

# Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



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Members of the Section of Hem Onc enjoying dinner at Dona Habana's on February 22.



# American Cancer Society Pilot Grant Awardees 2023

The national chapter of the American Cancer Society (ACS) awarded Boston University a three-year Institutional Research Grant to encourage new investigators by providing pilot funds for cancer research. These funds make it possible for investigators to complete promising new projects and/or pursue novel ideas that will provide preliminary data for future grant applications from other agencies and programs. The BU-BMC Cancer Center is pleased to announce the 4 recipients of the ACS Pilot Grant Awards for the 2023 cycle. Each project will receive \$50,000 in funding for a period of one year.



**Daniel Dempsey, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Dermatology and Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics

“Chemical Approaches to Understand Protein Deubiquitination in Cancer”



**Ruben Dries, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology

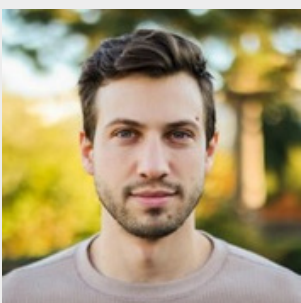
“Dissecting the Spatiotemporal Mechanisms Underlying Breast Cancer Progression”



**Erica D. Pratt, PhD**

Moorman-Simon Interdisciplinary Career Development Assistant Professor  
Biomedical Engineering

“Molecular Profiling of ctDNA in Pancreatic Cancer”



**Pawel F. Przytycki, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences

“Network-based Algorithms for Identifying The Cell-State-Specific Effects of Non-Coding Somatic Mutations”

# Promotions



Tracy Joshi, NP

**Tracy Joshi, NP**, was promoted to Assistant Professor of Medicine. Congratulations Tracy!

# Publications



Vaishali Sanchorawala , MD

Dr. Vaishali Sanchorawala and collaborators published [Eureka Moment—Innovation Comes of an Age in Light Chain Amyloidosis.](#)

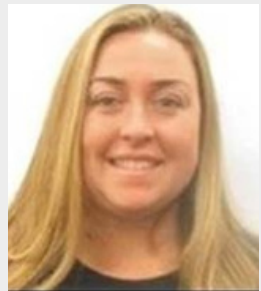
Sanchorawala V. Eureka Moment- Innovation Comes of an Age in Light Chain Amyloidosis. JCO Oncol Prat. 2023 Feb 28:OP2300033. doi: 10.1200/OP.23.00033. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36854072.

# Patient Satisfaction Comments



**Gretchen Gignac, MD:**

"She's very good in what she does. She always make sure she calls me and explains everything we need to know, even though that she maybe has to stay over and do it. She get's it done. She always thinks of ways to make things easier for us because my dad is 93 years old. She tries to make appointments on the same day that he has appointments with another doctor. She's very thoughtful and she's very thorough at what she does. She explains everything to my understanding and I love her to pieces."



**Meredith Halpin, MD:**

"I really appreciated the treatment she gave me. It's like a family when they received me in the clinic. They were caring and treated me well. May God bless them and give them good health."



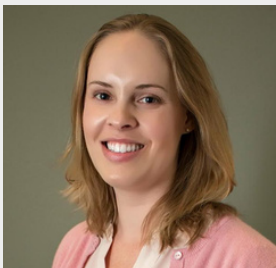
**Eric Marks, MD:**

"I was very happy when I left because he took his time with me. I told everyone about Dr. Marks."



**Lillian McMahon, MD:**

"Excellent and thank you very much for having excellent and high-quality doctors like Dr. McMahon. Thank you and blessings to all."



**Frances Arters, NP:**

"I gave Dr. Franny 10 stars plus she's great. I love her. Thank you."



# BMC Cancer Innovator Award

The BMC Cancer Research Innovator Awards support junior faculty at the beginning of their careers who are performing innovative research in cancer and areas related to cancer. Proposals may include basic, translational, clinical, or population-based research topics. Priority will be given to innovative projects with the potential to significantly increase understanding of underlying cancer mechanisms, lead to the development of new therapeutic strategies, address cancer related health disparities, or otherwise positively impact cancer care. Funding will be for one year, in the amount of \$50,000. Candidates must be in the first five years of their faculty appointment and must work in BMC space.

To apply, please submit the following materials by May 1, 2023

- Chair or Section Chief nomination letter
- A one-page description of the proposed research
- A proposed budget: funds may be used for salary support, supplies, and other appropriate research related expenses
- Candidate CV

Please send any questions and application materials to: [Erin.McCarthy@bmc.org](mailto:Erin.McCarthy@bmc.org)

## Merck RFA's

1. The 2023 Areas of Interest are now available on the EngageZone platform: Oncology Investigator Initiated Studies Program- Belzutifan Drug & Funding Review Cycle.

The submission window for proposals is open until March 30, 2023.

Critical Timelines:

- Proposal submission: March 30, 2023
- Proposal decisions communicated to investigators: June 2, 2023

2. Second, the AOIs for the Patient Engagement, Diversity, and Health Literacy program have also been updated: MISP: Patient Engagement, Diversity and Health Literacy.

The submission requires a protocol with a deadline of May 16, 2023.

# Medicine 1 Associate Clerkship Director

The DOM Office of Student Education is soliciting applications to join their team as a Medicine 1 Associate Clerkship Director (ACD). The ACDs for Medicine 1 take a leadership role in overseeing aspects of clerkship curriculum/administration for 3rd year BUSM students on the IM clerkship. This includes supporting students, teams and the clerkship within the Department of Medicine.

Student-centered Responsibilities for Associate Clerkship Directors include:

1. Direct Observation of 3rd year students
2. Assessment
3. Developing longitudinal relationships w students over the Med 1 8-week rotation
4. Student skills-teaching and didactics
5. Feedback
6. Team liason supporting feedback and assessment of students on their teams

Further details of the position will be provided upon request.

## Support

The Associate Clerkship Director/Evans Student Educator for Medicine 1 will be supported at the level of 0.3 FTE for their primary responsibilities. We anticipate the ACD joining our team May-June 2023.

We look forward to building a team of ACDs who bring interest and expertise in direct observation, assessment and curricular innovation. Interested faculty can submit a CV and one-page cover letter discussing how the ACD position will fit with their career goals. Please send materials to Yulianna Santos [yusantos@bu.edu](mailto:yusantos@bu.edu) by end of business Wed March 15th, 2023.

Please direct any questions to Sonia Ananthakrishnan: [Sonia.ananthakrishnan@bmc.org](mailto:Sonia.ananthakrishnan@bmc.org).

# DOM Research Accelerator Program

The Department of Medicine Research Accelerator Program is to provide support for junior faculty who are committed to pursuing a career as a physician-scientist or scientist within the DOM. The program provides funding during the crucial period of career development in the first three years of their first faculty position (Instructor or Assistant Professor) within the DOM. Eligible MD or MD/PhD. applicants can be final year senior fellows or junior faculty members. Eligible PhD post-doctoral fellows must be in the final year of training with pending appointment to faculty independent of this award. This program does not support individuals to continue post-doctoral studies. Please review the attachment for additional details. Submit your applications as a single pdf by April 15, 2023 to [Vanessa.Nguyen@bmc.org](mailto:Vanessa.Nguyen@bmc.org).

## Health Resources in Action (HRiA)

Health Resources in Action (HRiA) is a Boston nonprofit dedicated to advancing public health and medical research.

In this virtual workshop, BU faculty members and postdocs will learn about funding programs that support:

- postdocs and mentored clinician scientists in basic/preclinical science or clinical/implementation research;
- clinical, basic science, public health, health services, and epidemiology research relevant to child health;
- innovative clinical and service system research that supports children and adolescents with disabilities;
- translational age-related macular degeneration research; and
- pharmaceutical research that will lead to improved therapies for Alzheimer's patients.

For a full list of the programs being discussed, visit the Office of Research website. The presentation and Q&A will be led by Kimberly Lezak, PhD, HRiA's managing director of biomedical research grantmaking, and Charlene Mancusi, director of the Charles H. Hood Foundation.

Date: March 28, 2023, 1-2pm ET, Via Zoom

# Research Seminar

## Heme/Onc Research Seminar



**Tuesday March 28th at 3PM**

**Zoom:** <https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/92402527142?pwd=d1RqZ3VjUGNTRVhnciZhcTlNbFdiUT09>



**Dr. Rachel Flynn, PhD**

Defining the DNA Damage Response  
at ALT Telomeres



**Dr. Elizabeth Klings, MD**

Venous thromboembolism and cardiac  
dysfunction in sickle cell disease





Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine  
Department of Medicine

## **Mini-symposium: Predictive Markers and Disparities in Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (PIPER-C ARC)**

**Time: Mar 30, 2023, 12:00-2:00 PM Eastern Time**



**Dr. Matthew Kulke.....12:00-12:15**

***Tryptophan Metabolism Association with Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors***

**Dr. Gerald Denis.....12:15-12:30**

***Plasma Exosomes as Potential Biomarkers for Cancer Patient Responses to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors***

**Dr. Victoria Herrera.....12:30-12:45**

***Study of Neutrophil Subsets as Biomarkers of ICI-response – Potential Prognostic, Monitoring and/or Predictive Biomarkers***

**Dr. Chinmay Jani.....12:45-1:00**

***Association of Immune-Related Adverse Events and Improved Treatment Outcomes across Race/Ethnicity in a Diverse Patient Population***

**Dr. Justin Battaglini.....1:00-1:15**

***Disparities in Response to Immunotherapy in Hepatocellular Carcinoma***

**Q & A.....1:15-2:00**

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**Join us in person at FGH1 conference room, where Lunch will be provided or via zoom**

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/94451358281>**

**Meeting ID: 944 5135 8281**



**BU Clinical & Translational Science Institute**



# Upcoming Events

3/16/23: Hem Onc Clinical Faculty Meeting:  
[https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/96560806101?](https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/96560806101?pwd=TytPTkg1Ung4enJaRIJhZmQ4NnFCUT09)  
[pwd=TytPTkg1Ung4enJaRIJhZmQ4NnFCUT09](https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/96560806101?pwd=TytPTkg1Ung4enJaRIJhZmQ4NnFCUT09)  
Meeting ID: 965 6080 6101  
Passcode: 884121

3/23/23: BU-BMC Cancer Center Grand Rounds- Dr. Christopher Manz, Harvard Medical School

## Follow Us on Instagram!



Hematology & Medical Oncology is 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 2023:

- [Advanced Practice Provider](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Hematology/Hematologic Malignancies](#)
- [Senior Program Coordinator](#)
- [Lab Coordinator](#)
- [Administrative Manager, Finance Operations](#)