

Jill Barnholtz-Sloan, PhD

Dr. Jill Barnholtz-Sloan is an Associate Professor at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center (Case CCC), Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine, with joint appointments in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and in the Center for Proteomics and Bioinformatics. Dr. Barnholtz-Sloan is multi-disciplinary trained in biostatistics, population genetics and human genetics and therefore possesses the necessary skills to challenge current thinking on how to study complex diseases, such as cancer. The main thrust of her research is in cancer genetic epidemiology and statistical estimation of genetic ancestry for studying racial/ethnic differences in cancer development and clinical outcomes. Because of her cross-training in biostatistics, genetics and epidemiology, she has been sought out as an integral Statistical/Epidemiological co-investigator on multiple large consortium projects involving multiple complex diseases. While the major focus of her independent research program is in brain tumors, she is also involved in funded studies of ovarian, breast, prostate, gastrointestinal and colon cancers.

In the last 2 years, Dr. Barnholtz-Sloan has successfully established a multi-center network within Ohio, the Ohio Brain Tumor Study (OBTS), to accrue newly diagnosed brain tumor patients and obtain biospecimens, correlative clinical information and active follow-up. Because of the success of this state-wide network, she was recently awarded a multi-site The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) contract as PI, for OBTS to be one of the TCGA Networks of Tissue Source Sites. In addition, her team has recently been awarded local pilot funds to study methylation and proteomics in brain tumors. She is PI of subcontracts to CWRU for three different multi-center NCI funded studies, two of which involve 14 centers in the US and Europe to perform gene mapping for gliomas and study risk factors for glioma, the third involves 9 states and focuses on risk factors for ovarian cancer in African American women utilizing a newly established Ohio rapid case ascertainment system to identify cancer patients and controls. Dr. Barnholtz-Sloan is also co-Director of the Biostatistics Core for the recently funded CWRU GI SPORE and Director of the Bioinformatics Core for the recently funded BTERNet Project.

She has over 70 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals and has been invited to lecture regionally, nationally and internationally on ancestry analysis and brain tumor genetic epidemiology at universities and peer-reviewed scientific meetings. In addition, Dr. Barnholtz-Sloan also mentors multiple undergraduate, graduate and medical students, medical residents and post-doctoral fellows at CWRU. She plays an active service role for local, state-wide, national and international organizations. She was elected Co-Vice President (US) of the Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium (BTEC) in 2009 and will become the co-President (US) in 2012.