

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology

Newsletter



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Boston University Medicine Feature: Dressed for Success



CReM/Hematology-Oncology graduate students, [Todd Dowrey](#) and [Richard Giadone](#), were featured in a story about how trainees led the charge in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Read their story [here](#) on pages 15-17.

Todd Dowrey (left) and Richard Giadone

Promotions

Congratulations to the following faculty for being promoted to the position of Assistant Professors!



Linda Armstrong,
MSN



Frances Blevins,
PA-C, MMSc



Yves-Martine
Dumas, MSN



Christine Engle,
NP



Lisa Keller, APRN,
BC

Awards

Congratulations to **Naomi Ko** for being a recipient of the 2020 BUMG Clinical Excellence Award



Naomi Ko, MD

Publications



Members of the [Ganem lab](#) and collaborators published a paper in Nature entitled "Whole-genome doubling confers unique genetic vulnerabilities on tumour cells." [Read more here.](#)



[Jose Acevedo](#), [Gheorghe Doros](#), [Raphael Szalat](#) and [Vaishali Sanchorawala](#) published a retrospective analysis in Clinical Lymphoma, Myeloma and Leukemia entitled "Clinical Characteristics, Treatment Regimens, and Survival in Elderly Patients with AL Amyloidosis." [Read more here](#)



Martin
Steinberg,
MD

[Dr. Steinberg](#) coauthored a chapter, Steinberg M.H, Thein S.L. Genetic Basis of Sickle Cell Disease, In, Sickle Cell Disease, Gladwin, M.T., Kato, G.J. Novelli, E.M. eds., McGraw Hill, 2021:11-32. [Read more here](#)



[Frances Blevins](#), [Mark Sloan](#), [David Hughes](#), [Shayna Sarosiek](#), [Vaishali Sanchorawala](#), [Adam Lerner](#) and collaborators had a paper accepted to Blood, entitled "Incidence of Skin Hyperpigmentation in Black Patients Receiving Treatment with Immunomodulatory Drugs." [Read more here](#)



[I-Ni Hsieh](#), [Mitchell White](#), [Marloes Hoeksema](#), [Xavier Deluna](#), and [Kevan Hartshorn](#) published an article in PLOS ONE entitled "Histone H4 potentiates neutrophil inflammatory responses to influenza A virus: Down-modulation by H4 binding to C-reactive protein and Surfactant protein D." [Read more here.](#)

Presentations & Abstracts



Vaishali
Sanchorawala,
MD

Dr. Vaishali Sanchorawala presented at a meeting of the Abdali National Amyloidosis Center, Amman, Jordan on February 23, 2021. The presentation was entitled "Recognizing the Face of Cardiac Amyloidosis: Patient and Provider Perspectives Regarding Diagnosis, Treatment, and Symptom Management"

Dr. Sanchorawala was also a panelist on "Low back pain and myeloma" for the Ambulatory Morbidity and Mortality Conference; General Internal Medicine, February 17, 2021



Martin
Steinberg, MD

Dr. Steinberg presented a talk, Fetal Hemoglobin in Sickle Cell Anemia, at the seminar series, Hemoglobinopathies2021 sponsored by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology of New Delhi on Feb 2. This, and 3 other talks by Stuart Orkin, Matthew Porteous and Mark Walters can be found [here](#).



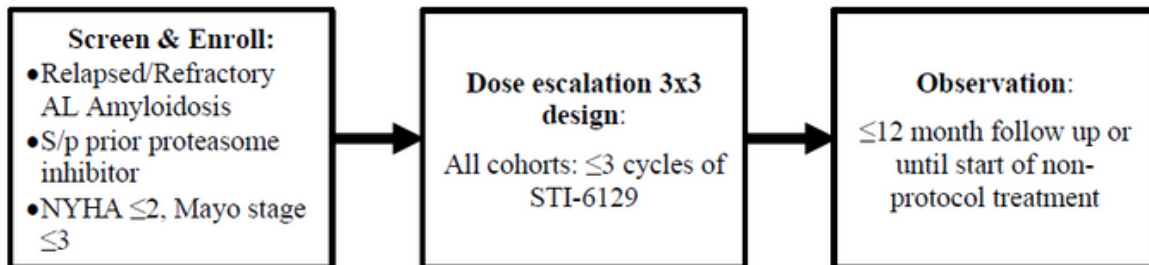
Umit Tapan, MD

Dr. Umit Tapan recently presented an abstract on behalf of TERA-VOLT investigators (Thoracic Cancers International COVID-19 Collaboration) at the 2020 World Conference on Lung Cancer, organized by The International Association For The Study Of Lung Cancer (IASLC). The abstract was entitled "COVID-19 outcomes in patients with thoracic malignancies according with different genders." [Click here](#) for YouTube link to presentation.

Newly Opened Cancer Clinical Trials

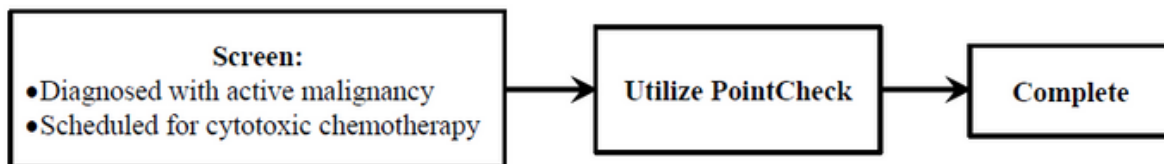
AL AMYLOIDOSIS – 2nd+ Line

Sorrento STI-6129-001: A Phase 1, Open-Label, Dose-Escalation Study of the Safety and Efficacy of an Anti-CD38 Antibody Drug Conjugate (STI-6129) in Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Systemic AL Amyloidosis



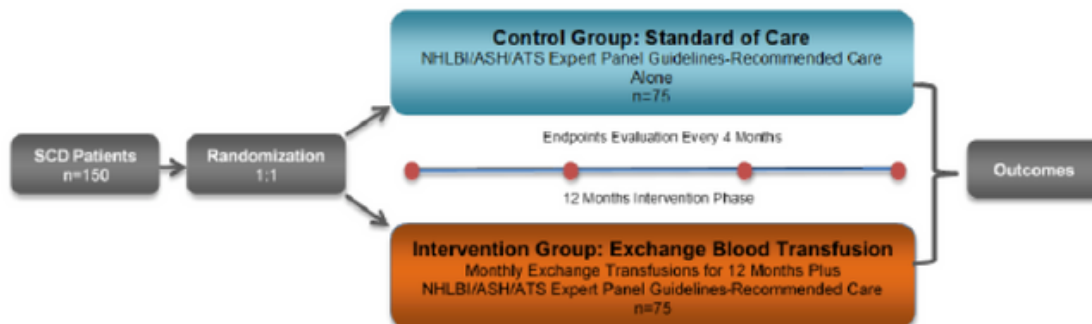
ALL CANCERS – Any Line

Leuko Labs PC001: Study to Evaluate the Usability of PointCheck, a Novel Optical Technology for Screening Non-Invasively Severe Neutropenias



SICKLE CELL DISEASE

SCD-CARRE: Sickle Cell Disease and Cardiovascular Risk - Red cell Exchange Trial (SCD-CARRE)



Highlights



George Murphy,
PhD

Dr. George Murphy was featured in the February 2021 issue of AABB news in an article entitled "Cellular Therapies Fueling New Treatment Options for Hemoglobinopathies" Read more [here](#) on pages 16-20.

Updates from the Patient Navigator Program

From Katie Finn:

I am writing to highlight the wonderful work of the Oncology and Sickle Cell Patient Navigators (PNs) in 2020 and to share exciting updates on the program. We have a new PN, Talissa Adrien, joining the team on 2/16. Talissa most recently worked at the RIAN Immigration Center and has also volunteered at ABCD Boston. Talissa speaks haitian-creole, french and intermediate spanish. Please find the updated PN contact sheet attached. We are still determining the new disease breakdown. Please join me in welcoming Talissa to BMC!

In 2020, we saw a slight decrease in new referrals to the PN program, however, the team was quick to make up for any extra downtime by helping the HemOnc clinic reach out to all patients with in person appointments to conduct COVID-19 screening calls. The team made approximately 2,900 screening calls from March - August and reviewed an additional ~ 3,000 appointments to determine whether outreach was necessary (screening completed within 48 hrs, appointment changed to telemed, etc). Additional highlights:

2020 PN Navigation	
New referrals	520
Unique patients	1,600
Rides booked	6,329
Taxi dollars	\$3,600
Appointment reminders	3,634
Interpreter services	1,795
Financial Assistance	500
Connecting with providers	398
Food Assistance	179
Housing	94
Utilities	41
2020 Total barriers addressed	11,300

On behalf of the PN team, thank you for your collaboration and support of the PN program. We are so grateful to work with so many dedicated, caring and superstar providers and staff!

Announcements

Federal IDC, fringe and patient care rates for Fiscal Year 2021

BMC has completed negotiations on our federal IDC, fringe, and patient care rates for Fiscal Year 2021. The rates are as follows:

- On Campus Research - 75.0%
- Off-Site Research - 34.0%
- Other Sponsored Activity - 48.0%
- Training Grants - 8%
- Fringe – 32.5% (all employees)

Please note that only our On Campus Research rate changed from 78% to 75%. We will be processing retro adjustments on IDC rates for all sponsored projects awarded at the 78% IDC rate going back to the start of FY21 (October 1, 2020). This adjustment will decrease your IDC expense for these projects. You will see this adjustment in your January reports, once the month has closed.

New NIH Minimum Postdoc Salary

The current NIH minimum of \$53,706 should be in effect for all postdocs as of July 1, 2021. Faculty and units that wish to raise their postdocs' salaries or stipends in advance of July 1, 2021, may do so, effective immediately.

Available Career Opportunities as of February 2021:

- [Clinical Investigator, Hematology/Hematologic Malignancies](#)
- [Research Nurse](#)
- [Clinical Trials Coordinator](#)

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](#)