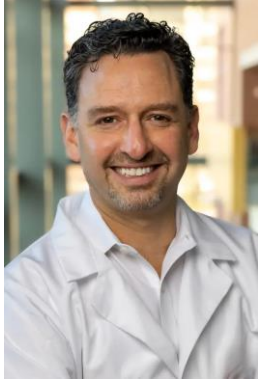


Meet the BUMG Board of Trustees: Christian Arbelaez, MD, Emergency Medicine Chair



What drew you to serve as a trustee on the BUMG Board?

I joined the BUMG Board of Trustees because we are at a critical inflection point as we undergo our strategic planning and determine our future opportunities for growth, innovation, equity, integration, and collaboration. I believe that, as Chairs and leaders, we need to engage and be a part of the solutions. As a new leader in the organization and given the pivotal function that the emergency department (ED) serves for our patients and colleagues from every other BUMG clinical department, I also try to bring a depth and breadth of experience and perspectives that will help the Board with their decisions.

What do you enjoy most about serving on the board?

The part that I enjoy the most about serving on the board is representing all of our members in BUMG. It is really clear that we have a shared model of core values and goals focused on vitality, engagement, and sustainability.

If there's one thing, as a board member, you'd want to communicate with BUMG clinicians, what would that be?

I would say thank you to all physicians, APPs, and staff for your commitment and contribution to our unified mission of patient care, educating our learners, advancing science, and

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing BMC and BUMG?

The most important challenges facing BMC and BUMG are achieving financial sustainability, meeting the clinical demands of our patients, and ensuring professional vitality of our teams.

In a competitive Boston market, we will need to innovate, differentiate, and grow our clinical service lines while maintaining our focus on our mission of health equity.

Given our payer mix and shifting trends from fee for service to value-based care, we will need to have strategic alignment with the health system as we seek to ensure financial viability and also competitive compensation. Similarly, we need to recruit a diverse workforce, ensure equity, and support an inclusive environment for our clinicians, educators, researchers, and staff to achieve professional vitality of our colleagues.

What is an interesting fact about you that no one would guess?

One interesting fact about me is that I was very fortunate to be the emergency physician on a National Geographic Around the World trip!

Do you enjoy reading books? If so, what have you read lately that you enjoyed?

I love reading books. I just finished "The Situation Room: The Inside Story of Presidents in Crisis" by George Stephanopoulos. It recounts the crises in the White House Situation Room where twelve presidents made their highest-pressure decisions.

What are you watching on Netflix?

I am currently watching Suits on Netflix. I really enjoy the chemistry and banter between the characters and it is fascinating to get a window into the practice of Law and negotiation.

Do you have any hobbies?

I love being active and travelling. I recently started playing golf with my 16 year old son. I am learning the game while enjoying the quality time with him. This past year I traveled to Iceland and had my first to Yosemite National Park.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the BUMG clinicians?

WI would like to share with my colleagues that I was originally born in Cali, Colombia and left when I was ten years old with my family due to the 50-year armed conflict in my country. As an immigrant, refugee, and first generation college graduate, I have lived experience with the many social determinants of health that our communities face every day. This is what brought me to BMC and how I try to lead my department.

I believe that many of us are here with similar stories, and I want to share the meaning and purpose in the ability to give back to our communities.