

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology

Newsletter



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Jean-Antoine Ribeil, MD

Meet BMC's Clinical Director for the Center of Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease

Dr. Ribeil recently joined the Section of Hematology and Oncology as the Clinical Director of the Center of Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease. In a Q&A, he discusses his dedication to patients with SCD, his contributions to advancing the care, therapies and research of the disease and his vision for deepening that work at BMC.

[Read More](#)



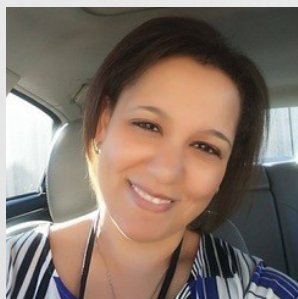
Staff Updates



We are excited to welcome Michelle Trail-Sylva as an Administrative Coordinator in the Section of Hematology Oncology. Michelle is highly experienced in healthcare administration, with prior experience that has included working as a Staff Assistant in the Cancer Center at Massachusetts General Hospital and as a Lead New Patient Coordinator in Hematology Oncology at Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In her new role as Administrative Coordinator, Michelle will be assisting the administrative team with calendar management, scheduling meetings and candidate lectures, new hire onboarding, credentialing and other administrative responsibilities and projects. Michelle's hobbies include cooking, dancing and discussing politics. She will be located at the reception desk in FGH 1 and can be reached at Michelle.Trail-Sylva@bmc.org or extension 8-7012. Please join us in welcoming Michelle to our section!



Mallory Davis, who is currently the Administrative Director of Neurosurgery, is the Interim Director of Operations in the Cancer Care Center and can be reached at Mallory.Davis@bmc.org or 8-9070. There is an active search underway to fill the permanent role of Director of Operations in the Cancer Care Center.



Nellie Ferrara will be taking over the Fellowship Coordinator role for the upcoming academic year starting 7/1. She is the point of contact for all fellowship related affairs and can be reached at inel.ferrara@bmc.org or 8-7503.

Publications



Chris Heaphy, PhD

Dr. Chris Heaphy and collaborators published the following papers:

- Clinicopathological and molecular characterization of chromophobe hepatocellular carcinoma. Kang HJ, Oh JH, Kim YW, Kim W, An J, Sung CO, Kim J, Shim JH, Hwang S, Yu E, Heaphy CM, Hong SM. Liver Int. 2021 May 25. doi: 10.1111/liv.14975. Online ahead of print. PMID: 34036718. [Read more](#)
- SMARCAL1 loss and alternative lengthening of telomeres (ALT) are enriched in giant cell glioblastoma. Brosnan-Cashman JA, Davis CM, Diplas BH, Meeker AK, Rodriguez FJ, Heaphy CM. Mod Pathol. 2021 Jun 8. doi: 10.1038/s41379-021-00841-7. Online ahead of print. PMID: 34103668. [Read more](#)



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD

Dr. Vaishali Sanchorawala and collaborators published the following papers:

- Predictors and outcomes of acute kidney injury during autologous stem cell transplantation in AL amyloidosis. Nader R, Zhen A, Angel-Korman A, Pavlovich SS, Pogrebinsky A, Doros G, Menn-Josephy H, Stern L, Sanchorawala V, Havasi A. Nephrol Dial Transplant. 2021 May 27;gfab189. doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfab189. Online ahead of print. PMID: 34043009. [Read more](#)
- Detection of minimal residual disease by next generation sequencing in AL amyloidosis. Sarosiek S, Varga C, Jacob A, Fulciniti MT, Munshi N, Sanchorawala V. Blood Cancer J. 2021 Jun 21;11(6):117. [Read more](#)
- A randomized phase 3 study of ixazomib-dexamethasone versus physician's choice in relapsed or refractory AL amyloidosis. Dispenzieri A, Kastritis E, Wechalekar AD, Schönland SO, Kim K, Sanchorawala V, Landau HJ, Kwok F, Suzuki K, Comenzo RL, Berg D, Liu G, Kumar A, Faller DV, Merlini G. Leukemia. 2021 Jun 24. doi: 10.1038/s41375-021-01317-y. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34168284. [Read more](#)
- Daratumumab-Based Treatment for Immunoglobulin Light-Chain Amyloidosis. Kastritis E, Palladini G, Minnema MC, Wechalekar AD, Jaccard A, Lee HC, Sanchorawala V, Gibbs S, Mollee P, Venner CP, Lu J, Schönland S, Gatt ME, Suzuki K, Kim K, Cibeira MT, Beksac M, Libby E, Valent J, Hungria V, Wong SW, Rosenzweig M, Bumma N, Huart A, Dimopoulos MA, Bhutani D, Waxman AJ, Goodman SA, Zonder JA, Lam S, Song K, Hansen T, Manier S, Roeloffzen W, Jamroziak K, Kwok F, Shimazaki C, Kim JS, Crusoe E, Ahmadi T, Tran N, Qin X, Vasey SY, Tromp B, Schechter JM, Weiss BM, Zhuang SH, Vermeulen J, Merlini G, Comenzo RL, for the ANDROMEDA Trial Investigators. New England Journal of Medicine 2021. 385(1):46-58. [Read more](#)

Awards



Congratulations to **Elliott Hagedorn, PhD**, who received the Department of Medicine Career Investment Award.

Elliott Hagedorn, PhD

Presentations



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD, presented at the International Society of Amyloidosis Workshop: Structure And Working Modalities Of Amyloidosis Centers, June 24, 2021.

Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD



Martin Steinberg, MD, presented Medical Grand Rounds at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. [View here.](#)

Martin Steinberg, MD

BU Recognizes Juneteenth as Official Holiday



An African American band at an Emancipation Day celebration on June 19, 1900, in Austin, Tex. The event marks the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in the United States learned they were free. Starting this year, it will become an official University holiday. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Charles (Grace Murray) Stephenson/Austin History Center General Collection Photographs/The Portal to Texas History.

Boston University now recognizes Juneteenth as an official holiday and will rename the October Columbus Day holiday Indigenous Peoples' Day on its calendar, part of an ongoing effort to make BU "the diverse, equitable, and inclusive community that best embodies our values," President Robert A. Brown announced in a letter sent to the University community on Thursday. Juneteenth, long celebrated in the African American community, is traditionally observed on June 19, marking the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in America—in Texas, where the holiday began—were told they were free. Also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, or Emancipation Day, it is already celebrated in most states. This year is the first year that it's an official holiday in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. [Read more](#)

Source: Brown, J. (2021, May 13). BU Adds Juneteenth as an Annual Holiday in University Calendar Antiracist Makeover. Retrieved from <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2021/bu-adds-juneteenth-as-an-annual-holiday-in-university-calendar-antiracist-makeover/>.



BMC 25th Anniversary Gala

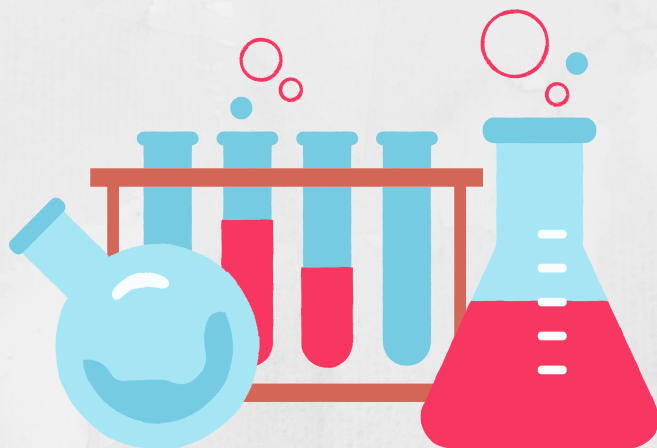


The BMC 25th Annual Gala, held on June 17th and co hosted by Devin and Jason McCourty, was a fantastic virtual event that celebrated BMC's proud history, tireless staff and their efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and previewed what the next 25 years has in store. It was a successful night of fundraising that helped raise \$2.8 million in critical funds, an increase from BMC's last in person gala in 2019. In addition to hosting the event, The McCourty's also launched the McCourty Twins Tackle Sickle Cell Endowment campaign to raise funds to combat sickle cell disease and ultimately find a universal cure for the devastating disease. If you were unable to attend the live event, it can be watched [here](#).

Sickle Cell Disease, Today & Tomorrow: Celebrating World Sickle Cell Day

Sickle Cell Disease, Today & Tomorrow: Celebrating World Sickle Cell Day, held on June 22nd and moderated by Devin McCourty, was a virtual event that featured panelists, Elizabeth Klings, MD, and George Murphy, PhD, who lead an important discussion around BMC's role as a pioneer in SCD treatment and research, and the health disparities affecting patients and the science behind new therapies. If you were unable to attend the live event, it can be watched [here](#).

Lab Clean Out Summer 2021



Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) has announced plans for a BU wide laboratory clean-up initiative in August 2021. At least once a year, groups are encouraged to go through all of their chemical storage, sample freezers, and controlled substances safes, carefully examining each container, then discarding items that have expired, degraded, or are of no immediate use. During the summer lab clean-up period, EHS will be offering easy pick-ups for unwanted or defective chemicals, specimens, radiological materials, and controlled substances, as well as laser decommissioning.

While conducting a laboratory clean-out, please closely examine every container for expiration date, continued usefulness, gross contamination, structural integrity, and reagent degradation, such as peroxide crystal formation, aldehydes with carboxylic acid solids, chemical discoloration and/or oxidation, etc. Please review the links to BU's [highly hazardous chemicals list](#), the Department of Homeland Security's [CFATS COI list](#), and BU's [peroxide formers guidance](#), as these chemicals require special care.

The deadline to enroll in the summer lab clean-up is Wednesday, July 14th. Please enroll by completing the Sign-up for [SUMMER Lab Clean-out 2021.xlsx](#) and emailing your DSA. Please contact DG-Hem-Onc-Administrators@bmc.org with any questions.

DOM Annual Faculty Award Nominations



Deadline for all nominations: July 2nd, 2021

Submit a nomination [here](#)!

1. Special Recognition Teaching Award
2. Junior Faculty Mentoring Award
3. Research Mentoring Award
4. Excellence in Educational Scholarship Mentoring Award
5. Outstanding Citizenship Award
6. Clinical Quality Improvement Award
7. Clinical Excellence Award
8. Clinical Innovations Award
9. Faculty Development and Diversity

Nominations consist of a letter with a detailed justification of the nominee's relevant contributions in the award category. For more information on each award, and a list of past winners [click here](#)



Evans Department of Medicine Abstract Submission NOW OPEN!!!

2021 Evans Day

October 7-8, 2021

Boston University School of Medicine

Posters and their accompanying abstracts will be available to view on the ePosterBoards platform prior to Evans Day.

The 12 abstracts with the highest grade will be presented on Evans Day.

Oral Presentations: Thursday, October 7, 2021

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Poster Session: Thursday, October 7, 2021

9:30 AM – 12:30PM

If you would like to participate please submit an abstract between July 1 – July 30, 2021. Submit an abstract [here](#)!

Abstracts may be submitted

Thursday, July 1, 2021 and will not be accepted after Friday, July 30, 2021 @11:59 PM EST

Abstract submission guidelines attached.

Please contact Jennifer Visconti (Jennifer.visconti@bmc.org) with any questions.

Announcements

Annual Faculty Review

The annual faculty review for 2020 is now available at <https://www.bumc.bu.edu/FacultyDevelopment>. Once completed, please visit the [doodle poll](#) to schedule your review meeting.

Follow Us on Instagram!



Hematology & Medical Oncology is officially LIVE on Instagram!
Follow us at [@BMCHemOnc](#)

If you or one of your patients would like to be featured, please submit a request at <https://www.bumc.bu.edu/hematology/announcement-requests/>

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](#).

Available Career Opportunities as of June 2021:

- Clinical Investigator, Hematology/Hematologic Malignancies
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner (GU)
- Director of Operations - Cancer Care
- Clinical Research Coordinator
- Sickle Cell Clinical Research Assistant
- Clinical Research Coordinator – Hematology and Medical Oncology
- Research Assistant - Hematology and Medical Oncology

Upcoming Events



The EBRC labs are growing and buzzing with excitement as COVID restrictions have been lifted. Pictured above are members of the Dries lab using the shared gel rigs on EBRC 4.

**7/1/21, 12:00pm: Hem Onc Section Meeting (Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/94214793455>, Meeting ID: 942 1479 3455)**

**7/13/21, 3:00pm: EBRC 4th Floor Quarterly Meeting (Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/96758098954>, Meeting ID: 967 5809 8954)**

7/14/21: Deadline to Enroll in Lab Summer Clean Out

**7/15/21, 12:00pm: Hem Onc Clinical Faculty Meeting (Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/99763181712>, Meeting ID: 997 6318 1712)**

**7/22/21, 12:00pm: Faculty Anti Racism Event with Dr. Polk, Working in Diverse Workplace Environments Part 3 (Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/98556160053?pwd=a1ZjSjJpeVZLTzBrLzZ0aE95K0lvQT09>, Meeting ID: 985 5616 0053)**