

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology

Newsletter



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Boston Medical Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital Formalize Cancer Clinical Trial Collaboration

Boston Medical Center (BMC), Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) have formalized a reciprocal agreement for joint clinical trials in cancer care. The agreement provides greater patient access to cancer clinical trials and increases research collaborations between the organizations.

With this new agreement, clinical trials may be led by principal investigators at Dana-Farber, MGH or BMC and will be open to patients at the hospitals. [Read more here](#)



Awards



Jessica Petrick,
PhD, MPH

Congratulations to **Jessica Petrick Ph.D**, MPH for being awarded the Boston University Peter Paul Career Development Professorship! The Professorship is awarded to candidates based on extraordinary accomplishments in their areas of study, their passion for the creation and transmission of new knowledge, their efforts to enhance the student experience, and their potential to develop into outstanding faculty members. In addition to her role in the section of hematology/oncology, Dr. Petrick is an epidemiologist at the Slone Epidemiology Center where she has been focused on studying gastrointestinal cancers as part of the Black Women's Health Study

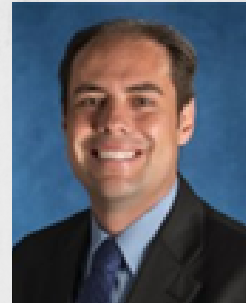
Congratulations to Our New Shipley Investigators!



Gerald Denis,
PhD



Gretchen Gignac,
MD



Chris Heaphy,
PhD

Gerald Denis has been named the Shipley Prostate Cancer Research Professor, and will be coordinating the efforts of the Shipley Center. **Gretchen Gignac** will serve on the executive committee and as clinical lead for the Shipley Center, and will also be co-directing prostate cancer biobanking efforts in collaboration with the Department of Pathology and the Translational Oncology lab in Heme/Onc. Finally, **Chris Heaphy** has been awarded a Shipley pilot grant to further investigate the role of telomere length alterations and lamin dysregulation in prostate cancer.

Grants



Naomi Ko, MD

Naomi Ko, MD and **Gerald Denis, PhD** were awarded a \$2.8M U01 grant from NCI to develop and analyze breast tumor organoids. The team includes **Senthil Muthuswamy, PhD** (BIDMC) an expert in organoids, **Andrew Emili, PhD** (BUSM) who will undertake proteomic and phosphoproteomic analysis of the organoids, **Stefano Monti, PhD** (BUSM) who will develop novel bioinformatics tools to study the multicellular and multi-omics interactions in the models, and **Kimberly Bertrand, ScD**, a breast cancer epidemiologist working with the Black Women's Health Study.



Gerald Denis, PhD

The central hypothesis is that our BMC patient population often presents not just with invasive breast cancer of a specific stage and molecular subtype, but also with comorbid conditions such as obesity and metabolic disease, which alter the biology of the non-malignant cells of the tumor microenvironment and may promote progression. The standard of care is built on data from patients who do not have these complications, thus our patients are understudied; they deserve detailed and accurate analysis to improve outcomes and boost the standard of care in hospital settings similar to ours nationwide.

Speaking Engagements

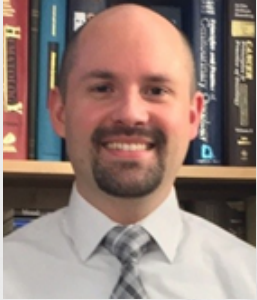


Vaishali
Sanchorawala,
MBBS

Vaishali Sanchorawala, MBBS spoke at the ASH Meeting on Hematologic Malignancies (Virtual Platform) on September 12, 2020. The topic of her talk was "How I Treat Systemic AL Amyloidosis."

Dr Sanchorawala also presented at the ASH Meeting on Hematologic Malignancies in a live panel of "Case Review and Panel Discussion for Myeloma". #ASHMHM20. [Link to presentation](#)

Promotions



**Anthony Shelton,
RN**

We are pleased to announce that **Anthony Shelton, RN** has accepted a new position as interim senior research manager for the Cancer and Hematology Clinical Trials Program within the section of Hematology/Oncology. Over the past 4 years, Anthony has done an outstanding job as nurse manager; he has shown deep dedication to our patients and has led several initiatives to integrate clinical trials into their care. He has extensive prior experience in clinical research, having previously worked as a clinical research assistant and subsequently as nurse coordinator for clinical research and nurse coordinator for the autologous stem cell program.

In his new position, Anthony will oversee both research nurses and clinical trial research coordinators in the clinical trials program. He will report directly to Casaundra Knight in her role as administrative director for the section of Hematology/Oncology and to me as Clinical Trials Director. We are excited to have someone of Anthony's skill and experience in this role and look forward to working further with him in his new position!

New Hires



Hussein Assi, MD

Please join us in welcoming **Hussein Assi, MD** to our section! Hussein started with us this week, and is joining our gastrointestinal oncology group with a focus on neuroendocrine tumors. He received his medical degree from the American University of Beirut, completed a residency at Albany Medical Center and was a chief fellow at the University of Oklahoma. In this relatively short time, he has authored or co-authored numerous manuscripts and book chapters, presented at national meetings, and even submitted a grant together with Chris Heaphy! We are truly excited to have him join us.

New Hires



Claire Smith, MD

We are delighted to welcome **Claire Smith, MD** to our section as a hospitalist and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine.

Claire started with us yesterday on September 1st. Recently, she completed 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.



Mackenzie Hulme

Please join us in welcoming **Mackenzie Hulme** to the Lowery Lab! Mackenzie graduated from Boston College in 2019 with a B.S. in biology. She was particularly interested in environmental and public health during her undergraduate career, and worked with various organizations aimed at ameliorating community health disparities. In the past year she worked at The Shaw Institute in Maine on a pilot public health study regarding gastrointestinal illness and bacteria at local beaches. After taking some time off to study for the MCAT, she rediscovered her love for cell biology and technical scientific research and joined the Lowery Lab to transition her focus from the macro study of human health to the smaller scale and gain more hands-on scientific research experience.

New Hires



Emma Kelley

Please join us in welcoming [Emma Kelley](#) to the Dries lab! Emma Kelley is joining the Dries lab as a Research Associate. Her previous research experiences at Kew Botanic Gardens, Tufts University, and Smith College spanned from yams to corals, reinforcing her interest in genetics across the tree of life. Emma is particularly interested in epigenetics, transcriptomics, and the intersection of molecular and computational biology. She is a recent graduate of Smith College with a BA in Biological Sciences and is so excited to join the Dries lab and BMC.



Dana Ragoonanan

Please join us in welcoming [Dana Ragoonanan](#) to the Hagedorn Lab! Dana is a 2020 graduate of Smith College where she majored in biology. During her time at Smith she worked in the Katz Lab studying the genetic evolution of diverse eukaryotic parasites. She has also engaged in HIV research during internships in South Africa and at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dana has substantial experience with bioinformatics and is excited to merge her computational interests with in vivo studies of the zebrafish blood and vascular system as a Research Technician/Laboratory Manager of the Hagedorn Lab. She is broadly interested in public health and community outreach and plans to apply to MD or MD-PhD programs in the future. Outside of the lab she enjoys playing design games on her phone, cooking, and reading about religion.

Publications



Hossein
Sadrzadeh, MD

Hossein Sadrzadeh, MD and **Eric Burks, MD** had a manuscript accepted to the journal Blood on the topic of Myelodysplastic syndrome presenting as thrombotic microangiopathy.



Martin Steinberg,
MD

Martin Steinberg, MD published a review of fetal hemoglobin in sickle cell anemia focusing on genetic aspects and clinical relevance and therapeutic advances. The review was published in the journal Blood. [Read more here](#)



Shaina Sarosiek, MD, Luke Zheng, J. Mark Sloan, MD, Karen Quillen, MD, Dina Brauneis, NP and Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD published a paper in the Blood Cancer Journal titled "Comparing measures of hematologic response after high-dose melphalan and stem cell transplantation in AL amyloidosis." [Read more here](#)

Publications



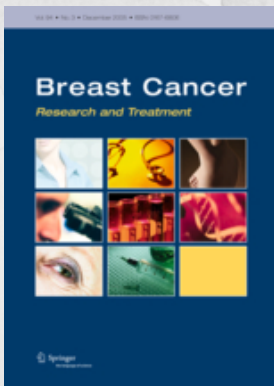
Maya Abdallah,
MD

Maya Abdallah, MD and collaborators published a review article entitled "Management of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) in Older Patients." This review summarizes data relevant to the care of older adults with AML. Specifically, it outlines data supporting the use of geriatric assessments in lieu of using chronological age to determine fitness in the initial evaluation of older adults with AML. The review then summarizes current AML treatment options, including multiple recently approved therapies, based on hypothetical clinical scenarios. [Read more here](#)



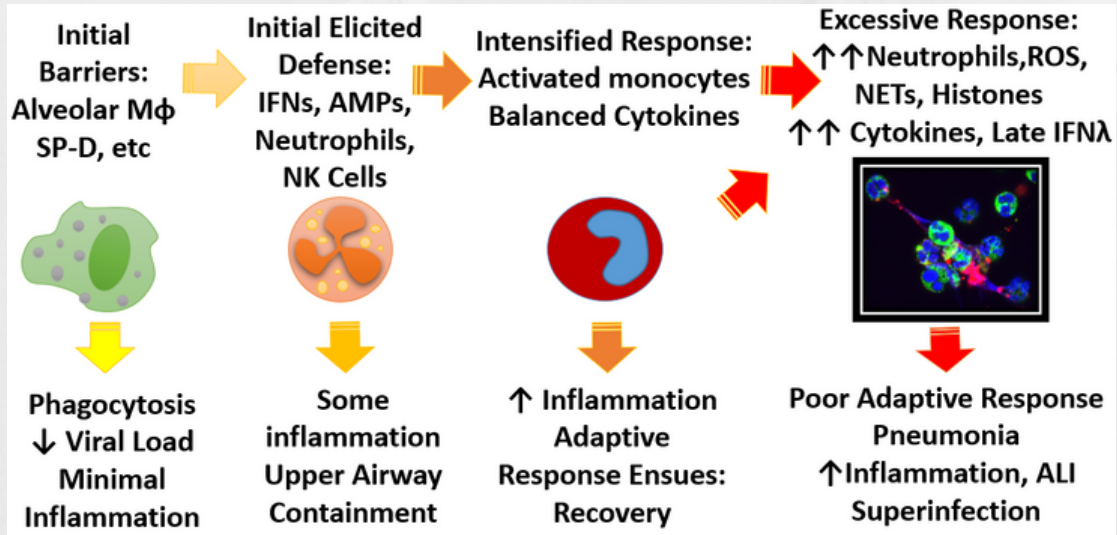
Lauren Oshry, MD

Lauren Oshry and collaborators published a paper in the journal Therapeutic Advances in Respiratory Diseases titled "Doxycycline treatment of high-risk COVID-19-positive patients with comorbid pulmonary disease." [Read more here](#)



Naomi Ko, MD, Muhammad Qureshi, MBBS, Oluwadamilola Oladeru, MD, Michael Cassidy, MD, Lauren Oshry, MD, Minh-Tam Truong, MBBS and Ariel Hirsch, MD published a paper in Breast Cancer Research and Treatment titled "Racial differences in genomic testing and receipt of endocrine therapy in early-stage breast cancer." [Read more here](#)

Publications



Kevan Hartshorn, MD had a manuscript accepted to the journal *Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology*, section Microbes and Innate Immunity. It is a review article titled "Innate immunity and influenza A virus pathogenesis: lessons for COVID-19."

Check out the Department of Medicine Promotional Video!



[Click here for video link](#)

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](#).

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 forms linked below and we will be happy to advertise your requests:

[Announcement Submissions Form](#)

[Newsletter Submissions Form](#)

Available Career Opportunities as of September 2020:

- Clinical Investigator, Hospitalist
- Clinical Investigator, Hematology/Hematological Malignancies
- Clinical Investigator, Head and Neck Oncology

[Click here to learn more](#)