

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



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New Cancer Cases Are Expected to Pass 2 Million This Year. What Does That Mean for All of Us?

Featuring Dr. Naomi Ko



New Hires



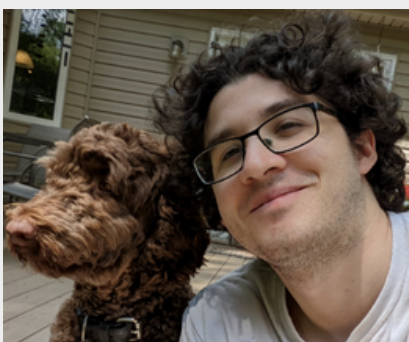
Lesley Wu, MD

Lesley Wu, MD, accepted a faculty position starting 9/1. Dr. Wu will be joining our breast oncology group; she also anticipates working to expand our efforts in the high-risk cancer genetics clinic. Dr. Wu is currently completing her fellowship training in hematology and medical oncology here at Boston University, where she serves as a Chief Fellow. She completed her undergraduate training at The College of New Jersey, received her MD at Rutgers Medical School, and completed her internal medicine residency at the Icahn School of Medicine in New York. In addition to her outstanding clinical work and academic record, she is an accomplished musician and a prior recipient of the John Philip Sousa Award.



Britney Bell, MD

Britney Bell, MD accepted a faculty position starting 9/1. Dr. Bell will be joining our hospitalist group while continuing to pursue research on the impact of health literacy on patient treatment outcomes. Dr. Bell received her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from Creighton University and completed both her MD and residency at Creighton University School of Medicine. She had an initial interest and several publications on the development of nanoparticles as drug delivery mechanisms. However, over the course of her training she developed an increasing interest in addressing gaps in cancer health literacy. She subsequently joined our fellowship program, where she has not only demonstrated outstanding clinical skills but has also further developed her research initiatives. Among her many accomplishments, she is a recipient of the American Society of Hematology Minority Fellow Award.



Sebastian Sansone

Sebastian Sansone accepted a position as the new Senior Grant Manager starting 2/1. Sebastian joins us from Project Place, where he was a Senior Grants and Systems Manager after getting promoted from his position as Development Coordinator and then Grant and Systems Manager. Sebastian received his Bachelor's degree in Communications and Cultural Studies from Clark University in Worcester, MA. In his free time, Sebastian enjoys hiking, playing volleyball, gaming, board games, and spending time with his friends and partner.

Publications



Umit Tapan

Dr. Umit Tapan and collaborators published [“Disparities in Lung Cancer Clinical Trial Discussion and Enrollment at a Safety Net Hospital.”](#)

Dudipala H, Burns L, Jani CT, et al. Disparities in Lung Cancer Clinical Trial Discussion and Enrollment at a Safety Net Hospital. Community Health Equity Research & Policy. 2023;0(0). doi:10.1177/2752535X231221394

Dr. Umit Tapan and collaborators published [“Real-World comprehensive genomic profiling data for diagnostic clarity in pulmonary Large-Cell neuroendocrine carcinoma.”](#)

Burns L, Tukachinsky H, Raskina K, Huang RSP, Schrock AB, Sands J, Kulke MH, Oxnard GR, Tapan U. Real-World comprehensive genomic profiling data for diagnostic clarity in pulmonary Large-Cell neuroendocrine carcinoma. Lung Cancer. 2023 Dec 29;188:107454. doi: 10.1016/j.lungcan.2023.107454. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38159439.

Dr. Naomi Ko and collaborators published [Breast cancer survivorship experiences among Black women.](#)

Ko NY, Fikre TG, Buck AK, Restrepo E, Warner ET. Breast cancer survivorship experiences among Black women. Cancer. 2023 Sep;129(S19):3087-3101. doi: 10.1002/cncr.34634. PMID: 37691522.

In addition, **Dr. Ko** was a co-author on a presentation at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium on December 7 entitled “Exploration of ctDNA Dynamic in the PACE Trial.”

Dr. Vaishali Sanchorawala and collaborators published a book chapter. Vaishali Sanchorawala. Light chain (AL) amyloidosis, Part 8, 56. Cancer Consult: Expertise in Clinical Practice, Volume 2: Neoplastic Hematology & Cellular Therapy, 2nd Edition, Edited by Syed A. Abutalib, Maurie Markman, James O. Armitage, Kenneth C. Anderson ISBN: 978-1-119-82317-9 November 2023.



Naomi Ko



Vaishali Sanchorawala

Publications



Chris Heaphy

Dr. Chris Heaphy and collaborators published "[DAXX promotes centromeric stability independently of ATRX by preventing the accumulation of R-loop-induced DNA double-stranded breaks.](#)"

Pinto LM, Pailas A, Bondarchenko M, Sharma AB, Neumann K, Rizzo AJ, Jeanty C, Nicot N, Racca C, Graham MK, Naughton C, Liu Y, Chen CL, Meakin PJ, Gilbert N, Britton S, Meeker AK, Heaphy CM, Larminat F, Van Dyck E.



Julie Palmer

Dr. Julie Palmer and collaborators published "[Addition of polygenic risk score to a risk calculator for prediction of breast cancer in US Black women.](#)"

Zirpoli GR, Pfeiffer RM, Bertrand KA, Huo D, Lunetta KL, Palmer JR. Addition of polygenic risk score to a risk calculator for prediction of breast cancer in US Black women. *Breast Cancer Res.* 2024 Jan 2;26(1):2. doi: 10.1186/s13058-023-01748-8. PMID: 38167144; PMCID: PMC10763003.



Mollie Barnard



Julie Palmer

Dr. Mollie Barnard, Dr. Julie Palmer and collaborators published "[Psychosocial stressors and breast cancer gene expression in the Black Women's Health Study.](#)"

Barnard ME, Wang X, Petrick JL, Zirpoli GR, Jones D, Johnson WE, Palmer JR. Psychosocial stressors and breast cancer gene expression in the Black Women's Health Study. *Breast Cancer Res Treat.* 2023 Dec 21. doi: 10.1007/s10549-023-07182-w. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38127176.



Publications



Martin Steinberg

Dr. Martin Steinberg published a review titled “Cell-based genetic therapy for the induction of foetal haemoglobin in sickle cell disease and transfusion-dependent β -thalassaemia. touchREVIEWS in Oncol. & Haematol. 19:29, 2023. doi.org/10.17925/OHR.2023.19.2.29.

Dr. Martin Steinberg and a collaborator published Severity in adult sickle cell disease.

Steinberg, M.H. and Gladwin, M.T. (2023), “Severity” in adult sickle cell disease. Am J Hematol, 98: 1508-1511. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajh.27024>

Dr. Martin Steinberg was an author of an abstract, “Efficacy and safety of a single dose of CTX001 for transfusion-dependent Beta-Thalassemia and severe sickle cell disease,” presented at the European Society of Hematology in Frankfurt, Germany. An abstract, “Exagamglogene Autotemcel for Severe Sickle Cell Disease,” was presented at ASH 2023 following the approval by the FDA of this first CRISPR/Cas gene editing treatment in humans.



Lucas Pereira

Lucas Pereira and collaborators published “Assessment of the Current Status of Real-World Pharmacogenomic Testing: Informed Consent, Patient Education, and Related Practices.”

Pereira L, Haidar CE, Haga SB, Cisler AG, Hall A, Shukla SK, Hebbring SJ and Leary EJW (2024) Assessment of the current status of real-world pharmacogenomic testing: informed consent, patient education, and related practices. Front. Pharmacol. 15:1355412. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2024.1355412

Presentations



Naomi Ko

Dr. Naomi Ko was featured on the WGBH television broadcast Basic Black, discussing black and brown women surviving breast cancer. The episode is available as a podcast <https://www.wgbh.org/podcasts/basic-black> and for viewing on GHB News YouTube channel.



Martin Steinberg

Dr. Martin Steinberg presented a Keynote Address on August 31 entitled “Gene Therapy and Fetal Hemoglobin: Progress Toward a Cure for Sickle Cell Disease,” at the 8th Annual Cell and Gene Therapy Symposium hosted by the Centre for Stem Cell Research (a unit of inStem, Bengaluru) Christian Medical College Campus, Bagayam Vellore, Tamil Nadu India.

Dr. Martin Steinberg presented an invited talk on November 16 at the Saudi International Hematology and Oncology Meeting sponsored by the Saudi Arabian Hematology/Oncology Society, entitled, “History and Current State of Clinical Research in Sickle Cell Disease: Opportunities and Challenges Focusing on HbF.”



Chris Heaphy

Dr. Chris Heaphy was invited to present at the Annual Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation Symposium on November 16th in Boston. The title of his talk was “The detection of Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres via Chromogenic in Situ Hybridization (ALT-CISH) for the prognostication of PanNET’s and other neoplasms.”



Maggie Ruderman

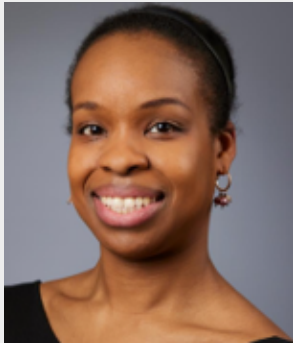
Maggie Ruderman, MS, CGC presented an invited talk, “ELSI Considerations In the Design of a Trial Disclosing Cancer Genetic Research Results to U.S. Black Women” at the New England Regional Genetics Group Annual Educational Conference in Portsmouth, NH on December 7, 2023.

Awards



Kim Vanuytsel

Kim Vanuytsel, PhD, received the American Society of Hematology's (ASH) 2024 Junior Faculty Scholar Awards in Basic/Translational Research. This award supports early career scientists dedicated to careers in hematology research as they establish themselves as independent investigators. Dr. Vanuytsel will receive \$150,000 for her research project, "Improving transplantation outcomes through manipulation of hematopoietic stem cell repopulating potential."



Camille Edwards



Nathanael Fillmore

Camille Edwards, MD and **Nathanael Fillmore, PhD**, received a new grant titled "Artificial intelligence/machine learning-based risk prediction modeling guiding individualized interventions to improve outcomes for patients with multiple myeloma".



Chris Heaphy



Ruben Dries

Chris Heaphy, PhD, and **Ruben Dries, PhD**, received a multi-PI NCI R21 for their project titled "Delineating myeloid-centric immunosuppressive crosstalk as targets for prognosis and therapy in neuroendocrine tumors."

Recognition



Mark Sloan

Mark Sloan, MD, presented an educational lecture at the Annual American Society of Hematology conference: "What is a 'normal' neutrophil count? The Duffy red cell antigen, ancestry, genetics and evolution"



Nellie Ferrara

Nellie Ferrara completed the DOM M.A.D.E. Program. The staff professional development program helps participants learn broadly applicable skills required for roles in Research Administration and Finance, Analytics and Revenue Cycle. Participants are partnered with a mentor in their field of interest and have the opportunity to apply skills they learn through real-life exercises and projects.



Charlene Sylvestre

Charlene Sylvestre, NP, participated in the Sickle Cell boot camp in Brazil November 6th-10th with 6 other nursing professionals from around the country. The ministry of health invited us to teach the "Train the Trainer" curriculum to 36 nurses in Brazil who are affiliated with the state-run Sickle Cell Programs there.



Christine Engle

Christine Engle, NP, recently achieved Advanced Oncology Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP) certification after passing her Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner Exam.



Nebulla Stephen

Nebulla Stephen, NP, passed her board exam for the American Academy of Lifestyle Medicine.

Dear Colleagues,

I am thrilled to share groundbreaking news from Boston Medical Center Health System (BMCHS) that reflects our ongoing commitment to advancing clinical care and promoting health equity. Last week, BMC announced it will offer the first-ever gene therapies for sickle cell disease. The new therapies leverage the latest advances in medical science to alleviate the devastating pain of sickle cell disease, a long-awaited step toward equity in treatment of a disease predominantly impacting Black individuals.

BMC is the only hospital in New England to offer the therapies to eligible adult patients. It's no surprise we're at the forefront of this transformative treatment — BMC's Center of Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease has long taken an innovative and multidisciplinary approach to caring for patients suffering from this debilitating disease.

Historically, patients with sickle cell disease have faced a difficult landscape. Despite 100,000 individuals in the U.S. living with the disease, scientific advances have been stunted for decades, and research funding has lagged behind other genetic disorders. There are also many barriers that prevent patients from receiving the care they need, whether it's standardized care models, stigma related to pain in this patient population, or limited knowledge of sickle cell among healthcare providers.

These new therapies represent hope for the evolution of care. Offering them at BMC opens new doors for some of our patients, providing them with potential life-changing therapies for the extreme pain sickle cell disease causes. The new therapies will be available to select, eligible adult sickle cell patients at BMC who have exhausted other standard of care options.

Congratulations to [Dr. Jean-Antoine Ribeil](#), who has committed his career to the research, advancement of care, and treatment of sickle cell disease and is leading the delivery of these therapies at BMC. And many thanks to the entire team at BMC's Center of Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease who have worked tirelessly to build relationships and trust with our patients and families for over 50 years. You can read more about these new gene therapy treatments and BMC on our website, in [The New York Times](#), and in [The Boston Globe](#).

It's unbelievably exciting to see how innovation is pushing forward the critical work we're doing for our patients, and I know this innovative spirit carries through to our entire system. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to providing cutting-edge care to our patients and members.



Alastair Bell, MD
President & CEO, Boston Medical Center Health System

Boston Magazine's Top Docs 2024

Boston Magazine published its annual list of "Top Docs" and we are proud to share the Hem Onc faculty members that were included on the list. Congratulations!



Gretchen Gignac, MD (Medical Oncology)



Matthew Kulke, MD (Medical Oncology)



Adam Lerner, MD (Medical Oncology)



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD (Hematology)



As a former New England Patriot, I loved being part of a team—but it’s the teams I’m part of off the field that forever tie me to Boston—especially Boston Medical Center. Today, I’m writing with incredible news from BMC that could impact thousands of people suffering from sickle cell disease. The Food and Drug Administration just approved the first gene editing therapies ever to be used to treat sickle cell disease in adults, and Boston Medical Center is the only hospital in New England to soon offer the therapies.

Innovative research combined with best-in-class care make BMC a national leader in health equity. Will you consider a gift to The BMC Fund to support this work? Your donation to BMC today will now be matched by two generous donors, up to \$100,000!

BMC’s Center of Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease is the largest center of its kind in New England, with a 50-year track record of serving newborns through adults. They’ve gathered the brightest talent in pulmonology, nephrology, hematology, and gene therapy to understand and treat the many complications of this painful, life-threatening disease, which disproportionately impacts the Black community.

Today, many patients rely on transfusions that only temporarily address symptoms and put patients at greater risk of death. Imagine a new treatment that could result in less pain and longer lives? Major medical breakthroughs take all of us working together to fight for the better health of our neighbors. Your generosity provides seed funding for promising research initiatives in sickle cell and other areas, help with patient transportation to and from hospital appointments, and new ideas that take staff time and resources to launch.

Will you consider a gift today to double your impact?

Gene therapy offers so much promise to patients who are running out of hope. In this season of giving, make a gift that supports the compassionate, quality care and lifesaving interventions so desperately needed in sickle cell disease and other areas.

I see all the good BMC is doing in Boston. In sickle cell disease care and so many other clinical areas, it’s work that is leading to a transformation in care nationwide. Thank you for joining team BMC and me in creating healthier futures for everyone.



Devin McCourty
Former New England Patriot | Football Night in America Commentator
BMC Trustee

NIH Increases Salary Limitation for FY2024 to \$221,900



Dear Research Community,

Please note that the Federal Executive Level II salary cap for 2024 has increased to \$221,900 effective January 1, 2024 and should now be used for proposals going to sponsors for which the salary cap is applicable. These sponsors include NIH agencies, the FDA, and Department of Justice agencies. This does not include other agencies which do not enforce the salary cap, such as DOD and NSF. PCORI remains at a \$200,000 salary cap. For active awards, including awards that have been issued in FY 2024 (continuation and new) that were restricted to Executive Level II, if adequate funds are available and if the salary cap increase is consistent with the institutional base salary, recipients may rebudget funds to accommodate the current Executive Level II salary level.

Below is a link to the official notice:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-24-057.html>

Please contact your SPA representative if you have any questions about this.

Thank you,

Sponsored Programs Administration

Faculty Development Program Application Deadlines

2024-2025 Faculty Development Program Application Deadlines

Applications for the 2024-2025 Faculty Development Programs will begin opening this February! See below for application periods, and please visit our [website](#) to learn more & to apply.

Contact us at bumcfd@bu.edu for more info!

Mid-Career	Feb. 12 – Mar. 29
Clinician Educator	Feb. 12 – Mar. 29
Early Career	Feb. 12 – Mar. 29
Narrative Writing	Apr. 1 – May 20
Marcelle Willock Program	Apr. 1 – May 20
Women's Leadership	Apr. 1 – May 20

Contact: Teresa Acosta / Faculty Development & Diversity Office | bumcfd@bu.edu | 617-358-3563

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.



Upcoming Events

Hematology & Medical Oncology Grand Rounds



Kim Vanuytsel, PhD
Assistant Professor, Hematology & Medical Oncology
Boston Medical Center

"Improving transplantation outcomes through a better understanding of hematopoietic stem cell repopulating potential"

Feb 22nd, 2024 | 12:00-1:00pm
FGH 1 Conference Room & Zoom
Lunch will be provided

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/93229792400>

Meeting ID: 932 2979 2400

Upcoming Events

Hem Onc Grand Rounds

2/22/24: Kim Vanuytsel, PhD: "Improving transplantation outcomes through manipulation of hematopoietic stem cell repopulating potential."

2/29/24: Omar Siddiqi, MD: "Advances in Cardio-Oncology"

3/28/24: Grace Zhao, MD: "The BMC in-house genotyping initiative: progress and future directions"

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 January 2024:

- [Senior Administrative Coordinator](#)
- [Administrative Coordinator](#)
- [Advanced Practice Provider, Neuro-Oncology and CNS Malignancies](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Breast Oncology](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Gastrointestinal Oncology](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Neuro-Oncology](#)