

# Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



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## Hem Onc Anti-Racism Committee Works to Improve Cancer Care and Research

Eliminating the race-based health equity gap starts from within the department, says Boston University School of Medicine. [Read more](#)



# New Staff



Anusha Sharma

**Anusha Sharma** joins the Translational Research Program as a Research Assistant. Anusha comes to us from the University of Michigan where she earned a BS in Neuroscience. She has also completed an MA in Psychology from Boston University. Anusha has research experience in cardiovascular pharmacology and emotionality in bilingualism. Anusha is very passionate about pediatric populations and learning about the factors that help children thrive. She is inspired by the work of Dr. Nadine Burke Harris in California. Anusha intends to apply to medical school to pursue a career in pediatrics. In her free time, Anusha enjoys taking walks around Boston, exploring new coffee shops, and volunteering at her local animal shelter.



Swapna Srinivas

**Swapna Srinivas** joins the Cancer & Hematology Clinical Research Program as a Clinical Research Coordinator I. Swapna earned a Master of Public Health at California State University. Her previous experience includes work as a research assistant, as well as a dentist in Bengaluru. Outside of her work, she enjoys traveling, hiking, and cooking with her family. She states she's "really excited to be a part of the team".

# New Staff



Carley Walsh, BSN, RN

**Carley Walsh, BSN, RN**, joins the Cancer & Hematology Clinical Research Program as a Clinical Research Nurse I. Carley earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Fitchburg State University. Her previous experience includes work as a staff nurse at UMass Memorial Medical Center's neurology/medical-surgical unit.



Thuydung Nguyen

**Thuydung Nguyen** will be joining the Section as a new Senior Grant Manager starting 4/18. Thuydung joined Tufts Medical Center as a Senior Grants Accountant in 2020. Prior to working at Tufts, she worked as a Senior Research Administrator at Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center and Brigham and Women's Hospital as the Senior Grants Administrator. During her time there, she was in charge of both pre and post awards at the Central and the Department levels. She received her Bachelor's degree in Finance and Accounting and her Master's degree in Project Management. When she isn't working, she enjoys being outside and active as much as she can.

# New Additions



Yvie Brynne Aura born on February 18th.  
Congratulations to **Martine Dumas** and family!

Yvie Brynne Aura Dumas



Robyn Ella & Robenson Jr. born on February 20th.  
Congratulations to **Faniela Louis** and family!

Robyn Ella & Robenson Jr. Louis

# Awards



Naomi Ko, MD, MPH, MA

**Naomi Ko, MD, MPH, MA**, has been awarded the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award from the Boston University School of Medicine. This important award recognizes faculty who “demonstrate both clinical excellence and outstanding compassion in the delivery of care and who show respect for patients and their families as well as healthcare colleagues.”



Hussein Assi, MD

**Hussein Assi, MD**, received the BMC Cancer Research Innovator Award for his proposal titled “Exploring the prognostic significance of ISL-1 expression in pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors.” The BMC Cancer Research Innovator Awards is a new research grant program to support junior faculty at the beginning of their careers who are performing innovative research in cancer and areas related to cancer. Funding is for one year in the amount of \$50,000.

# Awards



Elliott Hagedorn, PhD

**Elliott Hagedorn, PhD**, received the BMC Cancer Research Innovator Award for his proposal titled “Stabilin scavenger receptors and the trans-endothelial migration of blood stem cells.” The BMC Cancer Research Innovator Award is a new research grant program to support junior faculty at the beginning of their careers who are performing innovative research in cancer and areas related to cancer. Award funding is for one year in the amount of \$50,000.



Chris Heaphy, PhD

**Chris Heaphy, PhD**, has been appointed the Chair of the Scientific Review & Research Committee for the North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (NANETS).

**Chris Heaphy, PhD**, has accepted a role as an Editorial Board Member for Endocrine-Related Cancer, a well-established journal of the UK’s Society for Endocrinology.

# Publications



**Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD**, and collaborators published Systemic Amyloidosis Involving the Fallopian Tube.

Nguyen VP, Mendelson L, Kaku M, Berk JL, Sanchorawala V. Systemic Amyloidosis Involving the Fallopian Tube. Archives of Clinical and Medical Case Reports. 2022; 6 (2022): 110-115.

Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD



Kim Vanuytsel, PhD



George Murphy, PhD

**Kim Vanuytsel, PhD and George Murphy, PhD**, published Multi-modal profiling of human fetal liver hematopoietic stem cells reveals the molecular signature of engraftment.

Vanuytsel, K., Villacorta-Martin, C., Lindstrom-Vautrin, J. et al. Multi-modal profiling of human fetal liver hematopoietic stem cells reveals the molecular signature of engraftment. Nat Commun 13, 1103 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-28616-x>

# Publications



Martin Steinberg, MD

**Martin Steinberg, MD**, published a review of acute chest syndrome with Dr. Elizabeth Klings titled Acute chest syndrome of sickle cell disease: genetics, risk factors, prognosis, and management.

Klings, E, Steinberg, M. (2022). Acute chest syndrome of sickle cell disease: genetics, risk factors, prognosis, and management, Expert Review of Hematology, DOI: 10.1080/17474086.2022.2041410

**Martin Steinberg, MD**, contributed to a paper by members of Dr. Shuaiying Cui's laboratory on a new potential HbF -boosting molecules titled Pharmacologic induction of PGC-1 $\alpha$  stimulates fetal haemoglobin gene expression.

Sun Y, Habara A, Le CQ, Nguyen N, Chen R, Murphy GJ, et al. (2022). Pharmacologic induction of PGC-1 $\alpha$  stimulates fetal haemoglobin gene expression. Br J Haematol. 2022;00:1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjh.18042>

**Martin Steinberg, MD**, published an editorial in the NEJM commenting on the results of a gene therapy trial for sickle cell disease originally spearheaded by Dr. Ribeil titled Fetal-like Hemoglobin in Sickle Cell Anemia.

Steinberg MH. Fetal-like Hemoglobin in Sickle Cell Anemia. N Engl J Med. 2022 Feb 17;386(7):689-691. doi: 10.1056/NEJMe2119760. PMID: 35172060.



# Announcements



David Chui, MD

Please join us for light hors d'oeuvres, coffee and tea on Thursday March 31, 2022 from 4-5pm in the Wilkins Board Room (Evans 120) as we celebrate **Dr. David Chui's** upcoming retirement. Dr. Chui is an internationally recognized figure in the fields of hematology and sickle cell disease, where he has made fundamental and transformative contributions.

Dr. Chui joined the faculty of Boston University School of Medicine in 2003, where he has not only led a successful research laboratory but has also served as Director of the Hemoglobin Diagnostic Reference Laboratory. His work has helped countless individuals living with sickle cell disease and thalassemia. He has published over 200 original manuscripts, including articles published in the New England Journal of Medicine, PNAS, Lancet, Nature Genetics, and other high-impact journals. He is the recipient of numerous awards, and was elected to membership in the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. Dr. Chui is truly a giant in his field. We thank him for all he has done, and we wish him the very best in his retirement!



Michelle Lee, MD Hamza Hassan, MD

**Michelle Lee, MD, and Hamza Hassan, MD,** have accepted Chief Fellow positions for the 2022-2023 year. They have big shoes to fill as Dr. Karen Axten and Dr. Andrew Staron have done a fantastic job this year supporting not only each other but their Fellow colleagues during an ongoing pandemic, displaying patience as the program underwent a program coordinator transition and helping with a very successful interview season.

Please congratulate Michelle and Hamza on their selection!

# Announcements

## BMC Masking Policy

As of March 3, 2022, face masks are no longer required in administrative and non-clinical buildings.

In addition to masks being required in all areas in clinical buildings, masks are still required in the following locations:

- Cafeterias, unless eating at least six feet away from others
- All stairwells and elevators throughout BMCHS buildings when not alone
- All work spaces and conference rooms in clinical buildings, including team rooms, charting rooms, and spaces contiguous with clinical spaces.

## BU Masking Policy

As of March 7, 2022, face masks are no longer required on campus and this includes EBRC4 in work spaces, labs, common areas, and small group meetings. Food is now also allowed in your group/lab meetings. Also please remember that for any seminars that occur in a BU classroom, please bring your masks and continue to wear them when not eating/drinking, as per BU policy.

# Upcoming Section Events



School of Medicine

## Section of Hematology & Medical Oncology BU-BMC Cancer Center Special Lecture

**“Learning from PD-1/PD-L1 Response Determinants & The Failure of  
‘Next Generation’ Immunotherapy: Toward a Precision Medicine  
Model for Cancer Immunotherapy Development”**



### **Keith Flaherty, M.D.**

Professor, Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
Director, Clinical Research, Cancer Center  
Mass General Hospital  
Boston, MA

Thursday , March 24, 2022 | 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Via Zoom with Limited seating, FGH 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Contact: Hem/Onc Administrators  
DG-Hem-Onc-Administrators@bmc.org**

**Boston University Medical Campus**

# Upcoming Section Events



## Heme/Onc Research Seminar

**Tuesday March 29th at 3PM (hybrid)**

**Zoom:** <https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/94031312565?pwd=cC9RTzB0TEFidVBKRIN1OUJJb0ViQT09>

**In person:** X715, EBRC (650 Albany Street, 7<sup>th</sup> floor)



Dr. Hui Feng, PhD

Metabolic Heterogeneity of  
Triple-Negative Breast Cancer



Dr. David M. Hughes, PharmD, BCOP

Standard 30-minute monitoring time and less  
intensive pre-medications is safe in patients treated  
with subcutaneous daratumumab for multiple  
myeloma and light chain amyloidosis

# Upcoming Section Events

**3/24/22, 12:00pm-2:00pm: A Multi-Disciplinary Program to Identify Predictors of Efficacy and Resistance to Cancer Checkpoint Inhibition (PIPER-C) ARC mini-symposium**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/98761562135?pwd=WUtwWFMwQzg0ZnFTMFB3T1BTcm5JZz09>

Meeting ID: 987 6156 2135

Passcode: 131870

**4/7/22, 12:00pm: Hem Onc Monthly Section Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/94214793455?pwd=MEILRHoxdFJ2ZFNmLzVUQ1U5bWNLZz09>

Meeting ID: 942 1479 3455

Passcode: 602802

**4/21/22, 12:00pm: Hem Onc Clinical Faculty Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/99763181712?pwd=Nnk4MHZDc3VSaExOUUVlJek5vOXdvUT09>

Meeting ID: 997 6318 1712

Passcode: 340176

## 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 February 2022:

- Clinical Investigator, Genitourinary Oncology Program
- Clinical Investigator, Hematology/Hematologic Malignancies
- Research Assistant
- Clinical Research Coordinator