

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



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BMC's Patient Advocacy Team recently hosted a volunteer appreciation event with the Healing Pups and their paw-rents. To thank the volunteers whom includes our Sick Cell NP Charlene Sylvestre and her two pups Nellie and Bitsy and (human) Nellie Ferrara and her pup Crixus, for their dedication, they commissioned artist Jessica Perry-Lang to paint portraits of the Healing Pups.

Publications



Martin H. Steinberg, MD



Andrew Wilks, MD

Dr. Andrew Wilks and **Dr. Martin H Steinberg** have published a paper discussing the use of gene therapy in patients with HbSC disease and other compound heterozygous genotypes of sickle cell disease in *Blood*. The paper is titled, "Gene Therapy for HbSC Disease and other Compound Heterozygous Sickle Hemoglobinopathies: A Time for Inclusion".

Wilks, A., Steinberg, M. H., & Frangoul, H. (2025). Gene therapy for HbSC disease and other compound heterozygous sickle hemoglobinopathies: A time for inclusion (no. BLD-2025-029964R2). *Blood*, American Society of Hematology.



Christina Ennis, PhD

Christina Ennis, PhD and coauthors model the breast cancer microenvironment in obesity-driven diabetes and show that anti-tumor immunity is profoundly suppressed compared to metabolically healthy breast cancer. Our work addresses a serious public health challenge and was funded by the National Cancer Institute. The paper is titled, "Plasma exosomes from individuals with type 2 diabetes drive breast cancer aggression in patient-derived organoids".

Ennis, Christina S., et al. "Plasma Exosomes from Individuals with Type 2 Diabetes Drive Breast Cancer Aggression in Patient-Derived Organoids." *Communications Biology*, vol. 8, Article 1276, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-025-08663-y>

Publications



Christopher Heaphy, PhD

Christopher Heaphy, PhD, and others recently published, “Recurrent BEND2 fusion genes identified by whole transcriptome sequencing of non-functional pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors correlate with poor patient prognosis”.

Wood-Trageser, M. A., Nichols, C. T., Hutchings, D. A., Bell, D., Wald, A. I., Smith, K., Hong, S. M., Luchini, C., Brosens, L. A. A., Verschuur, A. V. D., Bevere, M., Lawlor, R. T., Scarpa, A., Keating, S., Tucker, J., O'Sullivan, R. J., Liu, T. C., McGrath, K., Fasanella, K., ... Singhi, A. D. (2025). Recurrent BEND2 fusion genes identified by whole transcriptome sequencing of non-functional pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors correlate with poor patient prognosis. *Modern Pathology*, 100863. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.modpat.2025.100863>

Christopher Heaphy, PhD and others recently collaborated with the Memorial Sloan Kettering Clinic to publish, “Loss of DAXX/ATRX protein expression results in ischemia resistance and radiation sensitivity in pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor cells and is associated with improved response to trans-arterial radio-embolization”.

Puzzuoli JC, Solivio C, Yuan G, Rizzo AJ, Graham MK, Shenker L, Vista W, Gil A, Singh H, Alexander E, Gonzalez-Aguirre A, Latzman J, Petre EN, Yarmohammadi H, Erinjeri JP, Covey A, Chan E, Russell J, Bodei L, Raj N, Reidy-Lagunes D, Heaphy CM, Ziv E. Loss of DAXX/ATRX protein expression results in ischemia resistance and radiation sensitivity in pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor cells and is associated with improved response to trans-arterial radio-embolization. *Neuroendocrinology*. 2025 Jul 24:1-20. [doi:10.1159/000547041](https://doi.org/10.1159/000547041)

Announcements



Kim Vanuytsel, PhD

Congratulations to [Kim Vanuytsel, PhD](#), who has been named an Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB) Foundation Scholar! This prestigious award recognizes early-career investigators whose research is advancing transfusion medicine and biotherapies. We are thrilled to see Kim's important work recognized at the national level.

Read more about the 2025 Scholar recipients here: [AABB Foundation Announcement](#)



Ruben Dries, PhD

The Notice of Award (NOA) has officially arrived for the Dries Lab's R01 grant, a major milestone that reflects the team's dedication, innovation, and countless hours of hard work. This achievement recognizes not only [Ruben Dries', PhD](#), leadership but also the contributions of everyone in the lab and their collaborators. We are excited to see the important discoveries that will emerge from this project.

BU-BMC Summer Science Scholars Program



This year, the BU-BMC Summer Science Scholars program welcomed 16 high school students, its largest cohort to date. In addition to hands-on lab experiments, students participated in a career panel, a lab meeting, a resume and internship workshop, and a presentation from BU admissions. Alumni from previous years also returned to share their experiences in science and college applications, creating an inspiring connection between past and current participants.

A BBQ picnic at Franklin Park will be held in the coming weeks with students, families, volunteers, and alumni to celebrate the growing community around the program. Now in its fourth summer, the BU-BMC Summer Science Scholars program continues to demonstrate an outsized and lasting impact on the students who participate.

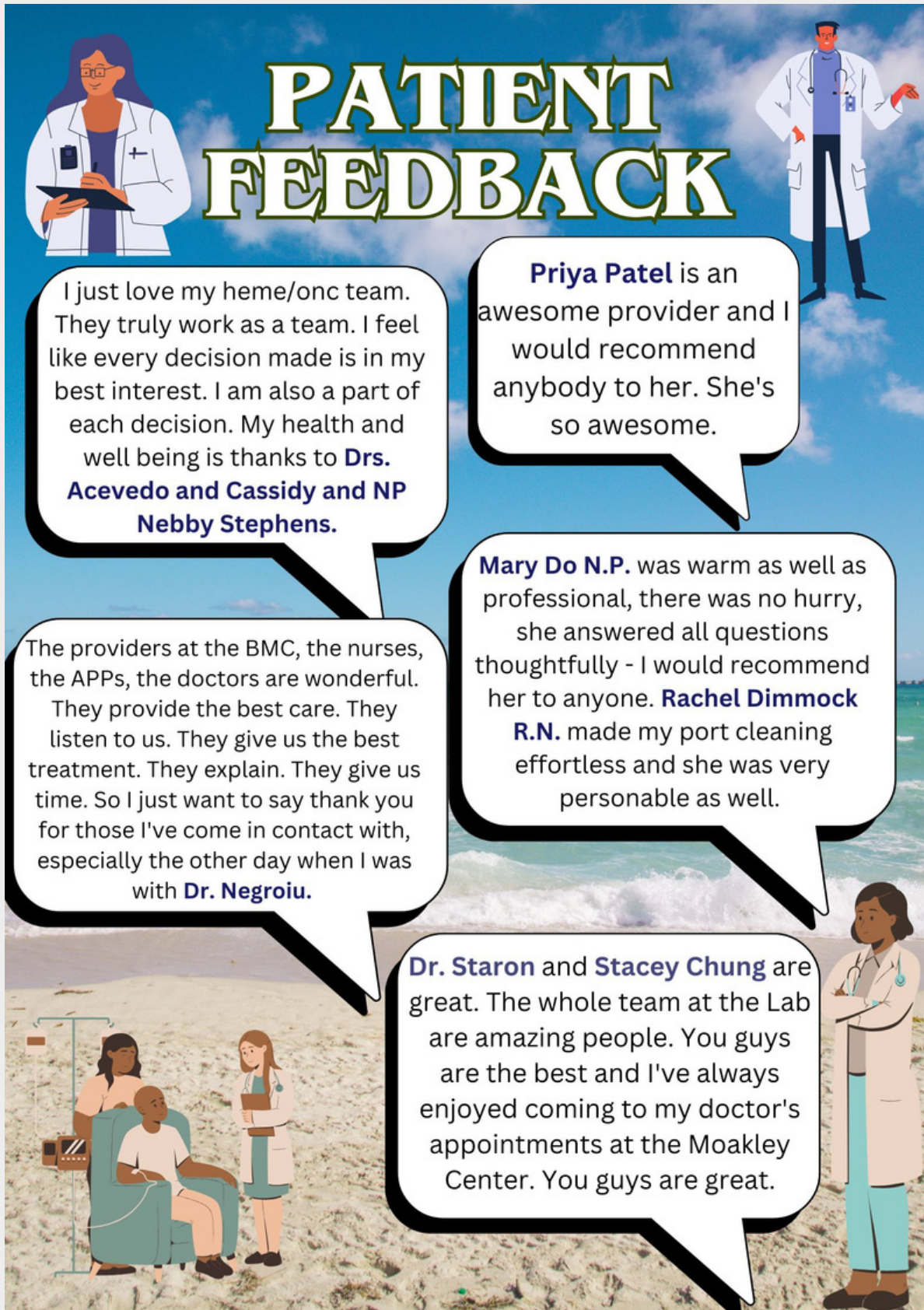
Cornhole Tournament



If you would like to play or participate, please sign up via the link below (also linked on the attached flyer) by September 5th. Please let me know if you would like to team up with a specific person. If not, teams will be selected at random and announced September 9th.

https://qualtricsxmhlc9pwkw7.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5tpfk1saECjqdrE

HemOnc Faculty Patient Spotlight



PATIENT FEEDBACK

I just love my heme/onc team. They truly work as a team. I feel like every decision made is in my best interest. I am also a part of each decision. My health and well being is thanks to **Drs. Acevedo and Cassidy and NP Nebby Stephens.**

Priya Patel is an awesome provider and I would recommend anybody to her. She's so awesome.

The providers at the BMC, the nurses, the APPs, the doctors are wonderful. They provide the best care. They listen to us. They give us the best treatment. They explain. They give us time. So I just want to say thank you for those I've come in contact with, especially the other day when I was with **Dr. Negroiu.**

Mary Do N.P. was warm as well as professional, there was no hurry, she answered all questions thoughtfully - I would recommend her to anyone. **Rachel Dimmock R.N.** made my port cleaning effortless and she was very personable as well.

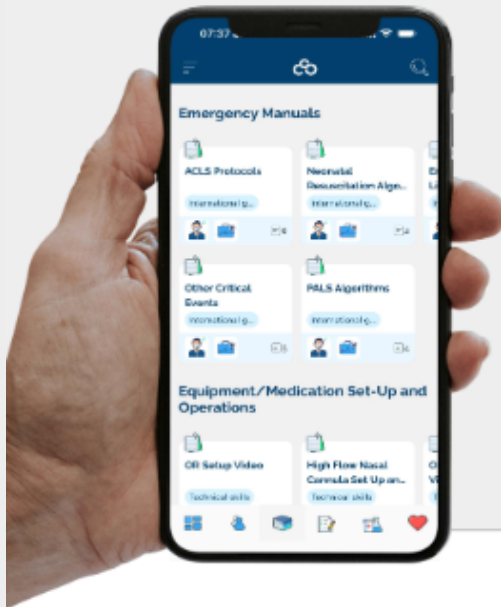
Dr. Staron and Stacey Chung are great. The whole team at the Lab are amazing people. You guys are the best and I've always enjoyed coming to my doctor's appointments at the Moakley Center. You guys are great.

C8 Health Training Reminder

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

Still haven't logged in to C8?

Get quick and easy access to all of your point-of-care knowledge, and enjoy the peace of mind that you work only with locally vetted guidance.



Local Guidelines & Policies

Drug Dosages

International Guidelines

How To's

Web Resources

Videos

Training & Education

Checklists

Fast Access | Powerful Search | Smart Formats
Locally vetted | Streamlined Communications |
Usage & Engagement Analytics



Log in to
Web app

app.c8health.com

GET IT ON
Google Play

bit.ly/3yWpDIN

Download on the
App Store

apple.co/34Bf5jL



Boston University
School of Medicine

**BOSTON
MEDICAL**
CENTER
EXCEPTIONAL CARE. WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

BU Wellness Resources



Wellness RESOURCES

Seek Support

- [Wellness Resources for BU Faculty & Staff](#)
- [FitRec](#)
- [Sargent Choice Nutrition Center](#)
- [Meditation and Mindfulness](#)



Faculty Staff Assistance Office

Find more information [here](#).



Stay Informed

Find more information about employee wellness support [here](#).





Family Resources

The Boston University Children's Center provides an educational experience for the children of BU employees.



Human Resources

If needed, please reach out to the BU HR team [here](#).



Hematology and Medical Oncology DEI Resources

To learn more about the Equity and Belonging Committee or to join please click [here](#).





Boston Medical Center Wellness RESOURCES

Seek Support

- [Mental Health & Addiction Employee Resource Guide](#)
- [Residents & Fellows Mental Health & Addiction Resource Guide](#)
- [BMC Domestic Violence Program](#)



Employee Resilience Program

Email resilience@bmc.org or find more information [here](#)



Stay Informed

To find further resources please visit [here](#) in the Hub.





THRIVING

- Stress response is not activated
- You perceive you have the confidence, talent, and resources to manage the challenges you are facing

REACTING

- Stress response becomes activated
- You perceive that you might not have either the resources, the skill set, nor confidence to manage the challenges you are facing
- Experiences mild stress reactions: increased heart rate, shallow breathing, tense muscles

STRESS (DEPLETION)

STRUGGLING

- Stress response remains activated even when pressures are not present (ie becomes dysregulated)
- Experiences moderate stress reactions that trigger feelings of excessive guilt, shame, worry, blame
- May experience exhaustion and loss of joy at work

UNWELL

- Stress response is chronically dysregulated
- Experiences severe stress reactions that are debilitating and may cause loss that interferes with your daily functioning



BIPOC Mental Health Resources

Click [here](#) to find resources specific to support BIPOC mental health



Hematology and Medical Oncology DEI Resources

To learn more about the Equity and Belonging Committee or to join please click [here](#).






New Observership Submission Form

We would like to remind you all of the launch of our new online submission form for Observership applications that is now located on our website. This new system is designed to streamline the application process and make it smoother in the initial stages of onboarding.

Starting today, all observership applications must be submitted through the online form, which can be accessed at:

<https://www.bumc.bu.edu/hematology/observership-requests/>. The form also includes the rules and regulations, which were discussed at our last Section meeting, that were put in place by BMC.

If you have already submitted an application through email, there is no need to reapply using the new form. However, you are encouraged to use the online system for any future applications.

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

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 August 2025:

- Clinical Investigator, Gastrointestinal Oncology
- Clinical Investigator, Genitourinary Oncology
- Advanced Practice Provider, Neuro-Oncology and CNS Malignancies
- Director, Ambulatory Medical Director
- Director, Neuro-Oncology Program
- Director, Sickle Cell Program
- Clinical Investigator Hematology/Hematologic Malignancies
- Clinical Research Coordinator,
- Senior Administrative Coordinator
- Advanced Practice Provider, Stem Cell Program
- Advanced Practice Provider, Hematology and Hematologic Malignancies
- Advanced Practice Provider: Sickle Cell Disease and Hemoglobinopathies
- Physician: Academic Clinical Investigator- Breast Oncology
- Physician: Inpatient Hospitalist
- Clinical Research Coordinator, Translational Research Center