

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



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Summer Science Program Shows High Schoolers That Anyone Can Be a Scientist

Featuring members from Dr. Elliott
Hagedorn's lab



New Hires



Samson Yuan, MS, CGC

Samson Yuan, MS, CGC, joins the Section as a cancer genetic counselor. Samson graduated from Boston University with a degree in Biology and received an MS in Genetic Counseling from Columbia University. While at Columbia, he worked on the reclassification of genetic variants in eMERGE III, a large NIH funded genetics database. He has been active as a community advocate, having worked with patients in Puerto Rico to expand access to genetic counseling services, and is fluent in Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin.



Shubam Chopra

Shubam Chopra joins the Translational Research Lab as a Research Assistant. Shubam joins us from Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, where he obtained his Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology. He also holds a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree from India. During his time at Tulane, Shubam served as a Student Research Assistant on various NIH and CDC sponsored studies. With a profound interest in Cancer Research, he aspires to pursue a PhD in cancer epidemiology. Joining the Translational Research Lab presents an excellent opportunity for him to delve deeper into the realm of cancer research.



Anaïs Mortazavi Zadeh

Anaïs Mortazavi Zadeh joins the Translational Research Group as a Research Assistant. Anaïs joins us from McGill University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts & Science in Cognitive Science. Anaïs has also always been eager to get involved in research, and she spent the last summer working as a member of the Translational Research in Affect and Cognition Lab at McGill. Following her graduation in June 2023, Anaïs realized that her career interests lie in the intersection of technology and scientific research. She is currently pursuing her Master's in Computer and Information Technology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Publications



Rebecca Miksad, MD

Rebecca Miksad, MD, and a collaborator published The US Food and Drug Administration Dual Mandate for Rapid Drug Review and Equity.

Miksad RA, Ryals CA. The US Food and Drug Administration Dual Mandate for Rapid Drug Review and Equity. JAMA Netw Open. 2024 May 1;7(5):e2411447. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.11447. PMID: 38691364.



Maya Abdallah, MD

Maya Abdallah, MD, and co-authors summarized key geriatric hematology research presented at the recent annual ASH meeting.

Abdallah M, Othman Salim Akhtar, Ajay Major, Hira Mian, Mazie Tsang, Pallawi Torka, Perspectives on geriatric oncology research presented at the 2023 American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting: Young International Society of Geriatric Oncology report, Journal of Geriatric Oncology, 2024,101762, ISSN 1879-4068, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgo.2024.101762>. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1879406824000602>)



Joakin Mori, PhD



Chris Heaphy, PhD

Chris Heaphy, PhD, Joakin Mori, PhD, and collaborators published Prognostic and therapeutic potential of senescent stromal fibroblasts in prostate cancer.

Mori JO, Elhussin I, Brennen WN, Graham MK, Lotan TL, Yates CC, De Marzo AM, Denmeade SR, Yegnasubramanian S, Nelson WG, Denis GV, Platz EA, Meeker AK, Heaphy CM. Nature Reviews Urology. 2024 May;21(5):258-273.

Publications



Gretchen Gignac,
MD



Sita Bhatt,
PharmD, BCOP



Jasmine Patel,
PharmD, BCOP

Gretchen Gignac, MD, Sita Bhatt PharmD, BCOP, and Jasmine Patel PharmD, BCOP, published a case report titled Enfortumab-vedotin use for urothelial carcinoma in two patients on hemodialysis

Khosla H, Bhatt S, Wang MJ, Gignac G, Mittal K, Patel J. Enfortumab-vedotin use for urothelial carcinoma in two patients on hemodialysis. J Oncol Pharm Pract. 2024 Mar 12:10781552241237752. doi: 10.1177/10781552241237752. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38470473.



Martin Steinberg, MD

Martin Steinberg, MD, and co-authors published Exagamglogene Autotemcel for Severe Sickle Cell Disease

Franco Locatelli, Peter Lang, Donna Wall, Roland Meisel, Selim Corbacioglu, Amanda M. Li, Josu de la Fuente, Ami J. Shah, Ben Carpenter, Janet L. Kwiatkowski, Markus Mapara, Robert I. Liem, Maria Domenica Cappellini, Mattia Algeri, Antonis Kattamis, Sujit Sheth, Stephan Grupp, Rupert Handgretinger, Puja Kohli, Daoyuan Shi, Leorah Ross, Yael Bobruff, Christopher Simard, Lanju Zhang, Phuong Khanh Morrow, William E. Hobbs, Haydar Frangoul, Exagamglogene Autotemcel for Transfusion-Dependent β -Thalassemia, New England Journal of Medicine, 390, 18, (1663-1676), (2024).

Presentations



Charlene Sylvestre, NP

Charlene Sylvestre, NP, was invited by the American Society of Hematology and The France Foundation to participate as faculty in the 2024 Sickle Cell Disease Centers Workshop on May 6-9, 2024.



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD

Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD, presented “AL amyloidosis: advances in diagnosis and treatment”, Updates in Hematology and Hematologic Malignancies, at the University of Virginia Medical School on April 12, 2024. In addition, she presented “Amyloidosis”, Chair, 5th European Myeloma Network meeting, at Turin, Italy on April 20, 2024.



Chris Heaphy, PhD

Chris Heaphy, PhD, presented on the "NET Impact through basic and translational research" at the NET IMPACT Research and Thrivership Patient Education Conference sponsored by the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation on May 4th, 2024 in Providence, RI.



Martin Steinberg, MD

Martin Steinberg, MD, presented a talk, “Sickle Cell Disease” as part of a program of scientific lectures for Henry Stewart HSTalks. Contents can be accessed through the library or <https://hstalks.com>

Recognition

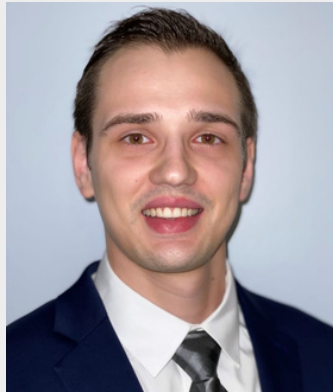


Margaux Dockerty, NP

Margaux Dockerty, NP, received the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine Distinguished Faculty of the Month Award. This award recognizes faculty who provide exceptional commitment and service to our Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine community.



Tashia Prince-Lacombe, NP



Adrian Ilinski

Tashia Prince-Lacombe, NP, and **Adrian Ilinski** received the Hematology & Medical Oncology Faculty & Staff Recognition Award for the month of April. The award recognizes faculty and staff who work within administration, clinical care and research and serves as a means to celebrate excellence, foster a culture of appreciation, and inspire continuous improvement within the departmental community. It is designated for those who have demonstrated outstanding contributions, deliver exceptional service, and go above and beyond their expected duties in the section and the Cancer Center.



Eric Marks, MD

Eric Marks, MD, was selected to participate in the 2024-2025 Clinician Educator Leadership Program (CELP). Acceptance is selective, and the program emphasizes on developing projects, refining roles as a clinician educator and mentor, and expanding peer networks.

Recognition



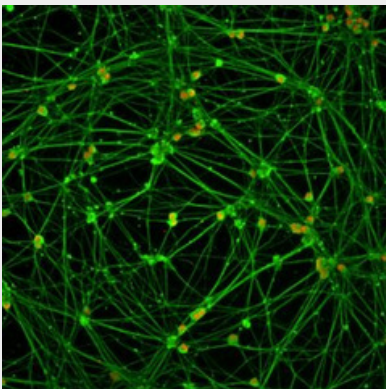
Chris Heaphy, PhD

Congratulations to **Dr. Chris Heaphy** on his recent promotion to Associate Professor of Medicine!



Gerald Denis, PhD

Gerald Denis, PhD, was interviewed for an NPR news story titled How high blood sugar, hypertension and obesity can add up to cancer risk



The Murphy Laboratory and graduate student **Todd Dowrey** were featured in the BU Brink article titled The Secrets of Living to 100

Picture on left from article: neurons in a dish made from individuals with exceptional longevity that allow for studies of the genes that drive resilience against aging-related disease.

Lab Animal Per Diem Rate Changes

Boston University Office of Research

Boston University is committed to efficiently managing its animal care facilities and to reviewing costs annually to ensure that the re-charge rates for PIs are competitive. The University subsidizes the costs of animal housing and veterinary support as part of its investment in the research enterprise. However, as noted in the table below, subsidized rates are only applicable to research performed by BU investigators that is federally funded or supported by foundation/nonprofit grants that carry the full overhead rate (also known as the facilities and administrative (F&A) rate). Please note that BU's F&A rate does not include the subsidized portion of the animal rate. This is a true cost to the University and is not reimbursed by any sponsor.

	Grant # / IO#	Subsidized	Unsubsidized
Federal	50xxxxxx/9500xxxxx	X	
Industry	55xxxxxx/9550xxxxx		X
Foundation, Private with Full Overhead	55xxxxxx/9550xxxxx	X	
Foundation, Private without Full Overhead	55xxxxxx/9550xxxxx		X

Lab animal per diem rates can be found on the Office of Research website. The tables below reflect the costs for fiscal year 2025, beginning July 1, 2024, as well as proposed costs for the next four years. Please use these projected costs when preparing proposal budgets. Despite above average inflation rates, the BU Animal Science Center has worked diligently to build efficiency through staffing optimization and equipment upgrades. As a result, and as noted in the tables below, there will be no additional increases to the PI costs for FY25 beyond those projected in the previous year's memo. Rather, the subsidized price for four of the species listed below have been reduced from what was shown in the previous year's memo. The first table below shows the University-subsidized cost charged to BU PIs for research funded by federal, foundation, or private grants that carry the full F&A rate as noted above.

Lab Animal Per Diem Rate Changes

SUBSIDIZED					
Species	FY25 - 7/1/2024	FY26 – 7/1/2025	FY27 – 7/1/2026	FY28 – 7/1/2027	FY29 – 7/1/2028
Chinchilla	\$7.16	\$7.37	\$7.60	\$7.82	\$8.06
Monkey	\$22.25	\$22.92	\$23.61	\$24.31	\$25.04
Mouse	\$1.33	\$1.37	\$1.41	\$1.45	\$1.50
Rat	\$1.17	\$1.21	\$1.24	\$1.28	\$1.32
Zebra Fish (per tank)	\$0.37	\$0.38	\$0.39	\$0.40	\$0.42
Frog/Salamander (per tank)	\$0.95	\$0.98	\$1.01	\$1.04	\$1.07
Marine (Cane) Toad	\$8.55	\$8.81	\$9.07	\$9.34	\$9.62
Naked Mole Rat	\$41.51	\$42.76	\$44.04	\$45.36	\$46.72
Birds	\$0.60	\$0.62	\$0.64	\$0.66	\$0.68

The second table reflects the full cost of the per diems for the individual species for unsubsidized research. The full direct cost rates must be used for all non-federal grants that do not carry the full BU negotiated F&A rate, per diem services provided under federal and other sponsored research from other non-profit institutions, and for all industry-sponsored agreements. Please note that all start-up accounts, or other non-sponsored funding sources, must pay the full, unsubsidized cost, so please plan accordingly when submitting proposals and funding requests. These rates are exclusive of research within the NEIDL.

FULL, NON-SUBSIDIZED					
Species	FY25 – 7/1/2024	FY26 – 7/1/2025	FY27 – 7/1/2026	FY28 – 7/1/2027	FY29 – 7/1/2028
Chinchilla	\$31.71	\$32.66	\$33.64	\$34.65	\$35.69
Monkey	\$46.99	\$48.40	\$49.85	\$51.35	\$52.89
Mouse	\$2.63	\$2.71	\$2.79	\$2.87	\$2.96
Rat	\$5.20	\$5.36	\$5.52	\$5.68	\$5.85
Zebra Fish (per tank)	\$1.48	\$1.52	\$1.57	\$1.62	\$1.67
Frog/Salamander (per tank)	\$9.99	\$10.29	\$10.60	\$10.92	\$11.24
Marine (Cane) Toad	\$35.79	\$36.86	\$37.97	\$39.11	\$40.28
Naked Mole Rat	\$84.35	\$86.88	\$89.49	\$92.17	\$94.94
Birds	\$4.50	\$4.64	\$4.77	\$4.92	\$5.06

Rates for special services have also been updated, effective Monday, July 1, to \$49 and \$140 for technical services and veterinary services, respectively. This is the first rate increase for special services since FY18.

Bridge Funding RFA

The Department of Medicine is offering Bridge Funding of up to \$50,000 for investigators to support promising studies during an interruption in funding.

The criteria include:

1. Primary faculty appointment in the Department of Medicine;
2. Insufficient funds available to conduct the necessary studies to sustain research momentum;
3. Recent grant review with addressable critiques.
Preference is given to individuals who have not previously received Bridge Funding, have resubmitted a grant or shortly plan to do so, lack other resources in the section or in available accounts to fund the research, and have a strong likelihood of securing funding based on their productivity and promising reviews of a recent grant(s).

If you would like to submit a request for Bridge Funding to the department, please forward the following information to Vanessa Nguyen (Vanessa.Nguyen@bmc.org) by June 28, 2024.

1. Updated Biosketch;
2. Existing and pending grant support;
3. Reviews (summary statements) of recent grants;
4. Summary of the response to the critiques;
5. Brief description of how the bridge funds will be used.

Faculty & Staff Recognition Award

Call for Nominations!



Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond? Nominate them today and let their efforts be celebrated!

<https://www.bumc.bu.edu/hematology/faculty-staff-awards/>

The section of Hematology & Medical Oncology “Employee Recognition Award” is designed to recognize faculty and staff who work within administration, clinical care and research. This award serves as a means to celebrate excellence, foster a culture of appreciation, and inspire continuous improvement within the departmental community. It is designated for those who have demonstrated outstanding contributions, deliver exceptional service, and go above and beyond their expected duties in the section and the Cancer Center.

Upcoming Events

6/6/24: Hem Onc Monthly Section Meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/95130989088>

Meeting ID: 951 3098 9088

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 April 2024:

- [Advanced Practice Provider, Solid Tumor Oncology](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Gastrointestinal Oncology](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Genitourinary Oncology](#)
- [Advanced Practice Provider, Neuro-Oncology and CNS Malignancies](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Breast Oncology](#)
- [Clinical Investigator, Neuro-Oncology](#)