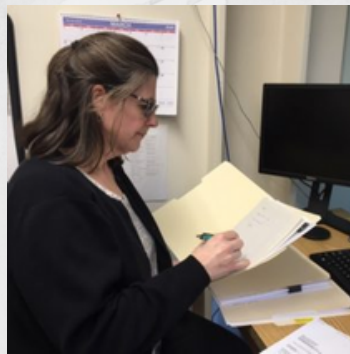


# Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



From ECOG-ACRIN's TMIST newsletter: No Secrets about the Success of Enrolling African American Women at Boston Medical Center in TMIST



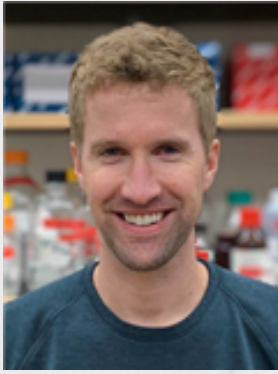
Salli Fennessey, BS, CCRP

**Salli Fennessey** is the Administrative Director of operations for BMC's Cancer and Hematology Clinical Research Program and oversees TMIST and trains personnel. "Managing the accrual process for African Americans and other minority women requires culturally sensitive skills," she noted. Many women have not been offered 3-D mammography before, or the opportunity to participate in a clinical trial. "Registration will take longer, but that doesn't matter. We're making sure we provide these patients the opportunity to be in the trial." [Read more](#)

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# Initial Appointments



Elliott Hagedorn PhD

**Elliott Hagedorn, PhD** has accepted an offer to join the section of Hematology/Oncology at Boston University and Boston Medical Center. Dr. Hagedorn is currently an Instructor in Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, where he has been working under the mentorship of Dr. Len Zon. Prior to moving to Boston, Dr. Hagedorn received a BS in Cell and Developmental Biology from Purdue University, and a Ph.D in Genetics and Genomics at Duke University. He has published widely, and is the recipient of several ASH Abstract Achievement awards as well as an NIH KO1 Research Scientist Development Award.

Dr. Hagedorn has performed exciting and novel work focused on the hematopoietic stem cell niche, using zebrafish as a model. He has identified key transcription factors specifying endothelial cells and more recently has performed studies identifying how cells transmigrate through blood vessel walls in different tissues. In his future work, he plans to use live cell imaging to further explore the molecular mechanisms underlying vascular endocytosis and blood cell trafficking.

Dr. Hagedorn will be joining our expanding research group in EBRC; we are excited about the future discoveries he will make here at BU and BMC, and are absolutely thrilled to welcome him to our section!



Tommy Medina, RN,  
CCRP

**Tommy Medina, RN, CCRP** recently joined the Cancer & Hematology Clinical Research Program at Boston Medical Center.

His most recent experience includes coordination of clinical research across multiple disciplines at MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham, Massachusetts, and within the Lymphoma/Leukemia program at the University of Texas at MD Anderson Cancer Center. We are excited to have an experienced hematology/oncology research nurse join us!

Tommy will be assuming the role of Breast & Gastrointestinal Cancer Research Nurse in the coming days, sharing responsibilities with our current research nurses across multiple disease groups as well as COVID-19 Trials.

# Incoming Faculty



Tashia Prince-Lacombe, NP  
Starting June 1



Navid Alavi, MD  
Starting July 1



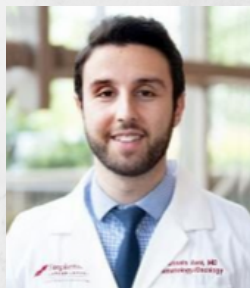
Camille Edwards, MD  
Starting July 1



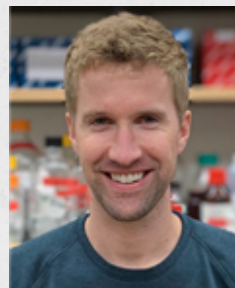
Eric Marks, MD  
Starting July 15



Ruben Dries, PhD  
Starting August 1



Hussein Assi, MD  
Starting August 15



Elliott Hagedorn, PhD  
Starting September 1



Claire Smith, MD  
Starting September 1

## Chief Fellows for 2020-2021



Meredith Halpin, MD



Raphael Szalat, MD

Please join us in congratulating **Meredith Halpin, MD**, and **Raphael Szalat, MD**, who have been named our new Chief Fellows for 2020-2021.

It was an extremely close election, as we have a remarkably talented group of incoming senior fellows. We are very proud of all of them!

# Publications

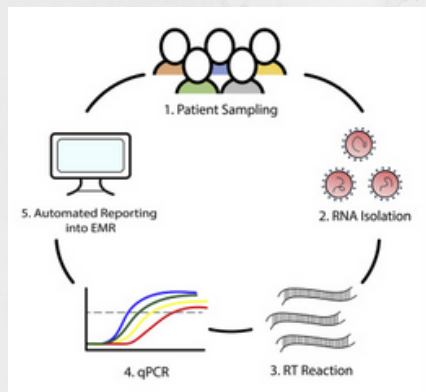


Martin Steinberg,  
MD



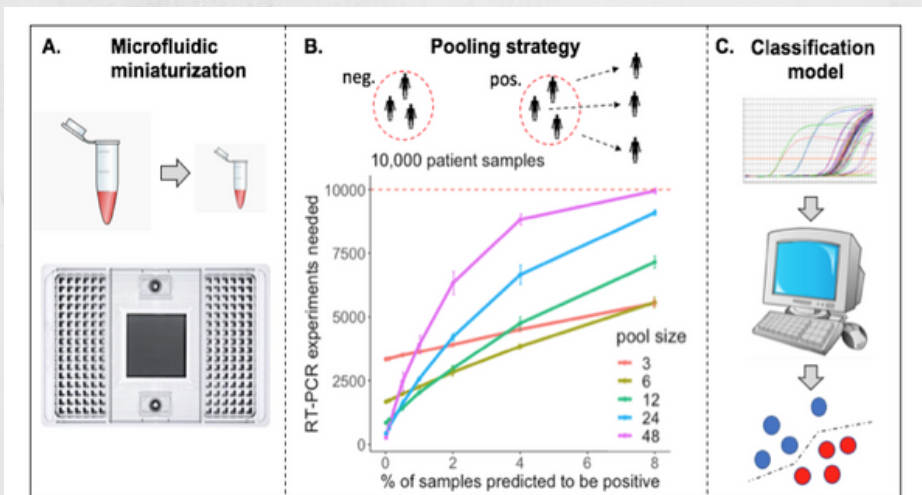
George Murphy,  
PhD

Along with collaborators, [Martin Steinberg, MD](#) and [George Murphy, PhD](#) published a paper in Stem Cell Research titled "Genomic integrity of human induced pluripotent stem cells across nine studies in the NHLBI NextGen Program." [Read more here](#)



Led by [Kim Vanuytsel, PhD](#) and [George Murphy, PhD](#), and in collaboration with [Chris Andry, MPhil, PhD](#) and [Nancy Miller, MD](#) from BMC Pathology, this work provides a blueprint to quickly “stand-up” an in-house SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR-based diagnostic assay at a large academic safety-net hospital, improving turn-around times and conserving PPE. [Read more here](#)

# Grants



Optimization and validation of large-scale, population-based mapping of COVID-19 infection

[Kim Vanuytsel, PhD](#), [George Murphy, PhD](#), and one of our newest faculty members, [Ruben Dries, PhD](#) were awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Consortium on Pathogen Readiness (MassCPR) to develop a strategy for the large-scale, cost-effective screening of diverse patient populations here at BMC.

[Read more](#) about the grant on THE BRINK, Boston University's news site for scientific breakthroughs and pioneering research.

[Read more](#) about how CREM adapted their lab to test patient samples for SARS-CoV2

# Happy Oncology Nursing Month!

## A Message for Oncology Nursing Month

Dear all,

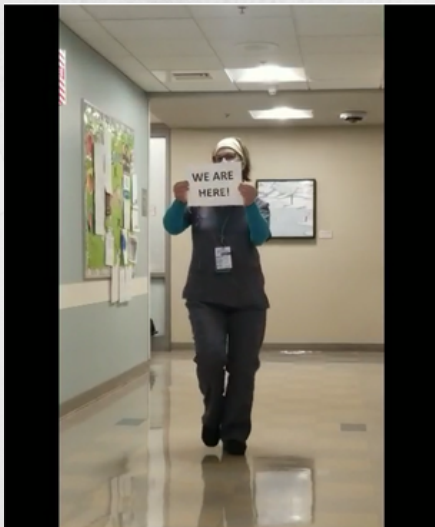
The month of May is oncology nursing month, and I want to acknowledge and thank our nurses for the remarkable work they have been doing over the past several weeks.

Our cancer patients are in a difficult position, faced with a need to receive treatment while confronting their fear of coming to the hospital in the midst of the COVID crisis. Despite all the challenges, our nurses have continued to be there for them, keeping patients safe while also providing them with the expert and compassionate care they need. In doing so, our nurses have taken the meaning of our motto, "exceptional care without exception," to a whole new level. [Click here for video link](#)

Please join me in thanking our nurses for all they do for our patients every day.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Kulke, MD

## Watch BMC Chemotherapy Clinic Honor Oncology Nurses



[Click here](#) for video link

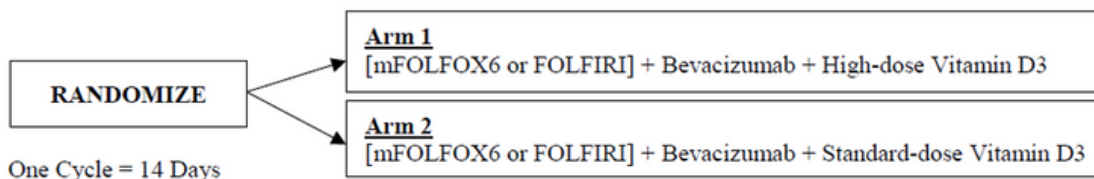
# Clinical Trials Update

## Newly Opened Cancer Clinical Trials

### COLORECTAL – 1<sup>st</sup> Line Metastatic

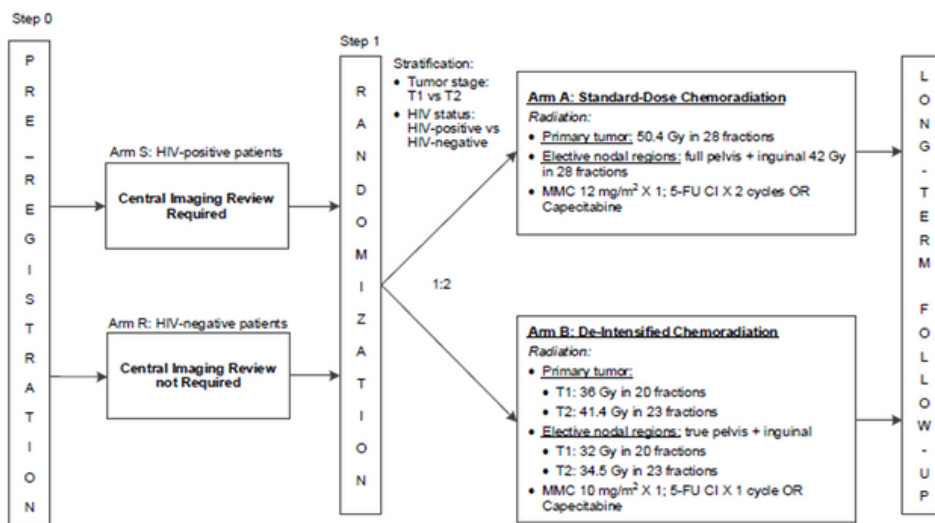
NCI #A021703 (SOLARIS): *Randomized double-blind phase III trial of vitamin D3 supplementation in patients with previously untreated metastatic colorectal cancer (SOLARIS)*

#### Schema



### ANAL – 1<sup>st</sup> Line Early Stage

NCI #EA2182 (DECREASE): *A Randomized Phase II Study of De-Intensified ChemoRadiation for Early-Stage Anal Squamous Cell Carcinoma (DECREASE)*



## Available Career Opportunities as of May 2020:

- Clinical Director, Sickle Cell Center
  - Clinical Investigator, Hematology/ Hematological Malignancies
  - Clinical Investigator, Breast Oncology
  - Clinical Investigator, Genitourinary Oncology
  - Clinical Investigator, Head and Neck Oncology
- [Click here to learn more](#)

# Announcements and Reminders

## Poster Accepted for ASTRO Annual Meeting in October

The following poster by Gretchen Gignac, Anthony Shelton, Ramon Cruz, Elizabeth Pottier and collaborators was accepted for presentation at the ASTRO Annual Meeting:

Cheng K, Qureshi MM, Dyer MA, Bloch BN, Gignac G, Katz M, Shelton A, Cruz R, Pottier E, Hirsch AE. Patient-Reported QOL Outcomes of Hypofractionated Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Boost for the Treatment of Localized, Non-Metastatic, High-Risk Prostate Cancer: Updated Results of a Phase II Trial. Poster #: 4111 (Track: Genitourinary Cancer)

## Funding opportunity from NCI

The National Cancer Institute recently announced a Notice of Special Interest for funding supplements for COVID19. NOT-CA-20-042 "National Cancer Institute Announcement Regarding Availability of Urgent Competitive Revision and Administrative Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)" that outlines and solicits narrow areas of study that are focused on Covid-19 disease and the virus that causes it, and their relationship to cancer. Applications are 6 pages, for 1 year of \$100K funding. [Click here for more information.](#)

The supplement mechanism is designed to address questions that are definitely of interest to BMC, including:

- Fundamental biological processes related to cancer such as cell growth, transformation, invasion, and metastasis that are affected by SARS-CoV-2 infection or COVID-19 disease;
- Fundamental biological processes related to SARS-CoV-2 virology and infection, especially how it is affected by cancer cells;
- Population-level determinants of occurrence and outcomes in cancer patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection or COVID-19 disease;
- Impact on cancer related care delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The impact of infection with SARS-CoV-2 on cancer prevention, early detection, screening, diagnosis, and treatment planning;
- Assessment of COVID-19 disease on the efficacy of anticancer agents, radiation treatments, surgical methods, and all other cancer treatment modalities;
- Repurposing of cancer therapeutics for treatment of patients with COVID-19 disease;
- Potential for differential responses among diverse cancer patient populations to SARS-CoV-2 infection or COVID-19 disease.

## Watch Dr. Kulke's Conversation with President and CEO Kate Walsh regarding trial protocols for treating COVID-19



[Click here](#) for video link

**Boston University Office of the President**

We hope you can join President Robert A. Brown at the Virtual Management Town Meeting to discuss

**The University's Plan for Reopening and Recovery**

Thursday, May 14, 2020  
[Livestream](#) -- 9 am EDT

A recording of the meeting is available [here](#) in case you missed the live stream. The following is also available for your review: [Back to On-Campus Work Guide Phase 1 Re-Entry: Summer 2020 \(PDF\)](#)

### 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](#)