

Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology Newsletter



In This Issue:

Awards: 2
Publications: 3
2026 Boston Magazine Top Doctors: 4
New Staff/Faculty: 5
HemOnc Faculty Patient Spotlight: 6
BUMG Website: 7
Meet the Lab Series: 8
New Observership Submission Form: 9
Faculty & Staff Recognition Award: 10
Upcoming Events/Social Media: 11



Congratulations to Yawkey 5 Hem/Onc RN [Sarah Gebrekristos](#) for being awarded a 2026 Excellence in Nursing Practice Award from the New England Regional Black Nurses Association (NERBNA). With an ever-present emphasis on comradery, she is the glue that binds, ensuring her arms are wrapped around as many as she can hold and uplift. Sarah models clear, respectful communication, ensuring all feel heard and supported, particularly in her role as a night shift charge nurse.

HemOnc Promotions



J. Mark Sloan, MD

We are pleased to announce the promotion of **J. Mark Sloan, MD** to Clinical Professor. Dr. Sloan is a nationally recognized hematologist at Boston Medical Center whose research focuses on HTLV-1–associated adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATLL), AL amyloidosis, and Duffy-null associated neutrophil counts (DANC), with pioneering work that has transformed care for individuals of African descent. He also led a landmark multi-center frontline ATLL trial demonstrating that long-term survival is achievable for patients in the United States. In addition to his research, Dr. Sloan serves as Program Director for the HemOnc Fellowship and Director of the Gene Therapy Program for Hemoglobinopathies at BMC.



Fabio Petrocca, MD

We are pleased to announce the promotion of **Fabio Petrocca, MD** to Clinical Associate Professor. Dr. Petrocca is a clinician-investigator focused on cellular therapy and hematology. He is the founding director of the Cellular Therapy Program at Boston Medical Center (BMC), where he helped build a comprehensive CAR T service offering both FDA-approved and investigational therapies. Dr. Petrocca has served as PI/co-PI or study director on multiple CAR T clinical trials in hematologic and autoimmune diseases and leads CAR T-focused translational research within the Hem/Onc Translational Research Laboratory. Previously, he was a medical director in the biotech industry, where he played a key role in advancing the first multiple myeloma CAR T therapy from phase 1 through regulatory approval, and PI of an NCI-funded cancer research laboratory at Boston University. He has served on NIH study sections and industry advisory boards for Bristol Myers Squibb, Novartis, Tessera Therapeutics, and Catamaran Bio.

Publications



P. Everett, MD and G.
Oxnard, MD

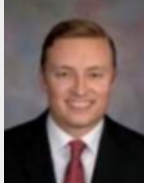


Members of our section including [Drs. Tapan, Oxnard, Everett](#) and others published: "[Real-world adoption of off-label combinations for targeted therapy resistance in non-small cell lung cancer](#)".

Battaglini J, AlDoughaim M, Li K, Patel J, Bhatt S, Everett P, Oxnard GR, Tapan U. Real-world adoption of off-label combinations for targeted therapy resistance in non-small cell lung cancer. Clin Transl Oncol. 2026 Jan 3. doi: 10.1007/s12094-025-04152-0.



U. Tapan, MD and J.
Battaglia, MD



Members of our section including [Umit Tapan](#) published: "[Lung Cancer in the Incarcerated Population: A Narrative Review](#)".

Martinez CB, Bhatt S, Battaglini J, Beckett A, Tapan U. Lung Cancer in the Incarcerated Population: A Narrative Review. Curr Oncol Rep. 2026 Jan 24;28(1):2. doi: 10.1007/s11912-026-01738-x.



Karina Verma, MD

[Karina Verma](#) and others published: "[Evaluating the Process of Patient Engagement: Insights from a Mixed-Methods Evaluation of a Cancer Center Patient Advisory Group](#)".

Kearney L, Battaglia T, Verma K, Shusterman S, Hall M, Fix G, Steiling K. Evaluating the Process of Patient Engagement: Insights from a Mixed-Methods Evaluation of a Cancer Center Patient Advisory Group. Health Expect. 2026 Feb;29(1):e70581. doi: 10.1111/hex.70581. PMID: 41578896

2026 Boston Magazine Top Doctors

Section of Hematology and Oncology 2026 Boston Magazine Top Doctors



Gretchen Gignac, MD



Mark Sloan, MD

Congrats!



Adam Lerner, MD



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD



New Staff/Faculty



Emma Lutz, FNP-C

Emma Lutz, FNP-C, will be joining the faculty of the Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology effective April 1st, 2026. Emma will be supporting the Hematology team and brings more than five years of progressive clinical experience at Mass General Hospital, where she has worked as a hospitalist APP and previously as a charge and resource nurse on a high-acuity general medicine unit.

Emma earned her Master of Science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner from UMass Boston and is a graduate of the UMass Boston College of Nursing and Health Sciences.



Sisilia Thomas, AGNP

Sisilia Thomas, AGNP, will be joining the faculty of the Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology effective April 1st, 2026. Sisilia will be supporting the Hematology team and comes to us with more than 20 years of diverse nursing experience across radiation oncology, medical/pulmonary ICU, med-surg oncology, and women's health. She recently completed her Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner program at UMass Lowell.

Sisilia has a strong background in oncology care, having worked in Radiation Oncology at Mass General Hospital and Lahey Hospital & Medical Center. In addition to her clinical strengths, Sisilia is fluent in English and Hindi and conversational in Malayalam. She has also been involved in DE&I efforts at MGH.



Yavonne Carter

Yavonne Carter will join our team as clinic Operations Manager on February 9! Yavonne comes to us from the Adult Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic at Boston Medical Center, where she is a Team Coordinator. She has been with BMC for three years.

Yavonne started her career as a Medical Assistant and has held various administrative and supervisory positions at healthcare organizations in the Boston area. She impressed our cross-functional interview team with her knowledge, skills, and commitment to patients and team.

HemOnc Faculty Patient Spotlight



PATIENT FEEDBACK

Dr. Acevedo was professional and was very attentive to me, he listened to me, I really love the service with him, I love how he treats me.

Dr. Gretchen Gignac is an excellent Health Care Provider. She reviews a patient's history, asks relevant questions & treats your disease. She has been treating me for bladder cancer since 2014. I am very happy with her approach, knowledge of treating my cancer. Dr. Gignac goes over everything that is happening: past, present & future and is a consummate professional. Hats off to Boston Medical Center and Dr. Gignac.

I am writing to express my appreciation for the outstanding service I received during my visit to the hematology department. The front desk staff were kind and efficient, checking me in and explaining the lab's procedures and my appointment. My lab technician was very kind and easy to deal with. The medical assistants were engaging, providing comfort to patients. The staff's dedication to their work is impressive. Having worked in a hospital for 13 years, I have never encountered staff as kind especially medical assistant (Ana). I would highly recommend this facility to friends and family.

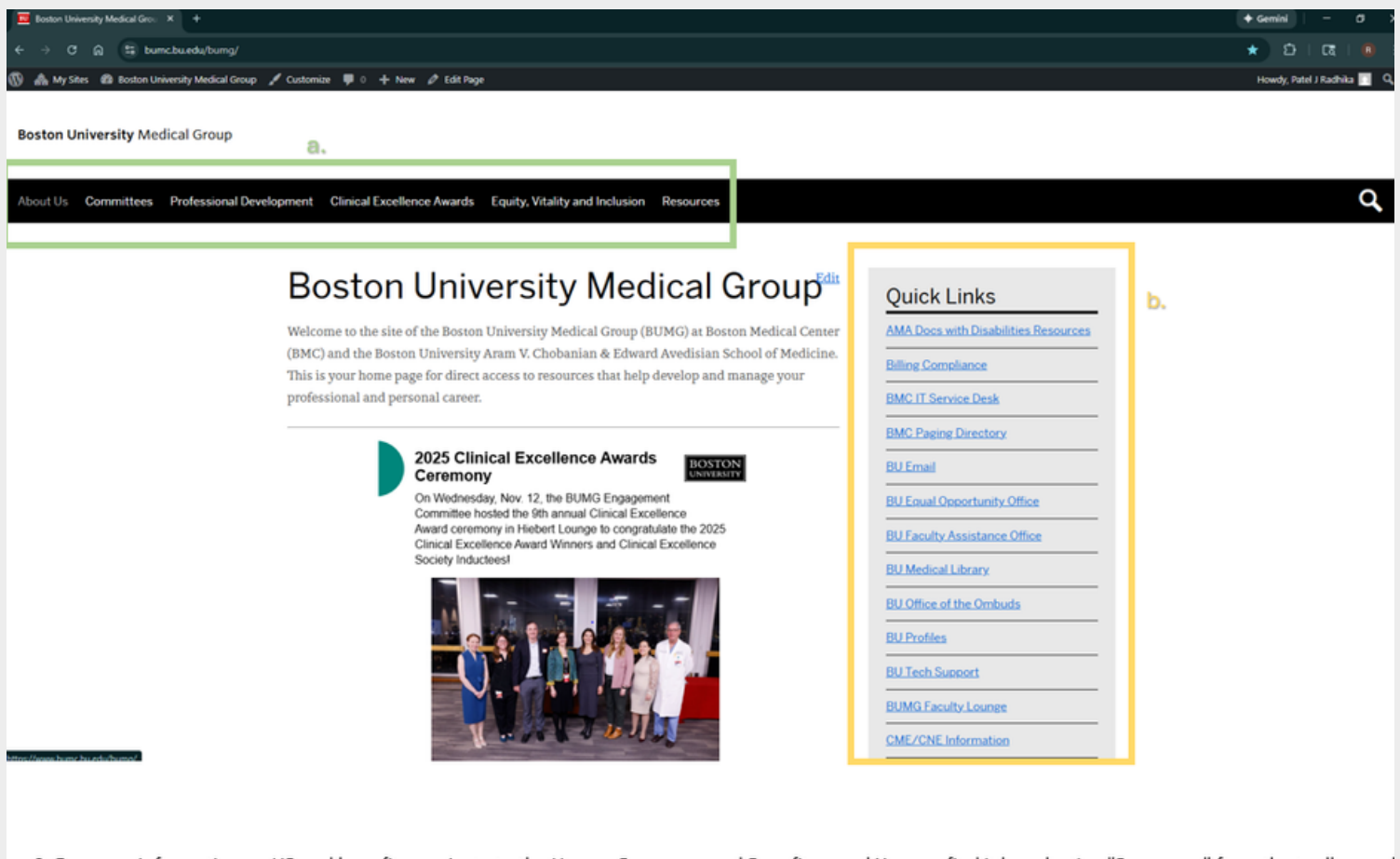
I have a dream team of doctors including **Nurse Practitioner Meredith Stuhlman** and I am so very happy. Thank you.

Excellent meeting up again with **Dr. Kevan Hartshorn**. He treated me for three prior cancers.

BUMG Website

BUMG's website is a great tool where you can find details on upcoming events, BUMG committees and how to get involved, professional development, benefits and much more! Below is a quick guide on how to access this website:

1. Open your preferred web browser and copy this URL: <https://www.bumc.bu.edu/bumg/>. It will bring you to the homepage where you can find the most recent updates within the organization and details on certain benefits which are updated monthly.
 - a. At the top, you will find the toolbar where you can quickly navigate to important pages within the website.
 - b. On the right, you will find the Quick Links table.



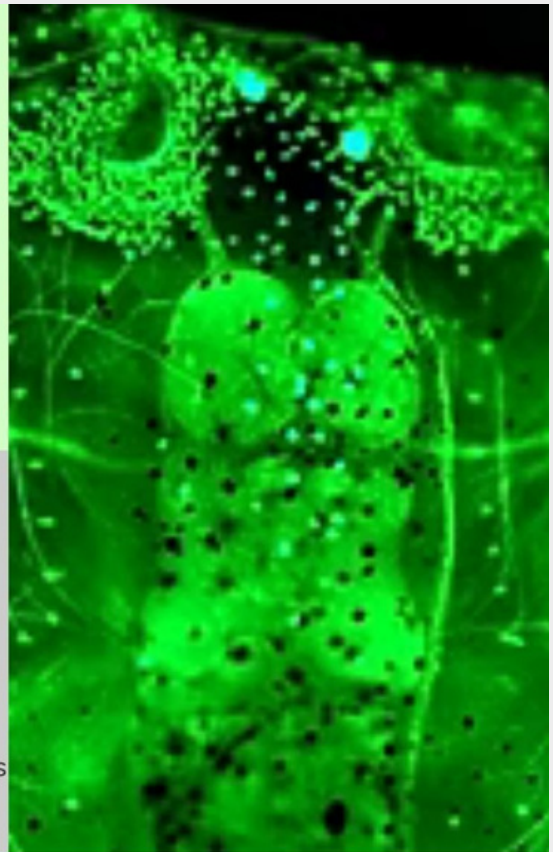
2. For more information on HR and benefits, navigate to the Human Resources and Benefits page! You can find it by selecting "Resources" from the toolbar and then selecting "Human Resources and Benefits" from the drop-down menu. Here you can find BUMG's personnel policy, PFML resources, details on benefits, and much more!

Meet the Lab: Lowery Lab

Get to Know the Lowery Lab

One primary focus of the Lowery Lab research is to investigate how cytoskeletal dynamics are regulated to drive cell motility in both normal and pathological conditions.

The Lowery Lab uses this research focus as a platform to further the understanding of the cell biological defects that underlie neurodevelopmental disorders, various developmental disorders affecting other organ systems, as well as cancer metastasis, using *Xenopus laevis* as a model system.



The Lowery Lab has been located at the Boston Medical Center in the Section of Hematology and Medical Oncology within the Department of Medicine at Boston University since 2020, and Laura Lowery, PhD is currently an Associate Professor at Boston University. Prior to that, the lab was located at Boston College (2014-2019). Laura is also the Section's Associate Chief for Faculty Affairs and the Equity and Belonging Committee Chair.

The Lowery Lab aims to create a safe space for all members of this community to learn, grow, and succeed in their life goals, and we are committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the sciences. We welcome and celebrate individuals of all races, ethnicities, social backgrounds, religion, gender, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, and national origin.

[The Lowery Lab Website](#)

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 January 2026:

- 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
- 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