

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology

Newsletter



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2020 Patient Holiday Gift Drive

On behalf of the navigators, nurses, and our patients and families, we would like to send out a tremendous THANK YOU to all for the donations and support during the 2020 HemOnc Holiday Drive!

This year, with everyone's generosity, we raised \$2,800 in monetary donations, received approximately \$1,400 in gift cards donated to our section, and many much-appreciated gifts and clothing items. Amazing! We were able to support more patients than ever before and it meant all the difference.



Recent Grant Awards

Congratulations to the following faculty for their recently received awards!



Chris Heaphy,
PhD

Chris Heaphy, PhD, received a \$475,946 award from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for a project entitled, "Stromal senescence in lethal prostate cancer: a novel target for prognosis and therapy."



Naomi Ko, MD

Naomi Ko, MD, received a \$457,312 award from the National Institute of Health (NIH) for a project entitled, "Multiscale analysis of metabolic inflammation as a driver of breast cancer."



Gerald Denis, PhD

Gerald Denis, PhD, received a \$2,836,855 award from the National Institute of Health (NIH) for a project entitled, "Multiscale analysis of metabolic inflammation as a driver of breast cancer."



Shuaiying Cui,
PhD

Dr. Shuaiying Cui received Sickle Cell Disease/Advancing Cures (SCD/AC) grant supplement from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The purpose of additional funding totaling \$77,000 is to examine the effects of two novel HbF inducers targeting on PGC-1a in human primary hematopoietic progenitor cells.

Kate Gaynor in Dr. Shuaiying Cui's lab received the Student Research Award (SRA) and was awarded funding for the Spring 2021 semester from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). She is leading a project in the Cui Lab focused on finding optimal conditions to stimulate fetal hemoglobin synthesis in human erythroid cells.

Awards

Dr. Naomi Ko Selected As 2020 Excellence in Care Award Recipient



Naomi Ko, MD

Congratulations to [Dr. Naomi Ko](#), who has been selected as the 2020 Excellence in Care Award recipient! Dr. Ko was selected from an outstanding group of nominees who represent the best clinicians and clinical leaders from across the institution. She has also been inducted into the BUMG Clinical Excellence Society, which was formed in 2017 to recognize the highest level of clinical excellence. We are so proud of Dr. Ko and all of her achievements!

Boston Magazine's "TOP DOCS" 2021



Vaishali
Sanchorawala, MD
Hematology



Gretchen Gignac,
MD
Oncology



Kevan Hartshorn,
MD
Oncology



Matthew Kulke,
MD
Oncology



Adam Lerner, MD
Oncology

Publications



Maria Isabel
Dominguez, PhD

Drs. Dominguez and **Zumwalt** published "Developing a Practical Medical Educator Training Program: Meeting A Need in Faculty Development" in MedEdPublish, where they shared practical tips in educator training. We will be happy to have your comments and rating to the manuscript. [Read more here](#)



Martin
Steinberg, MD

Dr. Martin Steinberg and colleagues published a paper in the American Journal of Hematology titled "Sickle cell disease in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia: Clinical and laboratory features." [Read more here](#)



Naomi Ko, MD

Dr. Naomi Ko and colleagues published a paper in JAMA Oncology titled "Association of Race/Ethnicity and the 21-Gene Recurrence Score With Breast Cancer–Specific Mortality Among US Women." [Read more here](#)



Elizabeth
Klings, MD

Dr. Klings and colleagues published a paper in Blood Advances titled "Clinical predictors of poor outcomes in patients with sickle cell disease and COVID-19 infection." It is the largest case series of patients with sickle cell disease infected with Covid-19 published to date, identifying chronic kidney disease and pulmonary hypertension as risk factors for death. [Read more here](#)



Vaishali
Sanchorawala,
MD

Dr. Sanchorawala and colleagues published the following papers:

- 1) Patient-reported burden of hereditary transthyretin amyloidosis on functioning and well-being. Journal of Patient Reported Outcomes. 2021; 5, 3. [Read more here](#)
- 2) Clarification on the definition of complete haematologic response in light-chain (AL) amyloidosis. Amyloid. 2021. [Read more here](#)
- 3) Venetoclax induces deep hematologic remissions in t(11;14) relapsed/refractory AL amyloidosis. Blood Cancer Journal. 2021; 11(1):10. [Read more here](#)

Highlights

Dr. Sanchorawala played key role in trial, leading to drug approval for AL Amyloidosis



Vaishali
Sanchorawala,
MD

On January 15, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration granted accelerated approval to daratumumab plus hyaluronidase (Darzalex Faspro, Janssen Biotech Inc.) in combination with bortezomib, cyclophosphamide and dexamethasone for newly diagnosed light chain (AL) amyloidosis. [Read more here](#)

Dr. Sanchorawala also recently presented at the following meetings:

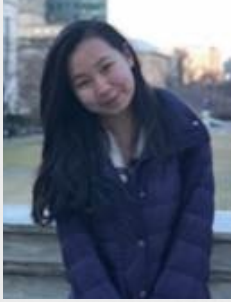
- 1) "Advances in AL amyloidosis and the Best of ASH 2020", Mumbai Hematology Group meeting, January 20, 2021
- 2) "Amyloidosis Think Tank - Getting to the Diagnosis" sponsored by the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, January 20, 2021
- 3) "Prioritized HRQoL endpoints in AL amyloidosis" Amyloidosis Forum: Scientific Workshop on Considerations for Novel Endpoint Development in AL Amyloidosis; FDA/ARC Public Private Partnership, January 22, 2021



Thomas Medina,
RN, CCRP

Congratulations are in order for **Thomas Medina, RN, CCRP** with his recent completion of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas at Arlington. Tommy carries the role of Breast & Gastrointestinal Clinical Trials Research Nurse, as well as COVID-19 trials and has proven himself an invaluable member of our team.

New Hire



Khaliun
Enkhbayar

Please join us in welcoming Khaliun Enkhbayar to the Hagedorn Lab! Khaliun is a junior at Boston University majoring in Biology. For her first two years at BU, she researched how the Piezo2 channel affected the formation of pulmonary neuroendocrine cells (PNECs) in the lung epithelium, in the Rock Lab at the Center for Regenerative Medicine. Khaliun is excited to expand her repertoire of laboratory skills as an Undergraduate Researcher studying the zebrafish blood and vascular system in the Hagedorn Lab. She is broadly interested in developmental biology and plans to apply to MD programs in the future. Outside of the laboratory, Khaliun enjoys playing volleyball, reading crime novels, and trying out new restaurants with friends. We are thrilled to have Khaliun join the Section!

Announcements

The Center for Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease receives \$250,000 individual donation

The Center for Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease has received an individual donation of \$250,000 to support the creation of 1) A Sickle Cell Disease biobank; and 2) An advanced fellowship in sickle cell disease.

NIH Salary Cap Increase Notice

This Notice provides information to applicants, grantees, and contractors of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) regarding the salary cap limitations imposed for Fiscal Year 2021. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, signed into law on December 27, 2020, restricts the amount of direct salary which may be paid to an individual under an HHS grant, cooperative agreement, or applicable contract to a rate no greater than Executive Level II of the Federal Executive Pay Scale. Effective January 3, 2021, the Executive Level II salary level is \$199,300.

Announcements

Available Career Opportunities as of January 2021:

- [Clinical Investigator, Hematology/Hematologic Malignancies](#)
- Research Nurse
- Clinical Research Financial Manager

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](#)