

# **Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

## **Masters in Clinical Investigation Program**

Announces the MSCI Thesis Defense of

**DAWN TRUONG**

**Trends in Mortality of Adults with Melanoma in the United States SEER Population**

Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 3 p.m. Via Zoom Meeting

Melanoma, a cancer of the pigment cells of the skin, continues to be the leading cause of death among skin cancers. While national cancer registries have captured individual-level mortality data on patients with melanoma for multiple decades, examination of mortality trends remains an area of continued research. This is especially relevant within the last two decades, where melanoma mortality has been decreasing at rates previously unseen, but still remains the leading cause of death among skin cancers. This thesis explores the trends in cause-specific mortality among patients who have been diagnosed with melanoma within the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program. Specifically, examination of the cause-specific case-fatality rate and proportional mortality will elucidate trends within years which observed key improvements in melanoma treatment. Moreover, exploration of these trends by sex, age, and region of the US will further clarify the factors that affect the development of this disease from an epidemiological lens. Taken together, these data will elucidate areas for the potential enhancement of care and shed light on whether patients with melanoma are dying from the disease itself or other competing causes as treatment options improve.

**Mentor**

Mara Epstein, ScD, ScM

**Dissertation Exam Committee**

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