

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Susan Gapstur** <susan.gapstur@cancer.org>

Date: Fri, Jan 10, 2014 at 2:16 PM

Subject: RE: Proposed Collaboration Using ACS CPS II Data--preliminary submission

To: Matt Malkan <matt.malkan@gmail.com>

Dear Dr. Malkan,

I apologize for my delay in responding you. While we appreciate your interest in collaborating with us, we have decided not to move forward with this project.

As noted in our Data Access Policies and Procedures, one of the criteria we use to evaluate potential collaborators is whether or not the research team has the appropriate knowledge, qualifications and experience to conduct the study. Your original email indicates that you are an astro-physicist and you are a professor of physics and astronomy. While I am sure there might be some similarities between the ASURV algorithm that you and your team of students use in your research and want to apply to our data, it is not clear to us that you or your team has any experience working with epidemiologic cohort data, particularly those using health outcomes.

Second, we also assess the proposal in terms of staff burden. As you can imagine, we receive many external requests for collaboration and we cannot approve all of them. Because of the aforementioned concern about your expertise in epidemiology, we feel that other competing demands on our time outweigh approval of this proposal.

I wish you the best on your research,

Sue

Susan Gapstur, MPH, PHD | Vice President, Epidemiology

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From: Matt Malkan [mailto:matt.malkan@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 09, 2014 1:35 PM
To: Susan Gapstur
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Collaboration Using ACS CPS II Data--preliminary submission

Dear Dr. Gapstur,

You are probably very busy these last few months. But since I have not yet heard anything about my ACS preliminary submission yet, it would be very very helpful if you could just take 30 seconds now to at least simply CONFIRM RECEIPT of my email message. That way I can be sure I am in fact using the correct email address for you (the only one I could find for this purpose). I have not had any of my previous emails to you 'bounce' back with any indication of an addressing error. But nonetheless, actually receiving a one line email back from you would ease my mind that I have not been making some silly mistake-- thank you!

And of course when the prelim reviewers have the opportunity to look over what I sent (copy also attached here), I will be eager to see how we can proceed on this project.

Thanks again for your tiime!

Sincerely Yours,
Dr. Matt Malkan,
Prof of Physics, UCLA

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From: **Matt Malkan** <matt.malkan@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 10, 2013 at 5:10 AM
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Collaboration Using ACS CPS II Data--preliminary submission
To: Susan Gapstur <susan.gapstur@cancer.org>

Dear Dr. Gapstur,

A little over 4 weeks ago I emailed you a preliminary submission of a proposed collaboration to work with our ACS CPS II data.

When you have a minute or two available, could you email me back to confirm that you received my Nov 11th email (copy attached below)?

You can reach me at either my UCLA edress: malkan@astro.ucla.edu or an additional account I also use daily: matt.malkan@gmail.com Both are equivalent, and I immediately get messages sent to either one of these addresses. So far as I can tell, my Nov. 11 email did successfully reach you, but I have not yet received a response.

I remain very enthusiastic about the proposed collaborative project, and am working on the formal full proposal for you. I realize that many key questions were at best briefly addressed in my preliminary submission, to adhere to the 300-word limit. If there is any additional information from me that might be helpful in preparing for the full proposal, please feel free to let me know what to provide. I'm grateful for your help on this, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely Yours,
Dr. Matthew Malkan,
Prof of Physics&Astronomy, UCLA,
LA, CA 90095-1547
malkan@astro.ucla.edu

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matt Malkan** <matt.malkan@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 11, 2013 at 9:34 AM
Subject: Proposed Collaboration Using ACS CPS II Data--preliminary submission
To: susan.gapstur@cancer.org

Dear Dr. Gapstur

I am writing to propose a collaboration following the guidelines of the ACS Cancer Prevention Studies Data Access Policies and Procedures:

My primary research since obtaining my PhD in Astrophysics at Caltech has been analyzing large datasets, often with bounded data. Typical astrophysical measurements produce UPPER limits to the brightnesses of objects, unlike LOWER limits to the lifetimes of subjects, but the mathematical principles are essentially similar to those used in epidemiology. My PhD students and postdoctoral fellows and I have extensive published experience analyzing bounded data on galaxies using survival analysis (statistical package ASURV). As a Prof. in the UCLA Department of Physics, I have long been interested in exploiting analysis tools in other disciplines.

The CPS II database has been invaluable for studying correlations between various risk factors and death due to cancer and other causes. Some correlations appear weak, but we suspect that this may reflect limitations of the statistical analyses. We are searching for possible INTERACTIONS between risk factors, such as cigarette smoking, obesity, exercise, and urban residence. We will not assume the correlations are simple linear proportionalities, but will consider more general plausible models. To apply our new ASURV algorithms to the CPS II database, we request 1982 questionnaire data and mortality follow-up data on CPS II subjects, with personal identifiers removed. Exact details of the collaboration will be described in my full proposal.

My main grant funding, from NASA and NSF, does not generally cover research in other disciplines, but I plan to obtain UCLA interdisciplinary program funding for this epidemiologic research. Much of the statistical analysis of the CPS II data will be done by my student Research Assistants, who volunteer 10--12 hours per week to do research with me, in exchange for receiving Independent Research course credit.

I greatly appreciate your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Malkan,
Prof of Physics&Astronomy, UCLA,
LA, CA 90095-1547
malkan@astro.ucla.edu

this preliminary proposal is also attached as an MS Word .doc file
for your convenience.

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