

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



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"Bell of Hope" Dedicated in Memory of Beloved Cancer Center Employee Aura Luz Valverde Munoz

The Cancer Center unveiled a new "Bell of Hope," in memory of Aura Luz Valverde Munoz, a beloved Cancer Center employee who passed away last year. The bell will be rung by patients to mark the end of their treatment. Family, friends, and colleagues gathered in celebration of Aura's life. They described Aura as someone who lit up every room with her smile. As one of Aura's colleagues so beautifully said, "Aura's spirit always represented hope. And hope is a good thing. And a good thing never dies."



(Pictured: Aura's family with her dog, Lucky, and the Bell of Hope)

New Faculty



Andrew Staron, MD

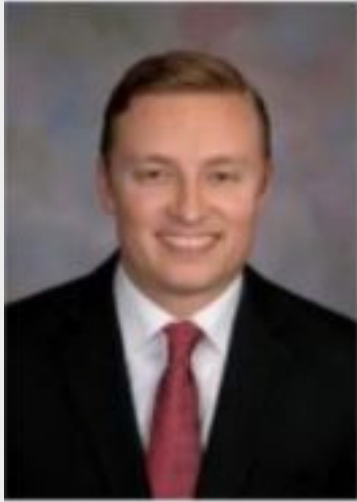
Andrew Staron, MD, has accepted an offer to join our hematology program and will also serve in a new role as clinical director of the amyloidosis program. Dr. Staron received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and his MD from New York Medical College; he then completed a residency in internal medicine at Boston University. He pursued a one-year fellowship in the amyloidosis center and is currently serving as one of our chief fellows, where he has made outstanding clinical contributions and has continued his work in amyloidosis. Dr. Staron will start in his new position in July 2022.



Margaux Dockerty, RN, MSN
AGNP-C

Margaux Dockerty, RN, MSN AGNP-C, has accepted an offer to join us as a nurse practitioner. Ms. Dockerty received her BSN from Boston College, and has prior experience working as a registered nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital. She recently completed the nurse practitioner program at Boston College, and will be joining us in January 2022 to support both the stem cell transplant program and our new red blood cell program.

New Faculty



Justin Battaglini MD

Justin Battaglini MD, has accepted an offer to join us as a hospitalist. Dr. Battaglini received his undergraduate degree from Boston University, and his MD from Drexel University College of Medicine. He then returned to Boston University for his residency and is currently a senior resident in the internal medicine program. He has already pursued a number of oncology research projects in the section, and has been an outstanding team leader on the inpatient service. Dr. Battaglini will start as a hospitalist on the inpatient service in July 2022.

New Staff



Charlotte Royer

Charlotte Royer has joined us as a Research Assistant in the Szalat Lab. Charlotte is a recent graduate of Northeastern University, where she received degrees in Cell and Molecular Biology and Psychology. Previously, she worked as a clinical research assistant at Tufts Medical School in the Rheumatology Department, coordinating Phase III trials testing the efficacy of industry-sponsored pharmaceuticals for psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis. She also worked as an ophthalmic technician with Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department, assisting in minor surgical procedures and performing intake exams in the clinic. Charlotte is interested in pursuing a career in medicine/academic research and plans to pursue further education in the future. Charlotte will be located at EBRC, room 410 and can be reached at charlotte.royer@bmc.org or 8-7533.

Publications



Camille Edwards, MD

Camille Edwards, MD, and colleagues published Phase 1a/b Study of Monoclonal Antibody CAEL-101 in Patients with AL Amyloidosis.

Edwards CV, Rao N, Bhutani D, Mapara MY, Radhakrishnan J, Shames S, Maurer MS, Leng S, Solomon A, Lentzsch S, Eisenberger A. Phase 1a/b Study of Monoclonal Antibody CAEL-101 (11-1F4) in Patients with AL Amyloidosis. Blood. 2021 Sep 14;blood.2020009039. doi: 10.1182/blood.2020009039. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34521113.



Gareth Morgan, PhD

Gareth Morgan, PhD, and colleagues published Light Chain Stabilization: A Therapeutic Approach to Ameliorate AL Amyloidosis

Morgan GJ, Buxbaum JN, Kelly JW. Light Chain Stabilization: A Therapeutic Approach to Ameliorate AL Amyloidosis. Hemato. 2021; 2(4):645-659. <https://doi.org/10.3390/hemato2040042>.



Ruben Dries, PhD

Ruben Dries, PhD, and colleagues published Advances In Spatial Transcriptomic Data Analysis.

Dries R, Chen J, Del Rossi N, Khan MM, Sistig A, Yuan GC. Advances in spatial transcriptomic data analysis. Genome Res. 2021;31(10):1706-1718. doi:10.1101/gr.275224.121

Publications



Julie Palmer, ScD

Julie Palmer, ScD, and colleagues published [A Validated Risk Prediction Model for Breast Cancer in US Black Women](#)

Palmer JR, Zirpoli G, Bertrand KA, Battaglia T, Bernstein L, Ambrosone CB, Bandera EV, Troester MA, Rosenberg L, Pfeiffer RM, Trinquart L. A Validated Risk Prediction Model for Breast Cancer in US Black Women. J Clin Oncol. 2021 Oct 8. JCO2101236. doi: 10.1200/JCO.21.01236. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34623926.

This new breast cancer risk prediction tool may be used to guide recommendations for initiation of mammographic screening in young Black women, thus potentially reducing disparities in breast cancer mortality. It may also be useful for determining eligibility for prevention trials. The paper has received much attention in the news media.

Julie Palmer, ScD, and colleagues published [Predicted Vitamin D Status and Colorectal Cancer Incidence in the Black Women's Health Study](#).

Barber LE, Bertrand KA, Petrick JL, Gerlovin H, White LF, Adams-Campbell LL, Rosenberg L, Roy HK, Palmer JR. Predicted Vitamin D Status and Colorectal Cancer Incidence in the Black Women's Health Study. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2021 Oct 21. doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-21-0675.

Black women with low predicted vitamin D levels (lowest quartile in this study population) were estimated to have a statistically significant 40% increased risk of developing colorectal cancer.



Jean Antoine Ribeil,
MD, PhD

Jean Antoine Ribeil, MD, PhD, published [Primary Myelofibrosis In Untreated Sickle Cell Disease: Are Adult Patients At Higher Risk For Developing Hematological Myeloid Neoplasms?](#)

Ribeil JA. Primary myelofibrosis in untreated sickle cell disease: Are adult patients at higher risk for developing hematological myeloid neoplasms? Am J Hematol. 2021 Oct 9. doi: 10.1002/ajh.26371. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34626435.

Publications



Isabel Dominguez, PhD

Isabel Dominguez, PhD, and colleagues published [A Cross-Institutional Analysis of the Effects of Broadening Trainee Professional Development on Research Productivity](#)

Brandt PD, Sturzenegger Varvayanis S, Baas T, Bolgioni AF, Alder J, Petrie KA, Dominguez I, Brown AM, Stayart CA, Singh H, Van Wart A, Chow CS, Mathur A, Schreiber BM, Fruman DA, Bowden B, Wiesen CA, Golightly YM, Holmquist CE, Arneman D, Hall JD, Hyman LE, Gould KL, Chalkley R, Brennwald PJ, Layton RL. A cross-institutional analysis of the effects of broadening trainee professional development on research productivity. PLoS Biol. 2021 Jul 15;19(7):e3000956. doi: 10.1371/journal.pbio.3000956. PMID: 34264929; PMCID: PMC8282014.

Presentations



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD

Dr. Vaishali Sanchorawala presented the following talks:

- EHA-ISA Guidelines for SCT in AL Amyloidosis Overview", International Society of Amyloidosis Virtual Seminar, AL Amyloidosis Treatments, EHA-ISA Workshop, October 13, 2021 (moderator and speaker)
- "Autologous Stem Cell Transplant for the management of AL amyloidosis", Amyloid Day in Calgary, October 21, 2021
- Cardiac Amyloidosis: Clinical Gaps and Unmet Needs, ACC virtual roundtable on cardiac amyloidosis
Session 1: Knowledge gaps in the diagnosis of cardiac amyloidosis
Session 2: Unmet needs in the management of cardiac amyloidosis
October 25, 2021



Dr. Martin Steinberg will discuss aspects of sickle cell disease at ASH 2021 – Advances in the Therapeutic Management of Patients with Chronic Hematological Conditions – A Whiteboard Preceptorship, during a Satellite Symposium the morning of Friday, Dec. 10, 2021.



Martin Steinberg, MD

Awards



Laura Lowery, PhD

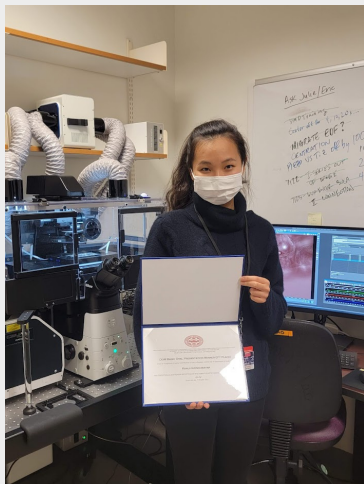
Laura Lowery, PhD, was awarded a foundation grant from the Ellison Foundation for her proposal "Reducing the Severity of Melanoma."



Hamza Hassan, MD

Camille Edwards, MD

Hamza Hassan, MD, and **Camille Edwards, MD**, tied for first place for Clinical Poster winner for their poster "Peripheral Blood Monocyte Count is a Dynamic Prognostic Markers for Risk Stratification in Multiple Myeloma" at the Department of Medicine Evans Day Conference.



Khaliun Enkhbayar

Khaliun Enkhbayar in the Hagedorn Lab was awarded 2nd place for her oral presentation titled "Endothelial Scavenger Receptors in the Hematopoietic Niche" at the Department of Medicine Evans Day Conference.

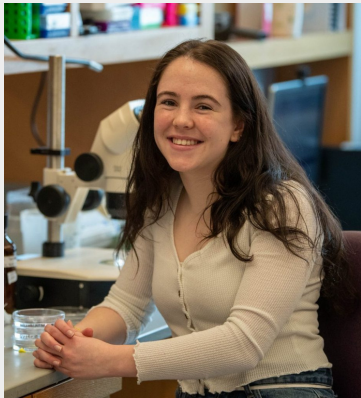


Awards



Naser Jafari, PhD

Naser Jafari, PhD, in the Denis lab, was selected from a large, international pool of trainees as a finalist for the Ethan Sims Young Investigator Award, at Obesity Week, the annual meeting of The Obesity Society. This is a prestigious award given to promising young researchers in obesity. Dr. Jafari delivered a short talk and was honored for his work in obesity-related breast cancer, particularly for novel mechanisms that may drive metastasis in triple negative breast cancer patients who also have obesity and metabolic complications. His first author paper will appear in Science Signaling during the third week of November 2021.



Emily Henaultt

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

Announcements

BU Occupational Health

New Work-Related Injury Reporting System

As of September 1st 2021, BU has a 24/7 telephonic reporting system through Conduent and are no longer using the online form submitted by a supervisor.

Reporting is done through Conduent – a business process services outsourcing organization that has direct interfacing with BU's Workers' Compensation insurance agency CCMSI. One call does it all.

- 833-951-2415.
- Immediate connection to live representative to report work-related injury
- Warm transfer to BU Occupational Health or Conduent nurse for immediate triage and medical recommendations for care.

Follow Us on Instagram!



Hematology & Medical Oncology is officially LIVE on Instagram! Follow us at [@BMCHemOnc](https://www.instagram.com/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/>

Available Career Opportunities as of October 2021:

- Advanced Practice Provider (NP/PA)
- Clinical Investigator, Genitourinary Oncology Program
- Clinical Investigator, Hematology/Hematologic Malignancies
- Research Assistant
- Advanced Fellow in Sickle Cell Disease
- Clinical Research Nurse
- Clinical Research Coordinator

Upcoming Section Events



11/11/21: Veterans Day

11/18/21, 12:00pm: Hem/Onc Monthly Section Meeting,
<https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/99763181712>
Meeting ID: 997 6318 1712

11/25/21: Thanksgiving

12/2/21, 12:00pm: Hem/Onc Special Lecture, Jason Shpilsky, MD, Clinical Fellow BIDMC
<https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/97331746706pwd=dkTPdjlOUWJ4MzdKSUxVem9HY25rUT09>
Meeting ID: 973 3174 6706
Passcode: 045963

12/9/21, 12:00pm: Hem/Onc Special Lecture, Michael T Serzan, MD, Clinical Fellow, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
<https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/91922995273pwd=dWhDeGtrRVNOdy9qeWh3U2crRjBHUT09>
Meeting ID: 919 2299 5273
Passcode: 678308

