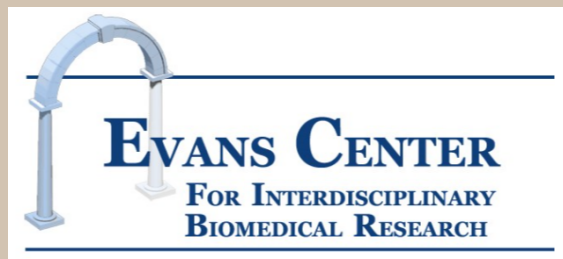


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**Boston University** Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine:  
Evans Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research

## Newsletter \* Fall \* 2024



Boston University Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Office **BU IBRO**  
[www.bu.edu/research/ibro](http://www.bu.edu/research/ibro)

**Save the Date: Friday, March 28, 2025; DoM Research Retreat**  
organized by the [DoM Researchers Forum](#), facilitated by the Evans Center IBR

655 Commonwealth Ave | [Computer& Data Sciences Center](#) | All DoM faculty are  
invited(basic/translational/clinical investigators)

**Department of Medicine Researchers Forum (RF)** Initiated in 2022 by the Evans  
Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research; RF Co-directors: Drs.  
Karen Jacobson, Kim Vanuytsel, George Murphy & Francesca Seta and mentored by  
Drs. Katya Ravid & David Salant -Admin.Assistant to the RF: Robin MacDonald



has launched a new series of  
**TechTalks: “From Evolving Technologies to Discoveries”**

Register at <https://www.bumc.bu.edu/evanscenteribr/2024/04/17/tech-talks/>

**Monday, June 24, 2024**

*(high interest & well received)* Dr. Lou Gerstenfeld: SomaLogic, a protein array to identify disease biomarkers and inducers

**Monday, September 9, 2024**

*(high interest & well received)* Dr. Ruben Dries: Spatial Transcriptomics – means to identify gene expression in context of tissue environment

**Monday, November 4, 2024**

Dr. George Murphy: Next generation iPSC technologies: New avenues for biological discovery

**Monday, January 13th, 2025**

Dr. Weining Lu and ARC co-director AI expert: Application of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine- The Case of Digital Pathology

**Monday, February 24th, 2025**

Dr. Lei Hou: Precision medicine through genetic/epigenomic/gene regulatory networks

*Please let us know what other technologies you wish to learn more about by contacting Robin MacDonald [remac@bu.edu] with suggestions.*


**Shining Light on ARCs Thursday, Oct 10, 2024**

**DoM Evans Days October 10-11, 2024**

**ARCs Presentation, 2-3p:** Powering Women’s Health Research at BU

**David Coleman Prize** winner introduced by Drs. K. Ravid & D. Salant





The Evans Center once again welcomes the [Hariri Institute](#) to Hiebert Lounge for the next Digital health/digital medicine in-person seminars. Tentative dates are being explored for **January 2025**. Watch for more details.

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View Booklet: Linking Research and Researchers

### [New and Continuing ARCs and ARC Programs 2024/2025](#)

#### [ARCs\(3\)](#)

- (Yr 1) Innovative Technology and Novel Biomarker Discovery and Development for Disease Diagnosis and Treatment (B4D-ARC)  
Co-Directors: Drs. Weining Lu, Manju Subramanian, Joel Henderson, Liangliang Hao
- (Yr 2) Tuberculosis Interdisciplinary Approach to Research Alliance (TIARA)  
Co-Directors: Drs. Karen Jacobson, C. Robert Horsburgh, Laura White
- (Yr 2) Musculoskeletal Biology Over a Lifespan  
Co-Directors: Drs. Paola Divieti Pajevic, LaDora Thompson, David Felson

#### [BIT-ARC, Year 1](#)

Developing an artificial intelligence digital pathology diagnostic tool for proteinuric kidney disease

Co-Directors: Drs. Weining Lu\* (primary contact), Chao Zhang, Joel Henderson, William Tomlinson, Vijaya Kolachalama

#### [ARC Programs \(6\)](#)

- Respiratory Viruses: A focus on COVID-19 ARC Program  
Co-Directors: Markus Bosmann, Mohsan Saeed
- Thrombosis and Hemostasis ARC Program  
Co-Directors: Vipul Chitalia, Katya Ravid, Jean Francis

Director: Belinda Borrelli, Co-Directors: Joanne Murabito, Daniel Fulford

- Precision Medicine for Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders ARC Program  
Co-Directors: Lindsay Farrer, Rhoda Au, Alice Cronin-Golomb
- Fibrosis ARC: Connecting Tissues and Investigators (FCTI) ARC Program  
Co-Directors: Maria Trojanowska, Irving Bigio, Bob Varelas
- A Multi-Disciplinary Program to Identify Predictors of Efficacy and Resistance to Cancer Checkpoint Inhibition (PIPER-C) ARC Program  
Co-Directors: Drs. Matthew Kulke, Evan Johnson, David Sherr, Gerald Denis

## New Pre-ARCs in development 2024-2025

- **Women's Health: BIRCWH**  
Leadership: Drs. Emelia Benjamin, Joyce Wong & Elisha Wachman
- **Food Access, Justice, and Sovereignty: Food Is Medicine**  
Leadership: Drs. Olivia Thomas & Kelsey Egan  
*Funding supported by the DOM, CTSI, GSDM, BMC office of CSO*

Interested Faculty please contact the ARC or Pre-ARC leaders and/or  
Robin MacDonald [ [remac@bu.edu](mailto:remac@bu.edu) ]

## Representative ARCs' Recent Discoveries

**COVID-19 ARC Program:** The influence of aging on the host response of lung endothelial cells in SARS-CoV-2 infected mice ([Subramaniam](#) et al., Front Immunol, 2024, accepted)

**Fibrosis ARC Program:** Janicot R, Maziarz M, Park JC, Zhao J, Luebbbers A, Green E, Philibert CE, [Zhang H](#), [Layne MD](#), Wu JC, [Garcia-Marcos M](#). Direct interrogation of context-dependent GPCR activity with a universal biosensor platform. Cell. 2024 Mar14;187(6):1527-1546.e25. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2024.01.028. Epub 2024 Feb 26. PMID: 38412860; PMCID: PMC10947893

**Precision Medicine ARC Program:** Kang M, Li C, Mahajan A, Spat-Lemus J, Durape S, Chen J, Gurnani AS, Devine S, Auerbach SH, [Ang TFA](#), Sherva R, Qiu

Jul 3:e241678. doi: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2024.1678. Online ahead of print.PMID: 38959008

**ME-health ARC Program:** [Borrelli, B.](#), Bartlett, Y. K., [Fulford, D.](#), Frasco, G., Armitage, C. J., & Wearden, A. A. (2024). A behavioral activation mobile app to motivate smokers to quit: Feasibility and randomized controlled pilot trial. JMIR: Formative Research, 8, e54912

**Thrombosis ARC Program:** Ma S, [La J](#), Swinnerton KN, Guffey D, Bandy R, De Las Pozas G, Hanzelka K, Xiao X, Rojas-Hernandez CM, Amos CI, [Chitalia V](#), [Ravid K](#), Merriman KW, Flowers CR, [Fillmore N](#), Li A. Thrombosis risk prediction in lymphoma patients: A multi-institutional, retrospective model development and validation study. Am J Hematol. 2024 Apr 23. doi: 10.1002/ajh.27335. Online ahead of print.PMID: 38654461



**Drs. Ravid and Chitalia, leaders of the [Thrombosis ARC Program](#) and of the AHA-funded center:**

**[CAT-HD Cancer-Associated Thromboembolism as affected by Health Disparities](#) hosted the Spring semi-annual meeting of the AHA Strategically Focused Research Network at Boston University on May 13&14, 2024**

BU Assistant Dean Daryll Healea [presented a brief history of Boston University](#) to our guests at a welcoming & networking session at Hillel House, Bay State Road.

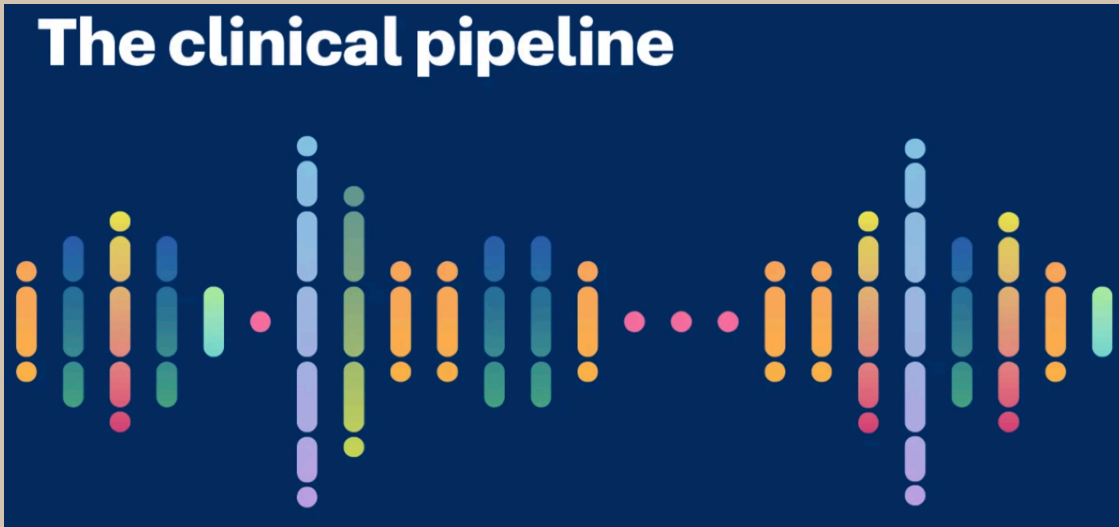
On May 10, 2024, led by [Lindsay Farrer](#), the [Precision Medicine ARC Program](#), AHA & Framingham Heart Study Brain Aging Program organized a half-day, **4th annual, virtual symposium entitled “Inflammation, Immunity and Alzheimer’s Disease: From Mechanisms to Potential Therapeutics”** held via zoom. **More than 400** persons registered for the event.

# Congratulations

## Recent Recognitions for Directors of ARC Programs

**Women's Health Pre-ARC Co-Director, Dr. [Emelia Benjamin](#)**, has been selected for an endowed professorship. Congratulations on this notable achievement!

## The clinical pipeline

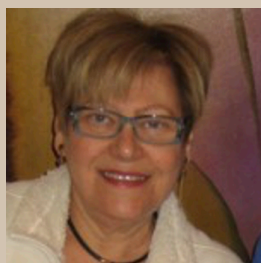


**Fibrosis ARC Program Director, Dr. [Irving Bigio](#)**, developed over the past decade a device for visual analysis of lesions.

Read more about this successful development in a Nature Medicine paper, [“How AI-powered handheld devices are boosting disease diagnostics - from cancer to dermatology”](#)



Precision Medicine ARC Program Director, [Dr. Lindsay Farrer](#), shared links to Korean news outlets reporting on the collaboration between BU & Chosun University



[Dr. Carmela Abraham](#), Prof Emerita, member of an **ARC** led by Dr. Lindsay Farrer, was welcomed by [Advantage Therapeutics Inc.](#) as its Chief Scientific Officer.

[Dr. Rhoda Au](#), [Receives Melvin R. Goodes Prize for Excellence in Alzheimer's Drug Development](#)

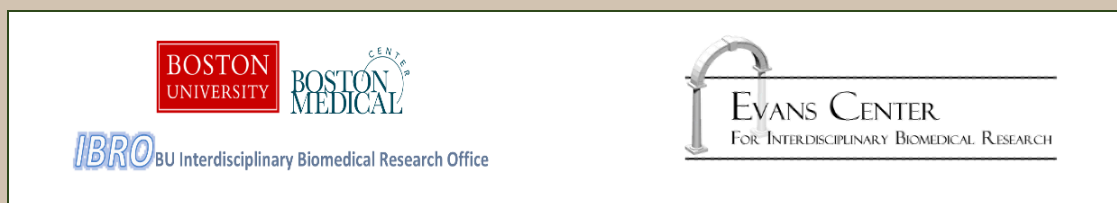
[Dr. Lindsay Farrer](#), Recently awarded a \$13.7 million grant from NIH, this team, including **ARC members**, is using whole genome sequencing and other approaches to identify genetic factors for Alzheimer's disease in Jews and Arab citizens of Israel.

[Dr. Vijaya Kolachalama](#), alerted us to his article: "AI-based differential diagnosis of dementia etiologies on multimodal data" [Nature Med. 2024](#), as an **ARC collaboration**. Listen to their Podcast on neurological research: [A new Alzheimer's monoclonal antibody treatment shows promising results: 'Hopefully more effective approach'](#)

Interested Faculty please contact the ARC or Pre-ARC leaders and/or  
Robin MacDonald [ [remac@bu.edu](mailto:remac@bu.edu) ]



Address inquiries related to logistics to: Robin MacDonald, at [remac@bu.edu](mailto:remac@bu.edu)



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