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Joseph Meehan (870) 543-7121NCTRResearch@fda.hhs.gov the Return to NCTR Principal Investigators Page About Publication Background Joseph Meehan studied philosophy at Rhodes College and graduated with a cum laude degree in 1981. He studied computer science at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and administration through the University of London School of Economics before obtaining a graduate certificate in bioinformatics from Stanford in 2003. Mr. Meehan began his career as a computer programmer at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis before arriving at NCTR in 1983. He was systems and network manager from 2001 to 2008 and software development manager from 2008 to 2012 for NCTR. He is currently a senior advisor in the Bioinformatics and Biostatistics Division. Research Interests Mr. Meehan serves as a team leader for bioinformatics software development, where he is responsible for the development of new software for various research applications, including regulatory computing, toxicogenomics and machine learning. He is ncTR's lead researcher in a collaborative project to develop and improve regulatory review and research tools at the FDA's Drug Evaluation and Research Center, including efforts to transfer a critical regulatory database to Oracle, capture pharmacological and toxicological review data from review documents, and retrospectively extract FDA approval letter review information using pattern matching and natural language processing. Professional Societies/National and International Groups The 2017 member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) – Present Select Publications Publication are linked to text summaries on PubMed. Application of network and nebula analysis (based neighbors and impartial leverage algorithm) to toxcast data. Ye H., Luo H., Ng H., Meehan J., Ge W., Tong W., and Hong H.Environ Int. 2016, 89-90:81-92. Short Reading Alignment: A crucial step in applying next-generation sequencing data in precision medicine. Ye H., Meehan J., Tong W., and Hong H.Pharmaceutics. 2015, 7(4):523-41. An investigation of biomarkers derived from legacy microarray data for their usefulness in the ARN-Seq era. His Z., Fang H., Hong H., Shi L., Zhang W., Zhang W., Zhang Y., Dong Z., Lancashire L., Bessarabova M., Yang X., Ning B., Gong B., Meehan J., Xu J., Ge

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Wang C., Gong B., Bushel P., Thierry-Mieg J., Thierry-Mieg D., Xu J., Fang H., Hong H., Shen J., Su Z., Meehan J., Li X., Yang L., Li H., Aabaj P., Kreil D., Megherbi D., Gaj S., Caiment F., van Delft J., Kleinjans J., Scherer A., Devanarayan V., Wang J., Yang Y., Qian H., Lancashire L., Bessarabova M., Nikolsky Y. , Chierici M. , Albanese D., Jurman G., Riccadonna S., Filosi M., Visintainer R., Zhang K., Li J., Hsieh J., Svoboda D., Fuscoe J., Deng Y., Shi L., Paules R., Auerbach S. and Tong. 2014, 32(9):926-32. The complete genome sequencing of 35 individuals provides information on the genetic architecture of the Korean population. Zhang W., Meehan J., Su Z., Ng H., Shu M., Luo H., Ge W., Perkins R., Tong W. and Hong H.BMC Bioinformatics. 2014, 15 Suppl 11:S6. Meta-analysis of pulsed field gel electrophoresis fingerprints based on a built salmonella database. Zou W., Chen H., Hise K., Tang H., Foley S., Meehan J., Lin W., Nayak R., Xu J., Fang H. and Chen J.PLoS One. 2013, 8(3):e59224. Data mining tools for Salmonella characterization: Application to gel-based fingerprint analysis. Zou W., Tang H., Zhao W., Meehan J., Foley S., Lin W., Chen H., Fang H., Nayak R. and Chen J.BMC Bioinformatics. 2013, 14 Suppl 14:S15. The Microarray Quality Control (MAQC)-II study by Common Practices for the Development and Validation of Microarray-Based Predictive Models. MAQC Consortium.Nat Biotechnol. 2010, 28(8):827-38. See? That's why I live in this apartment, Robin Roberts says as he walks through his living room, a warm mix of whites, beiges and browns with lots of pretty pillows on comfortable sofas. It reaches the wall of windows of your apartment and... Wow. There's the Hudson River: almost everything, it seems, so surprisingly close, you could practically dive in. I'm a water person, he says, smiling so peacefully that you'd never know he got up at 3:45 this morning (as usual) and has been going on ever since, as he passes over a bad cold. He spent much of his childhood in Pass Christian, MS, right in the Gulf of Mexico, and water says, that's home. Having a river to calm her down and remind her of childhood is just one of many ways the 51-year-old star of the ABC Series Good Morning America stays emotionally and spiritually nourished, optimistic and calm despite a killer work schedule, high-stress job, and, five years ago, a diagnosis with a particularly aggressive form of breast cancer. After soaking up the view of the river, Robin sinks into his white sofa with his dog, KJ, running under Feet. (KJ is short for Killer Jack — Jack because she's a Jack Russell terrier and Killer because she was so docile docile a puppy. Welcome to the world of Robin's irony.) It's good to be Robin Roberts right now. First of all, GMA ratings have recently been the highest in five years, and it has energized us all, it is coated. And Robin has been shining especially since his stellar shift at the Oscars a few months ago, when he earned praise on the red carpet in a shiny white case that fit his body, quite murderous in itself, like a second skin. She shares the true backstealist of that triumphant night: her dress kept riding; his stylists determined that the Spanx he had wore the culprits, so he had no choice but to eliminate them. Although none of the millions of viewers had any idea, I was joking with A-listers without underwear. Because Oscar commentators tend not to leave details of celebrities' appearances an - commented, some insisted that Robin's great figure was courtesy of the writings that improve melting. She pretends to be insulted that she didn't get credit: I'm old school! I did squats in the gym for six weeks for that! He wasn't wearing anything! In fact, she's not a woman who usually spends a lot of time thinking or talking about appearances. Much closer to her heart are her family and her faith, and she is very happy for a thin book that sits on her coffee table, which combines both. The book is My Story, My Song (see excerpt, Knowing That Home Is Wherever We Are)), and Robin's 88-year-old mother, Lucimarian Roberts, wrote it about her own inspiring life, with Robin appearing to offer reflections at the end of each chapter. Lucimarian grew up during the Depression and in the midst of segregation; his closely pressured family was spoyed from much of his furniture when he was young. However, as the wife of an Air Force colonel who was one of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, she was a fiercely appropriate woman who was elegant even when she served us francs and beans, we always dined by candlelight, Robin recalls. An angel-voiced hymn singer who was never happier than when someone said she saw one of her children in church, Lucimarian was also a perfectionist mother who stayed home and thoroughly raised four college graduates (Robin is the youngest) and then launched a robust life serving on various boards and commissions. Next: Jim Wright Robin's affection for his mother radiates from his heart. She takes a picture of the matriarch in President Obama's inauguration, smiling through the icy cold, curled up in a mink coat. (Remember Robin: I said, 'Mom, you can't wear mink!' - worrying that some animal rights activist could throw paint at her. She said, 'Honey, I got this for \$25 in I'm wearing it!') But Lucimarian is also a woman Robin has, to this day, that complicated career and career relationship that any strong adult daughter has with her strong mother. In the photo shoot for the book cover, with both Lucimarian Lucimarian that your TV star daughter applies a different shade of lipstick: My mother's cure-all is a red lipstick tube. She's from that generation. Robin recognizes that Lucimarian's other priests are faith, self-discipline, and courage. And Robin often summoned those qualities in recent years, the whole Roberts family did. First came the sudden death, of a heart attack, of Robin's beloved father, Lawrence E. Roberts, in 2004 (Sunday night he went to bed, and on Monday morning he awoke in heaven); Then, 10 months later, Hurricane Katrina damaged both the homes of Robin's mother and sisters, the three women—one living in New Orleans, the other two along the Mississippi coast—and their families were displaced for months. It was an emotionally heartbreaking season for Robin, who covered Katrina as a reporter while she cared deeply about her relatives. As for Lucimarian, she was grateful when she returned home, that her adult children had reconstituted as best they could because many of her mother's precious memories had been swept away in the flood. It seems that... Pottery Barn! said brilliantly. Robin laughs at his mother's evaluation. He has clearly inherited Lucimarian's ironic way of speaking. Robin reasons that while curveballs (like cancer) have been thrown her way, for the most part she is so abundantly blessed! I'm so blessed! She says with a laugh: I love saying 'freaking' before 'blessed'. That conversational style, crowned by brazen wit, is pure Robin: I have a sign in my dressing room: 'This, too, will happen.' She stops, then with perfect time adds the finisher: Now it would be good.' On the other hand, however, Robin has found a way to live his life with gratitude and taste, and genuine joy in the face of steep challenges. Here, your formula to do just that. MAKE YOUR MESS MESSAGE This phrase is lucimarian's, that is, to turn your misfortune into a teachable moment, but the crisis through which Robin came to embrace her was entirely his. In July 2007, during a breast self-exam (something Robin urges all women to do), he found a lump he has just met, he says, felt different; it was hard. The texture was different from any other lump I had had. So I knew it was reviewed. She had a mammogram, and she was very grateful that my doctor had also ordered an ultrasound, she says. The mammogram detected nothing, but the ultrasound produced a suspicious image that required a biopsy of the needle nucleus. After GMA the next morning, Robin flew to Atlanta on a brief assignment. He turned on his cell phone as soon as the plane landed, and received a of your doctor. All he remembers hearing, through the words of tranquility, is Robin, it's cancer. He felt an immediate change. She had boarded the plane in New York City like only Robin. Now I was she remembers. He put on his sunglasses so that no one around him could see his tears. With the help of her beloved friend and then co-anchor Diane Sawyer, Robin made the decision to make it public with her diagnosis. ABC World News host Peter Jennings had died of lung cancer two years earlier; Robin wanted GMA fans to know that cancer didn't mean you couldn't keep working and lead a life. And so, he says, when Diane came up to me and grabbed my hand (because I could say I was going to lose her), Robin announced his diagnosis to the show's viewers. Next: Jim Wright Robin underwent a partial mastectomy, and some of his lymph nodes were removed. Initially, his prognosis was very good: The tumor was small. But one of the worst days in Robin's mess came soon after. He was in Connecticut, recovering at his weekend home. Her family visited her, and they looked at me like a hawk. It was, ironically, that she begged me to go to a department store alone that her cell phone sounded. His doctor broke the news: The lymph nodes were clear, but the cancer was more aggressive than they had originally thought. Chemotherapy would be needed. I'm going back to the car and I'm screaming! Screaming! Robin says. First they thought: We left you alone for five minutes, and this happens! Then they take me home. It was a very bad day. Robin's cancer was found triple-negative, meaning it would not respond to certain treatments; this type of cancer is usually treated through surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiation (all of which were subjected). He was told that he would not get what many other survivors look forward to in five or seven years without a repetition: a proclamation of all clear. I was crazy! Robin says. Some of that was the athlete in it. (The 5' 10 Robin was a basketball champion at the University of Southeast Louisiana and will be in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame this month.) I like a game plan. I'm a very coach. I did everything I could: chemo, radiation and changing my diet to keep my body fat lower. So there was a feeling of, Oh, God, I don't understand that 'all clear', where everyone goes 'Woo-hoo'?! Why not? Really? Seriously? But she didn't wallow. Even before he discovered that his cancer was triple negative, he was already living his mother's wise words and inspiring others. It started shortly after his chemotherapy started. When my hair started coming out in lumps, remember, for the first time it looked like I had cancer. There was no way to hide it. Robin's decision to shave his remaining hair in front of a video camera was a teachable moment for his viewers. I chose this day to lose my hair; they're not telling me, he explains. Without after that, in the air I properly wore my trusted wig, with the little flip presenter. But then he got even She began when her GMA compadres dared to parade on a catwalk during Fashion Week. She accepted: Robin got drunk in a Dress by Isaac Mizrahi and—wig firmly instead, began to the catwalk. I looked in the mirror, and I'm like, no, that's not me. And I took off my wig and walked the bald track. It was a very deep moment. Among many appreciative words, Robin says, was this wonderful letter from a young mother who was watching TV with her son. The mother clapped and cried. Her son said, 'Why don't you have hair?' The mother said, 'She's sick, and she had to take medication that will make her better [but she also made her hair fall out.]' The woman told Robin that if, God forbid, she would ever go through [chemo], she might say, 'Remember that woman you saw on TV? She's fine. That letter took her home: I was a messenger to those who would go after me. Lucimarian, with other residents of the nursing home where he now lives, remains a messenger to Robin. When she recently visited Lucimarian, Robin recalls: Mom was there, she's arthritic with extremely high blood pressure, it's hard for her to walk, Dad and her best friends are gone and she was tired. But she said to me, 'Count your blessings.' They far outweigh the bad things that are going on. She was there in her wheelchair [surrounded by] much worse people. There was a bit of service in the church, and people sang 'Amazing Grace' while Mom played the piano, and they shouted petitions: 'Just a closer walk with you!' The positivity in that old man's room incited Robin long after his visit. BOND BETTER I'm not one of those people who say, 'Cancer is one of the best things that's ever happened to me,' Robin says. I was appreciating life. But [the disease] has made me much more patient than I've ever been in my life. And I'm more at the moment with people. I know I missed some real opportunities—niece graduations, bridal dinners, time to hang out—because of work. He wasn't a good friend, because [often] he had to cancel. Do people count more now? Oh, my God, yes! Not that I was an ogre before, but I find myself appreciating others more. She complains positively about her GMA family: Sam [Champion] is my heart; we can complete each other's prayers. I look at it and smile. George Stephanopoulos? He's a lovely family man, giving. What about Lara Spencer? People would love it to be — imitate a cat fight with claws – raarrgh! raarrgh! But we love each other! It's easy to get out of the way. We enter each other's dressing room: 'What are you wearing...?' And reporter Josh Elliott, Robin says, it's all that and a bag of fries! We had the common ESPN link [where Robin worked for 15 We met to take a night at 5 P.M., and all of a sudden I'm looking at my it's 11:30! He pauses. I like going to work! I enjoy being with them! She is equally eager to celebrate her family. The other day she surprised herself by rushing home from an elegant cocktail party full of CEOs and celebrities and impulsively calling her mother, I said, 'Mom! Thank you! You and Dad have given me more than I could ever have imagined! Meaning: She could not have sailed in that world without the education she had been given. Would I have done that before? No, I would never have called my mother to tell her that. Robin is taking the time to express his feelings of love and gratitude when he feels them. Next: Jim Wright LEARNS TO TREAT HIS RIGHT Equally Pause to celebrate his relationships is new to Robin, so that is, not to preserve his health and tranquility. Yesterday I wasn't feeling well, I was tired of having been traveling. Making his way back to New York City late on a Sunday night with a bad cold, I raised my hand. I said, 'I can't come in tomorrow. I need to sleep. This is something I wouldn't have done before cancer, he admits. I was a 'never let them see you sweat' person. You know how you see this person on the surface of the water, looking calm, but underneath they are — she makes a furious pedaling gesture. Outside of me I was, 'I'm as cool as the other side of the pillow.' But, boy, internally? I have to be this, I have to be that...! This is a very stressful and very competitive industry. Now Robin knows his health has to be the first thing. His day is dizzying non-stop, but he works on it disciplined nutrition and de-stressed. Your alarm sounds at 3:45 A.M.:I'll turn on the TV for the news overnight. She has the luxury of going out the door with her head of the bed and in uneven jeans. In the studio, it will become your camera clothes, and your hair and makeup team will put Humpty Dumpty together every morning. I've been pampered for 10 years! Robin doesn't like to eat before he does the show, although he's going to have green tea from his GMA cup in the air. When the show is done, it has a container of Greek yogurt with some berries, a cinnamon spray (it's a good anti-cancer agent), some Salba seeds (high fiber), and—this is where your colleagues start laughing at their precise count, six to 10 almonds—they're very good for you, but they're high in calories. She aperitifs on a banana during subsequent hours of preparation for shows, and lunch can be a salad or a chicken salad sandwich along with SunChips. When he arrives home, often late in the afternoon, KJ walks and then relaxes. Although She is Christian, she has two Buddha statues in her apartment, not for religious content, but for serenity. He had had his Feng Shui'd. (Feng Shui is a Chinese practice of orienting a living space and its content for harmony and good luck.) El Feng Shui Shui said, You need an object that, when you look at it, makes you exhale.' I have the Buddha in my living room in Key West, one of my favorite places, and it makes me happy and makes me exhale. Late in the afternoon, she could take a yoga class or Pilates; so, if you don't have a business dinner or a meeting with friends, she'll happily cook for herself, drinking red wine, or warm up, say, her favorite turkey spaghetti. (She will do it on Sunday night and will have leftovers for days.) Robin is a girl of meat and potatoes at heart — and I'm a Southerner. We would fry water if we could — but with the help of a nutritionist who recommended her friend and fellow breast cancer survivor Sheryl Crow, she has learned not to eat as many of her beloved pork chops and to appreciate vegetables like green beans and Brussels sprouts. After dinner, you will watch TV; their indulgence is the marathons of Law & Order SVU. (She will fight with anyone's arms for the right to return as Mariska Hargitay's character Olivia Benson in her next life.) Weekends in Connecticut are happily unscheduled, the only time Robin is free of his alarm clock. She will go on long bike rides on the great network of trails of her city: When I have nothing to do, that's utopia! FOLLOW YOUR FAITH Beyond nourishing your body, Robin attends to his soul. She attends a Presbyterian church in Connecticut and is looking for a church of origin in the city. She listens to gospel music on the early morning trip from studio apartment. And before that, every day, as I walk out the door, I say a protective prayer that my mother taught me when I was working my first job away from home. Robin recites: The light of God surrounds me, god's love envelops me, the power of God protects me, the presence of God takes care of me. Wherever he is, God is. \* (Years ago, GMA filmed it reciting prayer; since then, it has barely been a week when the network has not heard of someone asking for a copy of it.) At one time or another during his busy day—every day, without fail—Robin searches for the devotional book Streams in the Desert—I have one copy in my dressing room at work and another by my bed. There is one prayer for each day of the year; she reads it as her daily devotional. Now, Robin goes to his bedroom, brings the book—this worn copy belonged to his grandmother—and opens it. In today's passage, her grandmother had drawn, in a touchingly trembling hand, I have no help but you, Lord. And I trust you. Like the two women in her family who preceded her, Robin also trusts. Her grandmother was confident that she had overcome extreme poverty; He did it. Lucimarian was confident that he would write his book and see it published. And one of the things Robin expected most has already been reality: I used to be sure that I would never, ever wake up and not think about cancer. I'd like to my finger finger of the tooth finger and -- she waxes dramatically — Oh! I have cancer! He's back! Your mind only does that. But as the years passed, he realized: Oh, my God, ... Really... happens — cancer fades from daily memory. About a year ago, she made a GMA story about Shannon Miller, the 1996 Olympic gold medal gymnast who had recently been treated for ovarian cancer. I asked him, 'Has a day passed when you haven't thought about it?' She said, 'No.' I said, 'Trust me, she will.' Not long ago, Miller called Robin. She said, 'I didn't think about it for a week! It's like you said! As for both Robin's life and the optimism he was able to share with another survivor, who would qualify as a good day, a day of de facto blessed. \*Prayer: Prayer for Protection, James Freeman, 1941 Next: Read an excerpt from My Story, My Song This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported into this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this content and similar content in piano.io piano.io

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