



Department of Surgery
Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center
Annual Report 2017

Transforming Health and
Health Care through

**DISCOVERY,
COLLABORATION,
& COMMUNITY**



Boston University School of Medicine



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The Department of Surgery By the Numbers*

14 Clinical Divisions/Sections

44 Clinical Faculty (BMC)

1 ACGME-Accredited Surgical Residency

38 Interns and Residents

2 ACGME-Accredited Surgical Fellowships

4 Fellows

5 CPME-Accredited Podiatric Residency Residents

7,216 Operations

69,257 Outpatient Visits

* September 1, 2016-August 31, 2017



Message from the Chair



It is my great honor and privilege to serve as the Chair of Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine and Surgeon-in-Chief at Boston Medical Center, a position I assumed in July of this year. I am excited about the opportunity to work with my colleagues here and throughout the entire BU community and beyond to — as it states on the cover of this annual report — “transform health and health care through discovery, collaboration, and community.”

I am fortunate to have a solid foundation to build on, thanks in large part to my predecessors, former Chair Dr. Gerard Doherty and former ad interim Chair, Dr. David McAneny, Vice Chair of Surgery. I am grateful to both for their contributions, and to Dr. McAneny for his continuing leadership.

Going forward, my goals are to lead the department to even greater academic prominence in basic and clinical research; develop multidisciplinary centers of excellence that build on our many unique strengths; develop model systems of health care delivery; and demonstrate national leadership in surgical education.

We have an ambitious agenda. But it is achievable because our culture fosters what I believe are essential elements of true and meaningful progress: innovation, collaboration, integrity, and diversity.

We are already making progress toward our goals. As you will discover in the *Highlights* section of this report, the department offers innovative, successful programs in education, research, clinical care, and quality that serve as models for academic institutions across the nation and the world.

For example, Drs. Tracey Dechert, Tejal Brahmabhatt, and Lawrence Novak developed a “Real World Curriculum,” which is gaining nationwide interest, to provide surgery trainees with non-clinical information that is critical to their success after graduation. Dr. Jonathan Woodson founded and leads a research institute that leverages the deep talent in the schools and centers of BU and collaborates with external partners to develop policies that will improve health care access, quality, and sustainability throughout the U.S. and worldwide. These are just two of many innovative initiatives led by our faculty that will transform health and health care.

I hope you enjoy reading our annual report and learning about the department and the activities and achievements of our faculty and trainees. If you would like to receive future communications about the department, please contact us at surgery@bu.edu.

Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH

*James Utley Professor and Chair of Surgery,
Boston University School of Medicine
Surgeon-in-Chief, Boston Medical Center*

Boston Medical Center

Boston Medical Center (BMC) is a private, not-for-profit, 487-bed, academic medical center with a community-based focus. Located in Boston's historic South End, BMC is the primary teaching hospital of the Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) and was created by the 1996 merger of Boston City Hospital (founded in 1855) and Boston University Medical Center Hospital (founded in 1864).

BMC is the largest and busiest provider of trauma and emergency services in New England. Also the largest safety net hospital in New England, BMC provides a full spectrum of pediatric and adult care services, from primary care and family medicine to advanced surgical and medical specialty care.



The Department of Surgery

Welcome to the Department of Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center. In this 2017 annual report, we provide an overview of some of the clinical programs, research, and educational initiatives of the previous year (September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017), and highlight some of the many accomplishments and activities of our faculty and trainees.

This report presents a 40,000-foot view of the department, but one that we hope portrays the current landscape, the direction we are heading, and the steps we are taking to transform health and health care through discovery, collaboration, and community. We invite you to visit our website (bumc.bu.edu/surgery) and follow us on social media to keep abreast of our activities throughout the year.

The Department of Surgery has a long, proud history whose roots reach back more than 150 years. In 1873, Boston University School of Medicine opened its doors, combining the New England Female Medical College

with the medical staff of the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital. Dr. Israel T. Talbot was the first chairman of the Department of Surgery while also serving as the first dean of Boston University School of Medicine.

The modern history of the Department of Surgery at Boston University dates to 1946, when Dr. Reginald H. Smithwick was recruited from Massachusetts General Hospital to serve as Surgeon-in-Chief and Chairman of Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM). Dr. Smithwick served in those positions for nearly 20 years.

Among the surgeons who have led and contributed to the international stature of the Department of Surgery throughout the ensuing decades are Drs. Richard Egdahl, John Mannick, Lester Williams, Peter Mozden, Robert Hobson, Edward Spatz, James Becker, and Gerard Doherty.

In July 2017, Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH, was recruited as Chair and Utley Professor of Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine and

Surgeon-in-Chief at Boston Medical Center (see page 8). Dr. Tseng is the first woman to serve as a chair of surgery in Boston and is among a small number of female surgery chairs in the nation.

The Department of Surgery comprises 14 divisions or sections and includes 44 full-time faculty members at Boston Medical Center. A well-established relationship with Boston Children's Hospital provides shared faculty in pediatric critical care and pediatric general surgery, as well as pediatric training for residents. The department also has more than 20 affiliated Boston University School of Medicine faculty members from Roger Williams Medical Center, the Veterans Administration (VA) Boston Healthcare System, and Cape Cod Hospital (Cape Cod Healthcare).

The Department of Surgery has had a unique partnership with the Department of Surgery at the VA Boston Healthcare System, a relationship that extends back to the 1950s. The departments of Surgery at both hospitals are well-integrated,

collaborating not only on the training of medical students, residents, and fellows, but also on many research and clinical programs. Under the leadership of Kamal Itani, MD, Chief of Surgery, the VA Boston Healthcare System Department of Surgery is a valued partner of the Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center Department of Surgery.

The department is also greatly enriched by its relationship with the Department of Surgery at Roger Williams Medical Center, led by Chairman N. Joseph Espat, MD, MS. Roger Williams Medical Center has more than a century of proud history, and is the largest academic Comprehensive Cancer Center in Rhode Island. Offering a full range of special and subspecialty services, Roger Williams Medical Center performs approximately 7,300 inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures annually, and is a major source of teaching and training for Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center.

Department Leadership



Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH
*James Utley Professor and Chair of Surgery,
 Boston University School of Medicine
 Surgeon-in-Chief, Boston Medical Center*



David McAneny, MD
*Vice Chair of Surgery, Boston University School
 of Medicine
 Chief, Division of General Surgery*



Donald Hess, MD
Program Director, Surgery Residency



Tracey Dechert, MD
*Associate Chair, Faculty Development and Diversity
 Associate Program Director, Surgery Residency*



Alik Farber, MD
Associate Chair, Clinical Operations



Tony Godfrey, PhD
Associate Chair, Research



Cullen Carter, MD
Surgery Clerkship Director

Division and Section Leadership



Peter Burke, MD
Chief, Section of Acute Care and Trauma Surgery



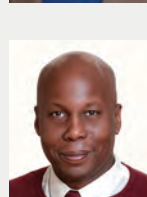
Catherine Chen, MD, MPH
Chief, Section of Pediatric Surgery



Alik Farber, MD
Chief, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery



Geoffrey Habershaw, DPM
Chief, Division of Podiatry Surgery



Jason F. Hall, MD, MPH
Chief, Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery



Donald Hess, MD
*Chief, Section of Minimally Invasive and
 Weight Loss Surgery*

Faculty



Karl Karlson, MD
Chief, Division of Cardiac Surgery



Virginia R. Litle, MD
*Chief, Division of Thoracic Surgery
Associate Program Director, Surgery Residency*



David McAneny, MD
*Chief, Division of General Surgery
Chief, Section of Surgical Endocrinology
Chief, Section of Surgical Oncology*



Matthew Nuhn, MD
Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery



Robert Schulze, MD, MBA
Chief, Section of Surgical Critical Care



Jaromir Slama, MD
Chief, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY FACULTY

Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH
*James Utley Professor and
Chair of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine
Surgeon-in-Chief*

Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/ Surgical Critical Care

Peter Burke, MD
*Section Chief, Acute Care and
Trauma Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine*

Robert Schulze, MD, MBA
*Section Chief, Surgical Critical Care
Clinical Associate Professor of
Surgery, Boston University School
of Medicine**

Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD
*Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine**
*Associate Director,
Surgery Clerkship*

Tracey Dechert, MD
*Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Andrew Glantz, MD
*Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

George Kasotakis, MD, MPH
*Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Chaitan Narsule, MD
*Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Sabrina E. Sanchez, MD, MPH
*Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine**

Lisa Allee, MSW, LICSW
*Instructor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine*

Cardiac Surgery

Karl Karlson, MD
*Division Chief
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Nikola Dobrilovic, MD, MBA
*Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine**

Colon and Rectal Surgery

Jason F. Hall, MD, MPH
*Section Chief
Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Angela Kuhnen, MD
*Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Uma R. Phatak, MD
*Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery

Donald Hess, MD
Section Chief
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Brian Carmine, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Cullen Carter, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Luise I. Pernar, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Pediatric Surgery

Catherine Chen, MD, MPH
Section Chief
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Harvard Medical School

Thomas Hamilton, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Harvard Medical School

Konstantinos Papadakis, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Harvard Medical School

Jason Smithers, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Harvard Medical School

Jay Wilson, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery,
Harvard Medical School

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Jaromir Slama, MD
Division Chief
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Nilton Medina, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Smita Ramanadham, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Podiatry Surgery

Geoffrey Habershaw, DPM
Division Chief
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Ewald Ray Mendeszoon Jr., DPM
Instructor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

David Negron, DPM, MBA
Instructor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

Justin Ogbonna, DPM
Instructor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

Hau Pham, DPM
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Wei Tseng, DPM
Instructor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine*

Vitaliy Volansky, DPM
Instructor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine*

Surgical Endocrinology

David McAneny, MD
Section Chief
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

F. Thurston Drake, MD, MPH
Laszlo N. Tauber Assistant
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

Surgical Oncology

David McAneny, MD
Section Chief
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

Michael R. Cassidy, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Maureen Kavanah, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Thoracic Surgery

Virginia R. Litle, MD
Division Chief
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

Kei Suzuki, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Transplant Surgery

Matthew Nuhn, MD
Division Chief
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Amitabh Gautam, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Alik Farber, MD
Division Chief
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

Douglas W. Jones, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Jeffrey Kalish, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, RPVI
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Jonathan Woodson, MD
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine
Dr. Woodson is director of the
Boston University-wide Institute
for Health System Innovation and
Policy; Lars Anderson Professor
in Management and Professor
of the Practice, BU Questrom
School of Business; and Professor
of Health Law, Policy and
Management, BU School of
Public Health (see Highlights
2017, page 20).

* Recommended for

Surgical Research

Tony Godfrey, PhD

Associate Chair of Research
Professor of Surgery and
Computational Biomedicine,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Marina Malikova, PhD, MSci, MA, CCRA, RAC

Executive Director, Surgical
Translational Research
Operations and Compliance

Amy Rosen, PhD

Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

Sing Chau Ng, MS

Staff biostatistician
Administrative Director, SOAR

Emeritus

Robert Beazley, MD

Professor Emeritus of Surgery
Boston University School
of Medicine

Benedict Daly, MD

Professor Emeritus of Surgery
Boston University School
of Medicine

CAPE COD HOSPITAL (CAPE COD HEALTHCARE)

Lawrence Novak, MD

Surgery Residency
Program Director

Stephen Brooks, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Boston University School
of Medicine

ROGER WILLIAMS MEDICAL CENTER

N. Joseph Espat, MD, MS

Chairman, Department of
Surgery, Roger Williams Medical
Center
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

Abdul Saeid Calvino, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School of
Medicine
Assistant Director, Boston
University School of Medicine
Surgery Clerkship

Steven Katz, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Ponnandai Somasundar, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Ting Zhao, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

General Surgery

Kamal Itani, MD

Chief of Surgery, Veterans Affairs
Boston Healthcare System
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

P. Marco Fisichella, MD, MBA

Associate Professor of Surgery,
Harvard Medical School

Jason S. Gold, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery,
Harvard Medical School

Patrick B. O'Neal, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine
Assistant Director, Boston
University School of Medicine
Surgery Clerkship

Vivian E. Sanchez, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine
Director, Boston University
Anesthesia/Surgery Internship

Cardiac Surgery

Miguel Haime, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Vascular Surgery

James McPhee, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Research

Qi Chen, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor, Boston
University School of Medicine

Hillary Mull, PhD

Research Assistant Professor,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Amy Rosen, PhD

Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

Jinghua Yang, PhD

Associate Professor, Boston
University School of Medicine



New Faculty



Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH

James Utley Professor and Chair of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine; Surgeon-in-Chief, Boston Medical Center

Dr. Tseng graduated from Stanford University, received her MD from the University of California, San Francisco Medical School, and earned a master's degree in public health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Tseng completed a general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and a research fellowship in molecular medicine at Harvard Medical School/Boston Children's Hospital, followed by a clinical fellowship in surgical oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Before joining the Boston Medical Center faculty, Dr. Tseng was Chief of Surgical Oncology in the Department of Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) and Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. Prior to BIDMC, she was an attending surgeon at UMass Memorial Medical Center and Associate Professor of Surgery, Cancer Biology and Quantitative Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Dr. Tseng's main clinical interests are pancreatic cancer and other malignancies of the upper gastrointestinal tract. Her diverse research interests include reducing surgical risk, cancer biomarkers, and developing models for cancer treatment-sequencing strategies, with a strong focus on racial and socioeconomic disparities in care.

Dr. Tseng has collaborated with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to assess the impact of factors — including insurance, disparities, and health care reform — on cancer diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

While at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Dr. Tseng was the founding director of SOAR (Surgical Outcomes Analysis & Research), a research initiative to improve treatment strategies for a broad range of surgical conditions and to develop tools to assess and reduce risk. At BIDMC, Dr. Tseng and her co-leaders continued the development of SOAR as a health systems and outcomes research group. With her recruitment, the Department of Surgery has established Boston SOAR with a mandate to investigate and promulgate best practices and eradicate disparities in all aspects of surgery and surgically related conditions such as cancer; injury and acute illness; and aging/regenerative medicine.

Dr. Tseng is dedicated to both innovation and inclusivity in medical education, and has mentored many medical students, residents, and fellows throughout her career.



Michael R. Cassidy, MD

*Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine
Surgical Oncology*

Dr. Cassidy graduated from Boston University and received his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. He completed his general surgery residency at Boston Medical Center and a fellowship in surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering

Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York City.

During his residency, Dr. Cassidy did a research fellowship in the lab of James Becker, MD, and Arthur Stucchi, PhD, at Boston University, and conducted surgical quality improvement research under the mentorship of David McAneny, MD. Prior to joining the faculty at Boston Medical Center, Dr. Cassidy was chief administrative fellow in the Department of Surgery, Instructor of Surgery, and the David and Monica Gorin Fellow in Sarcoma at MSKCC.

Dr. Cassidy's main clinical interests are breast cancer, soft tissue sarcoma, melanoma, gastrointestinal stromal tumor, and gastrointestinal malignancies. His primary research interests are surgical oncology outcomes, surgical education, patient safety, and quality improvement.



Nikola Dobrilovic, MD, MBA

Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine
Cardiac Surgery*

Dr. Dobrilovic graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in molecular and cellular biology. He received his medical degree from St. George's University, and an MBA from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Dobrilovic

completed his general surgery residency at The Jewish Hospital of Cincinnati, his residency in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Parkland Memorial Hospital/University of Texas Southwestern, and a fellowship in aortic surgery/cardiac transplantation at Yale University. He is board certified in both general surgery and thoracic surgery. Prior to joining the faculty at Boston Medical Center, Dr. Dobrilovic held faculty positions at Rush University in Chicago, and Brown University in Providence, RI.

Dr. Dobrilovic's main clinical interests are adult cardiovascular surgery, including coronary artery bypass grafting, complex mitral repair, and aortic surgery — both open and endovascular. His primary research interests include aortic surgery, mitral surgery, and mechanical circulatory support.



Douglas W. Jones, MD
*Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School of Medicine*
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Dr. Jones graduated from New York University and received his medical degree from Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. He completed his general surgery residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill-Cornell

Medical Center in New York City, and a fellowship in vascular surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Dr. Jones's main clinical interests are endovascular and open surgical approaches to peripheral arterial disease, abdominal and thoracic aortic aneurysm, and carotid artery stenosis. He also has a clinical interest in multidisciplinary approaches to limb salvage in the management of the diabetic foot. His primary research interests are clinical trials and clinical registries pertaining to critical limb ischemia, the treatment of aneurysmal aortic disease, and cerebrovascular disease.



Uma R. Phatak, MD
*Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School of Medicine*
Colon and Rectal Surgery

Dr. Phatak graduated from New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ, and received her medical degree from New Jersey Medical School, also in Newark. Dr. Phatak completed her residency in general surgery at the

University of Texas Health Science Center, in Houston, where she also earned a master's in clinical research. She did her fellowship in colorectal surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, in Worcester, MA.

Dr. Phatak's main clinical interests are robotic surgery, laparoscopic surgery, colon cancer, rectal cancer, diverticulitis, inflammatory bowel disease, and anorectal surgery. Her research interests include outcomes disparities among patients with colorectal cancer, assessing frailty among patients undergoing elective colorectal procedures, and alternative survival modeling in colorectal cancer.

* Recommended for



Faculty News

Boston University School of Medicine Promotions

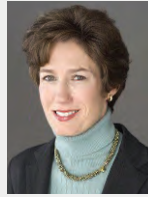
Congratulations the following faculty members who received promotions from Boston University School of Medicine in the previous year:



TONY GODFREY, PhD
Surgical Research
Professor of Surgery



JEFFREY KALISH, MD
Vascular and
Endovascular Surgery
*Associate Professor of
Surgery and Radiology*



VIRGINIA R. LITTLE, MD
Thoracic Surgery
Professor of Surgery



TEJAL BRAHMBHATT, MD, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, was named Associate Director of the Boston University School of Medicine Surgery

Clerkship at Boston Medical Center.



ABDUL SAIED CALVINO, MD, Roger Williams Medical Center, was named Assistant Director of the Boston University School of Medicine Surgery Clerkship at

Roger Williams Medical Center. During the previous year, Dr. Calvino was physician champion for the Rhode Island Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. He also was a member of the Rhode Island working group at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention forum, "Increasing Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates through Enhanced Partnerships between Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalitions and Federally Qualified Health Centers" in Atlanta. In addition, Dr. Calvino was invited to speak by the Rhode Island Department of Health and Alpert Brown School of Medicine on overcoming barriers to colonoscopy

with culturally oriented patient navigation. He also was an invited speaker at the "Call for Action Providence 80% by 2018" event hosted by the American Cancer Society and Providence mayor Jorge Elorza.



TRACEY DECHERT, MD, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, was promoted in September to the new position of Associate Chair for Faculty Development and Diversity in the

Department of Surgery. Dr. Dechert is also Associate Program Director for the Surgery Residency Program.

In her role as associate chair, Dr. Dechert will lead the communications effort for the Department of Surgery. She will serve as the department's liaison with Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston University School of Public Health, and other BU schools, and participate in the development and implementation of strategies to raise the visibility of the department at both institutional and national levels. Dr. Dechert will also develop and participate in initiatives to increase diversity among faculty and trainees, and continue the department's

leadership role in addressing social barriers to surgical care.

Dr. Dechert has been a member of the BUSM faculty since 2010. Her accomplishments include the creation of a number of innovative educational initiatives, including the Social Responsibility in Surgery working group, the Social Determinants of Health curriculum, and surgery electives for first- and second-year medical students.



N. JOSEPH ESPAT, MD, MS, Chair of Surgery, Roger Williams Medical Center, was an invited speaker at the University of Tennessee, at Walter Reed/Bethesda Naval

Hospital, and the Sri Lanka College of Surgeons. He also gave an oral presentation on "Extended treatment with adjuvant imatinib for patients with high-risk primary gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST): The PERSIST-5 Study" at the 2017 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting. Last year Dr. Espat had four papers published in the following journals: *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*, *Hepatobiliary Surgery Nutrition*, *Journal of Surgical Research*, and *Cancer Gene Therapy*.

BMC received funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to participate for up to three years in the national "Comparing Outcomes of Drugs and Appendectomy" (CODA) clinical trial (see page 28), which is designed to answer one of the most controversial questions in general surgery today: Is appendicitis most effectively treated with the standard therapy — surgical removal of the appendix (appendectomy) — or with antibiotics? Led at BMC by principal investigators **SABRINA E. SANCHEZ, MD, MPH**, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, and **F. THURSTON DRAKE, MD, MPH**, Surgical Endocrinology, the CODA trial is a large-scale study already underway at approximately 10 centers across the United States. CODA is the first study to

compare the impact of these two treatments on the overall patient experience in addition to clinical outcomes. The results are expected to generate an evidence-based approach to appendicitis that is more relevant to patient care in the United States, as most studies on this topic to date have been conducted in Europe. Patient enrollment in the CODA trial at BMC is expected to start in late fall 2017.



Boston Magazine's 2016 "Top Docs" issue recognized eight Department of Surgery faculty members as "tops" in their specialties.

Cited were:

PETER BURKE, MD

Acute Care and Trauma Surgery

ALIK FARBER, MD

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

JASON F. HALL, MD, MPH

Colon and Rectal Surgery

JEFFREY KALISH, MD

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

MAUREEN KAVANAH, MD

Surgical Oncology

VIRGINIA R. LITTLE, MD

Thoracic Surgery

DAVID McANENY, MD

General Surgery, Surgical Endocrinology, Surgical Oncology

JANE MENDEZ, MD

(formerly with Surgical Oncology)



F. THURSTON DRAKE, MD, MPH, Surgical Endocrinology, is co-investigator of a large, international study, "Characteristics Predicting Clinically Relevant

Reduction of Hypertension Following Adrenalectomy for Primary Aldosteronism: A Multicenter Analysis." Other co-investigators involved in the study are **DAVID McANENY, MD**, and resident **STEPHANIE TALUTIS, MD, MPH**. The lead study center is the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

The Department of Surgery is collaborating with the Boston University Center for Global Health and Development (CGHD) and Harvard's Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC) on a trauma training-implementation project in Zambia. The project was approved and prioritized by the Zambian Ministry of Health and a grant application has been submitted by principal investigator **F. THURSTON DRAKE, MD, MPH**, Surgical Endocrinology, to the Consortium of Universities for Global Health. **SABRINA E. SANCHEZ, MD, MPH**, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, and resident **MAUNIL BHATT, MD**, are collaborators on the project. Dr. Drake has also teamed up with BMC endocrinologist Stephanie Lee, MD, PhD, on the development of a thyroid cancer registry that has enrolled more than 1,000 patients. The first project will be an investigation of the epidemiology and long-term outcomes of a relatively new pathologic entity: noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP). Resident **ANDREA MADIEDO, MD**, is also collaborating on the project.



ALIK FARBER, MD, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, was the recipient of the American College of Surgeons/New England Surgical Society Health Policy Scholarship for 2017.

The scholarship enabled

Dr. Farber to attend the "Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management" course at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management in June.

Dr. Farber is the national co-chair of the BEST-CLI (Best Endovascular versus Best Surgical Therapy in Patients with Critical Limb Ischemia) trial, a multicenter, \$25 million investigation sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. As of early August, the trial had enrolled half of its targeted 2,100 patients. Dr. Farber also served as section editor of the international textbook "Vascular Surgery: A Global Perspective" (Springer). In the previous year, Dr. Farber had 34 papers published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals that include *JAMA Surgery*, *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, *Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*, *Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery*, and the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*. Dr. Farber notes that during the previous year, faculty of the division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery gave 20 national and international podium presentations.



JASON F. HALL, MD, MPH,

Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery, was accepted to the BUSM Mid-Career Leadership Training Program, a one-year professional development program. Dr. Hall served

as program chair of the 2016 New England Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery annual meeting, and gave eight presentations: at the Harvard Medical School "Advances and Controversies in Colorectal Surgery" symposium, the New England Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery annual meeting, and the American Society of Colon and

Rectal Surgeons annual meeting. In addition, Dr. Hall moderated several plenary sessions at those conferences. Dr. Hall had four papers published: in *Clinics in Colon and Rectal Surgery*, *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, and *The American Surgeon*.

During the previous year, the section of Colon and Rectal Surgery was accepted as a site member for the Surgery Research Network for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (established by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation) and started a multidisciplinary colon cancer management conference in collaboration with the departments of radiology, radiation oncology, and medical oncology.

KAMAL ITANI, MD, Chief of Surgery, Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System, is the editor (with Domenic J. Reda, MD) of a recently released textbook: "Clinical Trials Design in Operative and Non-Operative Invasive



Procedures," published in 2017 (Springer International Publishing). In addition to authoring or co-authoring six chapters in that book, Dr. Itani also had chapters published in the textbooks "Hernia Surgery: Current Principles" and "Surgical Quality Improvement" (both published by Springer). Dr. Itani had more than 35 papers published in journals that included *Annals of Surgery*, *JAMA Surgery*, *American Journal of Surgery*, *Surgical Infections*, and *PLoS Medicine*.

JEFFREY KALISH, MD, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, gave an invited lecture and was a panelist at the "Boston Strong Grand Rounds Program" at the American Orthotics and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) annual national assembly held in Boston last fall. In May, Dr. Kalish was one of five speakers who gave the joint keynote address, "Boston Marathon and Disaster



Medicine," at the Centricity Live Annual Meeting, also held in Boston. In the previous year, Dr. Kalish had 11 papers published or accepted for publication in the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* and *Annals of Vascular Surgery*.



GEORGE KASOTAKIS, MD, MPH, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, gave or participated in more than a dozen oral presentations at conferences throughout the United States and Europe, including at the American College of Surgeons, the Association for Academic Surgery, the American Association of the Surgery of Trauma, the European Society for Trauma & Emergency Surgery, and the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

Dr. Kasotakis also co-authored chapters for two textbooks: one on surgical nutrition and metabolism ("Greenfield's Surgery: Scientific

Traveling Fellowship Provides Valuable Lessons

Jeffrey Kalish, MD, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, recently completed his E.J. Wylie Traveling Fellowship, which was awarded through the Society for Vascular Surgery. Dr. Kalish's project entailed visiting U.S. military and civilian centers that specialize in the treatment and rehabilitation of amputees with the goal of translating military best practices to the civilian medical establishment at BMC and beyond.

Dr. Kalish made multiple visits to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he participated in unique amputation-related surgeries and observed the practices of physical therapists, rehabilitation clinicians, and prosthetists to gain insight into the workings of the military post-amputation system. Dr. Kalish also visited the Department of Orthopedics at the University of Utah to learn about osseointegration, a novel surgical procedure for amputees that is now being evaluated in clinical trials.

In addition, Dr. Kalish participated in numerous symposia and was invited to join several organizations dedicated to improving the care of amputees. One of the outgrowths of Dr. Kalish's fellowship was the creation in 2015 of the BMC STRONG Team (Surgery To Rehab Ongoing Needs Group). Rooted in best practices gleaned during Dr. Kalish's fellowship, STRONG provides multidisciplinary, well-coordinated care for amputation patients and their families as they transition from the hospital to rehabilitation. The goal of STRONG is not only to provide the best possible care for BMC patients undergoing amputation, but also to serve as a model for civilian hospitals throughout the Northeast and beyond.



Principles & Practice," 6th edition, Wolters Kluwer, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins); the other on spinal cord injuries ("Surgical Critical Care Therapy: A Clinically Oriented Practical Approach," 1st edition, Springer).

In addition, Dr. Kasotakis had 11 papers published or accepted for publication in the following peer-reviewed journals: *Annals of Surgery*, *JAMA Surgery*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*, *Journal of Surgical Research*, and *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*. Dr. Kasotakis was also invited to be the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) "author of the month" in March, and is serving on EAST's Guidelines Committee task force and the Chest Wall Injury Society's research committee. He also serves as an academic editor for *Medicine*.

Dr. Kasotakis is the site principal investigator of several multi-center studies: the MUSTANG study, three ReCONNECT studies, and the FORTE project. He is also the principal investigator of three more studies and runs an active basic science lab investigating the pathophysiology of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).



STEVEN KATZ, MD, Roger Williams Medical Center, received a three-year University of Washington School of Medicine Department of Defense Translational

Team Science Award for "Tumor Slice Culture — A New Avatar in Personalized Oncology." Dr. Katz also gave two invited lectures (at the Leo and Anne Albert Pancreatic Cancer Trials Symposium and the GIST Support International 8th Annual Summit) and gave two presentations (the Association of American Immunology and American Association for Cancer Research meetings). In addition, Dr. Katz had one book chapter published as well as six papers published or accepted for publication in the following journals: *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*, *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, *Journal of Surgical Oncology*, *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, and *Cancer Gene Therapy*.



ANGELA KUHNEN, MD, Colon and Rectal Surgery, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. Dr. Kuhnén had papers published or accepted for publication in *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, and the *Journal of AIDS and HIV Research*. Dr. Kuhnén also presented and/or served as moderator at meetings of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, the New England Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Harvard Medical School (Advances and Controversies in Colorectal Surgery Symposium), and the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress Scientific Forum.



VIRGINIA R. LITLE, MD, Chief of Thoracic Surgery, was promoted to division chief in 2017. Dr. Litle joined the BUSM faculty in January 2013, and was promoted to Professor of Surgery in

2016. In addition to serving as chief of the division, Dr. Litle is director of the Center for Minimally Invasive Esophageal Therapies and Associate Program Director of the BUSM General Surgery Residency. Dr. Litle holds numerous leadership positions on national committees, and is former president of Women in Thoracic Surgery. She also serves on several journal editorial boards, and is co-investigator of an NIH RO1 grant (see page 28) and principal investigator of several clinical trials (see page 29).

During the previous year, Dr. Litle had 11 papers published in the following journals: *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, *Innovations*, *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, *Journal of Thoracic Disease*, *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*, and *International Journal of Surgery Case Reports*. Dr. Litle also had five chapters published (or in press) in the following textbooks: "Shackelford's Surgery of the Alimentary Tract," 8th edition (Saunders Elsevier), "Shield's General Thoracic Surgery," 8th

edition (Wolters Kluwer), and "Holland-Frei Cancer Medicine," 9th edition (Wiley Blackwell). She also presented at grand rounds and conferences throughout the U.S. and Canada.



MARINA MALIKOVA, PhD, MSci, MA, CCRA, RAC, Surgical Research, joined the editorial board of SAGE Publishing, and became a panel reviewer for the National

Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Malikova also had four papers published: three in *Future Science OA*, and one in the *International Journal of Clinical Trials*.



CHAITAN NARSULE, MD, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, had two papers published: in the *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* and *Surgical*

Infections: Case Reports. Dr. Narsule was also appointed to the awards and fellowship committees of the Surgical Infection Society. In October, Dr. Narsule presented a poster and video on thoracic trauma management at the American College of Surgeons 2017 Clinical Congress.



PATRICK B. O'NEAL, MD, was named assistant director of the Boston University School of Medicine Surgery Clerkship at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System.

Dr. O'Neal is a member of the Department of Surgery at the VA Boston Healthcare System who specializes in endocrine and general surgery.

Members of the Division of Podiatry presented a poster at the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons in March, and four posters at the American Podiatric Medical Association national meeting in July. Division of Podiatry authors were:

ANISH AMIN, DPM (resident), chief
GEOFFREY HABERSHAW, DPM, EWALD MENDESZON JR., DPM, DAVID NEGRON, DPM, MBA, JUSTIN OGBONNA, DPM, HAU PHAM, DPM, ELIZABETH SANDERS, DPM (resident), **WEI TSENG, DPM, VITALIY VOLANSKY, DPM**, and **AMY WONG, DPM** (resident).



LUISE I. PERNAR, MD, Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery, started a Resident-as-Teacher curriculum for surgery residents this year. The goal is to provide

residents with information that will enable them to hone their role as teachers of medical students and each other. The five sessions are incorporated into the residents' academic time.



HAU PHAM, DPM, Podiatry, was a panelist last fall at the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association first annual cultural competency panel at Boston University

School of Medicine. In August, Dr. Pham represented the American Podiatric Medical Association at the National Conference of State Legislatures, held in Boston.

During Donate Life Month in April, the Division of Transplant Surgery hosted a reception to honor BMC's living kidney donors. Among those who attended were 20 honorees, their transplant recipients, and BMC staff and faculty, including



Department of Surgery transplant surgeon **AMITABH GAUTAM, MD**, donor surgeon David Wang, MD, transplant nephrologist Sandeep Ghai, MD, and Nancy Gaden, RN, CNO. **GREG BLOOM**,

Operations Manager of Transplant Surgery, gave remarks, thanking donors for their selflessness. Mr. Bloom also acknowledged **MAUREEN DEMMERT**, Surgery Office Administrator, and **KAREN CURRERI, RN, CCTC**, Living Donor Coordinator and Clinical Administrator, for coordinating the event. BMC has performed more than 300 living donor kidney transplants.



TEVIAH SACHS, MD, MPH, Surgical Oncology, had six papers published in the following journals: *Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, *Journal of Surgical Education*, *Case Reports in Gastrointestinal Medicine*, and the *American Journal of Surgery*. Dr. Sachs also authored a chapter for "Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Transplant Surgery: Practical Management of Dilemmas," which is scheduled for publication in late 2017.

the *Colon and Rectum*, *Journal of Surgical Education*, *Case Reports in Gastrointestinal Medicine*, and the *American Journal of Surgery*. Dr. Sachs also authored a chapter for "Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Transplant Surgery: Practical Management of Dilemmas," which is scheduled for publication in late 2017.



ROBERT SCHULZE, MD, MBA, Chief of Surgical Critical Care, graduated from the Boston University Questrom School of Business in June 2017. Dr. Schulze was class valedictorian.



JEFFREY SIRACUSE, MD, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and became a member of the Boston University Medical

Group Clinical Excellence Society. Dr. Siracuse also received numerous awards, including the Society for Vascular Surgery Foundation Research Career Development Travel Award, and became a distinguished reviewer for the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. In addition, Dr. Siracuse joined the editorial board of *Annals of Vascular Surgery* and is serving on numerous committees of the New England Society of Vascular Surgery, the Vascular and Endovascular Surgical Society, and the Society for Vascular Surgery.

Dr. Siracuse gave 11 presentations at regional and national conferences in the previous year, including the New England Society for Vascular Surgery, the BU Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Harvard Medical School, the Vascular and Endovascular Surgical Society, the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, the Society for Vascular Surgery, and the University of Wisconsin. He had 23 papers published or accepted for publication in the previous year in journals that include the *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, *Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*, *Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery*, and *Transplantation*.



PONNANDAI SOMASUNDAR, MD, Roger Williams Medical Center, was invited to speak on the treatment of recurrent liver metastases after resection at the

Synergy Interventional Oncology Conference in Miami. He also was a member of the Management of Metastatic Colorectal Cancer panel at the meeting. In addition, Dr. Somasundar gave invited presentations abroad: on the management of colorectal cancer liver metastases at the Interventional Oncology Conference in Mumbai, India, and

on advancements in geriatric oncology at the International Society of Geriatric Oncology in Milan, Italy. Dr. Somasundar also had five articles published in the following journals: *Hepatobiliary Surgery Nutrition*, *Journal of Surgical Research*, *BMJ Case Reports*, *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*, and the *European Journal of Surgical Oncology*. He also gave seven poster presentations at meetings in the U.S. and abroad.



JENNIFER F. TSENG, MD, MPH, Chair of Surgery, was elected President-Elect of the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS) at the 2017 annual meeting. SAAS supports

the development of Asian academic surgeons as well as those interested in promoting underrepresented populations in any arena of academic surgery. All are welcome to join the organization and participate in its activities. The BUSM/BMC Department of Surgery will host the SAAS annual meeting in the fall of 2019.



JINGHUA YANG, PhD, Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System, became a member of the editorial board of *Scientific Reports-Nature*. Dr. Yang had 11 papers published

in the following journals: the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, *Mutation Research*, *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology*, *Cell Cycle*, *Neuroscience*, *Molecular Cell*, and *Scientific Reports*.



ALUMNI: PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH!

Please send us your current/preferred contact information (e-mail and mailing address, please) so we can keep you informed about your fellow alumni and other news, and invite you to special alumni events. We will use this information only for items of interest, such as newsletters and invitations, and will not share it. In addition, please send us news and contact information about your current or former colleagues with a BU/BMC surgery connection, whether from medical school, residency, fellowship, or faculty years.

Reach us at: surgery@bu.edu.



The new curriculum teaches skills that surgeons need to be successful in the real world, from business skills to strategies on how to balance the demands of career and family.

Real-World Curriculum Helps Residents Succeed after Graduation

By the time surgery residents have completed five or more years of training, they are well-prepared to perform routine and complex operations, conduct and present research, and mentor more-junior trainees.

But what about all the real-world aspects of being a practicing surgeon, whether in

an academic medical center, community hospital, or private practice?

Skills like how to conduct a job search, manage a mentor relationship, or juggle a demanding career and personal life without burning out are rarely, if ever, formally addressed. And what about the business aspects of a

career in health care, such as legal issues, coding and billing, contract negotiation, and navigating today's complex health care landscape?

A better way

Most ACGME-accredited general surgery programs lack a formal curriculum to educate residents about these and countless other

details of a successful surgical career. Convinced there is a better way, **Tracey Dechert, MD**, Associate Program Director of Surgery Residency, teamed up with fellow trauma surgeon **Tejal Brahmhatt, MD**, and Cape Cod Healthcare Surgery Residency Program Director **Lawrence Novak, MD**, to establish the innovative "Real

Surgery Residency Program Video

Learn about the unique opportunities offered by the Boston University School of Medicine Surgery Residency Program by watching our informative online video.

Go to: bumc.bu.edu/surgery/training/residency

World Curriculum,” which was launched in 2016.

Designed to give trainees from internship through their chief year non-clinical information that is critical to their success after graduation, the two-year curriculum includes hour-long presentations by experts from varied disciplines who share their expertise on a wide range of topics. “There are so many things you need to know to succeed in this profession, but in the past — and still at many hospitals — residents are left to figure these out on the job,” says Dr. Dechert, who is also Associate Chair for Faculty Development and Diversity.

The lectures are held throughout the year and are often presented by experts within the Boston University community. For example, Boston Medical Center President and CEO Kate Walsh spoke to residents about health care systems; **David McAneny, MD**, talked about why surgeons can burn out; and David Beck, general counsel at BMC, addressed legal matters facing surgeons.

Positive role model

Other topics covered in the curriculum, which is still evolving, include determining what one is worth (not only in

financial terms), the diverse career paths in surgery, the art of multi-tasking, and work/life issues. “Balancing a demanding career with family and other personal commitments can

about, and yet I’ve learned that it’s vital to your success to build a foundation of people in your corner.”

Drs. Dechert and Brahmbhatt, with assistance from resident

“There are so many things you need to know to succeed in this profession, but in the past — and still at many hospitals — residents are left to figure these out on the job.” — **Tracey Dechert, MD**

lead to burn out,” says Dr. Dechert. “Hearing from an experienced surgeon who has successfully managed his or her career provides a positive role model for residents and also an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas.”

“The curriculum has been invaluable,” says chief resident **Kathryn Van Orden, MD**.

“As residents, we’ve spent most of our lives going to school. Without this type of practical information, we’re not well-prepared for success in the real world. A curriculum like this should be offered everywhere.” Dr. Van Orden found one lecture in particular — on the importance of finding mentors and nurturing those relationships — especially valuable. “This is not something I’d probably even have thought

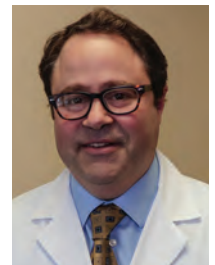
Praveen Sridhar, MD, are conducting a survey of surgery residency program directors and chief residents across the country. Their goal is to assess the current level of knowledge about “real-world” topics among residents, and which topics both residents and program directors feel are most important to residents’ education. Following completion of the survey, the team plans to publish its findings.



Tracey Dechert, MD



Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD



Lawrence Novak, MD



BMC is one of the first academic medical centers in the nation, and one of only a handful in the region, to offer a fully comprehensive program for transgender patients.

Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery Meets Patients' Unique Needs

For decades Boston Medical Center has provided compassionate care to transgender and gender non-conforming patients through a variety of departments and services. In 2016, under the combined leadership of endocrinologist Joshua Safer, MD, **Jaromir Slama, MD**, of the Department of Surgery, and

Robert Oates, MD, of Urology, the BMC Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery was established to bring all of these services together under one virtual roof and provide an unprecedented level of well-coordinated, comprehensive care. The Center also added new services to fully meet the diverse needs of this underserved

patient population.

BMC is one of the first academic medical centers in the nation, and one of only a handful in the region, to offer a fully comprehensive program. "This Center is the model of care for transgender patients, who have unique health care needs and deserve respectful care in a safe and welcoming environment,"

says Dr. Slama, Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the Department of Surgery.

Through the Center, patients have a single point of entry for all their varied needs, and receive care from providers who work together to provide comprehensive care, from primary care to highly specialized surgical services.

The Center's multidisciplinary services include:

- Adult primary care
- Pediatric and adolescent medicine
- Behavioral health
- Infectious diseases
- Endocrinology (hormone therapy)
- Surgery for transgender women (breast augmentation, facial feminization surgery, neovaginoplasty) and transgender men (mastectomy, hysterectomy, oophorectomy)
- Dermatology (hair removal, facial feminization procedures, treatment of transition-related skin conditions)
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Weight loss/bariatric surgery

Care provided through the Center adheres to the standards of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health and the Endocrine Society guidelines for the care of transgender individuals. In 2015 and 2016, BMC was recognized by Healthcare Equality Index as a leader in LGBT health care equality.

Gender-affirmation surgery

Surgeons from Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Urology, and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery work collaboratively to provide

coordinated surgical services to patients who, following approval by a panel of specialists (in the case of genital surgery), choose to undergo gender-confirmation surgery.

For transgender women, Dr. Slama performs breast augmentation and neovaginoplasty (the latter in collaboration with urologist Dr. Oates). He also offers mastectomies for transgender men, who may also undergo hysterectomy and oophorectomy performed by the Center's obstetrician/gynecologists. Transgender women may choose to undergo facial feminization performed by facial plastic surgeon Jeffrey Spiegel, MD.

According to Dr. Slama, in the recent past — and still at many places around the country — patients have had a difficult time finding qualified surgeons to perform neovaginoplasty, a complex operation that until 2014 was not covered by medical insurance. Reflecting a pent-up demand and the high regard for BMC's surgical expertise and sensitivity to transgender patients, the Center has seen enormous growth since it began offering this procedure. Drs. Slama and Oates currently perform about 25 neovaginoplasties a year and have a robust and growing list of interested individuals undergoing evaluation for future procedures.

“This Center is the model of care for transgender patients, who have unique needs and deserve respectful care in a safe and welcoming environment.” — Jaromir Slama, MD

Research to advance knowledge

Despite the fact that transgender individuals have unique health care needs, very little research has been done on health topics of importance to these patients. With the goal of continually improving the health and outcomes of transgender patients, Dr. Safer and others in the Center are conducting clinical research to advance knowledge of health topics that specifically impact the transgender community. The Center's research group also established a transgender health registry at BMC, which will provide investigators with more complete data when studying the long-term effects of hormone therapy, surgery, and other treatments.

Learn more about the Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery at bmc.org/ctms or call 617.638.1833.



Jaromir Slama, MD



Robert Oates, MD



Vascular surgeon Jonathan Woodson, MD, MSS, is the founding Director of the Institute for Health System Innovation and Policy, which is based at the BU Questrom School of Business.

Surgeon Leads Institute for Health System Innovation and Policy

Jonathan Woodson, MD, MSS, frequently finds that his decades of experience as a vascular surgeon at Boston Medical Center are relevant to the challenges he faces in his current position as the founding director of the Boston University Institute for Health System Innovation and Policy (IHSIP).

Established in 2016, the IHSIP has a bold agenda to transform health and health care delivery through interdisciplinary research and innovation. “Surgery requires teamwork, discipline, accountability — and because no two patients are alike — innovative problem solving,” says Dr. Woodson.

“These are all essential for achieving success both inside and outside the OR.”

Based at the BU Questrom School of Business, the IHSIP acts as a convener, accelerator, and facilitator of interdisciplinary health and health care research across five interconnected domains:

technology, health systems design, leadership, digital health, and policy.

Intelligent policy

“The institute leverages the deep talent in the schools, colleges, and centers of Boston University, and collaborates with external partners,

“Surgery requires teamwork, discipline, accountability, and innovative problem solving. These are essential for achieving success both inside and outside the OR.” – **Jonathan Woodson, MD, MSS**

including industry, national and international governments, foundations, and other academic institutions,” says Dr. Woodson. The goal, he says, is the creation of “intelligent policy that will turn research into action” and improve health care access, quality, and sustainability throughout the U.S. and worldwide.

Dr. Woodson is ideally suited for a position that demands leadership, innovation, and an insider’s deep knowledge of large, complex health systems. He trained at Massachusetts General Hospital and completed a fellowship in health services research at the Association of American Medical Colleges Health Services Research Institute. Dr. Woodson has held many leadership roles at BUSM, including associate dean for students, diversity and multicultural affairs. In 2010, he was tapped by President Obama to serve as Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs). For six years, Dr. Woodson was the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense on health

matters and administered the \$50 billion-plus Military Health System, leading the massive system through its most significant changes in 50 years.

Military background

Prior to serving in Washington, Dr. Woodson was no stranger to the military. He earned a master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College, was deployed five times, and served as assistant surgeon general for reserve affairs, force structure, and mobilization in the Office of the Surgeon General, as well as Deputy Commander of the Army Reserve Medical Command. In 2006, he achieved the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve, and during his career has earned military honors that include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.

Although IHSIP is just over a year old, it has already made significant progress. The Center for Health System Design and Implementation was established. A dozen seed grants

involving 32 faculty across BU have been awarded. Innovative curricula to educate health care and business leaders of the future have been developed. And new collaborations have been formed including one (the Digital Health Initiative) in partnership with the Hariri Institute for Computing and Computation Science & Engineering at BU.

“The intense debate over health care reform and the need for innovative solutions speaks to the relevance of the IHSIP,” says Dr. Woodson. “Through the institute, Boston University is uniquely positioned to have a positive, lasting impact around the globe.”

** Dr. Woodson is Professor of Surgery at BU School of Medicine, the Larz Anderson Professor of Management and Practice at the BU Questrom School of Business, and Professor of Health Law, Policy and Management at the BU School of Public Health.*

For more information, contact the IHSIP at: bu.edu/ihsip or ihsip@bu.edu.



The success of the ICOUGH program has led to requests for the program from hospitals (circles) and health systems (stars, with the number of hospitals) in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Innovation and Teamwork Improve Outcomes

Surgical patients often assume that if their operations go smoothly, they should have a speedy recovery. However, surgeons know that postoperative complications can prolong hospital stays, perhaps reduce long-term survival, and even lead to death. In addition, complications undoubtedly increase the costs of care.

To keep tabs on complication rates, the Department of Surgery participates in the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), a voluntary program of the

American College of Surgeons that provides risk-adjusted data among a range of postoperative outcomes. This information allows surgeons to compare their results with expected outcomes that are calculated according to patients' severity of illness.

According to **David McAneny, MD**, Vice Chair of Surgery at BMC, NSQIP data in 2009 revealed that the incidence of postoperative pulmonary complications and venous thromboembolism (VTE) were higher than predicted on both the general surgery and vascular

surgery services.

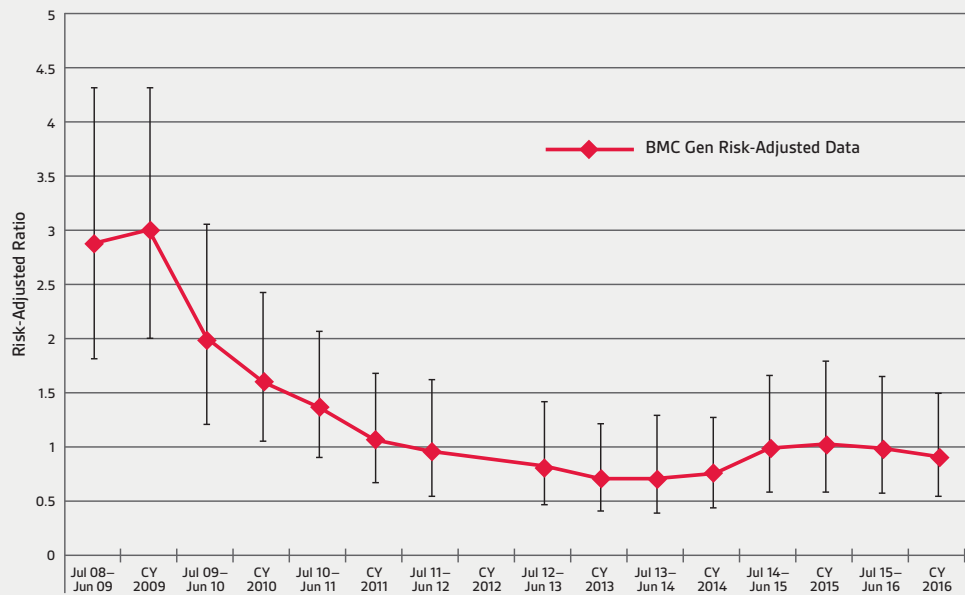
"Using NSQIP data, we identified our Achilles' heels, focused on the greatest clinical opportunities for improvement, and assembled interdisciplinary teams to develop programs aimed at reducing the likelihood of pulmonary complications and VTE events following operations," says Dr. McAneny, who collaborates with **Pamela Rosenkranz, RN, BSN, MEd**, Director of Clinical Quality and Patient Safety in the Department of Surgery; Surgery residents **Stephanie Talutis, MD, MPH**, and **Ryan Macht, MD, MS**; and

former resident (and current faculty member) **Michael Cassidy, MD**. Following the implementation of innovative initiatives, overall morbidity on the BMC general surgery service dropped significantly, from an odds ratio of 1.22 (10th decile in NSQIP) in 2009 to 0.70 (first decile) in 2016.

Reducing pulmonary complications

The ICOUGH® program (see above), led by Dr. McAneny and an interdisciplinary team, involved the creation of standardized postoperative

BMC GENERAL SURGERY VTE RISK-ADJUSTED DATA



pulmonary care guidelines aimed at reducing the incidence of pulmonary complications (i.e., pneumonia, unplanned intubation, and prolonged mechanical ventilation). The program emphasizes patient education, mobilization, inspiratory exercises, and hygiene. As reported in a 2013 *JAMA Surgery* paper by Dr. Cassidy et al, ICOUGH reduced the incidence of postoperative pneumonia and unplanned intubations by nearly half.

Despite early success, practices and outcomes regressed one year later, and the team recognized that it had failed to establish a durable standard of care. Realizing that an acronym does not necessarily enforce a change in culture or behavior, the team promoted measures to promote greater engagement of nursing staff, a formal preoperative smoking-cessation program, identification of patients at greatest risk of developing pulmonary complications, multi-modal analgesia, and restricted perioperative fluid administration, among other

steps. The team also translated educational brochures and videos into the languages of BMC's patient population. In addition, medical students **Andrew Chu** and **Samir Haroon** designed a smartphone application in English and Spanish that enlists patients and their families in their care, with scheduled reminders to walk and conduct inspiratory exercises. Consequently, the odds ratio of postoperative pneumonia has declined from 2.04 (10th decile) in 2009 to 0.60 (first decile). This success has led to international interest in ICOUGH (see map).

Reducing postoperative VTE among high-risk patients

Another major quality program focused on reducing the likelihood of postoperative VTE events. The team embedded the well-established Caprini score into the electronic medical record and devised a mandatory system to assess a patient's VTE risk and to provide individualized, risk-appropriate chemoprevention. The protocol provides extended courses of prophylaxis beyond hospital discharge for high-risk patients. The odds ratio of a VTE on the general surgery service rapidly declined from 3.02 (10th decile

to as low as 0.70 (1st decile). As importantly, the program has achieved sustained success, with a current odds ratio of 0.91.

Research in the Department of Surgery has identified certain hazards (e.g., emergency operations, multiple operations, or perioperative sepsis) that confer a particularly high risk of VTE despite standard prophylaxis. As a result, the team is developing an "enhanced" protocol for these patients in hopes of ultimately eliminating postoperative VTE.

"We assembled interdisciplinary teams to develop innovative programs aimed at reducing the likelihood of pulmonary complications and VTE events after operations. These efforts have led to a dramatic and sustained decrease in overall morbidity during the past seven years." – David McAneny, MD

Surgery Education Office

SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Donald Hess, MD, *Program Director*
 Tracey Dechert, MD,
Associate Program Director
 Virginia R. Little, MD,
Associate Program Director
 Lana Ketlere, *Residency Program Coordinator*

SURGERY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
 Robert Schulze, MD, MBA, *Program Director*
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Fellowship
 Alik Farber, MD, *Program Director*

PODIATRY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Geoffrey Habershaw, DPM, *Program Director*
 David Negron, DPM, MBA,
Associate Program Director

SURGERY CLERKSHIP

Cullen Carter, MD, *Director*
 Tejal Brahmabhatt, MD, *Associate Director*
 Abdul Saied Calvino, MD, *Assistant Director*,
Roger Williams Medical Center
 Patrick B. O'Neal, MD, *Assistant Director*,
Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System

SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The department offers a highly competitive, five-year Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited Surgery Residency Program. Led by Donald Hess, MD, the program provides residents with the range and depth of experience and academic exposure to develop superior surgical skills and to make mature, informed, independent judgments. Graduates of the program are well-prepared to become outstanding general surgeons or surgical specialists. The majority of residents pursue additional fellowship training after graduation, and many have gone on to assume leadership positions in academic surgery.

The Surgery Residency Program is based at Boston University Medical Center, a modern, vibrant medical complex located in the heart of Boston's South End. The medical center includes Boston University School of Medicine, the Boston University School of Public Health, and the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, as well as Boston Medical Center.

Our program leads to American Board of Surgery certification within an environment designed to encourage clinical and basic scientific research experience. Residents interested in careers in academic surgery are encouraged to develop the necessary skills in research, education, and/or administration through a broad range of research fellowship opportunities. Clinical research is also encouraged among residents during their clinical years of training. In fact, most residents have contributed to at least one paper being published in a peer-reviewed journal by graduation, and many have given award-winning presentations (see Resident News, page 26).

The principal goal of our program is clinical excellence. We believe that exposure to a large, diverse patient population and broad experience in complex open and minimally invasive surgery are essential elements in the training of outstanding surgeons.

The department also has a unique program, developed by Surgery Residency Program Associate Program Director Tracey Dechert, MD, that links Boston University School of Medicine students who are interested in surgical research with resident mentors, who connect the students with faculty members conducting research in the students' areas of interest. This program provides residents with mentoring experience and has led to numerous award-winning presentations by medical students.

Current Residents

PGY1

Categorical

Sherif Aly, MD
 Boston University School of Medicine
Rebecca Hasley, MD
 Drexel University College of Medicine
Olivia Humbarger, MD
 Boston University School of Medicine
Lenee Plauche, MD
 Boston University School of Medicine
Michael Poulson, MD
 Georgetown University School of Medicine

Preliminary

Ali Al-Haseni, MD
 University of Al-Mustansiriyah College
 of Medicine

Steven Coffin, MD

University of Vermont College of Medicine

Juan Munoz, MD

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Bogotá
 Facultad de Medicina

Robert Robinson, MD

Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at
 Florida Atlantic University

PGY 2

Categorical

Alaina Geary, MD
 Tufts University School of Medicine
Scott Levin, MD
 The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown
 University
Andrea Madiedo, MD
 University of Miami Leonard M. Miller
 School of Medicine

Benjamin Nelson, MD

Boston University School of Medicine

Jacob Nudel, MD

Harvard Medical School

Preliminary

Jeremiah Knapp, MD

Oregon Health & Science University School
 of Medicine

PGY3

Joshua Davies, MD

Pennsylvania State University College of
 Medicine

Matthew Egyud, MD

Boston University School of Medicine

Krista Hachey, MD, MPH

The Warren Alpert Medical School of
 Brown University

Na Eun Kim, MD

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School

Miriam Neufeld, MD

Indiana University School of Medicine

Jian Zheng, MD

USF Health Morsani College of Medicine

PGY4**Olga Beresneva, MD**

Drexel University College of Medicine

Christopher Graham, MD

SUNY Downstate Medical Center College
of Medicine

Elica Inagaki, MD

Medical College of Wisconsin

Andrew McChesney, MD

University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A.
Carver College of Medicine

Rumbidzayi Nzara, MD

University of Minnesota Medical School

PGY5**Ryan Macht, MD, MS**

New York University School of Medicine

Feroze Sidhwa, MD

University of Texas Medical School at
San Antonio

Kathryn Van Orden, MD

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School

Kimberly Zamor, MD, MS

Chicago Medical School, Rosalind Franklin
University of Medicine and Science

Residents on Research

Residents have the option to spend two years conducting laboratory or translational research, typically after their second year, to pursue their academic development. Often this research is done in collaboration with other departments at Boston Medical Center and other schools at Boston University, as well as other institutions, providing residents with a wealth of opportunities to pursue their interests, develop as academic surgeons, and make significant contributions.

Nkiruka Arinze, MD

Primary Investigators: Alik Farber, MD, and Vipul Chitalia, MD, PhD (Department of Medicine)

Area of Research: Determining the role of

newly defined mediators of uremic toxicity in patients with chronic kidney disease and peripheral artery disease (Site: Boston University School of Medicine).

Maunil Bhatt, MD

Primary Investigator: Virginia R. Litle, MD
Area of Research: Establishment of an esophageal cancer screening program and cancer registry in Gujarat, India (Sites: Boston University School of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Gujarat, India).

Dar Heinze, MD, PhD

Primary Investigator: Gustavo Mostoslavsky, MD, PhD (Department of Medicine)
Area of Research: Induced pluripotent stem cell differentiation into T regulatory cells for potential augmentation of tolerance in transplant recipients (Sites: Boston University School of Medicine and Massachusetts General Hospital).

Megan Janeway, MD

Primary Investigator: Tracey Dechert, MD
Area of Research: Surgical outcomes and quality improvement as they relate to socioeconomic disparities and social determinants of health of the Boston Medical Center patient population (Site: Boston University School of Medicine).

Praveen Sridhar, MD

Primary Investigators: Tony Godfrey, PhD, and Stefano Monti, PhD (Department of Medicine)
Area of Research: Developing novel therapeutic agents for triple negative breast cancer (Site: Boston University School of Medicine).

Stephanie Talutis, MD, MPH

Primary Investigator: David McAneny, MD
Area of Research: Surgical outcomes and quality improvement research to promote a culture of patient safety (Site: Boston University School of Medicine).

Current Fellows

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Enrique Bujanda, MD**Shari Reid, MD**

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Fellowship

Scott Hardouin, MD**Steven Pike, MD****Current Podiatry Residents****PGY1****Maria Bolla, DPM**

New York College of Podiatric Medicine

Heidi Fuller, DPM

Des Moines University

PGY2**Amy Wong, DPM**

Western University

PGY3**Anish Amin, DPM**

Barry University

Rachel Hutchins, DPM

Barry University

2017 Surgery Residency Graduates**Matthew Brady, MD**

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship,
University of California, Irvine

Elizabeth King, MD

Vascular Surgery Fellowship,
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Joanna Ng, MD

Plastic Surgery Fellowship, University
of Pittsburgh

Aaron Richman, MD

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care
Fellowship, University of
Colorado, Denver

Matthew Scriven, MD

Private practice: Virginia
Surgery Associates



2017 Surgery Residency graduates (from left): Aaron Richman, MD, Elizabeth King, MD, Matthew Brady, MD, Joanna Ng, MD, and Matthew Scriven, MD.

Visiting Professors

The Department of Surgery was honored to welcome the following surgical leaders as visiting professors during the previous year.

**Grasberger Research Symposium Lecture and Visiting Professorship
Douglas E. Wood, MD**

Chair, Department of Surgery, University of Washington
Henry N. Harkins Endowed Chair in Surgery, University of Washington School of Medicine

**Boston Medical Center Visiting Professorship in Vascular Surgery
R. Clement Darling III, MD**

Chief, Vascular Surgery, Albany Medical Center Hospital
Professor of Surgery, Albany Medical College

**George H. Clowes, Jr. MD, Trauma Lecture and Visiting Professorship
Amy J. Goldberg, MD**

Surgeon-in-Chief, Temple University Health System
Professor and Chair of Surgery, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University

**Peter J. Mozden Visiting Professorship in Surgical Oncology
Peter Angelos, MD, PhD**

Chief, Endocrine Surgery, University of Chicago Medical Center
Linda Kohler Anderson Professor of Surgery, Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago

Resident News



NKIRUKA ARINZE, MD, gave oral presentations at the annual meeting of the Association for Surgical Education and the New England Society for Vascular Surgery and had

a poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for Vascular Surgery. Dr. Arinze is working with **Jeffrey Siracuse, MD**, on a research project on the effect of statin therapy on outcomes after carotid endarterectomy.



MAUNIL BHATT, MD, was the recipient of a \$10,000 Global Surgery Research Fellowship Award from the Association for Academic Surgery (AAS). Dr. Bhatt's project was "An Innovative Method of Screening

for Esophageal Squamous Cell Cancers in Resource-Poor Regions." Dr. Bhatt will screen a high-risk population in rural Gujarat, India, for esophageal squamous cell cancer using a noninvasive device, and will present an oral summary of his research at the 2018 AAS meeting.

Dr. Bhatt also participated in a roundtable discussion on "Socially Responsible Surgery: Inspiring Humanism in Surgeons," at the Gold Humanism Honor Society national conference in Chicago and spoke at BUSM's Global Health Equity Program on the topic "Global is Local: An Insight into Global Surgery."

In addition, Dr. Bhatt received a \$112,000 grant from the Indian Council of Medical Research to establish a national task force to develop and implement a sophisticated trauma system to improve trauma care in India.



MATTHEW EGYUD, MD, received the second place award from the New England Surgical Society for his basic science presentation at the 24th Annual Surgical

Resident and Fellow Research Presentation Day, held at the Massachusetts Medical Society headquarters in Waltham, MA. At the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons 25th annual meeting in Austria, Dr. Egyud received the Medtronic Prize for the best abstract/presentation in the esophagus/mediastinum session at the 25th European conference on general thoracic surgery. In addition, Dr. Egyud gave oral or poster presentations at the annual meetings of the New England Surgical Society (2016), the Academic Surgical Congress, the American Association for Cancer Research (poster), and the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons.



CHRISTOPHER GRAHAM, MD, had three papers published in the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*, and gave five presentations: at the Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society meeting

in Botswana, the American Academy of Pediatrics 2016 annual meeting, the American Pediatric Surgical Association annual meeting, the annual Harvard Surgical Research Day, and the Boston Surgical Society.



KRISTA HACHEY, MD, MPH, had two manuscripts accepted for publication in the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* with mentor Yolonda

Colson, MD, PhD. She is also participating in a research project with **Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH**, Surgical Oncology, and gave a poster presentation at the Society of Surgical Oncology annual cancer symposium. In addition, Dr. Hachey was a co-author on abstracts presented at the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, the Academic Surgical Congress, and the Massachusetts chapter of the American College of Surgeons.



DAR HEINZE, MD, PhD, presented a poster at the International Society for Stem Cell Research annual meeting in Boston in June. The title was “T regulatory cells from iPSC as a tool to modulate immunity and tolerance.”



NA EUN KIM, MD, gave a poster presentation and a video presentation at the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons meeting in June. Dr. Kim also

contributed to a book chapter for “Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Transplant Surgery: Practical Management of Dilemmas” to be published later this year. Dr. Kim is also participating in several research projects with faculty, including one with **Sabrina E. Sanchez, MD, MPH**, on factors for delayed emergency surgical care in Centro de Salud, Puebla, Mexico.



RYAN MACHT, MD, MS, was inducted into the Delta Omega Honor Society at the Boston University School of Public Health. He had three papers published: in the

Journal of Arthroplasty, *Frontiers in Surgery*, and the *Journal of Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*. In addition, Dr. Macht gave podium presentations at the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery annual meeting, the New England Surgical Society annual meeting, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) national conference, and the Massachusetts chapter of the ACS annual meeting. In addition, Dr. Macht contributed to a book chapter (“Barriers and Pitfalls in Quality Improvement,” with **David McAneny, MD**) in “Surgical Quality Improvement” (Springer International Publishing).



PRAVEEN SRIVIDHAR, MD, won the Basic Science Resident Paper competition sponsored by the Massachusetts Committee on Trauma (COT) for his

project “Mitochondrial DNA influences inflammatory response in sepsis through regulation of cytokine mRNA stability via AUF1.” The Massachusetts COT is part of the American College of Surgeons COT.



STEPHANIE TALUTIS, MD, MPH, received a BMC housestaff QI Council Grant for her project, “The effect of operating room skin-preparation education

on surgical residents’ performance.” During the previous year, Dr. Talutis gave four podium presentations (at the annual meetings of the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, the New England Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery, and the Association for Surgical Education) and five poster presentations (at the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery 2017 tripartite meeting, the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program annual meeting, and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement annual meeting).



KATHRYN VAN ORDEN, MD, gave two presentations and had several papers published in the previous year. In March, Dr. Van Orden presented at the Americas

Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association meeting and the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery meeting. Her papers were published in *Frontiers in Surgery* and the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*.



JIAN ZHENG, MD, received the “Chairman’s Award for Excellence in Clinical Research” from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in June. The

award is given annually by MSKCC to one research fellow in recognition of “outstanding contributions to clinical research.” Dr. Zheng completed a surgical oncology clinical research fellowship at MSKCC in June. Dr. Zheng also gave oral presentations at the American Surgical Association annual meeting, the Academic Surgical Congress, and the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association annual meeting, and a poster presentation at the American Society of Nephrology. In addition, Dr. Zheng had seven papers published or accepted for publication in the following journals: *Annals of Surgery*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, *Oncotarget*, and *Abdominal Radiology*.



Surgery chief residents (from left) and their plans following graduation in June 2018: Kathryn Van Orden, MD, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Kimberly Zamor, MD, MS, Vascular Surgery Fellowship, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center; Ryan Macht, MD, MS, Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, University of California San Francisco; and Feroze Sidhwa, MD, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Cooper University Hospital.

Research is an integral part of the Department of Surgery, reflecting a major commitment to advancing knowledge and improving patient care and outcomes. The department's faculty and trainees are engaged in all aspects of research, from explorations at the basic science level to translating discoveries into treatments that improve human health.

Ongoing work in the department includes basic and translational research in diverse areas that include the following:

- Cancer biomarkers
- Pathophysiology of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
- Nutritional needs of trauma and critically ill patients
- Venous thromboembolism prevention and risk assessment
- Clinical outcomes
- Quality improvement
- Health care disparities
- Access to medical care for prisoners
- Health services
- Surgical education
- Comparative effectiveness
- Violence- and accident-related injury and epidemiology
- Global surgery and access to surgical care

Collaborations with colleagues at the Boston University schools of medicine, engineering, public health, and business enhance projects in the clinical, health services, and education research arenas. Our investigators also increasingly collaborate on projects with researchers at other academic institutions around the region and the nation.

For more information about our research activities, please visit our website: bumc.bu.edu/surgery (surgical research).

Selected Grants

Development of Diagnostic and Prognostic Tests for Esophageal Adenocarcinoma

Principal Investigator: **Tony Godfrey, PhD**

Co-Investigators: **Virginia R. Litle, MD**, Lincoln Stein, MD, PhD, James Luketich, MD, Arjun Pennathur, MD, Zhongren Zhou, MD, PhD

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Cancer Institute

Grant amount: \$2,456,723

Bone Metabolism in Adolescents Undergoing Bariatric Surgery

Site Principal Investigator: **Brian Carmine, MD**

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (subcontract through Massachusetts General Hospital, PI: Madhusmita Misra, MD)

Grant amount: \$67,153

The Comparison of Outcomes of Antibiotic Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) Trial

Principal Investigators: **F. Thurston Drake, MD, MPH; Sabrina E. Sanchez, MD, MPH**

Sponsor: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (subcontract through the University of Washington, Seattle, PI: David R. Flum, MD, MPH)

Grant Amount: \$236,500

Prognostic Immune Score for Stage I Lung Adenocarcinoma

Principal Investigator: **Kei Suzuki, MD**

Co-Investigator (on CHEST Foundation study):

Tony Godfrey, PhD (Mentor)

Sponsors: CHEST Foundation; Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute

Grant amounts: \$80,000 (CHEST Foundation); \$60,000; Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute: \$20,000)

Bovine Versus Porcine Acellular Dermal Matrix for Abdominal Wall Herniorrhaphy or Bridging

Principal Investigator: **George Kasotakis, MD, MPH**

Sponsor: Integra LifeScience

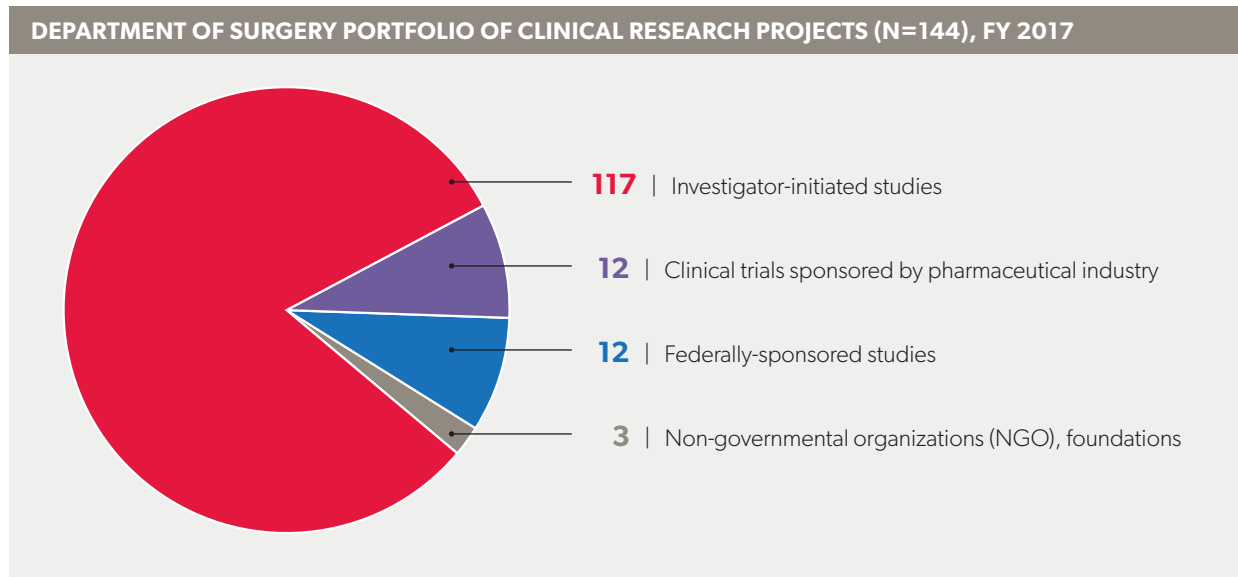
Grant amount: \$46,425

Office of Surgical Translational Research

The Office of Surgical Translational Research: Operations and Compliance in the Department of Surgery, led by Marina Malikova, PhD, MSci, MA, CCRA, RAC, is responsible for clinical trials and basic biomedical research operations, and macro-management of research programs as well as guidance and oversight to project managers, research coordinators, and laboratory staff. The office also provides assistance to investigators with protocol and informed-consent writing, regulatory submissions, clinical trial agreements, budget development, and post-award financial management. In addition, the office develops and implements systems and procedures to ensure research quality control and compliance and efficient day-to-day operations.

Clinical Research Projects

As of August 31, 2017 there were 144 open clinical research projects in the Department of Surgery (see chart below).



Clinical Trials

Trials Currently Open for Enrollment

Early and Adequate Protein Feeding Post-Traumatic Injury

Principal Investigator: **Peter Burke, MD**

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

The Comparison of Outcomes of Antibiotic Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) Trial

Principal Investigators: **F. Thurston Drake, MD, MPH; Sabrina E. Sanchez, MD, MPH**

Sponsor: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

A 3:1 Randomized Trial Comparing the Boston Scientific RANGER Paclitaxel Coated Balloon vs Standard Balloon Angioplasty for the Treatment of Superficial Femoral Arteries and Proximal Popliteal Arteries

Principal Investigator: **Alik Farber, MD**

Sponsor: Boston Scientific

Improving Outcome Measurement for Medical Rehabilitation – Utilization of the Activity Measure for Post-Acute Care (AM-PAC)[™] Functional Assessment Tool to Aid in Discharge Planning for Surgical Patients

Principal Investigator: Alan Jetty, PhD

Co-Investigator: **Jeffrey Siracuse, MD**

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

A Randomized, Multicenter, Controlled Trial to Compare Best Endovascular Versus Best Surgical Therapy in Patients with Critical Limb Ischemia

BMC Site Principal Investigator:

Jeffrey Kalish, MD

Executive Chair: **Alik Farber, MD**

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Standard Versus Negative Pressure Vacuum Dressings in Lower-Extremity Bypass Patients

Principal Investigator: **Jeffrey Siracuse, MD**

Sponsor: Smith and Nephew, Inc.

A Randomized, Prospective, Multi-Center Feasibility Study of APT001 Plasma/Nitric Oxide Therapy for the Treatment of Diabetic Foot Ulcers

Principal Investigator: **Hau Pham, DPM**

Sponsor: Origin, Inc.

trūFreeze[®] Spray Cryotherapy Patient Registry

Principal Investigator: **Virginia R. Litle, MD**

Sponsor: CSA Medical

Evaluation of Risk of Venous Thrombotic Events in Patients after Major Thoracic Surgeries Using the Caprini Risk Assessment Model – Prospective Study

Principal Investigator: **Virginia R. Litle, MD**

Sponsor: Cardinal Health Foundation

Publications

Research conducted by faculty and trainees of the Department of Surgery is published widely in leading journals and textbooks. During the previous year, the department had **154 articles** published in peer-reviewed journals and **15 published books or book chapters**.

Selected Publications

Brady MT, Patts GJ, **Rosen A**, **Kasotakis G**, **Siracuse JJ**, **Sachs T**, **Kuhnen A**, Kunitake H. Postoperative venous thromboembolism in patients undergoing abdominal surgery for IBD: A common but rarely addressed problem. *Dis Colon Rectum* 2017;Jan;60(1):61-67.

Goodney PP, Spangler EL, Newhall K, Brooke BS, Schanzer A, Tan TW, Beck AW, Hallett JH, MacKenzie TA, Edelen MO, Hoel AW, Rigotti NA, **Farber A**. Feasibility and pilot efficacy of a brief smoking cessation intervention delivered by vascular surgeons in the Vascular Physician Offer and Report (VAPOR) Trial. *J Vasc Surg* 2017;Apr;65(4).

Itani KM. New findings in ventral incisional hernia repair. *JAMA* 2016;Oct 18;316(15):1551-1552.

Kasotakis G, Lakha A, **Sarkar B**, Kunitake H, Kissane-Lee N, **Dechert T**, **McAneny D**, **Burke P**, Doherty G. Trainee involvement in emergency general surgery: Is it the team, or the players? *Ann Surg* 2017;Apr;265(4):e45-e46.

Kasotakis G, Galvan M, King E, **Sarkar B**, Stucchi A, Mizgerd JP, **Burke PA**, Remick D. Valproic acid mitigates the inflammatory response and prevents acute respiratory distress syndrome in a murine model of *Escherichia coli* pneumonia at the expense of bacterial clearance. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg* 2017;Apr;82(4):758-765.

Kasumova GG, Tabatabaie O, Najarian RM, Callery MP, **Ng SC**, Bullock AJ, Fisher RA, **Tseng JF**. Surgical management of gallbladder cancer: Simple versus extended cholecystectomy and the role of adjuvant therapy. *Ann Surg* 2017;Oct;266(4):625-631.

Kasumova GG, Eskander MF, de Geus SWL, Neto MM, Tabatabaie O, **Ng SC**, Miksad RA, Mahadevan A, Rodrigue JR, **Tseng JF**. Regional variation in the treatment of pancreatic adenocarcinoma: Decreasing disparities with multimodality therapy. *Surgery* 2017;Aug;162(2):275-284.

Macht R, **Rosen A**, Horn G, **Carmine B**, **Hess D**. An exploration of system-level factors and the geographic variation in bariatric surgery utilization. *Obes Surg* 2016;Jul;26(7):1635-8.

Macht R, Gardner I, **Talutis S**, **Rosenkranz P**, Doherty G, **McAneny D**. Evaluation of a standardized risk-based venous thromboembolism prophylaxis protocol in the setting of thyroid and parathyroid surgery. *J Am Coll Surg* 2017;Jun;224(6):1029-1035.

Macht RD, **McAneny D**, Doherty GM. Challenges in surgical quality at safety-net hospitals. *JAMA Surg* 2016;151(9):795-6.

Menard MT, **Farber A**, Assmann SF, Choudhry NK, Conte MS, Creager MA, Dake MD, Jaff



MR, Kaufman JA, Powell RJ, Reid DM, Siami FS, Sopko G, White CJ, Rosenfield K. Design and rationale of the best endovascular versus best surgical therapy for patients with critical limb ischemia (BEST-CLI) trial. *J Am Heart Assoc* 2016;Jul 8;5(7).

Morgan R, Kauffman DF, Doherty G, **Sachs T**. Resident and attending perceptions of resident involvement: An analysis of ACGME reporting guidelines. *J Surg Educ* 2017;May-Jun;74(3):415-422.

Muñoz-Largacha JA, Gower AC, **Sridhar P**, Deshpande A, O'Hara CJ, Yamada E, **Godfrey TE**, Fernando HC, **Litle VR**. miRNA profiling of primary lung and head and neck squamous cell carcinomas: Addressing a diagnostic dilemma. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2017;Aug;154(2):714-727.

Siracuse JJ, **Van Orden K**, **Kalish JA**, Eslami MH, Schermerhorn ML, Patel VI, Rybin D, **Farber A**. Endovascular treatment of the common femoral artery in the

Vascular Quality Initiative. *J Vasc Surg* 2017; Apr;65(4):1039-1046.

Siracuse JJ, Shah NK, Peacock MR, Tahhan G, **Kalish JA**, Rybin D, Eslami MH, **Farber A**. Thirty-day and 90-day hospital readmission after outpatient upper extremity hemodialysis access creation. *J Vasc Surg* 2017; May;65(5).

Ståhlberg A, Krzyzanowski PM, **Egyud M**, Filges S, Stein L, **Godfrey TE**. Simple multiplexed PCR-based barcoding of DNA for ultrasensitive mutation detection by next-generation sequencing. *Nat Protoc* 2017; Apr;12(4):664-682.

Van Orden KE, **Talutis SD**, Ng-Glazier JH, Richman AP, Pennington EC, **Janeway MG**, Kauffman DF, **Dechert TA**. Implementation of a novel structured social and wellness committee in a surgical residency program: A case study. *Front Surg* 2017; Mar 13;4:14.



Help Us Shape

THE FUTURE

Under new leadership and with a bold vision for the future, the Department of Surgery is at a critical juncture where philanthropic gifts can make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve through patient care, research, and education.

We need your support to help fund clinical services that meet the needs of all our patients, including those who are underserved; pioneering basic and clinical research that will improve outcomes and save lives; and innovative educational initiatives to prepare surgeons for a rapidly changing world.

Please support us — and help shape the future — by making a gift to the Department of Surgery. Please use the enclosed postage-paid envelope to mail your gift.

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For more information about supporting the Department of Surgery, contact the Boston University School of Medicine Development Office at 617.638.4570 or busmdev@bu.edu.

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