MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS

B.E.A.C.H.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWSLETTER
November 2022 | VOLUME 14, ISSUE 4

BIOSTATISTICS SEMINARS

Streaming online

- November 9, 2022 — Alexia Iasonos, MSK
- November 16, 2022 — **Matthieu Clertant**, Universite de la Sorbonne
- November 30, 2022 — Li-Xuan Qin, MSK
- December 14, 2022 — Marinela Capanu, MSK
- December 21, 2022 — Kathy Panageas, MSK

COMPUTATIONAL ONCOLOGY SEMINARS

Streaming online

- November 15, 2022 — **Itay Tirosh**, Weizmann Institute of Science

EPIDEMIOLOGY SERVICE MEETINGS

Streaming online

- November 14, 2022 — **Kimberly Anne**, Boston University School of Medicine
- November 28, 2022 — **Mark Gunter**, International Agency for Research on Cancer
- December 12, 2022 — **Xiang Shu**, MSK

POPULATION SCIENCES RESEARCH PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES

Streaming online

- November 15, 2022 — **Corita Grudzen**, MSK
- December 13, 2022 — **Dawn Hershman**, Columbia University Medical Center

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH GROUP SEMINARS

Streaming online

- November 18, 2022 — **Allison Snyderman & Sham Maillankody**, MSK
- December 2, 2022 — **Andrew Vickers**, MSK

WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

Matt Buas, PhD, is a new Associate Attending in the Epidemiology Service. Dr. Buas' research focuses on the discovery and functional characterization of novel genetic risk loci for esophageal cancer. His work integrates statistical, computational, and experimental methods to identify causal variants, risk genes, and etiologic pathways, with the goal of defining new molecular targets for prevention/interception. Dr. Buas recently received three NIH grant awards to support his multi-disciplinary studies, which include transcriptome and methylome-wide association scans; single cell sequencing and cell-type-specific eQTL mapping; and CRISPR-mediated functional assays of enhancer activity. Dr. Buas has a PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in Epidemiology from the University of Washington. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, and was previously an assistant professor at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Ruslan Soldatov, PhD is a new Assistant Attending in the Computational Oncology program. His research focuses on understanding molecular principles of cell fate decisions that ensure tissue homeostasis and how the distortion of these mechanisms leads to cancer. The Soldatov lab develops statistical approaches to analyze cellular heterogeneity using high-throughput measurements at the level of individual cells. He builds biophysical models of cell dynamics and data-driven models of cell behavior in response to genetic and pharmacological perturbations. Ruslan obtained his PhD in Bioinformatics and Mathematical Biology from the Institute for Information Transmission Problems in Moscow Russia and has trained at Harvard Medical School under the leadership of Dr. Peter Kharchenko. Prior to joining MSK, he was an Instructor in Biomedical Informatics at Harvard Medical School. Ruslan authored many publications in high-ranking journals and holds several awards including the Emerging Leaders Award in Computational Oncology.

Xinjun Wang, PhD is an Assistant Attending Biostatistician in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a PhD in Biostatistics. Dr. Wang's methodological research areas include omics data analysis and subgroup analysis. He has developed multiple statistical methods and computational tools for analyzing single-cell multi-omics data, and also applied cutting-edge computational methods in translational research in collaboration with biological researchers. Dr. Wang has many publications, awards, and leadership/service experience before joining the department.

CYCLE FOR SURVIVAL 2023

It's time to start organizing for our Epi/Bio departmental team for Cycle for Survival 2023, which will be hosted outdoors at Wollman Rink in Central Park on **Saturday, April 29**. This past year's team raised over $7,500 (!) and had so much fun. Information about the event is posted here, with more details to come soon. If you're interested in participating contact **Sammi Brown**!

AWARD FROM NCI'S TRACE INITIATIVE

MSK is one of four recipients of an award from NCI's TRACE Initiative (Telehealth Research Centers of Excellence). As part of the reinitiated Cancer Moonshot, MATCHES (Making Telehealth Delivery of Cancer Care at Home Effective and Safe) is led by Drs. Michael Morris, **Katherine Panageas**, Peter Stetson, and Deb Schrag. Building the MATCHES Center is an institutional team effort and involves many investigators from EpiBio including **Ray Baser, Yuan Chen, Susan Chimonas, Fiona Ehrich, Mithat Gonen, Allison Lipitz-Snyderman, Anne Reiner,** and **Venkat Seshan**. The overall goal of the MATCHES Center is to optimize and personalize telehealth care delivery for cancer patients and survivors with innovative interventions that harness state-of-the-science health informatics technology to enable routine medical oncology visits in the patient's home. A large cluster randomized pragmatic trial will be conducted across MSK to assess the efficacy of the MSK@Home program to deliver routine oncology care to prostate and breast cancer patients via telehealth. We envision a shift toward personalized care delivery in telehealth for cancer, enabled through combining technological advances with sophisticated computational tools to develop customized care delivery pathways.

EPI BIO MOVING FROM 485 LEX TO 633 3RD AVE

We're Moving! Here's what you need to know:

OFFICES/DESKS: All staff need to pack their own office/cubicle/desk area. More details on files, personal items, plants and art are below --

PACKING MATERIALS: Boxes have arrived – ask Tricia if you need more!

FILE CABINETS: Iron Mountain will be storing our important documents. These need to be packed and labeled by November 18th – Must create inventory of what is inside box and send to Tricia (master file). Moving staff can assist in packing non-sensitive papers from the 5-drawer cabinets only.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Please bring your personal items home, the department is unable to ship them home or move them to the new office. Movers can only assist with framed art and diplomas that are currently on walls. If taking anything out of the building to bring home, check with Tricia, you might need a property removal pass. Extra plain brown boxes and bags are available. Let Tricia know and she can drop it off to you.

KEYS: Leave all office/desk keys in the desk. Do not take them with you.

MAIL: Please put in a change of address for your journals and another other mail you get, otherwise it could be left behind. Can be done online.

TECH: Workstations, accessories and widescreen monitors will be migrated to the new office space. As details are finalized, they will be shared with the department, at-large. In the meantime, if you have any questions please reach out to Joey Kanik.

Items that will not be moved:

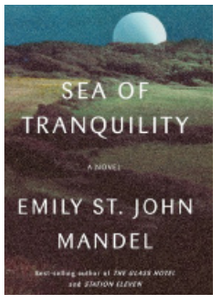
- Plants
- Refrigerators
- Microwaves
- Fans
- Heaters
- Personal items (many staff will be sharing a desk)

Take all the above home, no exceptions.

Final Move date has not been determined, but we encourage you to not wait until the last minute. The sooner we pack, the less stressful it will be for everyone! If you have any questions please feel free to ask Tricia, Samantha, Joey.

EPI/BIO COMMUNITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

We hit the ground running this Autumn with even more events and activities!



BOOK CLUB

Thank you to all who joined our October Book Club. Elizabeth Kantor and Akriti Mishra led a discussion about Louise Erdrich's Round House. Please join us for the winter meeting of the Epi Bio Book Club on Tuesday, December 6th from 4-5 PM! The prompt for this book club was "Award-Nominated and best-selling books of 2022". In December, we will discuss *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel. If you are interested in joining Book Club, please send an email to **Richard Koppenaal**.

STEPS CHALLENGE

At the start of October, we launched the steps challenge, to encourage one another to keep moving, despite the colder weather and foster a little friendly competition at the same time. We broke up into 8 teams and steps were recorded for the whole month. The winning team will get some surprise MSK swag! We're hoping for a round 2 this winter, if you're interested, reach out to **Farheen Madonia**.

MOVIE CLUB

Book club is going so well, we've decided to start a movie club! Once a movie is chosen, we'll meet to discuss, analyze, compare notes, and eat popcorn! Reach out to **Jeffin Naduparambil** if you're interested!

EPI/BIO SHRED N TREAT

A big thank you to all who attended the Epi Bio Shred N Treat event this past Halloween. We know that the whole moving process can be stressful so hopefully this added some much needed fun to the process of getting rid of documents.

WARM WEATHER WEDNESDAYS – THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone for joining us outside, every week, for Warm Weather Wednesdays! Between chatting, sharing desserts, a potato chip taste test, bringing favorite childhood snacks and getting to know each other, it was a great way to share space while back in the office and enjoy beautiful weather. The community building group will be in touch once we are settled in our new space! Cheers to Wednesdays!

PROMOTIONS

Melissa Assel promoted to Senior Research Biostatistician

Walid Chatila promoted to Senior Computational Biologist

Gunes Gundem promoted to Principal Computational Biologist

Hannah Kalvin promoted to Research Biostatistician

Kelli O'Connell promoted to Research Biostatistician II

Karissa Whiting promoted to Research Biostatistician II

STAFF FAREWELLS

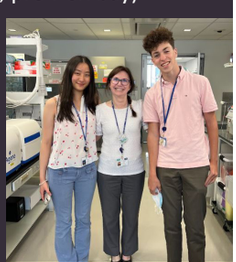
Marygrace Corral joined EPI/BIO in 2021 as a Clinical Research Coordinator supporting Margaret Du and the Institution's Pancreatic Tumor Registry. She played an instrumental role in the recruitment and follow-up of study participants as well as the migration of study data to REDCap. We will miss her enthusiasm and positivity, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Julianna Reitz joined EPI/BIO in 2020 as a project portfolio manager focusing on computational oncology pre and post award management. While here, Julianna was the co-leader of the ED&I coalition for the Translational Research Administration group as well as an editor for the BEACH newsletter. Julianna accepted a financial analyst position at Moody's. We wish her much success in her new role.

ORLOW LAB POST MOVE

Having just gone through a move themselves, the Orlow lab shows that life goes on!

Lab team working in the interim space, in the Lab Medicine building (room 411, pre-PCR bay)



A productive Summer 2022! Here with our interns Jacob Alperin and Miranda Qing'

PUBLICATIONS

Jasme Lee and **Mithat Gonen** along with colleagues in the Departments of Surgery and Medicine, as well collaborators from Japan, France, and the Netherlands, recently published "Recurrence-free survival versus overall survival as a primary endpoint for studies of resected colorectal liver metastasis: a retrospective study and meta-analysis" in *The Lancet Oncology*. Using both institutional data and meta-analysis of published trials, they found weak correlation between recurrence-free survival (RFS) and overall survival (OS) in the context of resected colorectal liver metastasis and concluded that RFS is not an adequate surrogate endpoint of OS and novel trial endpoints are needed in this disease if OS is not feasible. This study includes the largest series of patients who have undergone a complete resection of colorectal liver metastases with detailed long-term outcomes of recurrence and overall survival.

Karissa Whiting and **Venkat Seshan,** with their MSK colleagues, recently published a paper in *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* entitled "Effectiveness of MRNA booster vaccine among healthcare workers in New York City during the Omicron surge, December 2021 to January 2022". In the study, the authors analyze differences in infection rates during the COVID-19 omicron outbreak between NYC health care workers who had 3 doses of a mRNA vaccine versus 2 doses. The study showed lower infection rates in the 3 dose group and an estimated 3 dose vaccine efficacy of 33.3% during the Omicron dominant period from December 15, 2021 to January 15, 2022. Additionally, rate ratios comparing those who had a COVID infection prior to their Omicron infection to those who didn't indicated an additional protective effect of a prior infection in both the 2 dose and 3 dose groups. In summary, this study confirmed that health care workers (HCWs) vaccinated with three doses have better protection against Omicron infection than those immunized with only two doses. Further, the vaccination enhances clinical protection in those with prior COVID-19 infection. As a conclusion, this study recommended that U.S. jurisdictions should adopt HCW booster mandate programs more broadly to optimize protection against emerging variants.

Lauren Rogak and her U01 Moonshot Tolerability Consortium colleagues, including **Ethan Basch**, published a paper in *Value in Health*, entitled "An Exploratory Analysis of the "Was It Worth It?" Questionnaire as a Novel Metric to Capture Patient Perceptions of Cancer Treatment". This manuscript continues the work of this group to understand metrics to measure PROs and how to understand patient preference. The "Was It Worth It?" (WIWI) questionnaire was developed in the Mayo Clinic research program, these were further adapted by the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, and in this exploratory analysis, the authors sought to capture the patient perception of a treatments benefit weighed against its harms. WIWI is a 3-item questionnaire that was added to a large, phase III advance prostate cancer clinical trial. Results showed that patients who responded with the affirmative remained on treatment longer and were less likely to stop due to AEs, while demonstrating higher levels of Quality of Life. The authors concluded, that this analysis will add to the existing body of evidence focusing on the benefits, risks and costs of cancer treatments from a patients perspective and further cement the important and meaningfulness of directly asking patients whether they felt their treatments were worthwhile.

RE-INTRODUCING THE EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE IN EPI-BIO

The Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I) Committee in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics aims to foster an inclusive and equitable environment for all members of Epi-Bio. Previously known as the "Culture Committee", we have facilitated memorable and impactful discussions about equity in research and healthcare during events such as Journal Club, the Book Club, and Coffee Chats. Check out the "Diversity and Inclusion-Culture Committee" Teams page to learn more about ED&I. This year, the ED&I Committee has been restructured but remains focused on identifying and addressing inequities in our department and beyond.

To that end, we are pleased to announce the launch of our newest initiative: the ED&I Forum. These biannual events will provide an opportunity to interact with experts in topics related to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Our first-ever ED&I Forum will bring together experts to discuss "Disability and Equity in Healthcare and Research". Moderated by our own Christy Rajcoomar, we have assembled a panel of experts from MSK and elsewhere to discuss the inequities people with disabilities face in accessing quality healthcare and conducting research at MSK. We will share our best practices for increasing accessibility for all Department events moving forward. Keep your eyes open for a calendar invite and more details shortly. You don't want to miss this one!

If you are interested in learning more about the ED&I Committee, or want to get more involved, please contact ED&I co-chair Gordon Watt.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE TRANSITION

The @MSKBiostats Twitter account has reached a follower count of 1415 and still growing! Thank you so much to our current Committee **Jessica Lavery, Chaya Moskowitz, Anne Reiner, Sam Vasquez, Joanne Chou** and **I-Hsin Lin**, and Chair **Jasme Lee** for your contributions and dedication! Welcome to our new members **Teng Fei** and **Lily Boe**, and our new Chair **I-Hsin Lin** as we transition to the new committee in the Fall! Please email zzPDL_BST_SocialMedia@mskcc.org if you have any ideas for tweeting or work you would like for us to promote!

NEW STAFF

Anu Amallraja, Computational Biologist II

Anu has joined the Papaemmanuil lab in the dept. of Epidemiology and Biostatistics as a computational biologist. She will be supporting the Pediatric Translational Medicine Program that uses whole genome and transcriptome sequencing to bring a comprehensive precision medicine approach to pediatric patients and others with rare cancers. She previously worked in the Cancer Genomics group at Avera Cancer Institute for over 6 years, and received her MS in Bioinformatics and Medical Informatics from San Diego State University.

Olujide Arije, Visiting Researcher

Olujide is a visiting researcher from Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, Nigeria where MSK has a nearly 10-year collaboration on the platform of MSK's Global Cancer Disparities Initiatives (GCDI) and the African Research Group for Oncology (ARGO). He is a specialist physician in Public Health with expertise in mixed-methods (qualitative and quantitative) research. He will be working with Mithat Gonen and others on some of the data generated from the GCDI.

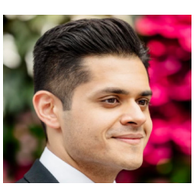
Ayyüce Begüm Bektaş, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Ayyüce Begüm Bektaş is a new postdoctoral research fellow working with Dr. Mithat Gönen. She received her B.Sc. degree in industrial engineering from Sabancı University and M.Sc. degree in industrial engineering from Bogaziçi University with her thesis titled “simulation of agent based disease spread models”. She has a Ph.D. degree in Industrial Engineering and Operations Management from Koç University. During her Ph.D. research, she specifically focused on developing novel, interpretable and efficient machine learning algorithms to be used with large-scale genomic data, to address computational challenges that emerge with improved data collection tools and increased size of patient cohorts. She also implemented an R package named MAKL, for easy usage of the multiple approximate kernel learning algorithm that is developed as part of one of her publications. Her recent research projects revolve around developing novel machine learning methods while using her background in operations research and statistical inference, and applying these methods for discoveries in cancer research. Dr. Bektaş authored articles in leading computational biology journals and applied a variety of machine learning models and statistical analysis techniques for publications in medical journals.

Lillian Boe, PhD, Principal Biostatistician

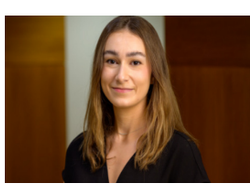
Lily is a new Principal Biostatistician in the Biostatistics Service. She recently completed her PhD in Biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania, where her dissertation was focused on statistical approaches for addressing covariate and outcome measurement error in time-to-event settings. She previously graduated from Villanova University with a BS in Mathematics and an MS in Applied Statistics. At MSK, Lily will be collaborating with investigators from Radiation Oncology, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, and Head & Neck Surgery.

Nirjhar (Nirj) Chakraborty, Data Assistant



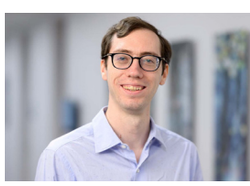
Nirj joins our department as a Data Assistant supporting the research needs for Drs. Aaron Mitchell and Allison Snyderman. He worked at MSK as a care coordinator and clinical research coordinator prior to joining EPI/BIO. In addition to supporting the research initiatives of the Health Outcomes investigators, he is also enrolled at CUNY’s School of Public Health as an MPH student in Health Policy and Management.

Fiona Ehrich, Assistant Research Biostatistician



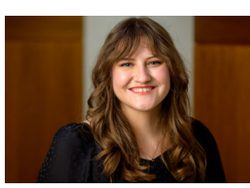
Fiona joins the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics as an Assistant Research Biostatistician. She graduated from Columbia University in May with an MS in Biostatistics. During graduate school, she interned at Cytel, where she developed R Shiny applications for adaptive clinical trial simulation. Prior to graduate school, she worked for four years at Alkermes, a biopharmaceutical company developing medicines in neuroscience and oncology. Fiona is interested in clinical trial design and biomarker development.

Sam Freeman, Postdoctoral Research Associate



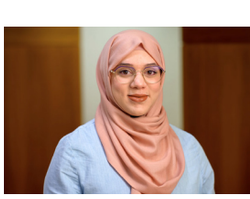
Sam has joined the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics as a postdoctoral research associate with Sohrab Shah. His research focuses on understanding how the immune system impacts tumor evolution. Previously, he was a graduate student at Harvard University working on cancer genomics. He received his PhD in Bioinformatics and Integrative Genomics from Harvard University.

Hannah Fuchs, Assistant Research Biostatistician



Hannah joined the EPI/BIO department as an Assistant Research Biostatistician. She worked with Dr. Kantor as a QSURE intern in 2019 and returns to MSK after completing her Masters in Epidemiology at Emory University in 2022. She previously worked at the American Cancer Society monitoring trends in SEER incidence and cancer mortality for their Cancer Facts & Figures publications. Hannah is excited to join projects using SEER-Medicare data to expand her knowledge of longitudinal datasets.

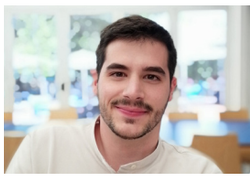
Iman Jaljuli, Research Fellow



Dr. Jaljuli's research focuses on developing statistical tools for assessing and enhancing study replicability in cancer research, with emphasis on high-dimensional genomics data. Dr. Jaljuli has a PhD in Statistics from Tel-Aviv University under the supervision of Prof. Benjamini where she studied replicability in the field of animal phenotyping and developed tools with linear mixed models.

NEW STAFF CONTINUED

Marion Kerioui, Research Scholar
Marion Kerioui joined the Biostatistics team as a postdoctoral researcher. She has a PhD in biostatistics from Paris Cité University. She worked on the development of mechanistic joint model for target lesions kinetics and association with survival, in collaboration with the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM) and Genentech/Roche. She is now working on basket trial designs with Dr Andrea Arfé and Dr Mithat Gönen.



Javier Lanillos, Visiting Student
Javier is a visiting PhD student at Reznik's lab from the Spanish National Cancer Center (CNIO, Madrid). His main interest relies on the use of omics and clinical data to develop genomics medicine solutions, focused on pharmacogenomics. At the MSKCC, he is gaining knowledge on the impact of mitochondrial genetic alterations in cancer metabolism to explore new potential therapeutic strategies.

Matthew Myers, Senior Computational Biologist
Matt has joined the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics as a computational biologist with Andrew McPherson and Sohrab Shah. His work focuses on computational methods for inferring tumor heterogeneity and evolution from bulk and single-cell DNA sequencing data. He recently received his PhD in Computer Science from Princeton University, where he worked with Professor Ben Raphael on cancer genomics methods.

Jeffin Naduparambil, Research Project Associate
Jeffin joins our department as a Research Project Associate. He works primarily with Margaret Du in managing the MSK Pancreatic Tumor Registry and the ancillary projects leveraging the data and samples from the registry. He also supports the endometrial consortium E2C2, also led by Margaret Du. Prior positions Jeffin had at MSK before to joining EPI/BIO include being a Clinical Research Specialist for the Sarcoma Service and a Care Coordinator. He is currently pursuing his MPH at NYU.

Noah C Peeri, Research Fellow
Noah Peeri, PhD, is a new Research Fellow in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr. Peeri's research focuses on the intersection of lifestyle, nutrition, and genetics. He has expertise in methods for causal inference in epidemiology such as Mendelian Randomization. His current research focuses on reducing the risk of cancer in underserved and understudied populations globally. Dr. Peeri has a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of North Texas Health Science Center and an MPH in Epidemiology from the University of South Florida. He will be working with Margaret Du on projects focused on cancer health disparities across several cancer sites.

Alli Reiner, Assistant Research Biostatistician
Alli joined as an assistant research biostatistician after graduating this year with an MS in biostatistics from University of Michigan. She became interested in pursuing biostatistics after participating in the undergraduate QSURE program here in the department in 2019. She is highly interested in cancer genomics and epigenomics, and primarily works with Dr. Ronglai Shen on integrating multi-omic data from melanoma patients, and with Dr. Kay See Tan on various lung adenocarcinoma projects from the thoracic surgery unit.

{GENIEBPC} R PACKAGE RELEASE

Samantha Brown, Mike Curry, Jessica Lavery, Axel Martin, Dan Sjoberg and **Karissa Whiting** created the {genieBPC} R package, which was released on CRAN in August. The package provides a user-friendly pipeline to prepare data from the American Association for Cancer Research Project Genomics Evidence Neoplasia Information Exchange Biopharma Collaborative (GENIE BPC) for clinico-genomic analyses.
AACR Project GENIE BPC is an effort to aggregate comprehensive clinical data linked to genomic sequencing data to create a pan-cancer, publicly available data repository. These data detail clinical characteristics and drug treatment information, along with high-throughput sequencing data and clinical outcomes, for cancer patients across four institutions. Linking multiple clinical and genomic datasets that vary in structure introduces an inherent complexity for data users. The {genieBPC} R package provides a straightforward set of tools for subsetting and merging these complex data to build analytic models.

HACKATHON

Eighteen members of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics participated in a Hackathon organized by MSK's Strategy & Innovation Department on October 27-28, 2022. Participants included **Sammi Brown, Mike Curry, Esther Drill, Fiona Ehrich, Teng Fei, Hannah Fuchs, Hannah Kalvin, Sabrina Lin, Stephanie Lobaugh, Akriti Mishra, David Nemirovsky, Shaun Porwal, Alli Reiner, Nick Toumbacaris**, and team co-captains **Caroline Kostrzewa, Jessica Lavery, Dan Sjoberg, Karissa Whiting**. Team POSITively QUARTOlicious (named after RStudio's new name, Posit, and the new publishing format, Quarto) was incredibly productive, working on several departmental and public-facing packages over the course of the two-day event. The team worked on improving departmental tools to analyze genomic data including updates to the {gnomeR}, {cbioportalR} and {oncokbR} R packages. Updates included review, documentation and unit testing of package functions, the addition of vignettes for importing and analyzing data from cBioPortal, and an IMPACT analysis checklist to guide genomic data analysis. New functions to annotate genomic alterations were added to {oncokbR}, a new departmental package for oncoKB annotation of genomic data. A new version of the {starter} package, used to set up new projects, was released to CRAN, following a bug fix and removal of package dependencies. A new version of the {genieBPC} package, used to wrangle the clinical and genomic data collected as part of the GENIE BPC project, was also released to CRAN following several documentation and messaging updates. The Computing Resource Guide was updated and also began transitioning to a Quarto book. In the {dcurves} python package, the internal functions were updated, bugs were resolved, and new functions to plot net benefit and net interventions avoided were added. In the {bstfun} package, project templates were updated from Rmd to Quarto files in the Health Outcomes Team project templates and a function to replace the deprecated purrr::when() function was drafted. Other work included the drafting a vignette for the {clinfun} package, updates to the Biostatistics Seminar Series webpage, updating the archive of Biostats Master's Seminar recordings to make it more convenient to find materials on the H: drive, creating a landing page to the MSK Epi-Bio GitHub Organization to automatically update with highlights of software and presentations, and minor updates to {biostatR}, {ggsurvfit} and {gtsummary}.

GRANTS

Matthew Buas and Charles Kooperberg (Contact, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center) were awarded a R01 grant from the NCI for their project titled "Genetics, Epigenetics, and Risk Prediction for Esophageal Adenocarcinoma".

Sigrid Carlson was awarded a U01 from the NCI for her project titled "Influence of intra-individual variability in serial screening samples on clinical decision-making for risk stratification and biopsy by a single PSA and additional markers". Other investigators include **Andrew Vickers**.

Jian Carrot-Zhang received an R00 award from the NCI for her project titled "Understanding ancestral differences in response to immunotherapy".

Margaret Du, **Elizabeth Kantor,** and Katsiaryna Baykov (Brigham and Women's Hospital) received a R21 from NCI for their project "Leveraging Medicare Linkages to Identify New Associations: Prescription Drugs and Digestive Cancer Risk".

Margaret Du, Peter Kingham, and Isaac Olusegun Alatise (Obafemi Awolowo University) received a supplement to their R01 from the NCI for their project "Collecting whole genome sequence data to enhance the value of the first multi-center study of colorectal cancer risk factors and biology in Nigeria".

Angela Green received a grant from the American Society of Clinical Oncology for her project "Using a Population-Based Data Source to Examine US Cancer Clinical Trial Enrollment, Disparities, and Costs among Medicare Beneficiaries".

Dr. Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue and Dr. Eileen O'Reilly were awarded a P50 grant from NCI titled "The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center SPORE in Pancreas Cancer". **Marinela Capanu** serves as the Core Director of the Biostatistics Core. Other investigators include **Mithat Gonen**.

Aaron Mitchell received an R37 grant from NCI for his project titled "Understanding the Importance of Industry Relationships for Cancer Care Quality, Outcomes, and Costs". Other investigators include **Mithat Gonen**.

I-Hsin Lin received an award from Merck Investigator Studies Program (MISP) by Merck for her project entitled "A Randomized, Open-Label, Phase 2 Study Evaluating the Efficacy of Vericiguat in Breast Cancer Patients with Cardiotoxicity."

Katherine Panageas, Michael Morris and Peter Stetson were awarded a P50 grant from the NCI for their project titled "MATCHES: Making Telehealth Delivery of Cancer Care at Home Effective and Safe". Other investigators include **Mithat Gonen**, **Allison Lipitz Snyderman**, and **Venkat Seshan**.

Ed Reznik and Ari Hakimi received an award from Alan and Sandra Gerry Metastasis and Tumor Ecosystems Center (GMTEC) for their project "Immunometabolic Coevolution as a Determinant of Response to Immunotherapy in ccRCC".

Francisco Sanchez-Vega received an award from The Druckenmiller Center for Lung Cancer Research (DCLCR) for his project titled "Molecular Characterization of Tumor Evolution from Whole-Genome Sequencing of Matched Primary and Metastatic Lung Adenocarcinomas". Other collaborators include **Nikolaus Schultz** and **Sohrab Shah**.

Dr. Howard Scher and Dr. Yu Chen were awarded a renewal of their P50 grant from NCI for the project titled "SPORE in Prostate Cancer". **Mithat Gonen** and **Nikolaus Schultz** are Co-Directors of Core C: Biostatistics & Bioinformatics Core. Other investigators include **Andrew Vickers** and **Andrea Arfe**.

Nikolaus Schultz (contact), **Jiangjiong Gao**, Ethan Cerami (Dana Farber Cancer Institute), Chris Sander (Harvard Medical School) were awarded a U24 from NCI for their project titled "The cBioPortal for Cancer Genomics".

Sohrab Shah, **Nikolaus Schultz**, **Benjamin Greenbaum**, **Wesley Tansey**, and **Andrew McPherson** were awarded a grant from the Break Through Cancer for their project titled "BTC Data Science Hub".

Sohrab Shah received a grant from the Warren Alpert Foundation for the project titled "Integrating clinical genome sequencing and digital pathology from 100,000 patients: MSK MIND/Computational Oncology".

Sohrab Shah was awarded CDMRP Ovarian Cancer Investigator-Initiated Research Award from the DoD for his project titled "Dissecting Ovarian Cancer Tumor-Immune Microenvironments through 3D in Situ Molecular Profiling".

Sohrab Shah, **Andrew McPherson**, and Neeman Mohibullah received a Geoffrey Beene award titled – Expanding single cell whole genome sequencing capacity at MSKCC.

PERSONAL MILESTONES

Jovana Olaizola and her husband Ronald welcomed Baby Lav on July 18th. Family and big brother, Milo, are all doing well!

Iman Jaljuli gave birth October 30 at 7:16am. Iman and Adam are doing well, and daddy Mohammad is very excited. All are adjusting to their new life as a family of three!

Jessica Lavery & Henderson got married on July 29 up in the Hudson Valley. They honeymooned in Hawaii for 2 weeks at the end of the summer.