

# Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology

## Newsletter



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**From The Brink: "The Center for Regenerative Medicine at BU's Medical Campus has converted into an all-out operation running same-day COVID-19 tests for Boston Medical Center"**



[Read more here](#)

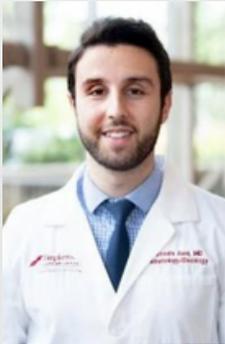
# Initial Appointments



Ruben Dries, PhD

We are happy to announce that **Ruben Dries, Ph.D.**, has accepted an offer to join our section. Dr. Dries's research interests span the rapidly expanding fields of computational biology and transcriptomics. Using his expertise in these areas, he has made fundamental discoveries that have revealed new therapeutic vulnerabilities and mechanisms of drug resistance in a range of cancer models. His recent studies have provided a rationale for combined CDK7 inhibition and anti-PD-1 therapy in small cell lung cancer (*Cancer Cell* 2020; 37: 37-54) and have also elucidated a novel role for the transcription factor BORIS in mediating treatment resistance (*Nature* 2019; 572: 676-680).

Dr. Dries is currently completing a research fellowship in the laboratory of Rani George at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Prior to his research fellowship, Dr. Dries obtained his masters and doctoral degrees from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium and Erasmus Medical Center in the Netherlands. We are excited about the future discoveries that Dr. Dries will be bringing to BU and BMC, and are absolutely thrilled that he will be joining us!



Hussein Assi, MD

**Dr. Assi** is currently completing his fellowship at the University of Oklahoma, where he is serving as Chief Fellow. He completed his undergraduate studies and medical training at the American University of Beirut prior to moving to the United States and completing his residency at Albany Medical Center. During his training he authored or co-authored 15 original publications and 2 book chapters, and has already presented his work at several national meetings. Dr. Assi will be joining our gastrointestinal oncology group, with a goal of further expanding our neuroendocrine tumor program.



Claire Smith, MD

**Dr. Smith** will be joining our section as a hospitalist after completing her first year of fellowship at Oregon Health and Sciences University this summer. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Washington and her medical degree from Duke University, where she also completed her residency. While at Duke, she was the recipient of several research awards and scholarships, and recently published a study examining national trends in end of life care at the Veterans Health Administration. Following her work as a hospitalist in our section, Dr. Smith will be joining our fellowship program as a second year fellow in July, 2021.

# Publications and Grants



Vaishali Sanchorawala,  
MBBS

**Dr. Sanchorawala** published a review article in the journal Acta Haematologica titled "High-Dose Melphalan and Autologous Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplantation in AL Amyloidosis." [Read more here](#)



Chris Heaphy, PhD

Along with collaborators, the **Heaphy Lab** published back-to-back papers on prostate cancer biomarkers in the AACR journal Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention:

"High extra-tumoral mast cell counts are associated with a higher risk of adverse prostate cancer outcomes." [Read more here](#)

"Racial difference in prostate cancer cell telomere lengths in men with higher-grade prostate cancer: a clue to the racial disparity in prostate cancer outcomes." [Read more here](#)



Nana Addo-Tabiri,  
MD, PhD

**Dr. Addo-Tabiri** and collaborators published a paper in the American Journal of Clinical Oncology titled "Black Patients Experience Highest Rates of Cancer-associated Venous Thromboembolism." [Read more here](#)



Camille Edwards, MD

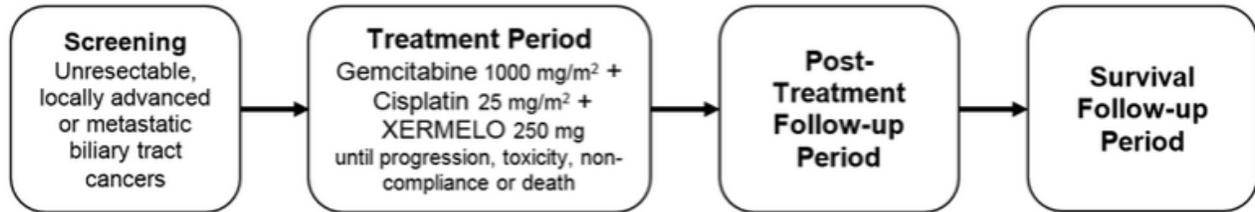
**Dr. Edwards** was selected for the ASH Research training award for fellows 2020. This award provides support for research for the upcoming year and also access to career development opportunities through ASH.

# Clinical Trials Update

## BILIARY TRACT CANCERS ~ 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Line

**Lexicon LX207 TELE-ABC:** A Phase 2, Multicenter, Open-label, Safety and Efficacy Study of XERMELO® (Telotristat Ethyl) plus First-line Chemotherapy in Patients with Locally Advanced, Unresectable, Recurrent or Metastatic Biliary Tract Cancer (BTC)

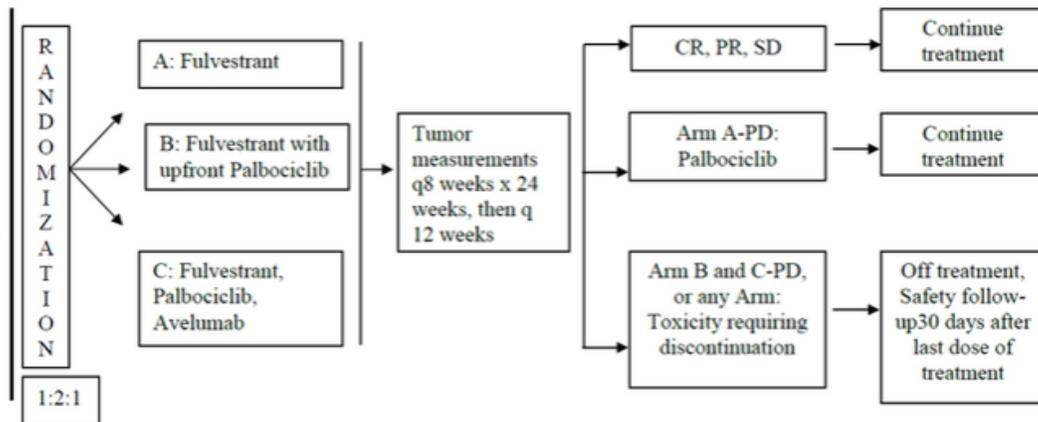
*TELE-ABC (Telotristat Ethyl for Advanced Biliary Tract Cancer)*



## BREAST- Line Metastatic ER(+) / HER2(-) ~ 2<sup>nd</sup>+ Line

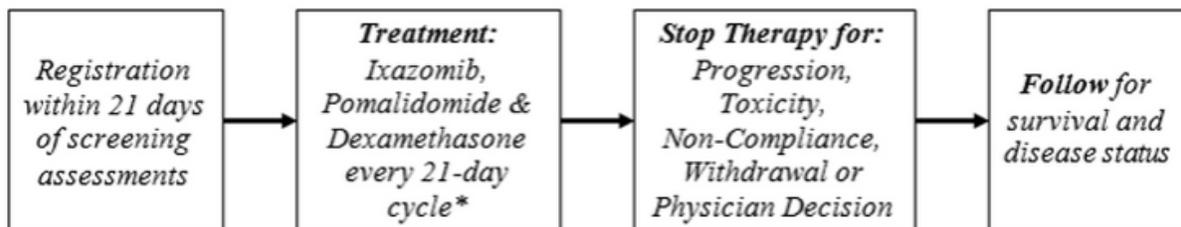
**DFCI 17-101 (PACE):** Palbociclib After CDK and Endocrine Therapy (PACE)

*Randomized Phase II Study of Fulvestrant, Palbociclib, and Avelumab for Endocrine Pre-treated ER+/HER2- Metastatic Breast Cancer*



## MULTIPLE MYELOMA ~ 2<sup>nd</sup>+ Line

**DFCI #19-291 IxaPomDex:** A Phase I/II Study of Twice Weekly Ixazomib Plus Pomalidomide and Dexamethasone in Relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma



\*See protocol for drug-specific dosing schedule

# Announcements and Reminders

## Cancer & Sickle Cell Support Programs

**Note to providers:** Many of the support programs that have always been open to cancer patients are now available to adult SCD patients. This includes painting classes, Museum trips, yoga, zumba, mindfulness, cooking, art workshops, and more!

All the programs are currently on hold during this social distancing period. But as soon as things are back up and running, patients are invited to participate! All programs are totally free.

Hardcopies of an informational brochure are in the mail now to the approximately 340 other adult SCD patients treated at BMC and to about 600 cancer survivors on the mailing list.

## BMC Provider Profile Update Form

If you would like to add updates to your BMC Provider Profile Page, please fill out the form [linked here](#).

## New Form for Announcements and Newsletter Submissions

Are you interested in sharing news of your speaking engagements, awards, publications, events and other announcements with our section? Complete the intake form linked below and we will be happy to advertise your requests via email or the monthly section newsletter. [Link to form](#)

# Available Career Opportunitites as of April 2020:

- Clinical Director, Sickle Cell Center
- Clinical Investigator, Hematology/ Hematological Malignancies
- Clinical Investigator, Breast Oncology
- Clinical Investigator, Genitourinary Oncology
- Laboratory-Based Investigators – Molecular Oncology
- Clinical Investigator, Head and Neck Oncology
- Clinical Investigator, Thoracic Oncology

[Click here to learn more](#)