Introduction

The Department of Surgery
By the Numbers*

14 Clinical Divisions/Sections
58 Faculty
1 ACGME-Accredited Surgical Residency
33 Interns and Residents
2 ACGME-Accredited Surgical Fellowships
4 Fellows
6 CPME-Accredited Podiatric Residency Residents
6,847 Operations
72,579 Outpatient Visits

Message from the Chair

My two years as Chair and Surgeon-in-Chief here at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) and Boston Medical Center (BMC), I have asked many of the faculty and trainees how they see our Department of Surgery. “Tight-knit—like a family” is how one of the chief residents described the department during an early dinner at my house. Her sentiment resonated with me, and I have heard it repeated in countless variations since. Throughout my career, I have always been happiest when I felt I was part of a family. Professionally, I feel at home at BMC, where I am privileged to represent and serve the brilliant, dynamic, committed people who have made BMC Surgery their working home.

In contrast, for many of our patients, a lack of stable housing and potentially unsafe home environments are among the social determinants of health that deeply impact their lives. As a result, their healthcare outcomes can suffer. At BMC and in the Department of Surgery, we are pioneering holistic approaches to care that can help our patients combat these underlying issues, while educating and advocating more broadly to address inequities in surgical care (see page 16).

We continue to foster and grow diversity within our family of trainees, faculty, and staff, and are also pleased to lead initiatives that promote a diverse bench of women and underrepresented minorities. We are proud to be part of the Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) and Boston Medical Center (BMC), I have asked many of the faculty and trainees how they see our Department of Surgery.

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The Department of Surgery

The Department of Surgery has a long, proud history, with roots that extend back more than 150 years. In 1873, Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) opened its doors, combining the New England Female Medical College with the medical staff of the Massachusetts Homopathic Hospital.

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 Chair of Surgery at 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 Egashira, 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 BUSM and Surgeon-in-Chief at Boston Medical Center (BMC).

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

*July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019

ON THE COVER: The 2018–2019 chief residents visit the hospital’s rooftop farm, which provides produce to our therapeutic food pantry, inpatient meal services, and cafeterias (see page 21).

Boston Medical Center

Boston Medical Center is a private, not-for-profit, 567-bed, academic medical center. 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 1850) and Boston University Medical Center Hospital (founded in 1864). BMC is the largest and busiest provider of trauma and emergency services, and 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.

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Department Leadership

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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 Surgical Officer, Boston Medical Center

Cullen Carter, MD
Surgery Clerkship Director

Tracey Dechert, MD
Chief, Surgical Critical Care

Donald Hess, MD
Chief, Section of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Faculty

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY FACULTY

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

Kathryn Twomey, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Cardiac Surgery

Karl Karlson, MD
Division Chief
Assistant 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

Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery

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

Robert Schulze, MD, MBA
Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

KEYS:

Acute Care and Trauma Surgery

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

Pediatric Surgery

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

Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

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

Joanne Favauzza, DO
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

Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery

Robert Schulze, MD, MBA
Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Recommended for
Surgical Research and Education

Erica Brotschi, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Transplant Surgery

Sayed Khan Maleek, MD
Intern Director of Transplant Clinical Director of Transplant Surgery, Brigham and Women’s Hospital Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

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

Emeritus

Bezalel, MD
Professor Emeritus 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

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 Saeed Calvino, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

PENNADAL SOMASUNDAR, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Ting Zhao, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

CAROLINA MEDICAL CENTER

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

CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY

Miguel Haime, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Sarah Carmichael, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

*Recommended for
Faculty News

TEJAL BRAHMBHATT, MD
Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, received the Erwin F. Hirsch Resident Teaching Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the education of Boston Medical Center's (BMC) surgical chief residents. Dr. Brahmbhatt made oral presentations at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, the annual meeting of the Surgical Infectious Disease Society, and the Annual Academic Surgical Congress, where he also served as a moderator. Over the last year, Dr. Brahmbhatt had papers published or accepted for publication in the following journals: Journal of Surgical Research, Surgical Infections, Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, and American Journal of Emergency Medicine.

ABDUL SAID CALVINO, MD
Roger Williams Medical Center, was recognized with the Latino Cancer Control Task Force Award for cancer education and prevention focused on the Latino community in Rhode Island, and received the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Carol Friedman Award for his efforts to decrease barriers to screening in Rhode Island quarterly meeting, Dr. Calvino gave a presentation on “Disparities in Cancer Care Outcomes.” He was first author on papers published in Annals of Surgery and The Breast Journal.

DOUGLAS JONES, MD
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, was appointed Director of Surgical Education and Mentorship. In this role, he will codify curricula for BMC rotating residents and medical students and serve as an advisor to BMC research residents and categorical general surgery interns. In addition, Dr. Jones received the E.J. Wyile Traveling Fellowship from the Society for Vascular Surgery Foundation and was awarded the Vascular Study Group of New England Quality Improvement Project Award for a project entitled “Reducing Postoperative Hospital Utilization through Improved Discharge Planning after Lower Extremity Revascularization.” Over the course of the year, Dr. Jones gave two invited presentations and authored or co-authored more than 20 papers. In addition, Dr. Jones became a member of the Society for Vascular Surgery and the New England Society for Vascular Surgery.

JEFFREY KALISH, MD
2019 State of the Art in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Course at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Kalish also co-authored a chapter on anatomic grafts with Alan Farber, MD, MBA, in “Rutherford’s Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy.”

STEVEN KATZ, MD
Roger Williams Medical Center, presented at the annual meetings of the Association of American Immunology and the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer. Dr. Katz had papers published or accepted for publication in Cancer Gene Therapy, Vaccines, and Oncogene.

MARIANA MALTCHOVA, PhD, MSc, MA
Executive Director of Surgical Translational Research, was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Maltchova gave oral and poster presentations at conferences in the U.S. and Europe, including the inaugural SSCOPE Clinical Operations Executives Global Summit, the European Congress of Radiology, and the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance, which resulted in an invited review article submitted to Therapeutic Advances in Drug Safety. Over the course of the year, Dr. Maltchova chaired several symposiums and moderated sessions focused on clinical research operations, contracts, and financial and regulatory aspects of clinical research, including “The Impact of New Regulations and Laws on Clinical Trial Negotiation and Budgeting Symposium,” which she chaired at the 10th Annual Clinical Operations Executives (SCOPE) Summit in Florida. Dr. Maltchova had peer-reviewed papers published in World Journal of Surgery and Surgical Research, American Journal of Kidney Diseases, and Drug Safety and edited publications in Future Science OA and PharmacoEconomics Outbriefing. During the course of the year, Dr. Maltchova completed training and obtained certification in Clinical Safety and Pharmacovigilance from the Drug Information Association. Dr. Maltchova joined the editorial board of World Journal of Surgery and Surgical Research and continues to serve on the editorial board of Surgical Case Reports and Reviews and as a panel reviewer for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

LUIS PERNAR, MD
Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery, was named Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program. Over the course of the year, Dr. Pernar was involved in multiple research projects in surgical education and outcomes after ventral hernia repair and bariatric surgery, working with several residents, including Rumbidzayi Ntara, MD, and aliena Geyi, MD. This work resulted in two oral presentations at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, two poster presentations at the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) Annual Meeting, and both oral and poster presentations at Surgical Education Week, where Dr. Pernar again led a workshop on how to launch a resident-as-teacher program in a general surgery residency. Dr. Pernar had peer-reviewed papers published in World Journal of Surgery and Surgical Research, American Journal of Kidney Diseases, and Drug Safety and edited publications in Future Science OA and PharmacoEconomics Outbriefing. During the course of the year, Dr. Maltchova completed training and obtained certification in Clinical Safety and Pharmacovigilance from the Drug Information Association. Dr. Maltchova joined the editorial board of World Journal of Surgery and Surgical Research and continues to serve on the editorial board of Surgical Case Reports and Reviews and as a panel reviewer for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
Congratulations to the following Department of Surgery faculty members cited as “tops” in their specialties in Boston Magazine’s 2019 “Top Docs” issue.

**PETER BURKE, MD**
Acute Care and Trauma Surgery

**CATHERINE CHEN, MD, MPH**
Pediatric Surgery

**ALIK FARBER, MD, MBA**
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

**JASON HALL, MD, MPH**
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

**TEVIAH SACHS, MD, MPH**
Surgical Oncology, Journal of Vascular Surgery, and Surgery. Dr. Sachs also authored or co-authored a clinical review and invited commentary, as well as a book chapter with BMJ resident Na Eun Kim, MD, in “Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Transplant Surgery: Practical Management of Dilemmas.” Dr. Sachs was elected Vice Chair of the membership committee for the Association of Surgical Education for 2019 – 2020 and Chair for 2020 – 2021 and was appointed as a member of the program committee for the Society of Surgery of the Alimentary Tract.

**JAROMIR SLAMA, MD**
co-authored papers in three peer-reviewed journals, Proc One, Journal of Thrombosis, and Abdominal Rotiology.

**KATHRYN TWOMEY, MD**
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine*

**PEI-WEN LIM, MD**
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine*

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Phenomenal mentorship

Dr. Yeh’s work amounts to quite an impressive CV. One made possible by a roster of esteemed physicians and mentors who encouraged, challenged, and defended her along the way. Chief among them—pun intended—was BMC’s very own Bob Beazley, MD, FACS, now Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and an Emeritus Professor of Surgery. During Dr. Yeh’s time at BMC, he was Chief of Surgical Oncology. “He continues to be a phenomenal mentor for me, and he’s a great clinician, a great surgeon,” she says. “He taught us the history behind surgery. I take everything I learned from him.”

The technical training was really phenomenal at BMC, and it prepared me to tackle complex surgeries. ... but most importantly, BMC taught me the philosophy of taking really good care of patients, and of being a really good doctor overall.

— Jen Jen Yeh, MD

Multidisciplinary problem solving

The ability to return to her residency alma mater some two decades later as a visiting professor really signifies the full-circle path of Dr. Yeh’s work. Not only is she an esteemed clinician and scientist, she’s also a teacher—one who is particularly committed to helping the next generation find their own way at the crossroads of science and medicine.

“Physician-scientists are really important, but fewer people are pursuing it because of the hurdle of balancing two careers,” says Dr. Yeh, who organized a series of surgery-engineering speed dates at UNC to foster collaboration between researchers and physicians.

“But we, as clinicians, aren’t the only people who can solve clinical problems,” she adds. “There are a lot of people who have different experiences, so I think multidisciplinary approaches from out of the box can be really exciting.”

A guiding force

As a teacher, one focus for Dr. Yeh is helping trainees hone in on and then achieve their goals. “For me, it’s most important to figure out what people’s interests are,” Dr. Yeh says. “And then it’s about providing a roadmap on how to get there. I’d like to think I have a lot to teach based on my own hurdles and experiences—and that I can make things a little easier on future researchers and physicians by being there to help them.”

And of course, that perspective is thanks in no small part to Dr. Yeh’s time at BMC.

“I don’t think that I could have gotten the quality of training that I got at any other program, or had the supportive faculty and role models that I found at BMC,” she adds. “I feel very fortunate to have trained there.”

Alumni Profile: Jen Jen Yeh, MD

Jen Jen Yeh, MD, completed her surgical residency at Boston Medical Center in 2003. She is now a professor in the Departments of Surgery and Pharmacology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, and Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Surgery.

“I chose to focus on pancreatic cancer because I felt like it was an area in which we, as surgeons, were plateauing—not moving the needle far enough for our patients,” she says. “I wanted to contribute to research by understanding the biology of pancreatic cancer and finding new ways to treat it, and I wanted to make a difference in the clinic by helping patients choose the best therapy for them.”

Indeed, she’s well on her way. Dr. Yeh’s achievements include identifying new molecular subtypes of pancreatic cancer and helping develop a device to shrink pancreatic tumors via direct-to-tissue chemo infusion. You can find her work in the pages of Nature Genetics and Science Translational Medicine, among other journals. Just recently, she was named an Oliver Smithies Investigator (established in honor of the late Nobel Prize winner at UNC).

Others shaped Dr. Yeh’s experience at BMC in equally unique ways—like David McAneny, MD (now BMC’s Vice Chair of Surgery and Professor of Surgery at BUSM). “He was only a junior attending when I was there, so he had just started just a few years before I came, but seeing his relationship with Dr. Beazley was a great experience for me on how to mentor others. Now, looking back, it taught me how to encourage and promote young faculty.”

In fact, it was Dr. McAneny, together with Chair of Surgery Jennifer Tsang, MD, MPH, who invited Dr. Yeh back to BMC, as a visiting professor in November 2018, an invitation she enthusiastically accepted. “It was fabulous to be able to participate in the students’ day and their education,” she says. “There were even a couple of attendings who were interns when I was a chief resident. It was great to go back and share memories with a lot of people who are still there, and to meet new people, too.”

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And of course, that perspective is thanks in no small part to Dr. Yeh’s time at BMC.

“I don’t think that I could have gotten the quality of training that I got at any other program, or had the supportive faculty and role models that I found at BMC,” she adds. “I feel very fortunate to have trained there.”
When Bostonians hear about a gunshot victim who was rushed to an unnamed hospital, chances are it was Boston Medical Center (BMC). Known for the skill of its clinicians in treating gunshot and stab wounds, BMC sees the highest percentage of penetrating trauma—gunshot and stab wounds, BMC sees the highest percentage of penetrating trauma—gunshot and stab wounds. BMC’s reputation for providing excellent trauma care stretches back in U.S. history, were treated at BMC, then called Boston City Hospital. More recently, BMC mobilized in April 2013 to treat dozens of victims of the Boston Marathon bombings. Consistent with national trends, falls are the primary source of traumatic injury at BMC, but interpersonal violence comes in at a close second. “There’s been an evolution in trauma care over the last seven or eight years to frame care in the context of social determinants,” says Peter Burke, MD, Chief of Acute Care and Trauma Surgery at BMC. “The pathology that trainees see is not tangible. It also provides a robust and invaluable experience for training in trauma surgery. The pathology that trainees see is second to none,” says Dr. Brahmbhatt.

Dr. Brahmbhatt describes his work as a trauma surgeon this way: “Moments of calm interspersed with moments of pure terror.” When multiple gunshot victims come in at once, “we work like a NASCAR pit crew,” says Dr. Brahmbhatt, an Assistant Professor of Surgery at BUSM. “Who knows what trajectory a bullet might take? It’s never the same operation, but our experience with penetrating trauma means the desk is stacked in favor of these patients.” He adds, “Caring for the underserved population BMC serves is very enriching in ways that are not tangible. It also provides a robust and invaluable experience for training in trauma surgery. The pathology that trainees see is second to none,” says Dr. Brahmbhatt.

“Working at BMC is the best kept secret in Boston,” according to Dr. Burke. “The karma is great. We provide excellent care to patients who really need us, which adds great value to our lives.”

TREating the whole patient

“As trauma surgeons, we can all fix a gunshot wound to the aorta, but the thing that really makes BMC different from other trauma surgery services is our holistic approach to care,” says Aaron Richman, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery at BUSM. Dr. Richman did his residency at BMC and joined the staff in 2018 after completing a fellowship in Colorado. BMC’s commitment to treating the whole patient—even stronger today than when Dr. Richman first started his residency—drew him back.

“We view trauma as a chronic disease,” says Tracey Dechert, MD, Chief of Surgical Critical Care at BMC and Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, a state-of-the-art facility that has been reinvented and expanded over the last two years. “Treating the injury and performing surgery is just one little piece. Through CVRT, we have a formal program to address everything else and provide patients with supportive care. There’s so much amazing work being done here in underserved populations.”

BMC’s Socially Responsible Surgery (SRS) group, established in 2014, is the brainchild of Dr. Dechert, an Associate Professor of Surgery at BUSM. Recognizing surgery as an essential component of health, this group is focused on identifying opportunities for leadership, research, and collaboration in the training of surgeons committed to surgical equity (see page 16).

All hands on deck

Dr. Dechert was at home on April 15, 2013, following a long night at BMC, when calls and texts started coming in shortly before 5 pm. By the time she reached the hospital 30 minutes later, Boston EMS had already arrived with patients gravely injured by two bombs that rocked the finish line of the Boston Marathon. With Trauma

Intangible benefits

Every day—and night—is different. Trauma surgeon Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD, describes his work as a trauma surgeon this way: “Moments of calm interspersed with moments of pure terror.” When multiple gunshot victims come in at once, “we work like a NASCAR pit crew,” says Dr. Brahmbhatt, an Assistant Professor of Surgery at BUSM. “Who knows what trajectory a bullet might take? It’s never the same operation, but our experience with penetrating trauma means the desk is stacked in favor of these patients.” He adds, “Caring for the underserved population BMC serves is very enriching in ways that are not tangible. It also provides a robust and invaluable experience for training in trauma surgery. The pathology that trainees see is second to none,” says Dr. Brahmbhatt.

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Building Community Resilience

Boston Medical Center’s (BMC’s) faculty and staff are experts in trauma treatment, renowned for their culturally responsive and innovative approaches to care delivery. The newly launched Boston Trauma Institute (BTI) will formalize BMC’s leadership in the field, with a goal of innovating, evaluating, and disseminating new models of care and support services for trauma survivors in Boston and beyond.

Under the direction of Peter Burke, MD, Chief of Trauma Surgery, a major focus of the BTI will be on translational research, examining how social determinants of trauma impact victims of violence and the development and implementation of initiatives to reduce recidivism and enhance care delivery for these patients and their families. The institute’s first grant is funding a pilot study looking at the efficacy of BMC’s psychosocial services for female victims of violent trauma.

Wight: Patient Care

Highlight: Patient Care

Fighting the Disease of Trauma

Chief of Acute Care and Trauma Surgery Peter Burke, MD, and Chief of Surgical Critical Care Tracey Dechert, MD

Surgery Chief Peter Burke attending a conference out of state. Dr. Dechert took charge of organizing the trauma surgery team, which worked with countless others, including Andrew Ulrich, MD, former Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Ulrich directed and coordinated the immediate care of 28 patients, ranging in age from 5 to 79. The effort was intense but orderly, with 16 patients receiving emergency surgery within the first 18 hours. Dr. Dechert recalls, “We were running 11 operating rooms in three different buildings on the campus at the same time. But because we see mangled extremities on a regular basis, it really wasn’t that different from what we do every day.”
Highlight: Beyond the OR

Patients who receive excellent care in the OR at Boston Medical Center (BMC) also have the support of programs—and people—who are committed to serving them in times of crisis, advocating on their behalf, and conducting research aimed at increasing the odds that more people will live healthy, productive lives. Faculty, residents, students, and staff are playing a larger role in addressing issues at the heart of public health and in championing equitable care. Three examples of their work are highlighted here.

Crisis Intervention

Developed with an understanding of the complex reality that often goes hand in hand with interpersonal violence, the Community Violence Response Team (CVRT) is integral to Boston Medical Center’s trauma service and one of the few programs of its kind in the U.S. Now almost 10 years old, CVRT addresses the immense need victims of violence and their families have for services. Free of charge, CVRT provides mental health services to all patients who present to the hospital with life-threatening interpersonal violence injuries, including high-level stab wounds, stab wounds, and gunshot wounds. Every patient with these injuries is assigned a mental health clinician who provides crisis intervention, counseling, and ongoing therapeutic support at the bedside and upon discharge, to the patient as well as any family members or friends impacted by these acts of violence. CVRT also provides services to families affected by homicide.

Led by Director Lisa Allee, MSW, LICSW, an Instructor in Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine, CVRT served nearly 700 individuals in fiscal 2018 and added two new clinicians. “We are dedicated to providing consistent, trauma-informed and culturally sensitive therapeutic care to our community, says Allee. “We aim to lessen the burden of chronic violence exposure by providing a safe and nurturing space to begin the healing process and by helping victims develop skills to carry them through both their physical and emotional recovery.” CVRT services are primarily funded through a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant.

Socially Responsible Surgery Expands Its Reach

The Socially Responsible Surgery (SRS) group, established at Boston Medical Center (BMC) five years ago now has a trademarked name and its first chapter. Affiliated with UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California, this new chapter was founded by Kara Kleber, MD, a surgery resident at the medical center and a graduate of Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM).

BUSM students were the driving force behind the creation of SRS in 2014. Under the mentorship of trauma surgeon Tracey Dechert, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery at BUSM, SRS has grown into a multifaceted platform for students, residents, and faculty to combine their interest in surgery with their passion for serving the underserved.

Because of SRS, curriculum on social determinants of health is now part of the curriculum for third-year medical students and residents.

Upping utilization

By establishing relationships with BMC service lines, SRS has made headway in ensuring faculty and staff are aware of key, often undersitized services. “Many of our physicians were not well informed about how to write a prescription for a patient to visit BMC’s food pantry,” says Megan Janeway, MD, a surgery resident and founding member of SRS who just completed a two-year research fellowship studying the social determinants of health in surgical patients. “Prior to our campaign, just one doctor wrote a prescription. After, 100 did.”

The new research drills down into data from states that have seen dramatic changes in gun-related legislation. The goal is to determine specific laws that impact firearm injuries in order to identify effective, as opposed to “performative,” gun legislation, which enables states to say they are addressing gun violence but with little net effect.

“We’re just starting to talk about gun violence as a public health problem, and how you balance individual rights with the public good is fundamental to public health.”

— Miriam Neufeld, MD

which analyzed a database of gun-related legislation from every state going back to the early 1990s. Three types of legislation were found to be particularly effective in reducing firearm deaths: universal background checks, ID laws, and ammunition checks. The new research drills down into data from states that have seen dramatic changes in gun-related legislation. The goal is to determine specific laws that impact firearm injuries in order to identify effective, as opposed to “performative,” gun legislation, which enables states to say they are addressing gun violence but with little net effect.

“We’re just starting to talk about gun violence as a public health problem, and how you balance individual rights with the public good is fundamental to public health,” says Dr. Neufeld. “Our research will help find what works, so we have a logical place to start the debate about how to find that balance.”

Exploring the Hidden Burden of Firearm Injuries

BMC receives 80% of the bullet and knife injuries in Boston. Even though many lives are saved, researchers are now suggesting that firearm violence survivors have not dodged the metaphorical bullet. “From a healthcare economics standpoint, if someone is a survivor of firearm injury, you have ongoing care, long-term rehab, disability, and maybe significant mental health issues,” says Miriam Neufeld, MD, a surgery and research resident at Boston Medical Center. Neufeld and Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH, a BMC trauma surgeon, are working with colleagues at the Boston University School of Public Health to explore gaps in our knowledge of firearm injuries and outcomes for trauma, but that’s where most of the research ends.”

“ImpacMLS students and residents.

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Giving It Our BEST

“When peripheral arterial disease (PAD) progresses to chronic limb-threatening ischemia—also known as critical limb ischemia (CLI)—patients are at high risk for leg amputation and death. To address the atherosclerosis underlying CLI and achieve revascularization, patients typically face a choice between open bypass surgery or endovascular therapy using balloons or stents. But with little data to guide clinical decision-making, an evidence-based standard of care for CLI patients does not exist. The BEST-CLI trial, now nearly 85% enrolled, is designed to provide answers that can fill this significant void.”

Funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the BEST-CLI (Best Endovascular vs. Best Surgical Therapy in Patients with Critical Limb Ischemia) is an international, multispecialty, multicenter, randomized, controlled trial comparing clinical efficacy, functional outcomes, and cost effectiveness of surgical leg bypass and endovascular therapy. “BEST-CLI is a pragmatic, real-world trial, and one of only a few NIH-sponsored trials spearheaded by vascular surgeons,” says Alik Farber, MD, MBA, Chief of the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Boston Medical Center and a national BEST-CLI trial principal investigator (PI). Co-PIs are Matthew Menard, MD, Co-director of Endovascular Surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and Kenneth Rosenfield, MD, Section Head for Vascular Medicine and Intervention at Massachusetts General Hospital.

BEST-CLI is just one of 45 research projects currently underway in BMC’s Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. Since joining BMC in 2005, Dr. Farber, a Professor of Surgery and Radiology at Boston University School of Medicine, has led development of a multispecialty research collaborative based within the division. Over the course of the past year, multiple medical students, residents, and fellows were mentored on research projects that led to 33 manuscript publications and numerous podium and poster presentations.

“Our academic productivity and mentorship are a testament to the leadership of our surgeons, Jeff Siracuse, Doug Jones, and Jeff Kalish, who work tirelessly to engage in academic pursuits while taking excellent care of our patients with vascular disease,” says Dr. Farber.

Hamstrung by bias

Over the past decade, the prevalence of PAD has increased by 25% worldwide, largely driven by the epidemic of obesity and diabetes, as well as an aging population. PAD and CLI are the most common vascular conditions treated at BMC, according to Dr. Farber, and there is great variability across the U.S. and around the world in how patients with CLI are treated. “One of the most difficult barriers we’ve encountered in getting patients enrolled in this trial is treatment bias,” says Dr. Farber. “Because good trials to support treatment strategy in PAD are sparse, each physician has a strong personal bias as to whether bypass or endovascular therapy is best for any given patient with CLI. Investigators need to suspend their personal biases to randomize patients into the trial.”

Often challenging, this has required Drs. Farber, Menard, and Rosenfield to reach out to BEST-CLI site investigators through webinars, investigators meetings, and site visits to make the case for enrolling patients into the trial.

The first patient was enrolled at BMC in August of 2014. Currently, 930 investigators at 134 study sites in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and New Zealand are actively enrolling patients, with more than 1,760 patients randomized on the way to a goal of 2,100. Seventy-four percent of investigators are vascular surgeons, while 12% are interventional cardiologists and another 12% are interventional radiologists, with other specialties making up the remainder.

When completed, BEST-CLI will answer many questions about how to treat patients with CLI. Physicians will have, for the first time ever, evidence-based guidance regarding which revascularization strategy should be offered first. The trial will provide longitudinally collected cost data for each treatment strategy, answering broader questions about value—the same questions that are increasingly important for healthcare management in the U.S. This broad analysis will assess the cost of the initial intervention as well as downstream complications, outpatient rehabilitation, and subsequent hospitalizations. “Clinical outcomes, quality of life, and cost will help our healthcare-delivery system decide which strategy has the best value for patients with CLI,” says Dr. Farber. “The fact that more than $7 billion is spent annually by Medicare on CLI is undoubtedly one of the primary reasons NHLBI chose to invest $27 million into BEST-CLI. These are big questions that badly need evidence-based answers.”
A five-decade partnership

Another longtime collaboration spans more than 50 years and incorporates both medical students and residents. The VA Boston Healthcare System Surgery service, comprising 12 divisions, welcomes as many as 48 students and more than 30 residents from BUSM/BMC each year. “As a referral center for all VAs in New England, the VA Boston has one of the most complex patient populations in the VA system and a very high patient volume,” says Kamal Itani, MD, Chief of Surgery for the VA Boston Healthcare System and Professor of Surgery at BUSM. Dr. Itani points out that students and residents have exposure to procedures not typically offered at VA hospitals, including transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVAR), fenestrated endovascular aortic aneurysm repair, and several types of minimally invasive robotic surgery.

“The VA Boston is an integral part of surgical education at BMC, and we thrive on educating medical students and residents,” says Vivian Sanchez, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery at BUSM and site director for surgical residents at the VA Boston. The VA also welcomes anesthesia residents, who do their preliminary training there. While building their skillset before beginning the anesthesia residency program at BMC, “they learn what it’s like to be surgeons for a year and to work with their colleagues at the opposite end of the table,” says Dr. Sanchez.

The addition of Berkshire Medical Center and California’s Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center as clerkship sites has further strengthened the program, which has implemented a number of changes based on student feedback. “Medical students aren’t learning in a box because Boston University does a good job of incorporating outside faculty in teaching students,” says Patrick O’Neal, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery at BUSM and assistant director of the surgery clerkship at the VA Boston. He adds, “The students really enjoy working with the veterans, and the experience provides perspective that is eye-opening for many.”

“The level of commitment from the faculty at all of the affiliated hospitals is fantastic,” says Cullen Carter, MD, BUSM/BMC Surgery Clerkship Director. In addition to instructing and guiding students while onsite at Roger Williams and the VA Boston, faculty from both institutions teach medical students on the university’s campus on Fridays. Research mentorship is also possible and encouraged at the VA Boston, home to several clinical trials and a very active medical research program, for residents as well as students (who can spend a summer doing research).

Thanks to its size, at Roger Williams, there’s an opportunity for more personalized education. And thanks to its size, BMC offers students the opportunity to see the unusual cases typical at a major urban medical center. Through collaboration across sites, both students and residents gain exposure to diverse healthcare needs and teams.

From the Cape to California

Another affiliated teaching hospital and clinical site for residents for many years, Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, Massachusetts, performs more than 12,500 surgical procedures each year. For medical students, two other Massachusetts hospitals actively participate in the third-year surgery clerkship, MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham and more recently, Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield.

“The VA Boston is an integral part of surgical education at BMC, and we thrive on educating medical students and residents.”

— Vivian Sanchez, MD

![Image of medical students](bumc.bu.edu/surgery)
BMC has transformed the roof of its power plant into a farm that grows more than 25 different crops and makes honey from two beehives. Since its creation in 2017, the farm has supplied fresh produce for the hospital’s therapeutic food pantry, inpatient meal services, and cafeterias. Approximately 16% of BMC patients are food insecure. Physicians can write prescriptions for patients to visit the food pantry twice a month.

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Nourishing Our Community

Boston Medical Center (BMC) has transformed the roof of its power plant into a farm that grows more than 25 different crops and makes honey from two beehives. Since its creation in 2017, the farm has supplied fresh produce for the hospital’s therapeutic food pantry, inpatient meal services, and cafeterias. Approximately 16% of BMC patients are food insecure. Physicians can write prescriptions for patients to visit the pantry twice a month. During the 2018 growing season, 5,688 pounds of tomatoes, peppers, greens, and many other vegetables were produced between April and November. A similar yield is expected when the 2019 season wraps up. The farm relies on farm manager—aaka farmer—Lindsay Allen, a part-time assistant, a beekeeper, and hospital volunteers. Allen describes the bees, which provide pollination benefits to the farm and to plants in the neighborhood as “the unsung heroes of the food system.”

“THIS initiative supports our mission to address social determinants of health by improving access to healthy foods and vegetables, and it is a perfect example of BMC’s dedication to sustainability and green efforts,” says David Maffeo, BMC’s Senior Director of Support Services. It was Maffeo and Robert Biggio, Senior Vice President of Facilities and Support Services, who had the vision to transform the 7,000-square-foot space into a farm. Maffeo worked with Boston-based Higher Ground Farm to find the right growing system, and another local business, Recover Green Roofs, designed and installed it.

Some of the harvest makes its way to BMC’s Teaching Kitchen, where Culinary Nutrition Manager Tracey Burg hosts free public classes using these fresh, seasonal ingredients. The sessions range from diagnosis-specific classes for people with diabetes and other common conditions to basics like making healthy dinners on a budget.

A 2019 article about the farm in the American Journal of Public Health concluded, “This novel model can be replicated by other organizations aiming to alleviate food insecurity, encourage healthy eating, and promote environmental sustainability.”

Dr. Tseng Walks the Walk

Held last fall, the seventh annual Catwalk for Boston Medical Center Cancer Care raised more than $450,000 for BMC cancer patients and their families. This fun event celebrates cancer survivorship. Fifteen cancer patients were the stars of the show, and four staff—including Chair of Surgery Jennifer Tseng, MD—played supporting roles on the runway. A lively crowd cheered on the models as they showcased beautiful ensembles by eight local designers and stylists.

Surgery Education Office

SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Donald Hess, MD
Associate Chair for Education, Program Director
Lusie Pernar, MD
Associate Program Director
Tevah Sachs, MD, MPH
Associate Program Director
Lara Ketere, Residency Program Coordinator

SURGERY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Tracey Deichert, MD, Program Director
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Fellowship
Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, Program Director

SURGICAL EDUCATION

Douglas Jones, MD, Director

PODIATRY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Hau Pham, DPM, Program Director
David Negron, DPM, MBA, Associate Program Director

SURGERY CLERKSHIP

Cullen Carrar, MD, Director
Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD, Associate Director
Abdul Saied Calvina, MD, Assistant Director
Roger Williams Medical Center
Patrick B. O’Neal, MD, Assistant Director
Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System

Nutrition Manager Tracey Burg hosts free public classes using these fresh, seasonal ingredients. The sessions range from diagnosis-specific classes for people with diabetes and other common conditions to basics like making healthy dinners on a budget.

2019 Surgery Residency Graduates

Olga Beresneva, MD
Colorectal Surgery Fellowship
Lahey Hospital and Medical Center
Christopher Graham, MD
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Andrew McChesney, MD
Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Elica Inagaki, MD
Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Eastern Virginia Medical College
Rumbidzai Nzara, MD
Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship
University of Maryland
Current Residents

PCY1

Categorical

Brendin Beaulieu-Jones, MD
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
Priyanka Chugh, MD
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Maha Haqani, MD
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Brenda Lin, MD
Kack School of Medicine of the University of Southern California
Gordana Rasic, MD
Eastern Virginia Medical School

PCY2

Categorical

Nicole Cimbak, MD
Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University
Lorensi Collado, MD
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Alan Stolarik, MD
Albany Medical College
Spencer Wilson, MD
University of North Carolina School of Medicine
Mark Zapata, MD
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University

PCY3

Categorical

Sherif Aly, MD
Boston University School of Medicine
Nikruka Arinez, MD
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Rebecca Hasley, MD
Drexel University College of Medicine
Megan Janeway, MD
Boston University School of Medicine
Olivia Humberger, MD
Boston University School of Medicine
Lena Pauche, MD
Boston University School of Medicine

PCY4

Aldana Blanco, MD
Universidad de Buenos Aires Facultad de Medicina
Andrea Madiado, MD
University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
Benjamin Nelson, MD
Boston University School of Medicine

PCY5

Maunil Bhatt, MD
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine
Joshua Davies, MD
Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
Matthew Euguy, MD
Boston University School of Medicine
Krista Hachey, MD
The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University
Jian Zheng, MD
USF Health Morsani College of Medicine

Praveen Sridhar, MD
Boston University School of Medicine
Stephanie Talbutis, MD, MPH
New York Medical College

Current Fellows

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Jonathan Eldor, MD
Tiffany Pichinат, MD

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Fellowship

Daniel Alfton, MD
Brad Oriol, MD

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.

Alaina Geary, MD
Tufts University School of Medicine
Research Mentor: Luise Perron, MD
Area of Research: Building a Resident-as-Teacher program specific to general surgery residents and suitable for publication and national dissemination.

Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH;
University of North Carolina School of Medicine
Research Mentor: Alik Farber, MD, MBA; Jeffrey Siracuse, MD
Area of Research: Study of institutional, provider, and patient-related factors associated with disparities in critical limb ischemia presentation, treatment, and outcomes among a diverse, low-income, multilingual population at a single academic, urban, safety-net hospital.

Na Eun Kim, MD
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Research Mentors: Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH; Andrew Leather, MD (King’s College London)
Area of Research: Factors for delayed emergency surgical care in Puebla, Mexico.

Scott Levin, MD
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Research Mentors: Alk Farber, MD, MBA; Jeffrey Siracuse, MD
Area of Research: Examining firearm policy and injury prevention, as well as exploring the mental health and social ramifications of violent trauma.

Residency Program Directors

Jacob Nudel, MD
Harvard Medical School
Research Mentors: Donald Hess, MD; Amy Rosen, PhD; Chin-Hua MD (Massachusetts General Hospital)
Area of Research: Computational approaches to surgical decision making.

Michael Poulson, MD
Georgetown University Hospital Institute for Technology Assessment
Area of Research: Examining firearm policy and injury prevention, as well as exploring the mental health and social ramifications of violent trauma.

Visiting Professors

The Department of Surgery was honored to welcome these surgical leaders as visiting professors during the 2018 – 2019 academic year.

Grasberger Research Symposium

Lecture and Visiting Professorship

Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH
Professor (Tenure) of Surgery and Morgidge Distinguished Chair in Health Services Research, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Jacob Greenberg, MD, EdM
Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Boston Medical Center Visiting Professorship in Vascular Surgery

Fall 2018

M. Astraf Mansour, MD
Professor of Surgery and Chair, Department of Surgery, West Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
Vice President and Academic Chair of Surgery, Spectrum Health Medical Group Attending Vascular Surgeon, Spectrum Health’s Butterworth and Blodgett Hospital

Spring 2019

Sean P. Roddy, MD
Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, Albany Medical College Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery, Ellis Hospital
Medical Director, Karmody Vascular Laboratory, Albany Medical Center Hospital

Boston Medical Center Visiting Professorship in Vascular Surgery

George H. Clowes, Jr., MD, Trauma Lecture and Visiting Professorship

Deborah Kuhl, MD
Professor of Trauma and Critical Care, Department of Surgery, University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine

Peter J. Mozden Visiting Professorship in Surgical Oncology

Jen Yin Yeh, MD
Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery; Professor, Department of Pharmacology; Vice Chair of Research, Department of Surgery, University of North Carolina School of Medicine

Area of Research: Examining firearm policy and injury prevention, as well as exploring the mental health and social ramifications of violent trauma.

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**Resident News**

MAUNIL BHATT, MD, presented grand rounds at the University of Massachusetts Medical School on “The Design and Implementation of an Esophageal Cancer Screening Program and Trauma System in Rural India” and made podium presentations at the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma Meeting in San Diego and the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus Conference in Vienna. Dr. Bhatt also had a paper published in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*.

MATTHEW EGYUD, MD, and KRISTA HACHEY, MD, MPH, were selected by third-year medical students for the annual senior resident teaching award. “He went out of his way to involve us without being asked—even on busy days, which I appreciated because as medical students it’s really easy to feel in the way,” said one student about Dr. Egyud. Another student said of Dr. Hachey: “She was one of the kindest residents I have ever worked with. I appreciated because with no prompting—she would otherwise—everything to make us feel included.” Another said, “What makes him stand out is that he is able to involve the medical students and delegate tasks appropriately. It made my on-call shifts very stimulating. Teamwork comes very naturally to Dr. Hon.”

CHRISTOPHER GRAHAM, MD, received the Lester F. Williams, Jr. Teaching Award, established in honor of Dr. Williams, a former Chief of the Department of Surgery at Boston Medical Center, and a pre-eminent teacher of medical students. Each year, Boston University’s third-year medical students nominate a graduating chief surgical resident who best exemplifies Dr. Williams’ dedication to teaching. One medical student said, “Chris Graham perfectly embodies all the qualities of a good teacher and role model. He forced students to think through patient issues and fostered a great learning environment.” From another, “Dr. Graham was born to teach!”

REBECCA HASLEY, MD, received the Surgical Critical Care Award, which is presented to the junior resident who has excelled in the management of critically ill patients.

ALAINA GEARY, MD, was named Boston Medical Center SOAR (Surgical Outcomes Analysis & Research) Administrative Resident. Dr. Geary will direct the department’s residency education efforts, including a twice-monthly research conference.

CURTIS HON, MD, was selected by third-year medical students for the annual junior teaching award. One student said, “I learned much more on my colorectal rotation than I would have otherwise—all due to Dr. Hon.” Another said, “What makes him stand out is that he is able to involve the medical students and delegate tasks appropriately. It made my on-call shifts very stimulating. Teamwork comes very naturally to Dr. Hon.”

NA ELIN KIM, MD, was first author on a paper published in Annals of Surgery about the underutilization of retired surgeons as mentors, and a poster on “Benefits and Risks of Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis in Patients Undergoing Breast Surgery” was accepted as a Poster of Distinction by the New England Surgical Society. In addition, as vice president of residents and trainees for the Global Surgery Student Alliance, Dr. Kim helped create the first global surgery database, providing a resource of potential global surgery opportunities and collaborations, ranging from research and advocacy to policy and on-the-ground endeavors.

SCOTT LEVIN, MD, was first author of four papers published or in press in the following journals: *Journal of Vascular Surgery, Trends in Cardiovascular Medicine*, and *Annals of Vascular Surgery*. Dr. Levin made oral presentations at the Vascular Annual Meeting, the Society of Clinical Vascular Surgery 47th Annual Symposium, and the Vascular Surgery Group of New England Spring Meeting. In addition, Dr. Levin was a finalist in the New England Society of Vascular Surgery (NEWS) Deterling & Darling Award Competition for two abstracts, which he will present at the NESVS annual meeting. Dr. Levin also received second prize in the poster presentation competition at the Program for Advanced Limb Preservation.

JUAN MUNOZ, MD, a preliminary PGY2 resident, had papers published or accepted for publication in *Tumor, Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery*, and *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. Dr. Munoz is currently a PGY3 resident at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine.

ANDREW MCMCHESNEY, MD, received the Senior Mentorship Award. Based on nominations by general surgery first-year residents, this award is presented to the senior resident who has contributed to resident education and development by combining leadership, empathy, and integrity within his or her practice.

MIRIAM NEUFELD, MD, was the inaugural recipient of the Boston Trauma Institute pilot grant. Dr. Neufeld is studying the utilization and efficacy of psychosocial services for female victims of violent trauma under the mentorship of trauma surgeons Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH; Lisa Allee, MSW, LICSW; and Michael Siegel, MD, MPH (Boston University School of Public Health). Dr. Neufeld presented at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress and had two papers accepted for publication in *American Journal of Public Health* and *Journal of Surgery*.

JACOB NUDEL, MD, gave a podium presentation entitled “Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Models Predict Gastrointestinal Leak after Bariatric Surgery” at the American College of Surgeons Quality and Safety Conference.

MICHAEL POULSON, MD, was named the Resident and Associate Society Liaison Representative to the American College of Surgeons Legislative Committee for a three-year term and will also serve as the Advocacy Chair for the Center for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at Boston Medical Center.

ALLAN STOLARSKI, MD, together with fellow BMC residents Ola Beresneva, MD, and Benjamin Nelson, MD, took first place in the Top Gun Surgery team during the American College of Surgeons Massachusetts Chapter Meeting. Dr. Stolanski made a podium presentation at the Association for Surgical Education Meeting and an e-poster presentation at the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons Annual Meeting.

SPENCER WILSON, MD, made a poster presentation on “Implementation of a Quality Improvement Project for Frail Surgical Geriatric Patients in an Urban Safety-Net Hospital” at the American College of Surgeons Quality and Safety Conference.
Research underway in the Department of Surgery reflects 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.

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.

**Surgery Research Council**

The research council was created to oversee ongoing research and stimulate work in new areas of interest. Members meet on a regular basis and provide advice, guidance, and mentorship to faculty and residents in the areas of interest. Members include:

- Christina Wee, MD, MPH (guest faculty)
- Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH
- Amy Rosen, PhD
- Douglas Jones, MD
- Donald Hess, MD (ex officio)
- Tony Godfrey, PhD
- Alaina Geary, MD (resident member)
- Thurston Drake, MD

The research council is engaged in research and business enhancement projects in basic science level to translating research, from explorations at the clinical, health services, and business enhance projects in clinical, health services, and education research arenas.

**Office of Surgical Translational Research**

The Office of Surgical Translational Research: Operations and Compliance in the Department of Surgery is led by Assistant Professor of Surgery Marina Maksimova, PhD, MSci, MA, and is responsible for clerical trials and basic biomedical research operations, and providing guidance and oversight to the 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 and budget development, and post-award financial management. In addition, the office is responsible for developing and implementing adequate systems and procedures to ensure research quality control and compliance and efficient day-to-day research operations that meet the needs of the Department of Surgery.

**Selected Clinical Research Projects**

There are 150 open clinical research protocols in the Department of Surgery managed by dedicated teams of researchers in state-of-the-art facilities within Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center. The chart at right indicates the range of research conducted in the department.

**Selected Grants**

**NEW**

**High-Performance Operating Room Team (HPT) Pilot with Planned Adoption of HPT Construct Across all Surgery Specialties at Boston Medical Center**

*Principal Investigator: Pamela Rosenkranz, RN, BSN, Med*

*Sponsor: 2019 Health Trust Innovation Grant*

*Grant amount: $50,000*

**Reducing Postoperative Hospital Utilization through Improved Discharge Planning After Lower Extremity Revascularization**

*Principal Investigator: Douglas Jones, MD*

*Sponsor: Vascular Study Group of New England Quality Improvement Project Award*

*Grant amount: $10,000*

**E.J. Wylie Traveling Fellowship**

*Principal Investigator: Douglas Jones, MD*

*Sponsor: Society for Vascular Surgery Foundation*

*Grant amount: $12,000*

**Custom Assays for Personalized, Longitudinal Monitoring of Circulating Tumor DNA Using PIPSenSeq**

*Principal Investigator: Tony Godfrey, PhD*

*BU Co-Investigator: Anand Devaiah, MD*

*Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Cancer Institute*

*Grant amount: $299,241*

**ONGOING**

**Prognostic Immune Score for Stage I Lung Adenocarcinoma**

*Principal Investigator: Kei Suzuki, MD*

*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)*

**Utilization of Nasal Biomarkers as Screening Tools for Lung Cancer**

*Principal Investigator: Kei Suzuki, MD*

*Sponsor: The Thoracic Surgery Foundation*

*Grant amount: $80,000*

**Development of Diagnostic and Prognostic Tests for Esophageal Adenocarcinoma**

*Principal Investigator: Tony Godfrey, PhD*

*BU Co-Investigator: Virginia R. Little, MD*

*Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Cancer Institute*

*Grant amount: $2,456,723*

**DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY PORTFOLIO OF CLINICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS (N=150), FY 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: BUMC.BU.EDU/SURGERY (SURGICAL RESEARCH).**

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**Selected Clinical Trials**

Currently Open for Enrollment

**DIVISION OF TRAUMA SURGERY AND CRITICAL CARE**

**Early and Adequate Protein Feeding Post- Traumatic Injury**

*Principal Investigator: Peter Burke, MD*

*Sponsor: NIH/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases*

**DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY:**

**SECTION OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY AND ENDOCRINE SURGERY**

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

*Principal Investigator: Thurston Drake, MD*

*Co-Investigator: Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH*

*Sponsor: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)*

**DIVISION OF VASCULAR ANDENDOVASCULAR SURGERY**

**Randomized, Multicenter, Controlled Trial to Compare Best Endovascular versus Best Surgery Therapy in Patients with Critical Limb Ischemia**

*Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Kalish, MD*

*Sponsor: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases*

**Standard Versus Negative Pressure Vacuum Dressings (PICO) in Lower- Extremity Bypass Patients (PICO-LEB)**

*Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Siracuse, MD*

*Sponsor: Smith and Nephew*

**Predicting the Safety and Effectiveness of Inferior Vena Cava Filters (PRESERVE) Trial**

*Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Kalish, MD*

*Sponsor: HealthCore (former New England Research Institute)*

**A multi-center prospective study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the VasQ external support for arteriovenous fistula**

*Principal Investigator: Alik Farber, MD, MBA*

*Sponsor: Luminare Inc.*

**Perioperative Nutritional Optimization in Patients with Critical Limb Ischemia**

*Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Siracuse, MD*

*Sponsor: Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society**

**DIVISION OF PODIATRY SURGERY**

**Prospective, Multi-Center, Randomized, Controlled Trial Evaluating the Use of PriMatrix Dermal Repair Scaffold for the Management of Diabetic Foot Ulcers**

*Principal Investigator: Hau Pham, DPM*

*Sponsor: Integra Life Sciences Corporation*

**SECTION OF MINIMALLY INVASIVE AND WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY**

**Bone Metabolism in Adolescents Undergoing Bariatric Surgery**

*Principal Investigator: Brian Carmine, MD*

*Sponsor: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases**

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Help Us Build a Healthier Future for All

Philanthropic gifts can make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve through patient care, research, and education. Our goal is to build a healthier future for all.

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
• Innovative educational initiatives to prepare surgeons for a rapidly changing world
• Research and initiatives to understand and reduce disparities in surgical care

Please support us by making a gift to the Department of Surgery.

Use the enclosed postage-paid envelope to mail your gift, or give online at development.bmc.org.

When giving online, please select the “Department of Surgery” to make sure your gift is directed to us.

For more information about supporting the Department of Surgery, contact the Boston Medical Center Development Office at 617-332-8950 or development.bmc.org.

Research

Publications

Research conducted by faculty and trainees of the Department of Surgery is published widely in leading journals and textbooks. During the previous academic year, the department had 160 articles published in peer-reviewed journals and 19 published books or book chapters.

Selected Papers

Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia. Farber A. N Engl J Med. 2018


Publication Details

Selected Papers

- Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia. Farber A. N Engl J Med. 2018
ALUMNI AND OTHER FRIENDS: 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.

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And be sure to follow us on Twitter @BMCSurgery.