

Boston Medical Center/ Boston University School of Medicine

# Department of Medicine Newsletter

## Message from the Chairman

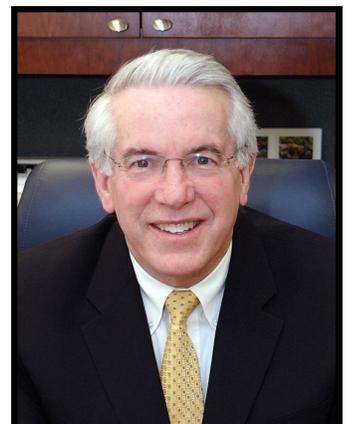
Colleagues,

Welcome to this month's edition of the Department of Medicine's electronic newsletter! In the current edition, we acknowledge the extraordinary number of honors and award earned by our faculty and trainees. As we enter the new academic year, we also celebrate the arrivals of new residents and fellows to our department. These trainees bring such vital energy, spirit, and enthusiasm to our department and to each of our professional lives! We are very excited to help them develop their full potential as professionals, clinicians, educators, and researchers!

We ended the 2018 academic year with a remarkable series of successes that will be detailed in the annual report to the department once we have the final details. These successes give us great momentum as we head into the new academic year! We have many exciting and important opportunities before us-merger of the inpatient facilities of BMC in October, new section chief recruitments, full implementation of the Medicaid Accountable Care Organization, and a broad array of efforts to improve the professional lives and career development of our faculty, staff and trainees. I am privileged to partner with each of you in this exciting future!

I hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter and that you have time with your families over the summer!

David Coleman, M.D.



## Jeffrey Samet, MD, MA, MPH Receives Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Award

For his efforts to bring addiction medicine into the mainstream of clinical care, Jeffrey Samet, MD, MA, MPH, is receiving the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal award from the Rosenthal Family Foundation.

Presented to a physician-scientist, clinician, or scientific group whose innovative work is making a notable contribution in internal medicine, Samet, chief of General Internal Medicine at Boston Medical Center (BMC), is being recognized for his decades long addiction-related work which includes office-based addiction treatment in primary care, an inpatient addiction consult service, as well as emergency medicine, obstetric, and pediatric clinical innovations.

Samet believes describing these models in medical literature, so that others can further develop and tailor them to their local needs, is key to addressing the need for exceptional clinical care in addiction medicine. "The Rosenthal Award is a gratifying and humbling recognition, but I am just one of an outstanding team that makes this progress possible. To its credit, BMC has embraced the importance of substance use treatment and creative innovations in the field by enabling the recruitment and retention of some incredibly talented people," said Samet.

The Rosenthal Award was presented to Dr. Samet at the American College of Physicians Convocation Ceremony in April 2018.



## New England Hellenic Societies Honor Dr. Zannis



The Federation of Hellenic American Societies of New England honored veteran Sabbatoparea member Dr. Vassilis Zannis with the Freedom Award at its annual gala April 21, 2018. Many members of the para attended the event along with several of Zannis's former students and colleagues.

## Naomi Hamburg MD, MS, FACC Installed as Joseph A. Vita, MD, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine

Naomi M. Hamburg, MD, MS, FACC, has been named the Joseph A. Vita, MD, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine. The professorship honors the late Dr. Vita, who served as Director of Clinical Research at the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute, BUSM Professor of Medicine and senior cardiologist in the Section of Cardiovascular Medicine at Boston Medical Center (BMC).



A renowned clinician and translational scientist, Dr. Vita launched *Journal of the American Heart Association* and served as its first editor-in-chief. He devoted his career to clinical and translational research in vascular biology with a focus on mechanisms and clinical consequences of endothelial dysfunction. He created vascular testing spaces within the Whitaker Institute as well as at the Framingham Heart Study, where he and his team studied vascular physiology in patients. He also was the principal investigator of a Specialized Center of Clinically Oriented Research (SCCOR) Grant on Vascular Injury, Remodeling and Repair titled, "Vascular Consequences of Insulin Resistance and Obesity." Dr. Vita died Nov. 2, 2014.

Dr. Hamburg joined BUSM in 2007 and was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine) in 2013 and Chief of Vascular Biology in 2016. A recipient of the Department of Medicine's Dawson Junior Faculty Development Award, she served as associate director of the Vascular Medicine training program and on the Executive Committee of the T32 Cardiovascular Training Grant.

## Congratulations To All Award Recipients!

**Ryan Chippendale, MD** received the 2019 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation *and* was accepted to the Tideswell Program at UCSF. The Emerging Leaders in Aging Program is a hands-on and practical program for rising leaders in the field of aging.

**Jude Deeney, PhD** received the Educator of the Year in Graduate Medical Sciences Award for MA Didactic Instructor from the Committee on Faculty Affairs

**Darrell Kotton, MD** received the Educator of the Year in Graduate Medical Sciences Award for GMS Dissertation Advisors from the Committee on Faculty Affairs

**Asaf Moaz, MD & Brent Silver, MD** nominated by the class-of-2019 students to be inducted into the BUSM Robert Russell, M.D. Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) and to receive the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award

In recognition of his contribution to interdisciplinary research **Honghuang Lin, PhD** was selected to become an Institute Fellow for the Health System Innovation & Policy community at Boston University

## Congratulations To All Award Recipients!

Congratulations to **Raquel McDonald**, Section Administrator for Pulmonary Allergy, Sleep, and Critical Care, for receiving the DOM Administration Award.



**Lauren Stern, MD** received the Excellence in Teaching BMC Top Faculty 2018 Award

**Tuhina Neogi, MD, PhD** - named as a co-PI for the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Gout Treatment Guidelines Update, and has been appointed as Program Chair for the 2019 Osteoarthritis Research Society International Congress (OARSI).

**Maureen Dubreuil, MD, MSc**, assistant professor of Clinical Epidemiology Research & Training at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), is one of two recipients of the 2018 Spondylitis Association of America (SAA) Bruckel Early Career Investigator in Axial Spondyloarthritis Award.

Professor **Darrell Kotton, MD** received one of the American Thoracic Society's Recognition Awards for Scientific Accomplishment at their annual meeting (May, 2018).

**AΩA**

Alpha Omega Alpha at BUSM

We are delighted and proud to announce the 2018 Boston University School of Medicine resident and fellow selections for Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA) induction. They are:

**Alik Farber, MD** (Surgery & Radiology)

**Craig Noronha, MD** (Medicine)

**Max M. Brock, MD** (Medicine)

**Ryan Macht, MD** (Surgery)

**Steven Pike, MD** (Vascular Surgery)

**Benjamin C. Vaughan, MD** (Medicine)

Alpha Omega Alpha is the only national honor medical society in the world, and it is organized exclusively for educational purposes. Its aims are the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools, the encouragement of high standards of character and conduct among medical students and graduates, and the recognition of high attainment in medical sciences, practice, and related fields. Its motto is: "Be worthy to serve the suffering."

A formal induction ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 16, from 5-6:30 p.m. in Hiebert Lounge.

## Excellence in Teaching and Senior Awards 2018

### Resident Awards

Knight Steel Award

*Jonathan Lorgunpai*

Ariel Weismann Teaching Award

*Felipe Batalini*

Patient Advocacy Award

*Yuvaram Reddy*

Humanism Award

*Kate Zeitler*

Citizenship

*Amir Meiri*

Morale Award

*Max Brock & Gina Chen*

### Faculty Awards

Research Mentor Award

*Elizabeth Klings, MD*

Fellow Teaching Award

*Kathryn Fantasia*

Subspecialty Award

*Jon Fuller*

Community Based

*Scot Groteguth*

Bob Witzburg Award

*Pablo Buitron de la Vega*

Hospital Based (Joel Caslowitz Award)

*Christine Campbell-Reardon*

**EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**  
**Top BMC Faculty of 2018**

*Juhee McDougal, MD*  
*Amy Fitzpatrick, MD*  
*Jessica Taylor, MD*  
*Gretchen Gignac, MD*  
*Finn Hawkins, MD*  
*Lauren Stern, MD*  
*James Hudspeth, MD*  
*Ryan Chippendale, MD*  
*Henri Lee, MD*

Special Recognition in Teaching  
*Karen Henley, MD*

**SENIOR RESIDENTS ACADEMIC DAY**  
**AWARD WINNERS**

Senior Talk Award  
*Rena Zheng*

SRAD – Oral Presentation Award  
*Ed Briercheck, MD*

SRAD – Research Award  
*Bhavna Seth, MD*

SRAD – Quality Improvement/Education Award  
*Nabila Azad, MD*  
*Marianne Bauer*

## Publications and Awards

**Marc LaRoche, MD, MPH**, published Medication for Opioid Use Disorder After Nonfatal Opioid Overdose and Association With Mortality in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* on June 19, 2018 with contributions by the Clinical Addiction Research and Education Unit

Associate Professor **Yang Jin, MD, PhD** received a new R01 award from the NIGMS

Associate Professor **Matt Jones, PhD** and Professor **Alan Fine, MD** became Co-PIs on a new R01 award from the NHLBI

**Duo Zhang, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow with Associate Professor Yang Jin, received a K99 award from the NHLBI

**Kim Barker, PhD** student with Professor **Jay Mizgerd**, received an F31 award from the NHLBI

**Noyan Gokce, MD** received an R01 grant effective June 1, 2018 (NOGA is in) entitled “Identifying a novel regulatory pathway of vascular function in obesity”

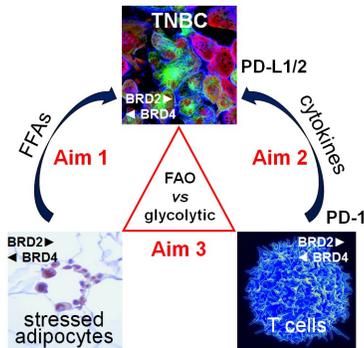
### Spring Pilot Award Recipients:

**Finn Hawkins, MB, BCh**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Medicine – Pulmonary  
– CreM

**Steven Borkan, MD**  
Associate Professor  
School of Medicine –  
Nephrology

## Publications and Awards

### National Cancer Institute awards new \$3.8M research grant (R01 CA222170) to investigate triple negative breast cancer in Boston Medical Center patients.



Nearly 41,000 breast cancer deaths occur annually in the United States, mostly due to metastasis. Clinicians and scientists are investing tremendous effort to reduce these numbers, including here in the Hematology-Oncology Section, led by Dr Matthew Kulke at Boston Medical Center. Triple-negative breast cancer is an aggressive subtype of breast cancer and is difficult to treat, because these patients do not respond to hormone therapy and show worse outcomes after conventional chemotherapy. A lack of identified

molecular targets limits the development of targeted therapeutic strategies. However, new approaches focus on immune system mechanisms that are deficient in many cancer patients, and prevent the patient's normal T cells from eliminating the tumor. These strategies, called 'immune checkpoint blockade' release the patient's anti-tumor immunity and can generate remarkable responses in some cases. Encouraging results have been reported in patients with melanoma.

Nevertheless, not all cancer patients respond to immune checkpoint blockade. Much research is being devoted to understand the differences between patients who do well on immune checkpoint therapies, and patients who respond poorly. There is urgency to understand the mechanisms in lung cancer and breast cancer patients in particular, because the prevalence of these cancers is high, and outcomes are unacceptable. The new project, entitled "Mechanisms of BET bromodomain metabolic reprogramming in triple negative breast cancer" will focus on abnormal metabolism (Type 2 diabetes and hypertension in cancer patients with obesity) as a key to understanding and improving responses. The burden of these diseases is high among Boston Medical Center patients who also have cancer, and we have strong evidence that our patients are good candidates for these new therapies. This research is expected to have major public health benefit because we will develop novel tools to meet the challenge, and learn how metabolism can be leveraged to improve immunotherapy for this subtype of breast cancer.

The research team includes Dr Naomi Ko, Dr Maureen Kavanah, Dr Chris Andry and Dr Gerald Denis.

## Summer Spotlight: Immigration and Refugee Health Program

Immigration status is an important social determinant of health, impacting access to care and health outcomes. Among immigrant patients, health disparities can be compounded by differential access to social programs and insurance, high potential trauma exposure, and discrimination. The Immigrant and Refugee Health Program (IRHP) in Primary Care takes a multi-faceted approach to address both health issues and the social and legal factors that underlie these conditions.

The mission of the IRHP is to provide comprehensive and culturally appropriate, integrated primary care services to immigrant and refugee populations, including those seeking asylum, and to promote dignity, social justice, and human rights. IRHP services include: Immigrant and Refugee Primary Care, the Immigrant and Refugee Consult Service, the Forensic Medical Evaluation Group, and the Citizenship and Immigration Rights Navigator Program.

IRHP faculty along with Dr Ben Siegel of Pediatrics have developed a hospital-wide Immigrant Health Task Force to identify and respond to challenges in the evolving immigration policy landscape that may negatively impact health care delivery to Boston Medical Center patients. The Task Force serves as the central source for patient information, staff education, and data collection on effects of recent policy changes on the health and wellness of our patients and staff.



In April, Dr. Sondra Crosby traveled to Geneva, Switzerland to meet with UN Agencies on the Istanbul Protocol and other issues affecting refugees.

## Summer Spotlight: Immigration and Refugee Health Program

### **Immigrant and Refugee Primary Care**

The Immigrant and Refugee Health Program is embedded in the Shapiro Center practice, and provides comprehensive primary care services to immigrant and refugee patients at Boston Medical Center. In addition to all of the services available to every primary care patient, we also provide medical case management for our most vulnerable patients, with additional support to help them meet their health needs. We collaborate closely with other programs across the hospital who specialize in care for immigrants, torture survivors and refugees.

### **Immigrant and Refugee Consult Service**

Boston Medical Center's patient population has a high number of immigrant and refugee patients from a variety of countries. Many of these patients have complex medical, psychological and legal needs. Our team is available on a consultative basis to assist in the care of these vulnerable patients.

Consultation Expertise includes:

- Medical or psychological affidavits in support of asylum applications
- Infectious disease screening in immigrant and newly arrived patients
- Primary care for patients with complex refugee or war trauma

We will see patients who are established at Boston Medical Center on a consultation basis or for ongoing primary care, based on physician request. To schedule a consult, please contact Lily Sonis at 617.414.5612 or in Epic.

### **Educational Program**

The IRHP has developed a longitudinal resident teaching clinic, which includes a comprehensive didactic curriculum and clinical experience in immigrant and refugee health to Internal Medicine residents. Residents rotate through monthly over one or two years, so that they can see the longitudinal care issues that commonly arise for immigrant and refugee patients. Following residency, many continue their work in rural communities, urban areas, and in global health communities.

## Summer Spotlight: Immigration and Refugee Health Program

In addition, we are the recipients of a 3 year Macy Foundation grant along with co-PI Dr. Suzy Sarfaty, Assistant Dean of academic affairs, with the goal of creating a longitudinal, multidimensional educational program to prepare medical students to understand the complex health, psychosocial, and cultural needs of immigrant and refugee patients and to effectively work with interprofessional teams. The program includes both didactic and interactive learning curricula. Research and service learning opportunities, a refugee health clerkship and an interprofessional refugee health selective (including SW, public health dental and PA students BU Medical Campus) is optional for students during each of their four years.

### Refugee Health Assessment Program

Up to 75,000 refugees arrive each year in the United States, and about 5% of them have settled in Massachusetts in recent years. All refugees are entitled to a health assessment within three months of arrival in the U.S.

The goals of the refugee health assessment are:

- General health assessment, including vision, hearing, and dental screening
- Identification and treatment of immediate health needs
- Diagnosis and treatment of communicable diseases
- Immunization
- Orientation to the health system in the United States
- Transition to a primary care provider
- 

Once this initial assessment has been done, we are happy to continue to follow patients in our primary care practice or to refer them to centers closer to their homes.

## Summer Spotlight: Immigration and Refugee Health Program

### **Forensic Medical Evaluation Group**

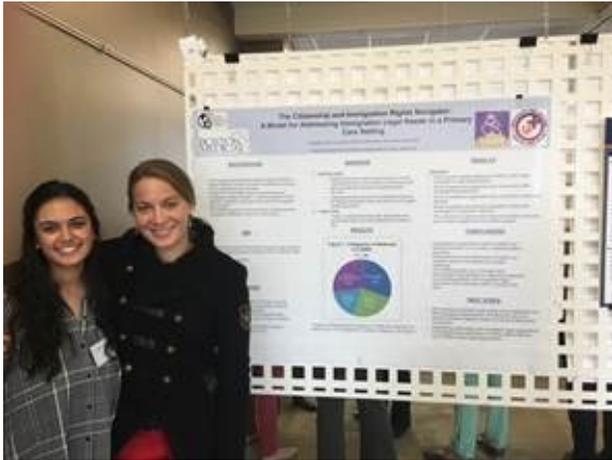
Also, embedded in IRHP is the unique Forensic Medical Evaluation Group (FMEG), which offers evaluation and documentation of physical and psychological trauma and abuse for asylum seekers and others who are in need of documentation of prior ill treatment. FMEG provides a supportive and collaborative environment, while working closely with attorneys, providing guidance and teaching to students from a variety of academic backgrounds, medical residents, attorneys and judges. The members of this group have written over 500 affidavits and have served as expert witnesses in Immigration Courts, US Federal Court, US Military Commissions Court and international courts. We are members of an international committee to write a supplement to the Istanbul Protocol (gold standard for medical and legal documentation of torture adopted by the UN).

### **Citizenship and Immigration Rights Navigator**

The Citizenship and Immigration Rights Navigator (CAIRN) works in the Immigrant and Refugee Health Program and helps patients hospital-wide with immigration legal services navigation. CAIRN helps connect these patients with legal resources in the community such as immigration clinics and immigration organizations. Some examples of immigration issues that CAIRN can assist with are asylum, green cards, visa extensions, TPS, family reunification, and Citizenship.

To refer a patient to CAIRN, please email [CAIRN@bmc.org](mailto:CAIRN@bmc.org) or call 617.414.9366.

## Summer Spotlight: Immigration and Refugee Health Program



Congratulations to our Citizenship and Immigration Rights Navigator (CAIRN) Sheena Singh, who presented a poster highlighting the CAIRN Program "The Citizenship and Immigration Rights Navigator: A Model for Addressing Immigration Legal Needs in a Primary Care Setting" at the [BUMC Health Equity Symposium](#) on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Sheena also presented at the [North American Refugee Health Conference](#) in Portland, Oregon in June.

### The Team

The IRHP team includes three primary care physicians, a nurse practitioner, a medical case manager, and the Citizenship and Immigration Rights Navigator.

#### Providers

Sondra Crosby, MD – Program Director

Sarah Kimball, MD - Medical Director

Nicolette Oleng', MD – Education Director

Aissatou "Aysha" Gueye, NP – Nurse Practitioner

#### Support Staff

Lily Sonis, LCSW, MPH - Medical Case Manager

## DOM Unsung Hero: Erin McCarthy

**Name:** Erin McCarthy

**Job title:** Business Administrator

**Location:** Vose Hall

**How many years have you been at BUMC?** 12.5

**What is it that you actually do?** I oversee the central business and administrative operations in DOM, and have a wide range of responsibilities that include reviewing and editing faculty documents, tracking faculty status and maintaining files, leading department initiatives and implementing ideas for process improvement, and serving as the webmaster for the DOM website. I am also the administrator for the Graduate Program in Molecular and Translational Medicine, and assist graduate students with registration, stipend payments, tuition settlements, etc.

**What do you like best about your job?** The people. I have worked with some amazing people over the years, and have developed very strong professional and personal relationships.

**Favorite lunch spot?** Equator

**Favorite thing to do outside of work?** I love sports, both watching and playing. I grew up playing soccer, softball and running track, and would never turn down the opportunity to play a game of any sport. I love to be active, whether its playing sports, going to the gym, or going on walks and hikes with my dog. I am also a loyal Patriots fan, and never miss a game.

**Fun Fact:** I have a rescue dog from Puerto Rico named Tia.



## Announcements

After 30 years, **Dr. Warren Hershman** has decided to step down as clerkship director to focus his efforts on developing clinical and educational skills among our clinical faculty. **Dr. Sonia Ananthakrishnan**, Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Section of Endocrinology assumed the position of Clerkship Director effective June 1, 2018. She is a highly skilled and innovative educator who will build on the considerable achievements of Dr. Hershman to help our students learn and grow as medical professionals. On behalf internal medicine clerkships, we thank you for your continued support of student education as Dr. Ananthakrishnan leads us forward.

**Brianna Freeman**, Administrative Coordinator received her Master of Education (EdM) in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies: Higher Education Administration from BU in May 2018

## Announcements

### Obesity Medicine Fellowship Program

To help address the fast growing obesity epidemic in America, The Obesity Society, with support from Novo Nordisk and the American Board of Obesity Medicine, have established the **Obesity Medicine Fellowship Program**.

The Fellowship Program aims to transform care by increasing the number of physicians with specialized training in the care and treatment of patients with obesity and its complications.

To learn more about the effort to build and transform obesity care in America, we welcome an opportunity for you to speak with Caroline Apovian, MD, President of The Obesity Society, Lee Kaplan, MD, PhD, Vice President of The Obesity Society and chair of the Obesity Medicine Fellowship Council, Louis J. Aronne, MD, Obesity Medicine Specialist at Weill Cornell Medicine or Todd Hobbs, vice president and US chief medical officer, Novo Nordisk

### Narrative Writing Program (NWP):

#### Writing from the Front Lines of Clinical Care, Education, and Research

Develop narrative skills. Write for publication. Open to all BUMC faculty—clinicians, researchers, and educators. Experiential seminars offer discussion of writing theory as well as reflective writing prompts. Writing workshops provide a venue for peer coaching on pieces developed outside of sessions, with the goal of preparing narratives for submission to peer-reviewed journals/newspapers/creative anthologies/websites by the end of the course. Limited space is available. **Apply by July 15, 2018.**

**Contact:** Christy Di Frances, PhD: [christyd@bu.edu](mailto:christyd@bu.edu)

**Dates:** One Thursday per month, October 2018-June 2019 | 4-6 p.m.

**Location:** BUMC

## Announcements

### Faculty Development & Diversity Grants

- Open to ALL DOM FACULTY at all levels seeking to further their professional development in research, education, clinical skills, and/or leadership
- Next deadline is July 15th
- <http://www.bumc.bu.edu/facdev-medicine/grants/>

### Congratulations to DOM faculty accepted to 2018-19 Academy for Faculty Advancement!

- Amy Fitzpatrick, General Internal Medicine
- Deepa Gopal, Cardiology
- Emily Baiyee, Hematology/Oncology
- John Weinstein, General Internal Medicine
- Katrina Traber, Pulmonary
- Michelle Long, Gastroenterology
- Nir Ayalon, Cardiology
- Shakun Karki, Cardiology
- Shayna Sarosiek, Hematology/Oncology
- Tom Ostrander, General Internal Medicine
- Varsha Vimalananda, Endocrinology

## Announcements

### **Congratulations to DOM faculty accepted to 2018-19 Mid-Career Faculty Leadership Program!**

- Asher Tulskey, General Internal Medicine
- Larry Beck, Nephrology
- Andrew Wilson, Pulmonary
- Hasmeena Kathuria, Pulmonary
- Weining Lu, Nephrology
- Jude Deeney, Endocrinology
- Francesca Seta, Vascular Biology

### **Congratulations to DOM faculty accepted to the 2018-19 Women's Leadership Program!**

- Jessica Fetterman, Vascular Biology
- Kim Bertrand, Preventative Medicine
- Melissa Jacobs, General Internal Medicine
- Nina Lin, Infectious Diseases
- Reiko Matsui, Vascular Biology
- Zoe Weinstein, General Internal Medicine

## Elizabeth Klings Assumes Directorship of the Pulmonary Hypertension Center



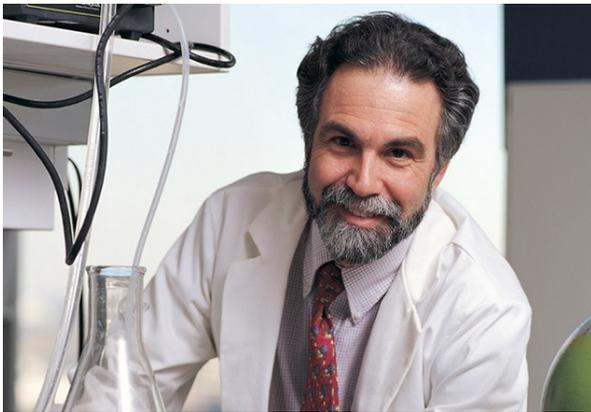
**Dr. Elizabeth Klings has assumed the Directorship of the Pulmonary Hypertension Center at Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center as of July 1, 2018.**

Dr. Klings came to Boston in 1992 after receiving BA and MD degrees from New York University to pursue residency training in Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital and subsequently a Pulmonary and Critical Care fellowship which she completed at BU/BMC in 2000. Since becoming a faculty member, she has developed an international reputation in Pulmonary Hypertension, especially the pulmonary vascular complications of sickle cell disease. She has published over 50 papers on this topic including lead authorship on the American Thoracic Society sponsored Clinical Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of PH in SCD. Her current research interests involve understanding the roles of intermittent hypoxia and venous thromboembolism as pulmonary vascular modulators in sickle cell disease. She currently serves as a member of the NIH/NHLBI Sickle Cell Disease Advisory Committee and is a member of the Program Committee of the Pulmonary Circulation Assembly of the American Thoracic Society. In March 2015, Dr. Klings became the Director of the Center for Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease at BMC, the largest sickle cell center in New England, caring for approximately 450 adult and pediatric patients. Since assuming the Directorship, Dr. Klings has led numerous multi-specialty initiatives to improve the clinical and research programs of the center including quality initiatives with the Emergency Department and Department of Surgery to improve the care of SCD patients, the expansion of the clinical trials program and the creation of a multi-disciplinary clinic with Hematology, General Internal Medicine and Pulmonary to create a patient-centered medical home for our adult SCD patients. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Klings to this new role.

**EVANS DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE RESEARCH DAYS**

October 11 – 12, 2018

**We are pleased to announce the 2018 Wilkins and  
Ingelfinger Visiting Professors**



*Wilkins Visiting Professor*  
**Gregg L. Semenza, M.D., Ph.D.**

C. Michael Armstrong Professor of  
Genetic Medicine, Pediatrics,  
Medicine, Oncology, Radiation  
Oncology and Biological Chemistry

Johns Hopkins University School  
of Medicine



*Ingelfinger Visiting Professor*  
**Gary Vincent Desir, MD**

Paul B. Beeson Professor of  
Medicine

Chair, Internal Medicine

Yale School of Medicine

## DOM Happenings

### **ECIBR-IBRO-CTSI Team Science 2018: New & existing Affinity Research Collaborative (ARCs)**

#### **Two new ARCs established to promote Team Science**

**Tobacco Regulatory Science** / Co-Directors: Jessica Fetterman, Naomi Hamburg, Andrew stokes, Stine Grodal

**Connecting Tissues and Investigators (Fibrosis in Pathology)** / Co-Directors: Maria Trojanowska, Irving Bigio, Bob Varelas

#### **Three ARCs moved to a second year of funding**

**ME-Health** /Co-Directors: Belinda Borrelli, Lisa Quintiliani, Tibor Palfai  
**Systems Biology Approaches to Microbiome Research** /Co-Directors: Daniel Segre, W. Evan Johnson

**Precision Medicine for Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders** /Co-Directors: Lindsay Farrer, Rhonda Au, Alice Cronin-Golomb

#### **Three ARCs are functioning as ARC programs based primarily on securing extramural funding**

**Thrombosis and Hemostasis ARC Program** /Co-Directors: Vipul Chitalia, Katya Ravid, Jean Francis

**Etiology and Pathogenesis of Oral Cancer (EPOC)** /Co-Directors: Maria Kukuruzinska, Maria Trojanowska, Avi Spira

**Protein Trafficking and Neurodegenerative Disease** /Director: Lindsay Farrer

**Address Inquiries to:** Robin MacDonald ([remac@bu.edu](mailto:remac@bu.edu))

## DOM Happenings



This past April, ten 4th year BUSM students who matched into Internal Medicine residencies all over the country participated in the second annual **Internal Medicine Bootcamp Elective**, directed by **Drs. Ryan Chippendale, Frank Schembri, Julien Dedier and Nicholas Bosch**. The

elective's goal is to increase BUSM IV students' confidence to start Internal Medicine internship through advanced experiences in core intern skills, including managing acute medical conditions, performing common procedures, communicating with patients and teams, and balancing responsibilities and wellness as interns. The two-week intensive curriculum includes a combination of small group problem-based learning, simulation and procedural experiences. Over 30 faculty and residents from the DOM lent their time and expertise to ensure it was a huge success. The Department of Medicine Student Education team would like to thank all those who contributed, with a special thanks to the course's administrator, **Jessica Restrepo**.



## DOM Appointments & Promotions

### Appointments:

Matthew Kulke, MD, Professor, Hematology / Oncology  
Nick Cordella, MD, Assistant Professor, GIM  
Ryan Ferguson, MPH, DSc, Research Assistant Professor, GIM– VA  
Jason Heath, MD, Assistant Professor, GIM  
Carl Street, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, GIM  
Alysandratos Konstantinos, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Pulmonary  
Chongja Chen, MD, Assistant Professor, GIM  
Alexis Gallardo Foreman, NP, Instructor, Pulmonary  
Brian Smerkers, MD, Instructor, GIM  
Andrew Staron, MD, Instructor, Hematology / Oncology  
Leah Taffel, MD, Instructor, Geriatrics  
Kathleen Quintin, NP, Instructor, Cardiology  
Jocelyn Keehner, MD, Instructor, GIM  
Michael Schwartz, MD, Instructor, GM  
Miriam Harris, MD, Instructor, GIM  
Philip Lederer, MD, Assistant Professor, ID  
Timothy Wymer, MD, Instructor, GIM  
Luis Agosto, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, ID  
Elizabeth Davis, MD, Instructor, GIM-VA  
Alexa Diranian, PA-C, Instructor, GIM  
Susan MacLauchlan, PhD, Instructor, Cardiology  
Justin McCummings, M. Ed., Instructor, GIM  
Frank Meng, PhD, Assistant Professor, GIM-VA  
Nicole Spartano, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Endocrinology

### Promotions:

Omar Siddiqi, MD, Assistant Professor, Cardiology  
Ehab Billatos, MD, Assistant Professor, GIM  
Deepa Gopal, MD, MS, Assistant Professor, Cardiology  
Poorani Goundan, MBBS, Assistant Professor, Endocrinology,  
Sun Lee, MD, Assistant Professor, Endocrinology  
Gene Kwan, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Cardiology



**Vipul Chitalia, MED, Medicine (Nephrology), Associate Professor**, is an emerging national and international physician scientist in the field of chronic kidney disease (CKD). Focusing on cardiovascular manifestations in patients with CKD and using thrombosis as a disease model, he was the first to uncover the highly prothrombotic effect of some of the retained solutes in CKD patients. This work explained observations from several clinical trials that in the past had shown CKD as a strong and independent risk factor for thrombosis. These discoveries now have been developed into a *'theranostic'* platform with a biomarker program and potential druggable therapeutic targets, which has attracted interest from the biotech industry. Dr. Chitalia serves as a scientific advisor to several leading biotech companies in the greater Boston area and also is an Associate Scientific Advisory Board Member of *Science Translational Medicine*, where his work has been lauded as “the most mechanistic contribution to the field of chronic kidney disease and vascular biology.”



**Jean M. Francis, MED, Medicine (Nephrology), Associate Professor**, is a clinician educator and innovator. His work has led to improved care of patients with thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA) on a national level through the adoption in other institutions of a multidisciplinary team approach for management of patients with TMA, which he began at BMC. He has been invited to give more than 25 national and international lectures on TMA and TMA team building. His clinical innovation also is reflected by a collaborative effort between BMC and Brigham and Women's Hospital to create a pancreas transplant program, for which he serves as medical director. Dr. Francis has been elected as one of 11 national representatives for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) and United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) Pancreas Transplantation Committee. He represents all pancreas

## DOM Promotions to Associate & Full Professor



**Craig Eric Gordon, MED, Medicine (Nephrology), Associate Professor,** is recognized as an international expert in the management of hepatitis C virus (HCV) in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Dr. Gordon has served as Associate Director of the Evidence Review Team for three clinical practice guidelines developed by Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO), the leading international organization for clinical practice guidelines in Nephrology, including an upcoming update to the KDIGO guidelines on HCV in patients with CKD. The KDIGO guidelines as well as publications and national/international presentations delivered by Dr. Gordon paved the way toward an increased awareness of the importance of HCV in CKD patients from a diagnostic, treatment and infection control perspective. Recently, Dr. Gordon served as guest editor of a supplemental issue of *Hemodialysis International* focused on HCV in CKD. Additionally, Dr. Gordon has worked in the area of procedural safety beginning with the development of the concept of a medical procedure service and later through publications identifying best practices in procedural safety for kidney biopsy and thoracentesis. He has lectured extensively related to procedural safety in various venues nationally.



**Christopher Huang, MED, Medicine (Gastroenterology), Clinical Associate Professor,** is a clinician-educator with a special interest in endoscopy education and training, and expertise in performing advanced procedures such as endoscopic retrograde

cholangiopancreatography, endoscopic ultrasonography, endoscopic mucosal resection of premalignant tumors and stenting of malignant gastrointestinal strictures. His skill set allows him to provide a unique service to patients with oncologic, biliary or pancreatic disorders. Dr. Huang has made significant contributions toward improving the Fellowship Program's endoscopy training curriculum by developing several endoscopy-related lectures, integrating simulation training and implementing tools for the evaluation of procedural

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**Matthew Jones, MED, Medicine (Pulmonary, Allergy, Sleep & Critical Care), Associate Professor**, studies inflammatory responses to acute bacterial pneumonia. Dr. Jones is the director of the GMS PhD Program in Molecular and Translational Medicine and regularly mentors graduate students. He is a member of several institutional committees and a reviewer of several peer-reviewed journals in addition to being co-PI on an NIH R01 grant extending through 2022, and is co-I on six others (U01, R35, R56 and 3 R01s). Dr. Jones has given invited national and international presentations and has served as a member of multiple Department of Defense research review panels on respiratory health.



**George James Murphy, MED, Medicine (Hematology & Medical Oncology), Associate Professor**, is an accomplished investigator, mentor and teacher. Dr. Murphy is one of the founding co-directors of the Boston University and Boston Medical Center's Center for Regenerative Medicine (CReM), which now houses 50 members and 100 affiliated faculty with sizable extramural funding. His research focuses on the creation and differentiation of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) and their use in understanding both development and disease. His laboratory's accomplishments include the generation of widely used protocols and platforms for the study of sickle cell anemia and hereditary amyloidosis. He also has pioneered methodologies for the large-scale production of blood cells from stem cells allowing for the first in human trials of iPSC-derived platelet transfusions. A sought-after speaker, Dr. Murphy plays a central role in the Hematology T32 Training Program, and is engaged in community outreach to inspire the next generation of scientists.

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**Richard A. Serrao, MED, Medicine (Infectious Diseases), *Clinical Associate Professor***, is a consummate clinician in general medicine and infectious diseases. Predominantly at the VA Boston Healthcare System, his impact is evident across BU and other VA affiliates. His yearly commitments are spread among an impressive 10 months on five different teaching services (medicine wards, inpatient and outpatient medicine consults, inpatient infectious disease consults, and primary and subspecialty care in ID/HIV clinic). Most notable is Dr. Serrao's development and leadership (Medical Director) of the Ambulatory Diagnostic Treatment Center (ADTC), an extraordinary model for providing timely quality care to patients and educating the next generation of primary care providers. Dr. Serrao's work in the ADTC has left an indelible imprint on scores of BMC residents and BU students. He is the recipient of several teaching awards and continues to serve as an associate director for the inpatient internal medicine core clerkship, contributing to innovative teaching curricula and the mentoring and career development of a significant portion of the medical student body.



**Allan Walkey, MED, Medicine (Pulmonary, Allergy, Sleep & Critical Care), *Associate Professor***, is a leading expert in the clinical impact of atrial fibrillation in sepsis. Dr. Walkey's research seeks to improve processes and outcomes of critical care, reduce cardiovascular complications of sepsis, better account for patient goals in the delivery and evaluation of healthcare, and develop novel methods to compare outcomes in observational research. He has a demonstrated track record of high-impact research with >100 publications, many in top-tier journals such as *JAMA*, *JAMA Internal Medicine* and the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. Dr. Walkey also serves as co-Director of the Center of Implementation and Improvement Sciences, seeking to improve the rigor of efforts to translate research into practice.

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**Andrew A. Wilson, MED, Medicine (Pulmonary, Allergy, Sleep & Critical Care), Associate Professor**, is a pulmonary and critical care clinician-scientist with long-standing focus on regenerative medicine and stem cell biology. His research seeks to advance the understanding of and treatment for genetic causes of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and the lung and liver diseases associated with the alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD), largely through the platform of patient-derived stem cells. He has overseen the creation of and directs one of the world's largest repositories of reprogrammable blood samples associated with highly characterized participants in the Framingham Heart Study. In addition to laboratory-based science, he also leads an epidemiological study to define the incidence of and risk factors for liver diseases associated with AATD. Dr. Wilson is the founding director of the Alpha-1 Center at BU and BMC, one of the largest clinical centers for patients with AATD in the region. Since 2008 he has supervised 19 trainees in one of the most demanding scientific laboratory disciplines.



**Elizabeth N. Pearce, MD, MSc, MED, Medicine, (Endocrinology), Professor** Her research interests include the sufficiency of dietary iodine in the U.S., thyroid function in pregnancy, the thyroid effects of environmental perchlorate exposure and other potential endocrine disruptors, and the cardiovascular effects of subclinical thyroid dysfunction.

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**Timothy Naimi, MD, MPH, MED, Medicine (General Internal Medicine), Professor**, is a physician and alcohol epidemiologist at Boston Medical Center (BMC), and a Professor with the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Naimi received his bachelor's degree from Harvard College, his M.D. degree from the University of Massachusetts, and his M.P.H degree from the Harvard School of Public Health. He completed a combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency program at the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Epidemiologic Intelligence Officer program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and a preventive medicine residency with the CDC. Prior to coming to BMC, Dr. Naimi worked as a clinician for the U.S. Indian Health Service, and as a senior epidemiologist with the Alcohol Team at CDC. His current research interests, for which he receives grant support from the National Institutes of Health and CDC, include binge drinking, youth drinking, health effects of low-dose ethanol, and substance use policy including the impact of alcohol control policies on youth and adult alcohol consumption patterns. He has co-authored more than 100 published manuscripts and book chapters.



**Stephanie L. Lee, MD, PhD, MED, Medicine (Endocrinology), Professor** is a national expert in: the clinical management of thyroid disorders; the sonography of the thyroid and superficial neck; and the clinical management of thyroid cancer.



Do you have an exciting announcement or something to celebrate that you would like included in the Department of Medicine quarterly newsletter?

Send your submissions to Jen Visconti:  
**[Jennifer.visconti@bmc.org](mailto:Jennifer.visconti@bmc.org)** to be included in our fall issue, which is slated to be distributed this October.