

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



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Congratulations to **Meredith Halpin, MD**, Hem Onc Fellowship Associate Program Director, who was inducted into the Boston University Clinical Excellence Society in November. This award honors members who have made exceptional contributions to our clinical mission and who have exemplified our core values through outstanding clinical work.

New Hires



Gabrielle Keaveney NS, NP

Gabrielle Keaveney, NS, NP, accepted a position as an Advanced Practice Provider starting 2/1. Gabrielle will be supporting the red blood cell program, as we expand our capabilities to include emerging approaches for gene therapy in sickle cell disease and thalassemia. She is a graduate of Curry College and has broad nursing experience, having worked early in her career as an emergency room nurse at New York Presbyterian Hospital, a nurse navigator in the Belkin Breast Center at Boston Medical Center, and as an oncology nurse at both Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Massachusetts General Hospital. She received her Master's Degree and NP certification from Regis College last year, and most recently has been working as an urgent care nurse at Mass General Brigham.



Katie Li, MD

Katie Li, MD, accepted a position as a hospitalist starting 7/1. Katie is currently completing her senior residency here at Boston Medical Center and Boston University; many of us have worked with her on the inpatient services and have been impressed with her outstanding clinical skills. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Brandeis University, and received her medical degree from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University. She has previous research experience working in the Center for Epigenetics Research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and is currently working on a number of research projects with Meredith Halpin and Raphael Szalat.



Afia Fatima Mirza, MD

Afia Fatima Mirza, MD, accepted a position as a hospitalist starting 7/1. Afia has extensive prior experience as a hospitalist and is currently working as a hospitalist at the Lahey Clinic. She completed her medical degree at Osmania Medical College in India, an internal medicine residency at Greater Baltimore Medical Center in Maryland, and a fellowship in geriatric medicine at the University of Illinois in Chicago. She has a particular interest in palliative care, and has also been involved in a number of clinical quality improvement initiatives in her prior roles.

New Hires



Maya Abdallah, MD

Maya Abdallah, MD, accepted an offer to join the faculty starting 7/1. Dr. Abdallah will be joining our hematology and hematologic malignancies group, with a specific clinical and research focus on geriatric hematology. She is completing her fellowship here at BU/BMC in the geriatric hematology/oncology fellowship program, and has been doing an outstanding job as one of our current chief fellows. Prior to coming to BU, Dr. Abdallah completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Massachusetts; she is a graduate of the American University of Beirut and received her MD at the University of Balamand Medical School in Lebanon, where she won numerous awards for academic achievement. She is the recipient of an ASH Abstract Achievement Award, serves as Chair of the American Society of Hematology Trainee Council, and as Vice Chair of the Cancer and Aging Special Interest Group for the American Geriatric Society.



Noundy Mazile

Noundy Mazile joined the Section as a Clinical Research Assistant in the Translational Research Core. Noundy recently graduated from Stonehill College with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience. Her academic journey was enriched by engaging experiments with neuro cells alongside peers and the Neuroscience department head. This experience fueled her passion for research, marking the initial steps in her exciting research journey. Post-graduation, she embarked on an internship at the VA hospital, specifically in the translational cognitive Neuroscience department, where she collaborated on projects involving veterans with Alzheimer's disease. This opportunity exposed her to various facets of research, and she found fulfillment in both academic and practical aspects. Beyond her academic pursuits, she finds joy in watching movies, listening to music, and creating memorable adventures. She is an avid traveler, always seeking new experiences. As a proud Haitian, she occasionally misses the familiarity and warmth of her homeland. The unique cultural aspects and connections to her roots remain close to her heart.

Evans Day Awards



Mark Sloan MD

Mark Sloan MD, Hem Onc fellowship director, was awarded the Special Teaching Recognition Award, acknowledging exceptional skill, leadership, and mentorship in our teaching mission.



Gwen Beacham, PhD

Gwen Beacham, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate in the Hagedorn Lab, received the 1st Place Poster Presentation Award (Basic Science) for her poster “Scavenger receptors in the transendothelial migration of blood stem cells.”



Olivia Perry

Olivia Perry, Undergraduate student in the Lowery lab, received the 2nd Place Oral Presentation Award (Basic Science) for her presentation on the Impact of XMAP215 on neural crest cell migration and craniofacial development in *Xenopus laevis*.



Burcu Erdogan, PhD

Burcu Erdogan, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate in the Lowery Lab, received the 2nd Place Poster Presentation Award (Basic Science) for her poster on Investigating the role of CKAP5 domains in mediating microtubule and actin interaction in *Xenopus laevis* growth cones

Awards



Eddie Ruiz

Eddie Ruiz, a 3rd year graduate student in the Dries lab, was featured in the GSF spotlight by the Hariri Institute. Eddie is a student in the Genetics and Genomics Program (GPGG) and the first Hariri Institute Graduate Student Fellow (GSF) from the medical campus. [Read more](#)

Presentations



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD

Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD, presented at the 20th International Myeloma Society Meeting in Athens Greece. Presentations included “Meet the professors: Amyloidosis” on September 28 and “Advances in systematic AL amyloidosis” Special session on September 30.



Laura Lowery, PhD

Laura Lowery, PhD, presented an invited talk, “Investigating the function of microtubule polymerase “CKAP5/XMAP215, in mediating microtubule-F-actin dynamics in growth cones,” at the international microtubules in Neurons Conference in Bavaria Germany on October 11, 2023.

Publications



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD

Dr. Vaishali Sanchorawala and collaborators published Safety and Efficacy of Propylene Glycol-Free Melphalan in Patients with AL Amyloidosis Undergoing Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation: Results of a Phase II Study.

Sarosiek S, Lee MH, Doros G, Edwards CV, Quillen K, Brauneis D, Shelton AC, Sanchorawala V, Sloan JM. Safety and Efficacy of Propylene Glycol-Free Melphalan in Patients with AL Amyloidosis Undergoing Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation: Results of a phase II study: Propylene Glycol-Free Melphalan Conditioning for Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation for AL Amyloidosis. *Transplant Cell Ther.* 2023 Aug 20:S2666-6367(23)01501-4. doi: 10.1016/j.jtct.2023.08.018. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37607644.



Umit Tapan, MD

Dr. Umit Tapan and collaborators published Disparities in outcomes between Black and White patients in North America with thoracic malignancies and COVID-19 infection (TERAVOLT)

Burns L, Hsu CY, Whisenant JG, Marmarelis ME, Presley CJ, Reckamp KL, Khan H, Jo Fidler M, Bestvina CM, Brahmer J, Puri S, Patel JD, Halmos B, Hirsch FR, Liu SV, Costa DB, Goldberg SB, Feldman LE, Mamdani H, Puc M, Mansfield AS, Islam N, Scilla KA, Garassino MC, Horn L, Peters S, Wakelee HA, Charlot M, Tapan U. Disparities in outcomes between Black and White patients in North America with thoracic malignancies and COVID-19 infection (TERAVOLT). *Lung Cancer.* 2023 Nov 13;186:107423. doi: 10.1016/j.lungcan.2023.107423. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37995456.

Hem Onc Social Committee Clinic Breakfast

Thank you to the Hem Onc Social Committee for cooking a delicious breakfast for the Hem Onc clinic staff on 10/24!



Announcements

SPATIAL BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

Date	Speaker
October 3rd, 2023	Rushin Gindra PhD Candidate, Experimental Medicine, Technical University of Munich
November 7th, 2023	Lukas Weber Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Boston University School of Public Health
November 14th, 2023	Loic Binan Postdoctoral Fellow, Klarman Cell Observatory, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
December 5th, 2023	Jeffrey Moffitt Assistant Professor, Program in Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital and Department of Microbiology, Harvard Medical School
February 6th, 2024	Anna Tseng PhD Candidate, Department of Virology, Immunology & Microbiology, Chobanian and Avedisian BU School of Medicine

**JOIN US IN OUR SPATIAL BIOLOGY
SEMINAR SERIES! TALKS WILL BE HELD
ON TUESDAYS FROM 4-5PM EST. TALKS
WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND WILL
CONTINUE UNTIL JUNE.**

[HTTPS://BOSTONU.ZOOM.US/J/91462073561](https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/91462073561)

MEETING ID: 914 6207 3561

PASSCODE: 546512

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE
CONTACT ERIN KANE
(ERINKANE@BU.EDU) OR SCAN THE QR
CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE.



DOM Faculty Dinners

Department of Medicine Faculty Dinners

The Faculty Development & Diversity Committee hosts networking dinners for DoM faculty at Emelia Benjamin's home in Brookline, MA.

- Time: 6:30 to 8:30pm
- Dinners seek to foster networking, collaboration & support diverse faculty groups

2023-2024 Faculty Dinners

- Women Faculty - Nov. 1st, 2023
- URG Faculty & Allies - Nov. 16th, 2023
- Investigators - Winter/Spring 2024
- Women Faculty & Trainees - Spring 2024
- URG Faculty, Allies, & Trainees - Spring 2024

Please contact bumcfdd@bu.edu with any questions!



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

Save the Date!

Hem Onc 2023 Section Holiday Party



Thursday, December 14, 2023
Boston Odyssey Cruise Ship
Boarding Time: 6:00 - 7:00PM
Sailing Time: 7:00 - 9:00PM

AY25 Inpatient Scheduling Form

Dear Clinical Faculty,

In order to facilitate inpatient scheduling for AY25, we have created the following online form for you to fill out: https://bostonu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_03eQUf2pPqBz0FM

The form is meant to provide us with information regarding your preferences for summer blocks, holidays, vacations and weeks/weekends that pertain to inpatient service.

Please note: This form is for inpatient scheduling purposes only. Kindly use the Time Off Request Form <https://www.bumc.bu.edu/hematology/time-off-requests/> if you would like to request time off.

Kindly submit this form as early as possible and no later than 1/5/2024.

Please reach out to [Nellie Ferrara](#) with any questions.
Thank you.

Upcoming Events

12/7/23: Hem Onc Section Meeting: <https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/98056094701?pwd=dkxVSnVIY3J4aTdPZW1TRGNpblZFUT09>

Meeting ID: 980 5609 4701

Passcode: 288493

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 November 2023:

- [Genetic Counselor, Cancer Care Center](#)
- [Advanced Practice Provider, Neuro-Oncology and CNS Malignancies](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Breast Oncology](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Gastrointestinal Oncology](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Neuro-Oncology](#)