



American Society for Quality ([www.asq.org](http://www.asq.org)) – Washington DC and Maryland Metro, Section 509 ([www.asq509.org](http://www.asq509.org))

Biomed/Biotech Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting  
(<http://www.asq509.org/ht/d/sp/i/31557/pid/31557>)

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## **“Pinpoint the Causes of Cancer Cluster - Challenges and Opportunities”**

To be presented by

**Joseph Su, MPH, PhD**

([sulj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:sulj@mail.nih.gov))

Program Director

Epidemiology and Genomic Research Program  
Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences  
National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH

**Thursday, November 7, 2013**

6:00 – 6:20 PM – Networking; Pizza/drink

6:20 – 8:45 PM – Program

8:45 – 9:00 PM – Door-prizes drawing; Networking

Online Registration site: <http://www.asq509.org/ht/d/DoSurvey/i/35817>

Open to Public –

**\$5:** non-ASQ members to cover pizza/drink cost;

**Free:** ASQ members, MJ-DC members, CAPA-DC members, CCACC volunteers/employees, FAPAC members, veterans, senior citizens, students, interns, residents, postdocs, FDA Commissioner’s Fellows, and current job-seekers

**Location:** Kelly’s Deli Conference Center, 7519 Standish Place, Rockville (Derwood, for GPS users), MD 20855

**Registration Deadline:** Please register by Thursday noon, November 7, 2013.

**Question:** Please contact Dr. C.J. George Chang, Chair of Biomed/Biotech SIG, ASQ509; [gchang2008@yahoo.com](mailto:gchang2008@yahoo.com) or 240-793-8425 (cell).

**Driving directions:** **By Cars:** From **I-270** (N or S bound): Take Exit 9A and exit from the FIRST right exit; turn left (east) onto Shady Grove Dr.; turn right (south) onto Rockville Pike (**Route 355**); turn left (east) onto East Gude Dr.; turn left (north) immediately onto Crabb’s Branch Dr.; turn left (west) immediately onto Standish Place. The first building on your right side is 7519 Standish Place; open parking). The venue is on the first floor with its entrance opposite to the left side of building main entrance. **By Metro trains:** Off from Red Line **Shady Grove Station**, and take RideOn **Route 59 TOWARD ROCKVILLE** and get off from “**Calhoun Place**” stop. Standish Place is next to the Bus stop. Our venue is within 2 min of walking distance from the stop.

## Summary:

The **causes** of cancer are diverse, complex, and only partially understood. Although cancer remains to be considered as a rare disease, the economic impact and emotional burden to the society is enormous. Thanks to the grass root efforts, general public has raised awareness for this type of disease. There has been a significant effort by government, scientists, and activists throughout the world to search for the causes of cancer. Many factors have been identified to increase the **risk** of cancer, including tobacco use, dietary factors, certain infections, exposure to radiation, lack of physical activity, obesity, and environmental pollutants. Among those, **environmental pollution** has been singled out as the major cause of "**cancer cluster**".

Hundreds of **cancer cluster reports** are filled by the public each year with local or state health department in the US each year. **Cluster investigations** are resource exhausting in time, effort, and money. Despite much of the effort, realities of the findings often differ from perceptions. Nevertheless, there are a few successful cases and, with the advancement of technology and modeling strategies, opportunities exists to continue the search for preventable causes of cancer that may reduce the "cancer clusters".

Dr. Su is a **cancer epidemiologist** who conducted research in southeast Louisiana, also known as "**Cancer Corridor**", for 10 years. He will review a few recent studies of environmental pollution on cancer and share the findings from his research. He will also explain the **challenges** faced by cancer investigators and identify the **opportunities** for future research/ investigations on "cancer cluster".

## Presenter's Bio: Joseph Su, MPH, PhD

**Dr. Joseph Su** is a **Program Director** at the National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, Epidemiology and Genomic Research Program. He manages a portfolio of grants on epidemiological research on the relationship between cancer and nutritional, environmental, and genomic factors. He also directs initiatives in applying the technologies of epigenetics, metabolomics, and multiplex inflammation marker panel in cancer epidemiologic investigation.

Dr. Su received his undergraduate training in chemistry and nutritional biochemistry at Chung-Yuan University in Taiwan, ROC and University of Minnesota, respectively, his master of public health in public health nutrition at University of Minnesota, and his PhD in nutritional epidemiology at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Immediately after receiving his doctoral degree, he joined the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans as an **assistant professor**. He was later promoted as tenured **associate professor** in epidemiology and pathology where he received numerous research funding from Federal, State, and non-for-profit organizations to conduct cancer and aging research. He also directed the curriculum and student advising for the newly established Louisiana State University School of Public Health, which just received its accreditation last month. He was also a **special study coordinator** at the Louisiana Tumor Registry where he oversaw many cancer investigations from other academic investigators and community.

**This Biomed/Biotech SIG event is cosponsored by the Monte Jade Science and Technology Association of Greater Washington ([www.MonteJadeDC.org](http://www.MonteJadeDC.org)) and the Chinese American Professionals Association of Metropolitan Washington DC ([www.capadc.org](http://www.capadc.org)).**