

















## 2024-2025 Early Career Program Participants

Name/ Degree	Headshot	School/ Department	Phenotype/ Track	Email	Biography
<a href="#"><u>Ana Poblacion, PhD</u></a> (she/her)		Pediatrics	Scientist Educator	ana.poblacion@bmc.org	For over 25 years, Ana Poblacion has worked in the field of maternal and child nutrition and health. As a Professor in Brazil, she taught classes and precepted students in clinic seeing children from underprivileged communities. These experiences led her to study social determinants of health, specifically food insecurity, and its impact on the health and well-being of children and their families. In the United States, she deepened her knowledge in this field of study resulting in many high-impact publications.
<a href="#"><u>Ashwini Ranade, PhD</u></a> (she/her)		Health Policy and Health Services Research	Population Scientist	aranade@bu.edu	Ashwini Ranade is completing her first year as a Clinical Associate Professor in the dental school. She received her PhD in population health with a concentration in health services research and epidemiology and MPH from Northeastern. Her research builds on my background in dentistry and public health and focuses on disparities in access to oral healthcare. Her overall research interest is at the intersection of public health, health policy and healthcare delivery.
<a href="#"><u>Cesylee "Cesy" Nguyen, CNM</u></a> (she/her)		OB/GYN	Clinician Educator	Cesylee.nguyen@bmc.org	Cesylee Nguyen (she/her) is a Certified Nurse Midwife with a decade of experience in BMC's L&D and OB departments. Her special interests include childbirth education, refugee health, educating residents on the labor and delivery unit, and OB hemorrhage QI. As the Director of Childbirth Education she has committed to providing patient education that is accessible and culturally congruent.
<a href="#"><u>Chao Zhang, PhD</u></a>		Medicine/ Computational Biomedicine	Basic Scientist/ Translational	chz2009@bu.edu	Chao Zhang earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science and a master's in Statistics from the University of Missouri. Following graduation, he underwent postdoctoral training at Weill Cornell Medicine, where he was later promoted to instructor. Over the past decade, he has dedicated my research efforts primarily to utilizing computational methods to investigate microbiome-tumor microenvironment interactions and identifying novel transcriptional aging markers for modeling neurodegenerative diseases.
<a href="#"><u>Cristina Gago, PhD</u></a> (she/her)		Community Health Sciences	Population Scientist	gago@bu.edu	Cristina Gago applies implementation science principles and behavior change theory to the evaluation of community health, food assistance, and social service interventions, such as those offered by the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Head Start (a free preschool program for families with low income). Through her partnership-grounded research, she aims to identify actionable opportunities to increase social service access and uptake.
<a href="#"><u>Eftitan "Efi" Akam, MD</u></a> (she/her)		Pediatrics	Clinician Educator	eftitan.akam@bmc.org	Eftitan Akam is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at BUSM and a Med-Peds Hospitalist at BMC. She received her BA from Harvard College, MD from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She completed a combined internal medicine/pediatrics residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital, where she served as Chief Resident. Dr. Akam is an alumna of the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University.






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<a href="#"><u>Gilson Fernandes, MD</u></a>		Medicine/ Cardiology	Clinician Scientist	gilson.fernandes@bmc.org	Gilson Fernandes is a cardiac electrophysiologist at Boston Medical Center and an assistant professor of Medicine at Boston University. He completed my electrophysiology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He has over 60 publications at high-impact journals, over 740 citations and an h-index of 10. He treats patients with abnormal heart rhythms and he specializes in ablation procedures for the management of complex atrial and ventricular arrhythmias.
<a href="#"><u>Jennifer Fiore, MD</u></a> (She/her)		Pediatrics	Clinical Administrator	jennifer.fiore@bmc.org	Jennifer Fiore is a pediatric primary care physician at Boston Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine with a goal to foster mental wellness through promoting access to nature, outdoors activity, and healthy nutrition. She is also passionate about narrative medicine and storytelling and aim to use the written word to help share lessons learned from her academic project.
<a href="#"><u>Justin Lui, MD</u></a> (he/him)		Medicine/ Pulmonary	Clinician Scientist	justin.lui@bmc.org	Justin Lui is a pulmonologist and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at BU Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine. His clinical and research interest is in pulmonary hypertension in systemic sclerosis. He conducts clinical and translational research that is at the intersection of medicine and engineering in applying advanced data science approaches for a deep cardiopulmonary phenotyping of this rare disease population to advance novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.
<a href="#"><u>Karen Cullen, CNM</u></a> (she/her)		OB/GYN	Clinician Educator	Karen.Cullen@BMC.org	Karen Cullen (she/her) is a Certified Nurse Midwife and Women's Health & Gender Related Health Nurse Practitioner with over twenty years of experience in perinatal nursing. As the lead education midwife Karen emphasizes collaboration, patient autonomy, and the physiology of birth. She serves on both the Boston University Medical Group Education and Advanced Practice Provider Committees. Clinically, she models trauma disrupting care delivered through a reproductive justice framework.
<a href="#"><u>Katelyn Bird, MD, MS</u></a> (she/her)		Neurology/ Movement Disorders	Clinician Educator	kbird@bu.edu	Dr. Katelyn Bird is a board-certified Neurologist and Movement Disorder Specialist at BMC. She obtained an AB from the University of Chicago before completing her MD at Indiana University School of Medicine. She completed her internship, neurology residency, and movement disorders fellowship at BMC. She completed an MS in Health Professions Education at Boston University. She serves as the neurology clerkship director and module co-director in the pre-clerkship medical school curriculum.

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<a href="#"><u>Kathryn Thompson, PhD, MHA</u></a> (she/her)		Community Health Sciences	Basic Scientist/ Translational Scientist	kdthomps@bmc.org	Dr. Thompson is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Community Health Sciences and Health, Law, Policy and Management at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH). Dr. Thompson's research leverages economic frameworks to quantitatively study how social, demographic, and policy contexts shape health and disparities for women, people of color, and Medicaid populations. Her research provides evidence that social identities-like race/ethnicity-and social positions-like socioeconomic status-combine in unique ways to structure health care access, utilization, and outcomes among vulnerable populations.
<a href="#"><u>Kelly Sayre, MD, DMD</u></a> (she/her)		Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	Clinician Educator	kelly.sayre@bmc.org	Kelly Sayre is an assistant professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and provide surgical care for patients at Boston Medical Center. She specializes in head and neck oncology and microvascular reconstructive surgery. She was raised in Portland, Oregon and graduated from dental school at Oregon Health & Science University. She completed medical school and residency in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Michigan and completed fellowship in head and neck oncology and microvascular reconstructive surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.
<a href="#"><u>Laura Chiu, MD, MPH</u></a>		Medicine/ Gastroenterology	Clinician Educator	laura.chiu@bmc.org	Laura Chiu is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University. Her clinical practice encompasses the comprehensive spectrum of gastrointestinal and liver diseases, with interests in colon cancer screening/risk counseling and MASLD. Her research interests are in healthcare disparities, colon cancer prevention and surveillance, and quality improvement. She previously worked on studies related to MASLD within the Framingham Heart Study and early-onset colon cancer evaluation/surveillance.
<a href="#"><u>MaryAnn Dakkak, MD</u></a> (she/her)		Family Medicine	Clinician Educator	maryann.dakkak@bmc.org	MaryAnn Dakkak has a medical degree from UC San Francisco and a MsPH from Harvard University. Prior to medicine she worked in public health with Konbit Sante, Partners in Health and Catholic Relief Services in over 10 countries. She is a first-generation American and speaks three languages. She is the Associate Program Director for the Family Medicine Residency where she precepts and practices full-spectrum family medicine including inpatient medicine, operative obstetrics and primary care.
<a href="#"><u>Melissa Nadler, MD</u></a> (she/her)		Anesthesiology	Clinician Educator	melissa.nadler@bmc.org	Melissa Nadler completed Anesthesiology residency at Boston Medical Center in 2019, and fellowship in Critical Care Anesthesia at Brigham and Women's Hospital in 2020. She returned to BMC in 2021 given the opportunity to become the Director of Simulation for the Department of Anesthesiology. In 2024 she was promoted to the position of Assistant Residency Program Director. Her career interests include resident education, with a focus on simulation and critical care, mentorship, and residency program leadership.

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<a href="#"><u>Natalija Farrell, PharmD</u></a>		Emergency Department	Clinician Educator	Natalija.Farrell@bmc.org	Natalija Farrell is the Senior Patient Safety Specialist for the Emergency Department (ED) at Boston Medical Center (BMC). Following residency and fellowship, she was an emergency medicine (EM) pharmacist. She became the lead EM pharmacist and PGY2 EM pharmacy residency program director at BMC. She later became the pharmacy manager overseeing the ED and pediatric care areas. Recently, she transitioned to a role in patient safety, which merges her passion for EM and quality improvement.
<a href="#"><u>Rahul Gujrathi, MD</u></a> (he/his)		Radiology	Clinician Educator	rahul.gujrathi@bmc.org	Rahul Gujrathi is an Assistant Professor in Radiology at BU and Attending Radiologist at BMC. Medical journey since 2004, including Radiology Residency at University of Mumbai, fellowships at McGill, Toronto, and Harvard. Committed to advancing radiology knowledge, patient care, and research. In Boston suburbs for 6 years. Enjoys table tennis, badminton, and basketball for balance. Passionate about excellence in both professional and personal life. Dedicated to ongoing contributions and growth in radiology.
<a href="#"><u>Rebecca Rudel, DrPH</u></a> (she/her)		Medicine/ Infectious Diseases	Implementation Scientist	rrudel@bu.edu	Rebecca Rudel is an evaluator and implementation scientist focused on improving quality of and access to care for groups that are economically and socially marginalized. She leverages her previous clinical experience as a Registered Dietitian in multi-disciplinary settings, combined with implementation science methods and frameworks, to develop, implement, and evaluate equitable and sustainable interventions, with a specific focus on clinic systems and processes that improve health outcomes.
<a href="#"><u>Salah Abdelgadir, MBBS</u></a>		Medicine/ Infectious Diseases	Health Equity Fellow	salah.abdelgadir@bmc.org	Salah Abdelgadir, a second-year Ravin Davidoff Health Equity Fellow at BMC, specializing in health equity and implementation science. He applies these skills to intervention-based projects through BMC's Health Equity Accelerator. Alongside his fellowship duties, Salah practices inpatient and outpatient infectious disease (ID), internal medicine (IM), and primary care. He also serves as a trainee educator in the Department of Infectious Disease, focusing particularly on HIV and health inequities.
<a href="#"><u>Sina Mostaghimi, MD</u></a>		Emergency	Clinical Administrator	sina.mostaghimi@bmc.org	Sina Mostaghimi graduated from VCU Medical School into the Emergency Medicine Residency at BMC. After graduating in 2021 he practiced as a clinician in a community Emergency Department in northern Massachusetts. He returned to BMC to pursue his passions of resident education, medical innovation, and operational excellence.