Dr. Joel Greenhouse
Department of Statistics
Carnegie Mellon University
will speak on

**Comparative Effectiveness Research:**
The Role of Research Synthesis

**Time:** 3:00 – 4:00 PM
**Date:** Wednesday, October 24, 2012
**Place:** Alter Hall 748

**Abstract**

The synthesis of evidence comparing different health interventions has been identified by the Institute of Medicine and others as a core methodology for comparative effectiveness research (CER). More than meta-analysis which is the synthesis of information from similar studies, research synthesis is defined as the use of multiple data sources, including randomized clinical trials, observational studies, and administrative databases, to learn about what works for whom and under what conditions. In this talk I discuss different approaches to research synthesis and consider the strengths and weaknesses of evidence generated from these types of studies. As a case study to help illustrate some of the challenges of CER, I consider the evidence for an increased risk of suicidal behavior in children who use antidepressants.

---

Guest Parking Available in the Liacouras Garage
*(Located on 15th Street between Montgomery and Cecil B. Moore Avenues)*