

# Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology

## Newsletter



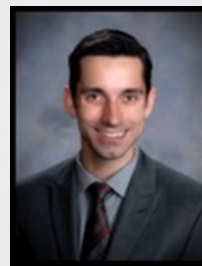
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### Congratulations to 2021-2022 Chief Fellows!



Karen Axten, MD



Andrew Staron, MD

We are pleased to announce that Drs. Karen Axten and Andrew Staron have accepted chief fellow positions for next year. Please congratulate Karen and Andrew on their selection.

# New Faculty



Fabio Petrocca, MD

Welcome to Dr. Fabio Petrocca! Dr. Petrocca comes to us from Bluebird Bio, where he served as senior medical director for clinical research and development and was instrumental in the development of CAR-T therapy for Multiple Myeloma (FDA approved on March 29!)

## Administrative Staff Updates



Stephanie Martinez

Thank you to **Stephanie Martinez** for all of her contributions to the section. Stephanie will be transitioning to a new position in the BMC Emergency Department.



Katelyn Baron

Welcome to our new grants manager, **Katelyn Baron**! Please copy Katelyn on all communications regarding grants, whether a new submission or collaboration and whether submitting through BU or BMC, so the section is aware of grant submissions and can plan accordingly. Katelyn will complete DOM grant intake forms and is already assisting with updating biosketches and support documents. Katelyn can be reached at [kvbaron@bu.edu](mailto:kvbaron@bu.edu) or (856) 217-9025.



Inel Ferrara

We are delighted to welcome Inel “Nellie” Ferrara to the Section of Hematology Oncology! In her new role, Nellie will serve as a Project Manager, providing administrative and programmatic support for a range of activities in the section. In addition, she will start working closely with Erin to learn the responsibilities of the Fellowship Coordinator role, which will fully transition to her in June 2021 as Erin’s role in the section expands to include additional administrative and leadership responsibilities, staff oversight and working closely with Casaundra on financial reporting.

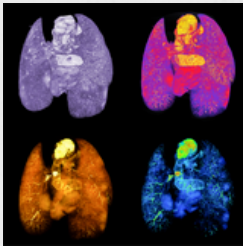


# Publications



Maya Abdallah,  
MD

Dr. Maya Abdallah published a perspective article highlighting geriatric hematology research presented at the recent 2020 Annual Conference of the American Society of Hematology, in collaboration with other members of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG). [Read more here.](#)



PLOS Genetics

[Dr. Laura Lowery's](#) lab had a publication accepted to PLOS Genetics, entitled 'Functional assessment of the "two-hit" model for neurodevelopmental defects in Drosophila and X. laevis.' This was from a collaborative project with the Girirajan Lab at Penn State, and recent Lowery Lab PhD graduate student, Micaela Iasser, was a co-first author. [Read more here.](#)



Clinical Colorectal  
Cancer

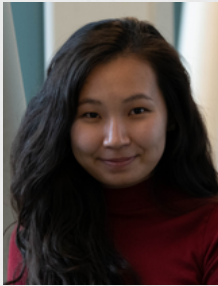
[Ajit Bharti, PhD, Matthew Kulke, MD, Kevan Hartshorn, MD](#) and collaborators published a study in Clinical Colorectal Cancer entitled "Multicohort Retrospective Validation of a Predictive Biomarker for Topoisomerase I Inhibitors." [Read more here.](#)

# Awards



Raphael Szalat,  
MD

Raphael Szalat, MD received a \$250,000 Translational Research Grant from the International Myeloma Society.



Khaliun  
Enkhbayar

Khaliun Enkhbayar in the Hagedorn Lab received a Summer 2021 Student Research Award (SRA) from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) at Boston University. Khaliun will be leading a project in the Hagedorn Lab using zebrafish to study the role of scavenger receptors in the hematopoietic stem cell niche.



Nika Kozlov

Nika Kozlov and Nicole Nguyen in Dr. Shuaiying Cui's lab both received the Summer 2021 UROP Awards.

Nika's project focuses on evaluating the in vivo effects of PGC-1 $\alpha$  agonists, ZLN005 and SR-18292, in sickle cell disease mice.



Nicole Nguyen

Nicole's project focuses on determining optimal conditions of DNMT1 Inhibitor, decitabine, to induce maximal fetal hemoglobin expression in human erythroid progenitor cells.



# Abstracts & Presentations



Lisa Keller, NP

**Lisa Keller, NP** published an abstract in the current March issue of the Oncology Nursing Forum, entitled "A Case Study Highlighting the Social Determinants of Health and Cancer Care During a Pandemic." It is listed under the 2021 ONS Congress Podium Abstracts. Lisa will be giving a virtual presentation about the abstract during the 46th Annual ONS Congress starting April 20th. [Read more here.](#)



Vaishali  
Sanchorawala,  
MD

**Dr. Vaishali Sanchorawala** presented at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, MO on March 6, 2021. The presentation was entitled "Update on the treatment of AL amyloidosis" Amyloidosis: A Hidden Disease with a Bright Future.



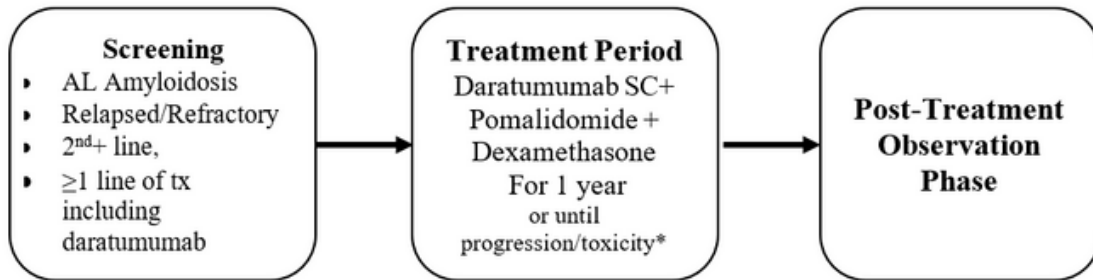
Isabel  
Dominguez, PhD

**Isabel Dominguez, PhD** was a panelist in a conversation about the highly recommended documentary "[Picture a Scientist](#)", which includes work experiences of women scientists such as biologist Nancy Hopkins, chemist Raychelle Burks, and geologist Jane Willenbring. The panel included geologist Jane Willenbring, and was part of the monthly conversation on equity, diversity, inclusion, and engagement in the series "[Make Shift Happen](#)" by MassBio, Massachusetts Biotechnology Council.

# Newly Opened Cancer Clinical Trials

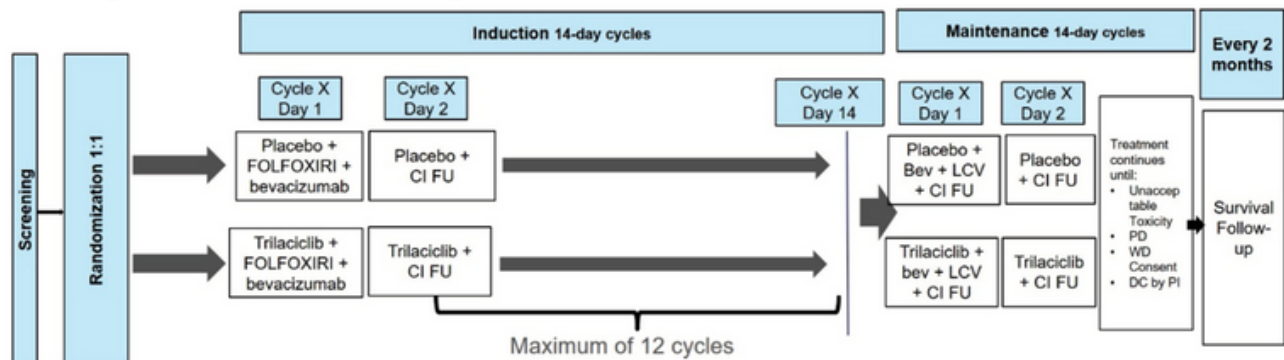
## AL AMYLOIDOSIS – 2<sup>nd</sup>+ Line

**Cornell Janssen DPd: Daratumumab, Pomalidomide and Dexamethasone (DPd) in Relapsed/ Refractory Light Chain Amyloidosis Patients Previously Exposed to Daratumumab**



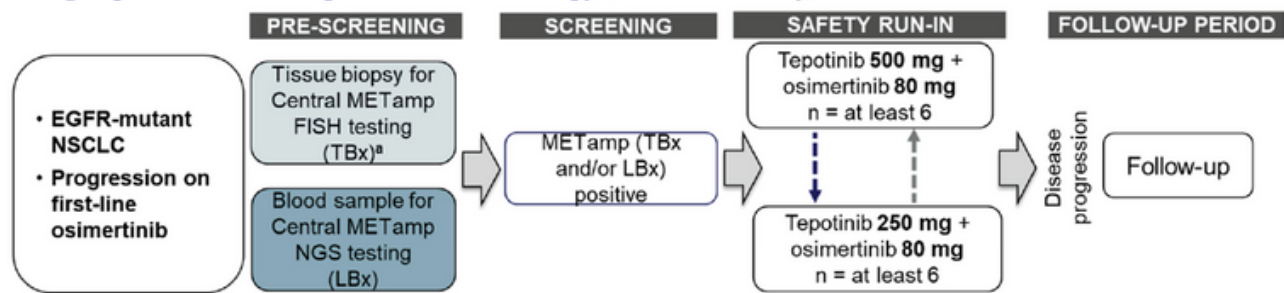
## COLORECTAL ADENO – 1<sup>st</sup> Line Metastatic

**G1-207 PRESERVE1: A Phase 3 Randomized, Double-blind Trial of Trilaciclib versus Placebo in Patients Receiving FOLFOXIRI/Bevacizumab for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer**



## NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER – 2<sup>nd</sup> Line EGFR+ Advanced/Metastatic

**EMD Serono INSIGHT 2: A Phase II, two-arm study to investigate tepotinib combined with osimertinib in MET amplified, advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) harboring activating EGFR mutations and having acquired resistance to prior osimertinib therapy (INSIGHT 2 Study)**

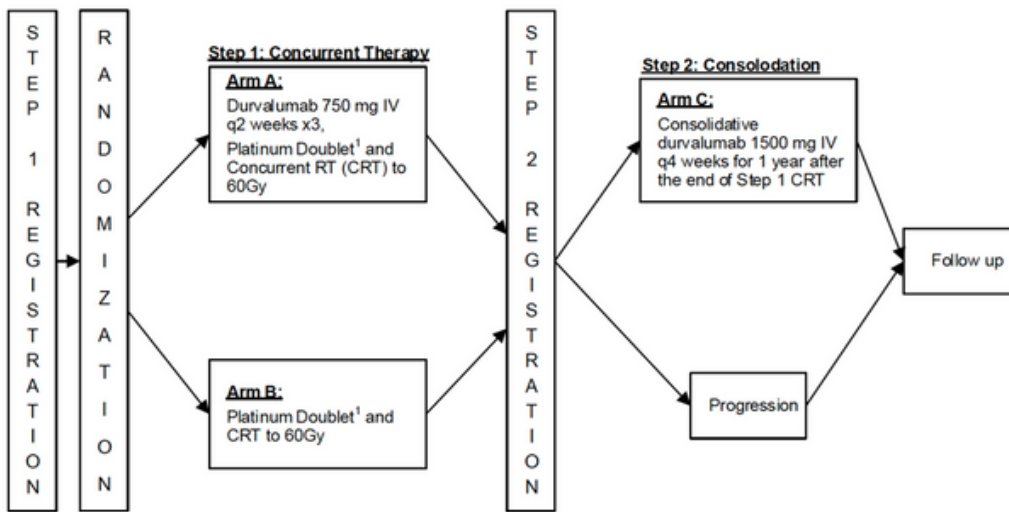




# Newly Opened Cancer Clinical Trials

## NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER – 1<sup>st</sup> Line Stage III Definitive

NCI EA5181: Randomized Phase III Trial of MEDI4736 (durvalumab) as Concurrent and Consolidative Therapy or Consolidative Therapy Alone for Unresectable Stage 3 NSCLC



## Announcements

### Funding Opportunities from the American Society of Hematology

Three American Society of Hematology (ASH) awards are currently open and have upcoming deadlines:

1. The [ASH Research Restart](#) Award is open to early career ASH members (those who have a doctoral degree but are not yet an assistant professor or equivalent) who have had their research or careers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please follow the link to see the full eligibility requirements. This application cycle closes on **April 16**.
2. The [ASH Bridge Grant](#) program is open to ASH members that have over 13 years of research experience and have applied to an NIH R01 or equivalent and were scored but not funded. Please follow the link to see the full eligibility requirements. This application cycle closes on **May 3**.
3. The [ASH Scholar Award](#) is open to early career and junior faculty ASH members with three competitive levels (Fellow, Fellow to Faculty, and Junior Faculty). Please follow the link to see the full eligibility requirements. This letter of intent cycle closes on **May 3**.

# Announcements

## Employer contribution to retirement plans

Message from David Coleman:

Boston University is planning to restore the employer contribution to retirement plans effective July 1, 2021. As the institution has attempted to responsibly address the financial implications of the COVID 19 pandemic, your forbearance and understanding have been greatly appreciated.

## Available Career Opportunities as of April 2021:

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