❖ June 13 **Jaya Satagopan** MSKCC

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS

From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

❖ June 15 **Andy Ryan** (visiting speaker from
Cornell), BAIC 300 E. 66th Street, 9th Floor –
Room 917A.

❖ June 29 **Andrew Vickers**
307 E 63rd St, 3rd Floor Conference Room

STAFF UPDATES

❖ **Yuelin Li**, PhD promoted to Associate Member

❖ **Yasmeen Majoka**, promoted to Research
Secretary II

❖ **Adele Meyer**, promoted to RSA II

❖ **Dan Sjoberg**, promoted to Research
Biostatistician

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

❖ Congratulations to **Joey Kanik** who is
graduating with a BA from Hunter Col-
lege this spring with a major in Economics
and a minor in Sociology! Kutlama Joey!

❖ A few members of the biostatistics team
laced up their sneakers and hit the basket-
ball court for a game of 3 on 3 hosted by the
Employee Health and Wellness Department
this past May. Good job **Anne Eaton, Alex-
ia Iasonos, Emily Zabor, Irina Ostrovnya**
and **Sujata Patil** on your fine performances!

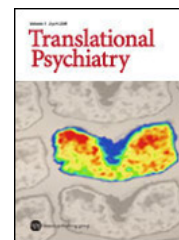
❖ **Melissa Budnick** has launched a non-
profit, **East Africa Children's Hope** (EACH).
EACH's mission is to support vulnerable,
orphaned, and destitute children with a
particular emphasis on supporting ventures
encouraging the self-sustainability of organi-
zations led by East Africans. Melissa will be in-
viting us all to their upcoming summer event.



❖ **Howard Thaler** attended the INFORMS Con-
ference on Business Analytics and Operations
Research in Huntington Beach, CA, along
with Wendy Perchick, Ari Caroline and MSK's
Strategic Planning and Innovation / Quanti-
tative Analysis and Strategic Initiatives Team.
The 2012 INFORMS Prize was presented to
the group for ongoing work that includes
analyses of data from the MSK Institutional
Data Base. [Click here](#) for a video featur-
ing Larry Norton, Deputy Physician in Chief,
accepting the award on behalf of MSKCC.

PUBLICATION

❖ **"Genome-wide meta-analyses of smoking behaviors in African Americans"**
Study of Tobacco among Minority Populations (STOMP) Genetics Consortium
[Helena Furlberg](#), PhD, is senior author on a paper published in *Translational
Psychiatry*, constituting the largest genetic investigation of smoking
behavior among people of African ancestry. In their meta-analysis of
genome-wide association studies among 34,000 individuals, Helena and
colleagues identified a genetic variant that significantly influenced the
amount people smoke. The variant is in a nicotine acetylcholine receptor
gene (*CHRNA5*) found on chromosome 15, a locus also associated with
smoking quantity in her previous work among people of European ancestry.



WELCOME NEW STAFF!



Arshi Arora

Assistant Research Biostatistician

Arshi Arora holds a Masters in Computational
Biology from Carnegie Mellon University. She
will be working on various genomics project
in the department. Before joining MSKCC,
she worked at University of Pittsburgh as a
Health Sciences Fellow. Her Masters
thesis is titled "Studying gene expression
networks through mathematical models."



Ajay Sharma

Research Laboratory Technician

Ajay Sharma joined the Molecular
Epidemiology Laboratory in April 2012
as a Research Laboratory Technician.
He is currently involved in the Genes,
Environment and Melanoma Study (GEM),
a study aimed to unveil host genetic char-
acteristics that predispose subjects to the
development or progression of melanoma.

STAFF FAREWELLS

❖ **Caitriona O'Neill** is currently studying for a PhD in Health Services Research at Trinity College,
Dublin with research interests including population-based analysis of costs and outcomes of
cancer treatment among the elderly population. She has just completed a 2-year overseas
placement at MSKCC in the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes where she worked with
Elena Elkin and, much to her coworkers' dismay, will be returning to Ireland in June. No *Irish
goodbyes* here – her kind spirit will be noticeably missed by all of her coworkers and friends.

❖ **Radhai Rastogi** has been a part of the department of epidemiology at MSKCC for over 2
years. She has supported the research needs of Drs. Sara Olson and Irene Orlow on their
research studies involving brain tumors, endometrial and pancreatic cancer. Radhai has
been a pleasure to work with and we wish her the best as she starts this new chapter of life.

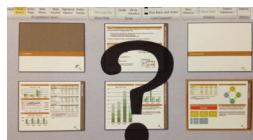
CRDB UPDATE

The Clinical Research Database (CRDB) runs on three platforms
including CRDB Client, CRDB Web, and CRBi. New
modules on CRDB include:

- Participant Registration Report
- Recist Unidimensional Report

PREVENT A DATA LEAK!

PowerPoint presentations are a



means through which sensitive data
can be unknowingly shared. Charts
and graphs in slide decks are often
generated based on large patient
data sets "hidden" behind the
slides. When the PowerPoint file
is shared, a serious data disclo-
sure can result. [How to stay
compliant?](#) Convert graphs and
charts to images, or convert the
entire presentation to a PDF file.

be well

National Cancer Survivors Day!

MSKCC has long emphasized the
importance of quality of life for
survivors of cancer and offers
services through its survivorship
program that can be accessed on
the internet at:

www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/survivorship

The survivorship program offers
patients, family members and health
care providers resources that vary
from follow-up care to emotional
support services that focus
specifically on what happens after
treatment.

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