



BIOSTATISTICS SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM
485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)

- ❖ April 6, 2016 [Irina Ostrovskaya](#)
MSK
- ❖ April 13, 2016 [Jeffrey Leek](#)
Johns Hopkins University
- ❖ April 20, 2016 [Venkatraman Seshan](#)
MSK
- ❖ April 27, 2016 [Li-Xuan Qin](#)
MSK
- ❖ May 4, 2016 [Karla Ballman](#)
Weill Cornell Medicine
- ❖ May 11, 2016 [Katherine Panageas](#)
MSK
- ❖ May 25, 2016 [Holly Janes](#)
Fred Hutchinson
Cancer Center

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS

All seminars are held from 12PM – 1PM
485 Lexington Ave, Conference Room B (2137)
[Please see email updates for speakers.](#)

- ❖ April 15, 2016 [Behfar Ehdaie](#)
MSK
- ❖ April 29, 2016 [Mark Fendrick](#)
University of Michigan
(co-sponsored by SOAR)
- ❖ May 13, 2016 [Sham Mailankody](#)
MSK
- ❖ May 27, 2016 [Talya Salz](#)
MSK

SURVIVORSHIP, OUTCOMES AND RISK PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES

All seminars are held from 4PM – 5PM
1275 York Ave, M-107

- ❖ April 12, 2016 [Ethan Basch](#)
UNC-Chapel Hill
- ❖ May 11, 2016 [Aaron Kesselheim](#)
Brigham and Women's
Hospital

EPIDEMIOLOGY SERVICE MEETINGS

All meetings will be held at 485 Lexington Ave,
2nd Floor, Conference Room B (2137)
from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.

- ❖ April 4, 2016 [Jonine Bernstein](#)
MSK
- ❖ April 18, 2016 [Helena Furberg-Barnes](#)
MSK
- ❖ May 2, 2016 [Ethna McFerran](#)
MSK
- ❖ May 16, 2016 [Sigrid Carlsson](#)
MSK



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CYCLE FOR SURVIVAL

On Saturday, March 12th members of our Department participated in MSK's annual Cycle for Survival. Our team, "Epi-BioCyclers" was led by Team Captain, [Cynthia Berry](#) and the following team members; [Jonine Bernstein](#), [Helena Furberg-Barnes](#), [Margaret Du](#), [Elizabeth Kantor](#), [Bradley Cohen](#), [Shireen Lewis](#), [Vincent Madonia](#), [Zach Helms](#) and [Roxana Damian](#). At the event, each team member cycled for 50 minutes with the determination to help patients battling rare cancers. The team raised a total of \$8,745 towards their fundraising goal of \$10,000. Epi-BioCyclers are still accepting donations until April 1st.

Cycle for Survival is a national movement focused on beating rare cancers, in which 100% of every dollar raised goes directly to research at MSK. Cycle for Survival was founded by Jennifer Goodman Lin and her husband, Dave. Jennifer, a Memorial Sloan Kettering patient, was diagnosed with Sarcoma in 2004. The couple wanted to give back to her team at MSK so they organized a group of riders for an event that was known as, "Spin4Survival" at a local Equinox. Each year, they were successful in raising more money and bringing in more participants. In 2009, Cycle for Survival became an official Memorial Sloan Kettering event, and Equinox was named a founding partner. Unfortunately, Jen lost her battle with cancer in 2011 but her legacy has continued. Cycle for Survival has raised \$100 million, to date, which has contributed to 100+ clinical trials and research studies at MSK.

We look forward to assembling a larger Epi-Bio team next year and fundraising even more for Cycle for Survival!

http://mskcc.convio.net/site/TR/CycleforSurvival/CycleforSurvival?pg=team&fr_id=2600&team_id=51375

Jonine Bernstein commented, "Great ride and very inspiring to hear the testimonials. Made me even more proud to be a part of the MSK community. A huge thank you to Captain Cynthia Berry for organizing and motivating the Epi-Biocyclers."

Team Captain, Cynthia Berry remarked, "Cycle for Survival is MSK's biggest fundraising event in which all money goes to support research. Working at MSK and being part of this important initiative makes the event even more special. I had a great time cycling with and cheering on my fellow Epi-BioCyclers. I can't wait to do this event again next year with an ever larger Epi-Bio presence at Cycle for Survival!"



STAFF PROMOTIONS

❖ **Matt Chang** promoted to Program/Analyst Specialist

STAFF FAREWELLS

For the past year and a half, Jenny Yang supported the research needs of investigators in the Epidemiology and Health Outcomes services, including patient recruitment for Jonine Bernstein, Sara Olson, and Victoria Blinder. She will attend Columbia University in August to pursue her Masters in Public Health. We thank Jenny for all of her hard work and wish her the best!

CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS WEEK 2016

Clinical Research Professional Week (CRPW) will be held from June 13-17, 2016. This event will recognize the efforts of the clinical research staff. There will be a research staff poster session, reception, TEC forum, expo, Quizzo trivia game, as well as gifts and prizes. If you would like to submit an abstract for the poster session, please submit by Monday, April 25th, **using the Abstract Submission Form**. Please contact clinicalresearchappreciation@mskcc.org with any questions.

DEPARTMENTAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Department has officially launched an Internship Program sponsoring up to 6 students to work with various faculty members this summer. There is a page on the MSK website outlining the program and selection criteria for candidates. Working under the guidance of Jaya Satagopan, Shireen Lewis and Cynthia Berry have been corresponding and assisting with the hiring/on boarding process. In addition to internal workshops, we will be exposing interns to the larger MSK community by encouraging them to attend seminars and events offered by the institution. The interns will be expected to produce a report or presentation at the end of their internship which summarizes their project. There will be a lot of new faces here this summer, so feel free to introduce yourself to our interns!

<https://www.mskcc.org/departments/epidemiology-biostatistics/student-intern>

GREEN TEAM CORNER

April is Earth Month! To help celebrate, we will be sending out fun, weekly emails. You can also help the department go green (and save some green) by participating in the Cup Challenge – reduce your paper cup usage and bring a mug to work!

RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Antico Noè: Authentic panini shop from Florence, Italy offering delicious pressed sandwiches made with fresh, high-quality cured meats, cheeses, and homemade spreads. 220 E 53rd St btw 2nd and 3rd Aves

Udon West: Japanese restaurant specializing in udon noodle soups with a variety of toppings. Rice bowls and combinations are also available. 150 E 46th St btwn Lex and 3rd Ave

NEW STAFF

Julien Mancini, MD, PhD, is a French public health practitioner affiliated with the “Cancers, Biomedicine & Society” research group (Aix-Marseille University, Institut Paoli-Calmettes) and the Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics unit at the Timone University Hospital (Marseille, APHM). His main research interests include cancer patients’ information and involvement in decision-making, especially about participating in research. He also collaborates on surveys measuring the long-term psychosocial impact of cancer, including intimacy issues. He will be a Visiting Investigator at MSK until the end of August to develop collaborative projects with Dr. Peter Bach and the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes. He is particularly interested in issues of rising costs in the context of precision oncology.



GRANTS

Helena Furberg-Barnes was awarded a two-year Chanel Survivorship grant to investigate body composition in relation to the obesity paradox in kidney cancer. The incidence of renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is increasing and so is obesity. High BMI is a risk factor for developing RCC but how it influences prognosis is unclear. Investigators found that RCC patients with high BMI actually survive longer than patients with normal BMI, a phenomenon known as the obesity paradox. With Chanel Survivorship funding they will refine body size measurement into specific body composition variables from CT scans and examine their association with BMI, cancer-specific mortality and genomic profiles to further our understanding of the obesity paradox. Helena is PI of the study and her collaborators include **Emily Zabor** (Biostatistics), Ari Hakimi (Surgery), Paul Russo (Surgery), Oguz Akin (Radiology), and Marina Mourtzakis (University of Waterloo).

PUBLICATIONS

[“Mode equivalence and acceptability of tablet computer-, interactive voice response system-, and paper-based administration of the U.S. National Cancer Institute’s Patient-Reported Outcomes version of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events \(PRO-CTCAE\)”](#)

[“Linguistic validation of the Spanish version of the National Cancer Institute’s Patient-Reported Outcomes version of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events \(PRO-CTCAE\)”](#)

Ethan Basch and **Lauren Rogak** co-authored two manuscripts with their co-investigators and the NCI PRO-CTCAE Study Group, including **Mary Shaw** and **Narre Heon**. The first, published in Health and Quality of Life Outcomes, reported their findings on the equivalence and acceptability of collecting PRO-CTCAE from participants using three different data collection modes: web, phone and paper. The second, published in the Journal of Supportive Care in Cancer, reported their work to translate and linguistically validate the PRO-CTCAE item library in Spanish. This validation included a complete forward and back translation of the item library as well as cognitive testing in native Spanish-speaking cancer patients at six participating institutions across the US. This study found that the items in the Spanish language version of the PRO-CTCAE are generally well understood, including those with low levels of education attainment and acculturation, and from diverse countries of origin.

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS’ PROFESSIONAL DAY

MSK will host its 5th annual Research Administrators’ Professional Day (RAPD) on **Friday, April 8th** in the Zuckerman building. This event will celebrate the achievements of the MSK research administration community. Sami Noor and Brad Cohen will be giving poster presentations at the event.

Sami Noor will be presenting “Promoting the Social Empathy Model in the Research Community.” Co-authors include: Kristen Cunanan, Romina Rodriguez, Shireen Lewis, Cynthia Berry, Farheen Ajmeri, Ethna McFerran, and Kasie Nwaedozie.

Bradley Cohen will be presenting “Research Collaborations from an Administrative Perspective.” Co-authors include: Roxana Damian, Soo Mi Kil, Joanna Hildebrant, and Zach Helms.

Please visit the [RAPD webpage](#) for more information.

STAFF KUDOS

Bobby Hedayati and **Sergio Corrales Guerrero** of the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory participated in the MSK Food Pantry’s Sort-a-thon on January 18th. This event provided food to the patients and family members of local city hospitals. The meals were distributed through the Food Bank of New York City. MSK Food Pantry is sponsored by MSK’s “Black, Latino, Asian, and Multi-Racial (BLAM) Employee Resource Network” as well as “Food to Overcome Outcome Disparities (FOOD)” for National Service Day.

