

# Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



## In This Issue:

Awards/Presentations: 2  
DoM Evans Days Awards: 3  
Publications: 4-5  
New Faculty: 6  
HemOnc Operations Updates: 7  
Welcome to Dr. Vicki Jackson: 8  
Making Strides/ Ruben Dries Spotlight: 9  
HemOnc Food Drive: 10  
Halloween Breakfast Recap: 11  
HemOnc Faculty Patient Spotlight: 12  
Broken Bookings: 13  
BU Wellness Resources: 14-15  
New Observership Submission Form: 16  
Faculty & Staff Recognition Award: 17  
Upcoming Events/Social Media: 18



Our group had a wonderful time at Catwalk for Cancer Care! The event brought together the BMC community to raise funds for life-saving cancer care, research, and patient support programs. We enjoyed connecting with colleagues, watching the inspiring runway show, and celebrating the impact of our collective efforts. It was an evening full of energy, purpose, and community spirit!

# Awards/Presentations



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD

**Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD** presented the “Diagnosis and novel therapies in AL amyloidosis” at the 5th Brazilian Symposium on Amyloidosis in Sao Paulo, Brazil on October 10-11, 2025.



Charlene Sylvestre, NP

On October 4, 2025 **Charlene Sylvestre, NP** gave the keynote presentation at ONS (Oncology Nursing Society) on "Care of the Adult with Sickle Cell- from transition throughout the lifespan."



Jason Lofters, MD

**Jason Lofters, MD** and coauthors will present a Poster, "Mean corpuscular hemoglobin modulates HbF distribution and sub-phenotypes of sickle cell disease," on December 6, 2025 from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM in OCCC - West Halls B3-B4 during the 67th ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition from December 6-9, 2025, in Orlando, Florida.

# Department of Medicine Evans Days Awards

We're thrilled to celebrate our Hematology & Oncology colleagues recognized at this year's Department of Medicine Evans Days Awards Reception, taking place on Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 4:30–7:00 PM in the Hiebert Lounge.

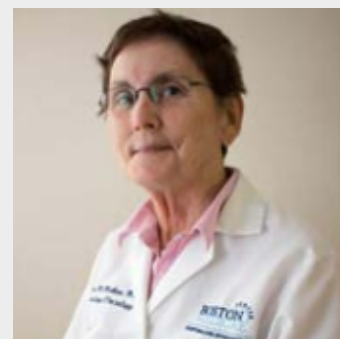
## Faculty Award Winners

- Kim Vanuytsel, PhD** – Faculty Outstanding Citizenship Award
- Elliott J. Hagedorn, PhD** – Junior Faculty Mentoring Award
- Lillian E.C. McMahon, MD** – Evans Clinician Award

## APP Award Winners

- Margaux Dockerty, MSN, AGNP-C** – APP Patient Care Innovation & Quality Improvement Award
- Lisa Mendelson, NP** – APP Excellence in Research Award

Please join us in congratulating these incredible colleagues for their outstanding achievements and contributions!





# Publications



**Maggie Ruderman, MS, CGC**, and others published their research in Genetics and Medicine titled, "Ten years of exome sequencing and reanalysis among racial, ethnic, and ancestral groups: The importance of equitable reanalysis access"

Giles, A., Zayhowski, K., O'Hare, A., Ruderman, M., et al. (2025). Ten years of exome sequencing and reanalysis among racial, ethnic, and ancestral groups: The importance of equitable reanalysis access. Genetics in Medicine. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1098-3600\(25\)00223-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1098-3600(25)00223-0)



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD

**Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD** and others published a recent article titled, "A collaborative approach to amyloidosis and a multidisciplinary care framework - position statement from the International Society of Amyloidosis"

Sanchorawala V, Wechalekar A, Mollee P, Sekijima Y, Maurer MS, Leung N, Schönland SO, Kumar S. A collaborative approach to amyloidosis and a multidisciplinary care framework - position statement from the International Society of Amyloidosis. Amyloid. 2025 Oct 16:1-6. doi: 10.1080/13506129.2025.2570096. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41099578.



George Chen R. Dries, PhD

**George (Jiaji) Chen** and others from the Dries Lab, in collaboration with Joselyn C. Chavez Fuentes and others from the Yuan lab, published a paper in Nature Methods titled, "Giotto Suite: a multiscale and technology-agnostic spatial multiomics analysis ecosystem." Briefly, the paper presents Giotto Suite as a key multiomics data analysis tool with its modular packages allowing for efficient integration and visualization of expansive spatial datasets from most spatial modalities. Read more [here](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41592-025-02817-w): <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41592-025-02817-w>

Chen, J. G., Chávez-Fuentes, J. C., O'Brien, M., Xu, J., Ruiz, E. C., Wang, W., Amin, I., Sheridan, J. P., Shin, S. C., Hasyagar, S. V., Sarfraz, I., Guckhool, P., Sistig, A., Jarzabek, V., Yuan, G.-C., & Dries, R. (2025). Giotto Suite: a multiscale and technology-agnostic spatial multiomics analysis ecosystem. Nature Methods, 22, 2052–2064. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41592-025-02817-w>



# Publications



Umit Tapan, MD

**Umit Tapan, MD** and others had two recent publications intitled, “Efficacy outcomes between tarlatamab and real-world physicians' choice of therapies for previously treated extensive stage small cell lung cancer” and “Patient and Physician Preferences for Maintenance Treatment in Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Insights into Treatment Selection”.

Wang J, Sajeew G, Chai X, Takundwa R, Dirnberger F, Pundole X, Pastel M, Yang H, Tapan U. Efficacy outcomes between tarlatamab and real-world physicians' choice of therapies for previously treated extensive stage small cell lung cancer. *Oncologist*. 2025 Sep 1;30(9):oyaf256. doi: 10.1093/oncolo/oyaf256. PMID: 40839303; PMCID: PMC12459094.

Shah MV, Solem CT, Liao A, Bell KF, Wang Y, Yang H, Meng Y, Ye M, Tapan U. Patient and Physician Preferences for Maintenance Treatment in Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Insights into Treatment Selection. *Adv Ther*. 2025 Aug 29. doi: 10.1007/s12325-025-03347-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40879895.



Rebecca Miksad, MD

**Rebecca Miksad, MD** and others have had two recent publications:

1. Susan Ashley Speckhart, Deanna Brockman, Gabby Hands, Ronald Dixon, Rebecca A. Miksad, and Lidia Schapira. Delivering accessible, multidisciplinary care to working-age adult cancer survivors through a virtual program.. *JCO Oncol Pract* 21, 517-517(2025). DOI:[10.1200/OP.2025.21.10\\_suppl.517](https://doi.org/10.1200/OP.2025.21.10_suppl.517)

2. Cecilia Votta, Anjali Zimmer, Deanna Brockman, Scott Topper, and Rebecca A. Miksad Color Cancer Connect: A peer-led, skills-focused support program for cancer survivors. *JCO Oncol Pract* 21, 545-545(2025). DOI:[10.1200/OP.2025.21.10\\_suppl.545](https://doi.org/10.1200/OP.2025.21.10_suppl.545)

# New Faculty



Sandip Patel, JD, PA-C,

Welcome to **Sandip Patel, JD, PA-C**, who will be supporting the solid tumor malignancy programs in the section as a Physician Assistant and started on November 1, 2025. He holds a BA from Bowdoin College, a J.D. from the University of Minnesota, and a Master of Science from Northeastern University. He has trained across multiple specialties, including surgery, oncology, and emergency medicine, and will be supporting the solid tumor malignancy programs in the section. We are thrilled to welcome Sandip to the team!



Charelle Reed, FNP-BC

**Charelle Reed, FNP-BC**, will join the Solid Tumor team and begins on December 1st. Charelle is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner with extensive experience in both hospital and home health settings. She has provided care across med-surg, telemetry, post-op, and step-down units, and is passionate about delivering patient-centered care and supporting interdisciplinary teams. She earned her MSN from MCPHS and her BSN from Labouré College.



Emily McClure, DNP, RN

**Emily McClure Davis, DNP, RN**, will be supporting the GI program starting on December 1st. Emily joins us with 8 years of oncology nursing experience from various institutions, most recently Brigham and Women's Hospital. Her experience includes inpatient oncology care, clinical trial work, and outpatient radiation care. She grew up in Michigan and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Boston College.

# HemOnc Operations Updates



We are pleased to introduce **Yorick Uzes** as the Interim Senior Director of Hematology/Oncology and Cancer Care Services while Alyssa Georgantas is on leave until April 2026. Yorick has been with BMC since 2022 and currently serves as the Director of Ambulatory Operations for General Internal Medicine, a role he will continue alongside this interim appointment. In this capacity, he will partner closely with the Hem/Onc leadership team on hospital strategic priorities and help ensure a smooth onboarding process for Jen Yorko, the new Operations Director. Please continue to use DG–Hem Onc Clinic Ops for all clinic-related requests or concerns.



We are excited to introduce **Jen Yorko** as the new Operations Director for Hematology/Oncology, effective September 8. Jen brings extensive experience from operations leadership roles at Foundation Medicine, BILH Winchester Hospital's Center for Cancer Care, Dana-Farber/Brigham, Cleveland Clinic, and MetroHealth (Cleveland's safety-net hospital). She will oversee the Operations Leadership team, including Humu Marah, David Andrade, Angie Williams, and their respective teams, and will also manage Alyssa Georgantas's other direct reports until Alyssa returns in April 2026. Jen is based in Alyssa's former office near the back stairway and can be reached anytime at cell 978-394-4668.



# Welcome to Dr. Vicki Jackson, MD, MPH



We are delighted to announce that [Dr. Vicki Jackson, MD, MPH](#), our new Chief and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Boston Medical Center and Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine will be joining Dr. Henri Lee and Dorothy Wisdom, NP in our Ambulatory Palliative Care Clinic starting November 6.

Dr. Jackson came to Boston Medical Center from Massachusetts General Hospital, where she served with distinction for over two decades as the Blum Family Endowed Chair in Palliative Care and Chief of the Division of Palliative Care and Geriatric Medicine. She was a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Co-Director of the Harvard Center for Palliative Care, and the founding Director of the Harvard Palliative Medicine Fellowship.

A nationally recognized leader in palliative care, Dr. Jackson's research has focused on the impact of early, integrated palliative care for patients with advanced cancer. Her expertise, compassion, and leadership will be tremendous assets to our team and the patients we serve.

Please join us in giving Dr. Jackson a warm welcome to BMC and the Palliative Care Clinic!

# BMC's HemOnc team is Making Strides!



On Saturday October 4, 2025, cancer patients, survivors, loved ones, and supporters gathered at the Pink Village on the Esplanade to participate in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk/run. As music blared and the emcee pumped up the crowd, the celebration embodied a massive commitment to supporting cancer research, care, and survivorship, as well as remembering those who have passed. Boston's event raised over \$1.3 million this year and the movement has raised over \$1 billion nationwide since its inception 30 years ago. BMC was well represented by a team of walkers and an employee-staffed booth (see attached photos). Sending a big shout out to Silvia Petreli, Hem Onc Patient Navigation Program Manager, for organizing the booth, and a sincere thank you to all who volunteered their time and energy to support this important cause.



## Ruben Dries Spotlight in Health City



We are excited to highlight **Dr. Ruben Dries**, who was recently featured in HealthCity for his groundbreaking research on tumor cell interactions in three-dimensional space. His work explores how cancer cells communicate with their surrounding environment, offering new insights that could help inform the development of more precise and effective cancer treatments. This spotlight is a wonderful recognition of the innovative and collaborative science happening within our section. You can read the full article [here: healthcity.bmc.org](https://healthcity.bmc.org).

# HemOnc Food Drive

THE SECTION OF HEMATOLOGY AND  
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

## FOOD DRIVE

HELP THE BMC FOOD PANTRY  
SERVE BMC PATIENTS



DONATION DROP OFF LOCATION:

 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6  
 MOAKLEY BUILDING - 3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

WE'RE COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD  
ITEMS AND GROCERY STORE GIFT CARDS TO  
HELP THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

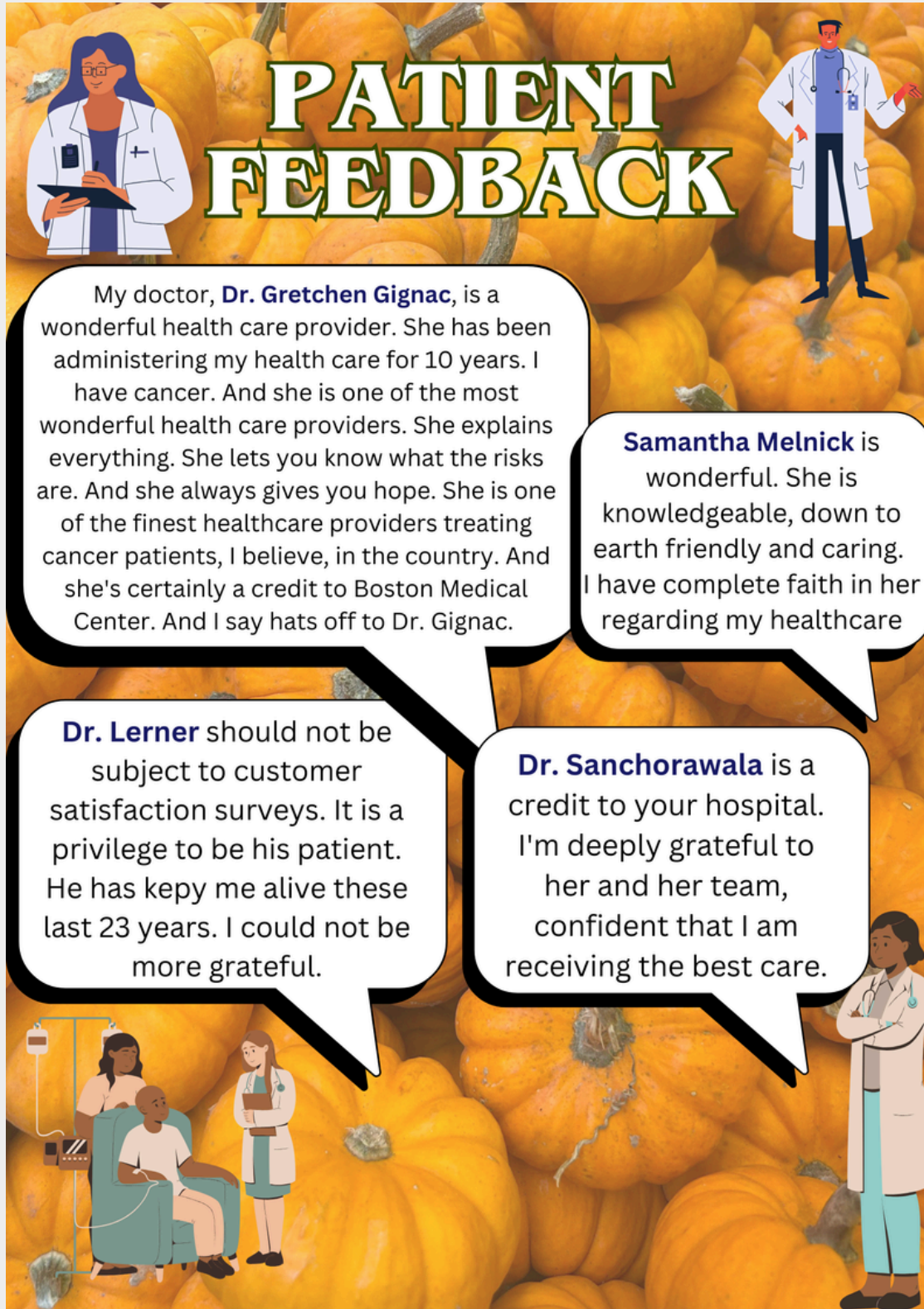
# 2025 HemOnc Halloween Breakfast Recap!



Thank you to everyone who joined our annual HemOnc Section Breakfast! We had a fantastic turnout and were thrilled to see so many colleagues come together to catch up and connect over a delicious meal. Events like this remind us how strong and supportive our community is. A huge shoutout to our incredible Social Committee for organizing another successful and well-loved event—your hard work and attention to detail truly made the morning special. We're so grateful to everyone who attended and helped make this year's breakfast such a wonderful way to start the day!



# HemOnc Faculty Patient Spotlight



**PATIENT FEEDBACK**

My doctor, **Dr. Gretchen Gignac**, is a wonderful health care provider. She has been administering my health care for 10 years. I have cancer. And she is one of the most wonderful health care providers. She explains everything. She lets you know what the risks are. And she always gives you hope. She is one of the finest healthcare providers treating cancer patients, I believe, in the country. And she's certainly a credit to Boston Medical Center. And I say hats off to Dr. Gignac.

**Samantha Melnick** is wonderful. She is knowledgeable, down to earth friendly and caring. I have complete faith in her regarding my healthcare

**Dr. Lerner** should not be subject to customer satisfaction surveys. It is a privilege to be his patient. He has kept me alive these last 23 years. I could not be more grateful.

**Dr. Sanchorawala** is a credit to your hospital. I'm deeply grateful to her and her team, confident that I am receiving the best care.

The graphic features a background of orange pumpkins. At the top left, a female doctor in a white coat holds a clipboard. At the top right, a male doctor in a white coat stands with hands on hips. At the bottom left, a patient sits in a chair with an IV drip, attended by a female doctor. At the bottom right, a female doctor in a white coat stands with arms crossed.

# Broken bookings! New Series: Positioning your research for federal funding

Dear Research Community,

While we enjoyed some successful bookings via the 365 Booking program, it seems it's no longer working and so we'll go back to the basic strategy of emailing. To book a session, please email me directly at [Jessica.Howard@bmc.org](mailto:Jessica.Howard@bmc.org) and use subject "Mentoring Series booking."

As of this moment the following dates and times are still available. Please email me with your first and second choices.

10/22 - 4:00, 4:30  
10/29 - 10:00, 10:30  
11/03 - 3:00  
11/13 - 3:00  
11/19 - 10:00, 10:30  
11/25 - 4:00, 4:30  
12/04 - 4:00  
12/09 - 4:30  
12/12 - 4:00, 4:30  
12/17 - 10:00, 10:30

Thank you!  
Jess

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# 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](#).



# BU Wellness Resources

**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](mailto:resilience@bmc.org) or find more information [here](#)



## Stay Informed

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



## 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 October 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