

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology

Newsletter



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From HEALTHCITY: Hospital Partnerships to Target Drivers of Poor Cancer Clinical Trial Diversity

"A new collaboration among Boston cancer centers aims to increase minority populations' access to the latest treatments for more equitable outcomes. This new partnership, announced among Boston Medical Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Massachusetts General Hospital, aims to provide greater access to trials for patients of the three institutions and increase research collaborations." [Read more here](#)

New Faculty Hire



Meredith Halpin, MD

We are absolutely delighted to announce that **Meredith Halpin MD** has accepted an offer to join the section of hematology/oncology. For the past few years, Dr. Halpin has served as one of our geriatric oncology fellows, as well as one of our chief fellows this year. During this time she has impressed us all with both her clinical abilities and her leadership skills; her ideas and organizational abilities were instrumental in the fellowship redesign last year. Dr. Halpin received her undergraduate degree in biology from Boston College, her MD from St. George's University, and completed her residency in internal medicine at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center where she also served as chief resident. In her new role, Dr. Halpin will join Dr. Gignac in our Genitourinary Oncology program and will also work to develop our first dedicated geriatric oncology clinic. We look forward to having her join us!

Grants



Umit Tapan, MD

Umit Tapan, MD and co-investigator **Joshua Campbell, PhD**, Assistant Professor (Computational Biomedicine section) were recently awarded a grant from the Lung Cancer Research Foundation (LCRF) for the research project titled "Determining differences in immunotherapy outcomes and immunobiology in African American patients with NSCLC." **Sarah Anne Mazzilli, PhD**, Assistant Professor (Computational Biomedicine section) will be also involved in the research.



David Hughes,
PharmD, BCOP

David Hughes, PharmD, BCOP and collaborators recently received grant funding from Pfizer Global Medical Grants for their project titled "Improving Biomarker Driven Precision Therapy in NSCLC: The Importance of an Integrated Multidisciplinary Approach."

Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award from The North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society



Matthew Kulke,
MD

[Dr. Matthew Kulke](#) was honored with The North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society's Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes and honors Dr. Kulke's lasting and worthwhile contribution to the field of neuroendocrine tumors (NETs), his efforts to improve the outcomes for patients with neuroendocrine tumors through multidisciplinary medical education, NET related medical research, publication of guidelines and the exchange of knowledge and innovation. Upon receiving word of the award, Dr. Kulke had this to say: "I am truly honored to receive this award from the North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society. It has been a real privilege to be a part of NANETS as we have worked to improve and expand treatments for patients with neuroendocrine tumors. During our journey together I have gained not just colleagues but also friends, and I will be forever grateful to have had this opportunity."

DOM Career Investment Award



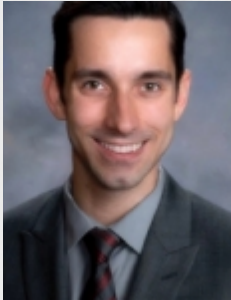
Elliott Hagedorn,
PhD

Congratulations to [Dr. Elliot Hagedorn](#) on being awarded the Department of Medicine Career Investment Award. This award program ensures that clinician scientists in the DOM have at least 75% protected time to enable them to effectively accomplish their research aims.

Awards

DOM Career Investment Award

Congratulations to [Dr. Andrew Staron](#) and [Dr. Vanessa Furtado](#) for being the recipients of the ASH Abstract Achievement Award. The American Society of Hematology (ASH) offers the merit-based awards annually to support select trainees with high-achieving annual meeting abstracts and they are chosen to present their work at the ASH annual meeting.



Andrew Staron,
MD

[Andrew Staron, MD](#): Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Systemic AL Amyloidosis: Examining Differences in Clinical Presentation and Outcomes



Vanessa Furtado,
MD

[Vanessa Furtado, MD](#): Early Serum Free Light Chain Response after High-Dose Melphalan and Stem cell Transplantation Predicts Hematologic Response in AL Amyloidosis

Publications



Vaishali
Sanchorawala,
MD

[Dr. Vaishali Sanchorawala](#) and colleagues published a paper in Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America titled "Systemic Amyloidosis Caused by Monoclonal Immunoglobulins." [Read more here](#)

Publications



Gareth Morgan,
PhD

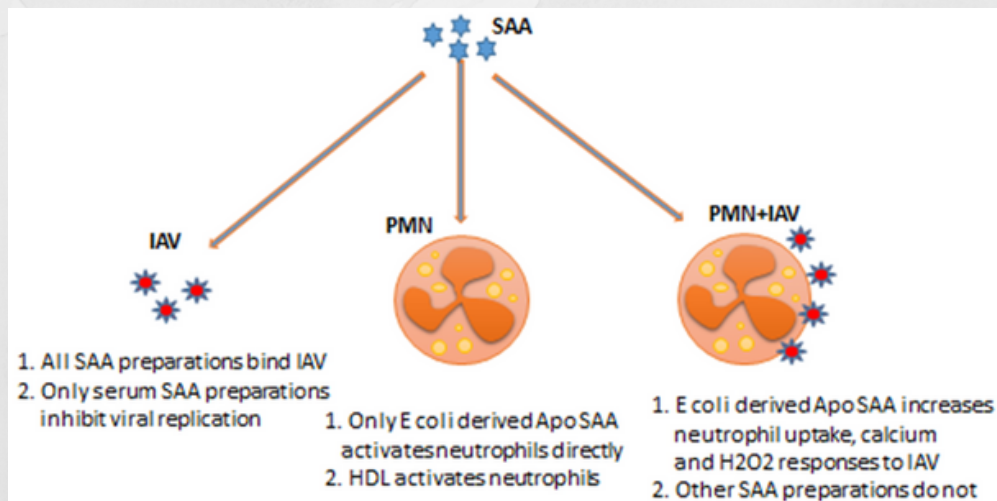
Dr. Gareth Morgan and Jonathan S. Wall, PhD (The University of Tennessee) published a paper in Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America titled "The Process of Amyloid Formation due to Monoclonal Immunoglobulins." [Read more here](#)



Andrew Staron, Lawreen H. Connors, Luke Zheng, Gheorghe Doros and **Vaishali Sanchorawala** published an article in the Blood Cancer Journal titled "Race/ethnicity in systemic AL amyloidosis: perspectives on disease and outcome disparities." [Read more here](#)



Mitchell White, I-Ni Hsieh, Xavier Deluna and **Kevan Hartshorn** had an article accepted to the Journal of Leukocyte Biology titled "Effects of serum amyloid protein A on influenza A virus replication and viral interactions with neutrophils." [Read more here](#). Abstract below:



Presentations



Vaishali
Sanchorawala, MD

Dr Vaishali Sanchorawala presented on the "Advances in AL amyloidosis" at the North America Virtual Educational Workshop of the International Myeloma Society, held on Nov 6-7, 2020.



Naomi Ko, MD

Dr Naomi Ko was featured on an episode of the podcast New England Weekend, where she discussed her Pfizer grant application, which is focused on exploring how to fulfill the needs of Black women that have survived their breast cancer diagnosis. [Listen to the episode here.](#)

Announcements

Sign up for Discussion Session on Race

Thank you for your participation in the discussion groups on systemic racism. We have had over 60 participants thus far and collected valuable feedback from these sessions. We are scheduling a couple more dates to allow you to sign up if you couldn't attend one of our previous dates. The last two discussion groups will take place on Friday, 12/4 and Thursday, 12/10, from 12 PM -1 PM. Please email Ashray (ashray.mohan@bmc.org) if you are interested in attending one of these sessions.

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 October 2020:

- [SENIOR GRANT MANAGER](#)