

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics Biostatistics Seminar

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
12:00pm - 1:00pm -- WG73

“Presentation of an Ongoing Multi-Phased Investigation into Ovarian Cancer”

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*“I felt like I had something living inside of me”
- Ovarian Cancer Survivorship Survey Respondent*

Ovarian cancer (OvCa) is the second most common, but most deadly, of all gynecological cancers. This cancer is termed the “silent killer” as many women do not show clear symptoms at an early stage. Almost 70% of OvCa cancer patients are diagnosed at advanced stages of the disease. Conversely, when diagnosed in early stages, the 5 year survival rate is 44%. Therefore identification of diagnostic symptoms of early stage ovarian cancer is essential for improving long term outcomes.

This presentation will highlight the work I have contributed as part of an ongoing multi-phased investigation into OvCa. Our goal is to identify factors of early diagnosis and better survivorship. Most recently, we have been working on validating the design and implementation methodology of a comprehensive web-based survey that assesses both recently diagnosed and long-term OvCa survivors. Other research includes demonstration of severe knowledge gaps in OvCa awareness among the general population and showcasing the design and implementation of the web-based survey for OvCa survivorship. In addition, we have performed text-mining and analysis of survivors reporting their diagnostic stages and pre-diagnosis symptoms.