

Department of Surgery
Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Fulfilling Our Mission

PATIENT CARE | EDUCATION | EQUITY



CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Faculty	3
Faculty News	7
Alumni Profile	11
Highlights	13
Of Note	20
Education	21
Resident News	24
Research	25

The Department of Surgery
By the Numbers

14	Clinical Divisions/Sections
64	Faculty
1	ACGME-Accredited Surgical Residency
34	Interns and Residents
2	ACGME-Accredited Surgical Fellowships
4	Fellows
5	CPME-Accredited Podiatric Residency Residents
6,676	Operations*
68,534	Outpatient Visits*

* July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021

ON THE COVER: Cardiothoracic Chief
Niloo Edwards, MD, and Sip, during
Dr. Edwards’ 2020 deployment
in Afghanistan.

Message from the Chair



Vigilance and cautious optimism have been the watchwords as we continue to navigate the Covid-19 world. The protection afforded by the vaccines, a very high vaccination rate in Massachusetts, and a low census of patients hospitalized due to Covid slowly moved us toward a hybrid mode for certain activities—our annual Grasberger Research Symposium in May—and even a carefully planned in-person resident graduation celebration in June. As the summer has progressed, we are keeping a close eye on the trajectory of the Delta variant and will continue to follow the guidance of the experts.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, we did many of the things we typically do. Last fall, we welcomed several new faculty members and are preparing to do the same this fall. Others were promoted. Our annual surgery boot camp for fourth-year Boston University medical students took place as it has for the last nine years. Many days were almost ordinary, but others were extraordinary. On Match Day, we achieved a first in the Department of Surgery, matching five women to fill all of our categorical intern slots.

This annual report highlights collaboration and teamwork in the SICU, where three departments came together and now function seamlessly to provide critically ill patients with high-quality care. In the research realm, we spotlight the role that our Surgical Outcomes Analysis & Research (SOAR) initiative now plays in strengthening our considerable research capacity and supporting everyone engaged in research. And we mix a bit of the personal with the clinical in an article introducing our Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Niloo Edwards, MD, (pictured on the cover) who was deployed in Afghanistan in 2020.

Shining a light on inequities in surgical care is a longstanding priority in the Department of Surgery, and this past year was no exception. A paper published in *Annals of Thoracic Surgery* that was picked up by the press and drew attention to the negative impact of racial segregation on lung cancer outcomes is a perfect example. A wonderful collaboration, the paper was co-authored by a medical student, a surgery resident, and members of our faculty.

During every stage of the pandemic and across job titles, Department of Surgery members have pulled together, overcoming challenges at home and at work. They have shown incredible resilience, and I am both grateful and proud.

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, 514-bed, academic medical center. BMC is the largest safety-net hospital and busiest trauma and emergency services center in New England. Located in Boston’s historic South End, BMC is the primary teaching hospital of the Boston University School of Medicine and was created by the 1996 merger of Boston City Hospital (founded in 1855) and Boston University Medical Center Hospital (founded in 1864). BMC operates 66 residency training programs, with 711 resident and fellowship positions.

A recognized leader in groundbreaking medical research, BMC is the 13th largest recipient of funding from the National Institutes of Health among independent hospitals. The hospital currently oversees 617 research and service projects separate from research activities at Boston University School of Medicine.



The Department of Surgery

The Department of Surgery has a long, proud history, with roots that extend back 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 Homeopathic 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 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 James Utley Professor of Surgery at BUSM and Surgeon-in-Chief at Boston Medical Center (BMC).

The Department of Surgery comprises 14 divisions, or sections, and includes 64 faculty members. 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 affiliated faculty members from Roger Williams Medical Center, the Veterans Administration (VA) Boston Healthcare System, and Cape Cod Hospital (Cape Cod Healthcare). These institutions are valued partners in teaching and training medical students and residents. Three other hospitals also actively participate in the third-year surgery clerkship: MetroWest Medical Center, Berkshire Medical Center, and Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara.


This report highlights a few of the many accomplishments and activities of our faculty, trainees, and alumni during the previous academic year (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021). We invite you to visit our website (bumc.bu.edu/surgery) and follow us on Twitter and Instagram (@BMCSurgery) to keep abreast of our activities throughout the year.




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 Surgical Officer,
Boston Medical Center



Alik Farber, MD, MBA
Associate Chair, Clinical Operations



Jason F. Hall, MD, MPH
Associate Chair, Academic Affairs
and Faculty Development



Donald Hess, MD
Associate Chair, Education
Program Director, Surgery Residency




Joanne Favuzza, DO
Director, Surgery Clerkship

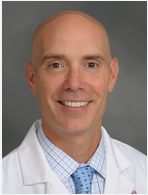


Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD
Associate Director, Surgery Clerkship
Deputy Director, Surgical Critical
Care Fellowship


Division and Section Leadership




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




Christopher Muratore, MD
Chief, Section of Pediatric Surgery*




Tracey Dechert, MD
Chief, Section of Surgical Critical Care




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




Hau Pham, 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



Niloo Edwards, MD
Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery




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



Jeffrey Cooper, MD*
Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery



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



Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH
Chief, Section of Surgical Oncology

*As of fall 2021

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

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

Lisa Allee, MSW, LICSW
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

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

Sunday Clark, MPH, ScD
Research Associate Professor
of Surgery, Boston University
School of Medicine

Joshua Davies, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Tracey Dechert, MD
Chief, Surgical Critical Care
Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Abraham Jaffe, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Pei-Wen Lim, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Aaron Richman, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

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

Dane Scantling, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

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

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Niloo Edwards, MD
Division Chief,
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine*

Thoracic Surgery

Kei Suzuki, MD
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

Olga Beresneva, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Joanne Favuzza, DO
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

Christopher Muratore, MD
Section Chief
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School
of Medicine*

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

Konstantinos Papadakis, MD
Assistant 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

Daniel Roh, MD, PhD
Laszlo N. Tauber Assistant
Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Peter Wu, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Podiatry

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

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

Justin Ogbonna, DPM
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Elizabeth Sanders, DPM
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Wei Tseng, DPM
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Vitaliy Volansky, DPM
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Surgical Oncology and Endocrine Surgery

Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH
Section Chief,
Surgical Oncology
Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

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

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

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

Andrea Merrill, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

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

Transplant Surgery

Jeffrey Cooper, MD
Division Chief
Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine*

Sayed Malek, MD
Clinical Director of Transplant
Surgery, Brigham and
Women's Hospital
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Harvard Medical School

Sarah Meade, DO
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Stefan Tullius, MD, PhD
Chief, Division of Transplant
Surgery, Brigham and
Women's Hospital
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

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

Elizabeth King, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
and Radiology, Boston
University School of Medicine

Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, MBA
Associate Professor of Surgery
and Radiology, 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; Larz Anderson
Professor in Management
and Professor of the Practice,
Boston University Questrom
School of Business; and
Professor of Health Law,
Policy, and Management,
Boston University School
of Public Health.

Surgical Research and Education

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

Tony Godfrey, PhD
Professor of Surgery and
Computational Biomedicine,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Kelly Kenzik, PhD, MS
Carter Visiting Scholar in
Cancer Disparities
Associate Professor of
Medicine, University of
Alabama at Birmingham

**Marina Malikova, PhD,
MSci, MA**
Executive Director, Surgical
Translational Research
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Amy Rosen, PhD
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

**Pamela Rosenkranz, RN,
BSN, MEd**
Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Sing Chau Ng, MS
Staff biostatistician
Administrative Director, SOAR
of Medicine

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

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

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

Maureen Kavanah, MD
Assistant 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
of Surgery, Boston University
School of Medicine

ROGER WILLIAMS MEDICAL CENTER

N. Joseph Espat, MD, MS
Chair, 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

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

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

James McPhee, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery,
Boston University School
of Medicine

Research

Hillary Mull, PhD, MPP
Research Assistant Professor
of Surgery, Boston University
School of Medicine

Amy Rosen, PhD
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine

*Recommended for



Faculty News*



Lisa Allee, MSW, LICSW, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery, was among a small group of experts who were invited to testify before the U.S. Government

Accountability Office in November 2020 during a session on “Firearm Injuries: Health Care Service Needs and Costs.” In addition, Ms. Allee gave grand rounds at the Medical College of South Carolina and also gave a presentation during the Hospital Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) Virtual Conference 2020. During the last academic year, Ms. Allee was appointed for a third two-year term as project consultant to the Injury Prevention and Control Committee of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, and published articles with Department of Surgery general surgery residents in the *American Journal of Surgery*, *Journal of Surgical Research*, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, *Annals of Surgery*, and *Journal of the National Medical Association*.



Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, assumed his role as Treasurer of the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS) after

previously serving as Treasurer-elect and was appointed Deputy Director for the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at Boston Medical Center. After being awarded the Masato and Miyeko Tanabe Visiting Professorship from SAAS, Dr. Brahmbhatt gave grand rounds in the Department of Surgery at the University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine. In addition, Dr. Brahmbhatt was invited to moderate sessions at the SAAS annual meeting and the 2021 Annual Academic Surgical Congress. Also in 2021, Dr. Brahmbhatt was an invited panelist during a workshop on “Pandemic Pedagogy” at the Association for Surgical Education Annual Meeting. In the international realm, Dr. Brahmbhatt was an invited speaker at two conferences: the joint meeting of the North America, Italian, and Israeli chapters of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance

and the DIA Europe 2021 Conference. Dr. Brahmbhatt also made presentations at the following national and international meetings: the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society, Annual Academic Surgical Congress, Annual Symposium of the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, and the European Congress of Radiology. Over the last year, Dr. Brahmbhatt had papers published or accepted for publication in the following journals: *Journal of Surgical Research*, *Journal of Surgical Education*, *Radiology*, *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, *European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery*, and *Injury*.



Tracey Dechert, MD, Chief of Surgical Critical Care, addressed social determinants of health and the role surgeons can play in ensuring equity during her

American Association for Surgery of Trauma Virtual Grand Rounds talk. Dr. Dechert also spoke to this topic as an invited speaker during the Tower Health Symposium in 2020. In addition, Dr. Dechert participated in a panel discussion on firearm injury prevention strategies and initiatives during the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress and served as a session moderator during the Association for Surgical Education Annual Meeting. During the last academic year, Dr. Dechert published papers in *Annals of Surgery*, *American Journal of Surgery*, *Journal of Surgical Research*, *Journal of Surgical Education*, *Trauma Surgery and Acute Care Open*, *BJU International*, *Journal of Immigration and Minority Health*, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, and *Journal of the National Medical Association*. Most of these publications were co-authored with surgery residents who are members of the Department of Surgery’s Socially Responsible Surgery organization, which she co-leads with **Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH**.

*Most meetings mentioned in this section were held virtually.



Alik Farber, MD, MBA, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, had numerous papers published over the course of the year and was an editor of the *Vascular*

Decision Making: Medical, Endovascular and Surgical textbook and smartphone app. Dr. Farber led a Society for Vascular Surgery working group in writing the Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Popliteal Artery Aneurysms, published in the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. In addition, Dr. Farber made a presentation on results from the BEST-CLI Trial at the American Surgical Association Annual Meeting. Collectively, under his leadership, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery faculty published five book chapters, and more than 30 papers were published or accepted for publication in journals that include *JAMA Surgery*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, and *Journal of Surgical Research*.



Donald Hess, MD, Chief of Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery, was awarded an Integrated Pilot Grant from the Boston University Clinical and Translational Science

Institute and will investigate “Soft Robotic Technologies Enabling Safe Laparoscopic Bowel Manipulation.” Dr. Hess joined an American Board of Surgery committee that is developing entrustable professional activities (EPAs) for use in assessing residents’ performance. Under Dr. Hess’ guidance, bariatric surgeons in the Department of Surgery are participating in Bariatric Surgery Targeting Opioids (BSTOP), a national study to decrease opioid use after bariatric surgery. In addition, the Section of Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery was accepted as a site for the Bariatric Atrial Restoration of Sinus Rhythm (BAROS) Trial, comparing bariatric surgery followed by atrial fibrillation (AF) catheter ablation to AF catheter ablation alone in management of

AF in patients with morbid obesity. During the year, Dr. Hess published papers in *Surgery*, *Surgical Endoscopy*, *Journal of Surgical Endoscopy*, *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*, *Hernia*, and *Obesity Surgery*.



David McAneny, MD, Chief Surgical Officer at Boston Medical Center, assumed the role of Interim Chief Quality Officer in 2021. Dr. McAneny lectured on

“Disruption and Recovery: Surgical Care at an Urban Teaching Hospital” and participated in a panel discussion on Covid-19 and Surgery in Massachusetts during the 67th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. Over the course of the year, Dr. McAneny was a co-author of 15 papers published or accepted for publication in journals that included *Annals of Surgery*, *American Journal of Cancer Research*, *Seminars in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, and *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*. In addition, Dr. McAneny was named one of Boston’s Top Doctors in *Boston* magazine and was also among those physicians recognized as America’s Top Doctors in Surgery and America’s Top Doctors for Cancer. The BMC Department of Nursing honored Dr. McAneny by naming him “Provider of the Year” in Surgery.



Marina Malikova, PhD, MSci, MA, Executive Director of Surgical Translational Research, edited the fourth edition of *Biologics Development: A Regulatory Overview*,

and also wrote two new chapters for the book. Dr. Malikova was appointed to the executive council of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) North American Chapter. During the academic year, Dr. Malikova chaired three sessions and made an oral presentation at the DIA Europe 2021 Conference. In addition,

Dr. Malikova gave an oral presentation, served as moderator for two sessions, and chaired a session on “New Trends and Innovations in Protocol Design” at the third annual SCOPE (Summit for Clinical Operations Executives) Europe & Clinical Trial Innovation Conference. Dr. Malikova also gave oral and poster presentations and participated in workshops at a number of other conferences in the U.S. and Europe, including the Radiological Society of North America, the SCOPE Annual Summit in Florida, the ISoP Annual Meeting, the annual European meeting of the Drug Information Association, and the Regulatory Affairs Professionals European Conference. Over the course of the year, Dr. Malikova published articles in *Therapeutic Innovation and Regulatory Science*, *Therapeutic Advances in Drug Safety*, and *International Journal of Clinical Trials*.



Luise Pernar, MD, MHPE, Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery, was the recipient of the 2021 Linnea Hauge, PhD, Promising Educational Scholar Award from the

Association of Surgical Education. Dr. Pernar also earned a Master of Science in Health Professions Education (MHPE) degree from Boston University School of Medicine Graduate Medical Sciences. Over the course of the year, Dr. Pernar authored or co-authored papers published in *Surgical Endoscopy*, *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, *Obesity Surgery*, and the *Journal of Surgical Education*. In addition, Dr. Pernar, together with **Donald Hess, MD**, and **Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH**, co-led a workshop on research elective rotations at the Association of Program Directors in Surgery Annual Meeting.



Hau Pham, DPM, Chief of Podiatry Surgery, assumed the role of President-elect of the Massachusetts Foot and Ankle Society.

Boston University School of Medicine Promotions



Ewald Mendezsoon Jr., DPM
Podiatry
Assistant Professor of Surgery



Justin Ogbonna, DPM
Podiatry
Assistant Professor of Surgery



Pamela Rosenkranz, RN, BSN, MEd
Surgical Research and Education
Assistant Professor of Surgery



Wei Tseng, DPM
Podiatry
Assistant Professor of Surgery



Vitaliy Volansky, DPM
Podiatry
Assistant Professor of Surgery

(As of this year, senior surgery residents and advanced practice providers are now eligible for voluntary faculty positions at Boston University School of Medicine.)



Top Docs

Congratulations to the following Department of Surgery faculty members cited as “tops” in their specialties in *Boston* magazine’s 2021 “Top Docs” issue.

- Peter Burke, MD**
Acute Care and Trauma Surgery
- Alik Farber, MD, MBA**
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
- Jason F. Hall, MD, MPH**
Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Donald Hess, MD**
Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery
- Jeffrey Kalish, MD**
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
- David McAneny, MD**
General Surgery and Endocrine Surgery
- Jaromir Slama, MD**
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery



Aaron Richman, MD,
Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, was named as an Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program.



Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH,
Chief of Surgical Oncology, was appointed to lead the Section of Surgical Oncology in the Department of Surgery and as Director of the

Surgical Outcomes Analysis & Research (SOAR) initiative. In 2021, Dr. Sachs

received the Erwin F. Hirsch Resident Teaching Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the education of the surgical chief residents. Dr. Sachs co-authored articles published in *JAMA Surgery*, *Annals of Surgery*, *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, and *Surgical Endoscopy*.



Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, was appointed Deputy Associate Chair for Academic Affairs and

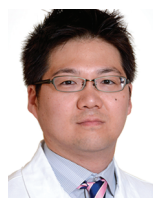
Faculty Development at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Sanchez was also appointed Vice Chair of the Association for Surgical Education’s Committee of Citizenship and Global Responsibility, and was elected to be the American College of Surgeons’ Young Fellows Association Liaison to the Board of Governors Surgical Workforce on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Dr. Sanchez made a presentation on findings from the CODA Trial at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress and a quickshot presentation at the annual Academic Surgical Congress, in addition to participating in a Surgical Infection Society podcast and an NEJM Resident 360 panel. Dr. Sanchez co-authored papers published in journals that include *American Journal of Surgery*, *Journal of Surgical Research*, and *Journal of Surgical Education*, many with surgery residents who are members of the Socially Responsible Surgery organization she co-leads with **Tracey Dechert, MD.**



Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, MBA, Vascular Surgery, was promoted to Editor of *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, having previously served as Associate Editor. Dr. Siracuse was

appointed Medical Director of the Vascular Study Group of New England and was also appointed to the Vascular Quality Initiative Governing Council. In addition, Dr. Siracuse was an author of the Society for Vascular Surgery’s Clinical Practice Guidelines on

Popliteal Artery Aneurysms and had papers published in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, and *Annals of Vascular Surgery*. Over the course of the year, Dr. Siracuse was a visiting professor in the Department of Surgery at St. Louis University School of Medicine and gave two invited talks to the Asian Society of Vascular Surgery. At Boston Medical Center, Dr. Siracuse was appointed to the Graduate Medical Education Diversity and Inclusion Council.



Kei Suzuki, MD, Thoracic Surgery, gave grand rounds at the Lefcourt Family Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center in Englewood, New Jersey, and received a grant from

the American Association for Thoracic Surgery Foundation that will focus on “Race-specific Molecular Changes in Nasal Epithelium to Assess Lung Cancer Risk.” In addition, Dr. Suzuki is co-investigator on a Boston Medical Center Quality Improvement Grant to increase the rate of lung cancer screening. Dr. Suzuki also served as faculty sponsor for two Boston University School of Medicine students who received National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute scholarships for research projects. During the academic year, Dr. Suzuki had papers published in *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, *Surgical Endoscopy*, *American Journal of Surgical Pathology*, *Journal of Thoracic Disease*, and *JTO Clinical and Research Reports*.



Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH, Surgical Oncology and Chair of Surgery, was chosen as President-elect of The Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) and was appointed

Chair of the American Board of Surgery Research Committee. In addition, Dr. Tseng served as co-moderator for an SSAT international webinar on gastric cancer management, which brought together experts from the U.S. and Japan.

New Faculty



Jeffrey Cooper, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery*
Boston University School of Medicine
Transplant Surgery

Dr. Cooper has been named Chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery and will join the faculty of Boston University School of Medicine in fall 2021. After receiving his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1991, Dr. Cooper completed residency in general surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Following a fellowship in transplant surgery at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Dr. Cooper joined the faculty of Tufts University School of Medicine and the Division of Transplant Surgery at Tufts Medical Center, rising to Chief in 2016. Dr. Cooper, who served as Director of the General Surgery Residency Program at Tufts Medical Center for a decade, was honored with the 2021 Leonard Tow Humanism Award, given annually to one member of the Tufts Medical School teaching faculty. Since 2018, Dr. Cooper has served as a member of the United Network of Organ Sharing’s ethics committee and has published articles on ethical issues related to living donation.



Christopher Muratore, MD
Professor of Surgery*
Boston University School of Medicine
Pediatric Surgery

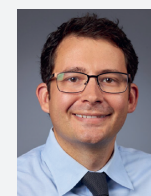
Dr. Muratore has been named Chief of the Section of Pediatric Surgery and will join the faculty of Boston University School of Medicine in fall 2021. After receiving his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine and completing residency in general surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Dr. Muratore went on to a fellowship in pediatric surgery at Boston Children’s Hospital in 2005. Dr. Muratore then joined the faculty of Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and

served as an attending surgeon at Hasbro Children’s Hospital until 2017, when he became Surgeon-in-Chief at Stony Brook Children’s Hospital, and Knapp Swezey Chair in Pediatric Surgery and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at Renaissance School of Medicine of Stony Brook University.



Elizabeth Sanders, DPM
Assistant Professor of Surgery*
Boston University School of Medicine
Podiatry Surgery

Dr. Sanders earned her doctor of podiatric medicine degree from Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine and completed her residency at Boston Medical Center (BMC). Dr. Sanders went on to complete a two-year advanced foot and ankle fellowship in reconstructive surgery, trauma, and sports medicine at University Hospitals in Chardon, Ohio, and a mini-fellowship at the Russian Ilizarov Scientific Center for Restorative Traumatology and Orthopaedics, focused on advanced techniques in external fixation for foot and ankle trauma, infection, and Charcot reconstruction. Dr. Sanders has given numerous lectures and poster presentations on innovative surgical techniques emphasizing limb salvage and reconstructive surgery. Dr. Sanders, who has been in private practice in Puerto Rico, will join BMC and the Boston University School of Medicine faculty in fall 2021.



Dane Scantling, DO, MPH
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Boston University School of Medicine
Acute Care and Trauma Surgery

Dr. Scantling received his degree in osteopathic medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and a master’s degree in public health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst

School of Public Health & Health Sciences. Following residency in general surgery at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, Dr. Scantling completed a fellowship in acute care surgery at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in 2021. Dr. Scantling has co-authored more than 35 articles in peer-reviewed journals, receiving the award for the best manuscript submitted to the *Journal of Trauma* during the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma Annual Meeting in 2021. Trauma surgery outcomes, with an emphasis on access to trauma care and firearm injuries, have been a major focus of Dr. Scantling’s research.



Peter Wu, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Surgery*
Boston University School of Medicine
Plastic Surgery

Dr. Wu received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine and holds a master’s degree in neuroscience from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Following general surgery residency at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass., Dr. Wu went on to complete a residency in plastic surgery at the Mayo Clinic in 2016 and a one-year fellowship in microsurgery at The Ohio State University. Dr. Wu then joined the Creighton University School of Medicine faculty in Phoenix in 2017 and the University of Arizona College of Medicine (also in Phoenix) faculty the following year, with appointment as an attending surgeon at three local hospitals. Dr. Wu, whose research interests include whole-body donation, founded a whole-body anatomical gift program at Creighton. Dr. Wu will join the Boston University School of Medicine faculty and the Boston Medical Center Division of Plastic Surgery in fall 2021.

*Recommended for



Alumni Profile: Patricia Roberts, MD

Patricia Roberts started telling people that she was going to be a surgeon in first grade, after her teacher brought in a cow's heart to show the class. She remembers being fascinated by it and made good—and then some—on that original career plan. Dr. Roberts went on to a 30-year career as a colorectal surgeon, educator, researcher, and trail-blazer. She was the first female surgeon at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, the hospital's first female chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery, and its first female Chair of Surgery, from 2012 to 2019.

Dr. Roberts began general surgery residency at what was then Boston City Hospital in 1981, after graduating magna cum laude from Boston University's six-year (now seven) Liberal Arts/Medical Education Program with a double major in history and medical science and an MD. She completed residency five years later, the only woman in her class.

Following clinical and research fellowships in colorectal surgery at Lahey, she joined the hospital as a staff surgeon in 1988. She would go on to spend her whole career at Lahey and as a Tufts University School of Medicine faculty

member, rising to Professor of Surgery in 2007. She says, "I stayed at Lahey because I loved the people I worked with—a great team of physicians, nurses, and other medical support staff."

Framework for Success

"Boston Medical Center was a wonderful place to train," says Dr. Roberts. "There was an incredible amount of camaraderie. And compared with today, there was a lot more autonomy. At BMC, a chief could take a junior through a surgery. It was terrifying but also incredibly energizing, or as some have called it, the process of 'spiritual maturation.'" She toyed briefly with pursuing orthopedic surgery, but during her third year of residency was introduced to Lahey and a then-cutting-edge procedure, ileoanal pouch surgery. This rotation on the colon and rectal surgery service sealed the deal in her choice of specialization.

"The BU surgical residency program was philosophically committed to on call every third night, but with no restrictions on work-week hours during the 1980s, it often turned out to be every other night," recalls Dr. Roberts. She adds, "I felt very supported by the faculty and my fellow residents at a time when there were very few women in surgery, and this provided an incredible framework for my career going forward."

Erwin Hirsch, MD, BMC's legendary former Chief of Acute Care and Trauma Surgery, had a significant impact on Dr. Roberts during her training, which included a high volume of surgeries for penetrating trauma. "Erwin Hirsch was committed to 'Exceptional Care Without Exception' before BMC adopted its tag line," says Dr. Roberts. "Before disparities in care became a frequent

topic of discussion, at Boston City Hospital, patients got incredibly good care." Along with Dr. Hirsch, David Schoetz Jr., MD, a senior resident who also went on to a career in colorectal surgery at Lahey, stands out as another great mentor. Throughout their careers, Drs. Schoetz and Roberts have been valued colleagues and collaborators on research, publishing more than 80 papers together on topics ranging from rectal cancer to diverticulitis. In addition to the nearly 150 papers she has published cumulatively, Dr. Roberts has also authored four dozen book chapters and authored or edited six books.

Breaking the Glass Ceiling

When Patricia Roberts joined the Lahey staff in 1988, the hospital had two female gynecologists on staff, but she became the first female surgeon in the Department of Surgery. As a busy practicing surgeon at Lahey (part of Beth Israel Lahey Health since 2019), she went on to care for thousands of patients and was involved in the education and training of hundreds of general surgery residents, as well as more than 70 fellows in colon and rectal surgery and scores of medical students. In 2002, she was appointed Chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery and then a decade later, Chair of the Department of Surgery, the first female Chair of surgery in New England. Roberts says that achieving a leadership position was not a specific career goal. "I just wanted to be a good surgeon. Much of the rest is really a reflection of the role that serendipity plays in life."

Beyond Lahey, Patricia Roberts has received multiple awards and played key roles in numerous professional societies. These include serving as President of

the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, where she previously chaired the exam committee and the written exam committee. She also served as President of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS), which honored her with the Masters in Colon and Rectal Surgery Award in 2018 and the Mentor's Award in 2010. As Chair of the ASCRS operative competency committee, she led development of the COSATS (colorectal structured assessment of technical skills) exam, the first technical skills assessment piloted for use in national surgical board

Medical Officer at Lahey for the last 10 years, during residency at Boston Medical Center, and her daughter is also an alumna of BU. She has maintained her connection with the BMC Department of Surgery over the years, most recently giving grand rounds in 2020 and serving as the Mozden Visiting Professor in 2016. Over the course of a very impressive career, she has delivered more than 200 invited lectures.

Since becoming Chair Emeritus in 2019, Roberts has remained a staff surgeon at Lahey, teaching residents and fellows, and on occasion, assisting with difficult surgical cases. But as of September 2021, she will be a temporary resident of California as a fellow at Stanford University's Distinguished Careers Institute, which seeks to improve the life journey of accomplished individuals by helping them renew their purpose, build a new community, and recalibrate physical and emotional wellness. Delayed a year because of Covid, this fellowship

"I felt very supported by the faculty and my fellow residents at a time when there were very few women in surgery, and this provided an incredible framework for my career going forward."

— Patricia Roberts, MD

certification. In addition, she has been actively involved in the American College of Surgeons, previously serving as chair of the Advisory Council for Colon and Rectal Surgery.

Ties that Bind

Dr. Roberts is a dedicated alum and fan of Boston University (BU) and Boston Medical Center, receiving the Distinguished Alumna Award from Boston University School of Medicine in 2018. She met her husband, Michael Rosenblatt, MD, MPH, MBA, also a surgeon, who has served as Chief

represents the "sabbatical" Roberts always intended to take while at Lahey. In addition, in 2021, she joined the Hartford Healthcare Board of Directors and chairs the board's quality and safety committee.

As her career progressed and administrative tasks increased, Dr. Roberts says that performing surgery "was always the fun part of the day." She adds, "Looking back, it really is an incredible honor to do what we do in surgery, and it has been a privilege to care for patients and to train the next generation of surgeons."

Stronger Together



Associate SICU Director Robert Canelli, MD, and SICU Director Tracey Dechert, MD

Music and art enrich our lives. The surgical intensive care unit (SICU), with its bright lights, cacophony of beeps, and constant blur of activity doesn't seem like a place for either. The SICU team at Boston Medical Center thinks there's room for a bit of both. The latest initiative will enable patients and families to access "live" music in a variety of forms through a tablet that will be set up in their rooms. This is being made possible through a program called Arts I Lab @ Med Campus, a partnership between the Boston University College of Fine Arts and the Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM)/Boston Medical Center (BMC) campus. The SICU—now more accurately known

as the SNICU (surgical and neuroscience intensive care unit)—in its current form is just three years old. Until 2018, the BMC campus encompassed two separate hospital buildings and two SICUs, a holdover from 1996, when Boston University Medical Center Hospital and Boston City Hospital merged. In October 2018, thanks to detailed planning and coordination by both critical care teams, the two SICUs were joined in an expanded, state-of-the-art space in the Menino Building. Neurocritical care was incorporated the following July. The 28-bed SICU, which averages about 1,500 admissions annually, is typically full, with a 50/50 mix of neurocritical and surgery patients, including a small volume of cardiothoracic surgery patients.

"Having our anesthesia colleagues integrated into the SICU team simplifies and speeds the process for administering a sedative prior to inserting a chest tube or performing other invasive procedures."

— Tracey Dechert, MD

Focus on MDT

One of the things I'm most proud of in our SICU is just how multidisciplinary it is," says Tracey Dechert, MD, SICU Director and Chief of Surgical Critical Care. "We take care of patients as a whole, and round as a multidisciplinary team." Multidisciplinary rounding is one of the most significant changes Dr. Dechert, an Associate Professor of Surgery at BUSM, has instituted since being appointed Director in 2019. Multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings take place every morning as well as monthly. Introducing music in patients' rooms came about as a result of an MDT working group led by Tricia Charise, NP, focused on improving the SICU

experience for both patients and families. Thanks to other suggestions, coloring books are now placed in patient rooms, and staff and their family members got to work knitting in order to replenish the supply of colorful prayer blankets for the beds of long-term patients and those at the end of life. Before the consolidation, the Department of Anesthesiology was in charge of the East Newton Pavilion SICU, which had been slated for closure. In the new configuration, the Departments of Surgery and Anesthesiology would be working together closely to run one SICU jointly. Residents from both departments would need to adapt as well. "If there was a bump in the road, it was negotiating how two separate residencies would share the same space," says Dr. Dechert. "When you're here, you are SICU residents, not surgery or anesthesia residents—one team." She credits Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH, a trauma and critical care surgeon, and Cindy Rupp, MD, an anesthesiologist and intensivist, for helping to smooth the waters. When comparing the old way of doing things with the new, Dr. Dechert points to one of several advantages. "Having our anesthesia colleagues integrated into the SICU team simplifies and speeds the process for administering a sedative prior to inserting a chest tube or performing other invasive procedures. We have different skillsets, and we've merged the two." "It has been a true pleasure to see two disciplines come together to form a super-high-functioning team that is now

more capable than ever of managing acute crises at the bedside in the ICU," says Robert Canelli, MD, an Associate SICU Director and Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at BUSM. Dr. Canelli is the newest member of the three-person physician leadership team, joining the group in 2021 after being appointed to the position following the departure of another faculty member. Neurocritical care is led by Anna Cervantes, MD. In addition to being an Associate Director of the SICU, Dr. Cervantes is Chief of Neurocritical Care at BMC and Assistant Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at BUSM. She says, "We have incredible strength in our nurses, therapists, and other team members who care for both surgical and neurosurgical patients in this one physical space." Covid Crisis Like other ICUs across the country, BMC's SICU was overwhelmed by the number of patients with Covid and the level of care needed. Dr. Dechert says it was "heartbreaking and terrifying." She adds, "No one knew the disease, so we were learning about it as we went. We're used to coming together in a room when a patient is crashing, but with Covid, we came together in all 28 rooms. I think all of us have some PTSD from that experience." Adriana Rice-Leiva, a young mother pregnant with her second child, was the Covid patient in Room 5. While most patients in the SICU did not survive Covid, Rice-Leiva pulled through and is now the healthy mother of two boys; she recently came by BMC for a joyful reunion with SICU staff who saved her life.

As Covid cases declined, the volume of trauma patients reached levels not seen in 10 years. Once again, the team pulled together. Dr. Dechert says she is constantly learning, from the nurses at the bedside, the pharmacists, and a host of other SICU colleagues. They are currently working together on "Project Delirium," aimed at preventing delirium and devising better and more holistic treatment methods. Three years after combining forces, the SICU is home to an integrated group that provides the high-quality, compassionate care patients and families need and deserve while offering residents and fellows an exceptional educational experience. "It has been a true pleasure to see two disciplines come together to form a super-high-functioning team that is now more capable than ever of managing acute crises at the bedside in the ICU."

— Robert Canelli, MD

Soaring to Research Success

Boston Medical Center (BMC) is the perfect home for SOAR. The Surgical Outcomes Analysis & Research (SOAR) initiative was founded in 2007 by Chair of Surgery Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH, with a mandate to determine where improvements can be made to ensure that all patients, regardless of race or ethnicity, birthplace, or economic circumstances, have equal access to high-quality surgical care in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. Among the patients BMC serves, 70 percent identify as Black or Hispanic, a large number have annual household incomes below \$21,000, and for 30 percent, English is not their primary language. SOAR has been part of the Department of Surgery since 2017, when Dr. Tseng joined the faculty of Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) and became Surgeon-in-Chief at Boston Medical Center. In addition to fulfilling its original mission, SOAR is now the hub for research across the department. It

“SOAR fosters a sense of collaboration, particularly among our residents engaged in research.”
— Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH

continues to evolve into a multifaceted resource for faculty, residents, and medical students to draw upon in conducting research and publishing important scholarly work.



From left: 2019–2021 Co-resident Director Alaina Geary, MD; SOAR Director Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH; Chair of Surgery Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH; and 2020–2022 Co-resident Director Allan Stolarski, MD, MS.

A Unifying Theme

By formalizing processes for initiating new research projects and providing guidance, mentoring, and troubleshooting for those seeking it, SOAR is structured to set everyone on a path to research success. Chief of Surgical Oncology Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH, has been actively involved with SOAR over the last four years through his own outcomes research on gastric and hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) cancers and through higher-level contributions that have fostered the growth of SOAR. In 2021, he was appointed Director. “SOAR is no longer

strictly outcomes-based,” says Dr. Sachs. “It encompasses everything from basic science to education.” He adds, “SOAR fosters a sense of collaboration, particularly among our residents engaged in research.”

One of the residents who has had a front-row seat to the changes that have taken place and, in fact, helped to implement a number of them is Alaina Geary, MD. Prior to resuming her training at the beginning of the 2021–2022 academic year as a PGY3 clinical resident, Dr. Geary spent three years as a research resident focused on education, and also served as a SOAR Co-resident Director. During this time, she was the recipient of the AAS/AASF Trainee Research Fellowship Award in Education, and her paper on the use of ERAS data to improve house staff diversity, published in the *Journal of Surgical Research*, was selected by the AAS (Association for Academic Surgery) as the best overall manuscript by a resident. She says, “In my role within SOAR, my overall goal was to build a research community for residents to discuss and collaborate, even though we were working in different silos.” Until Covid hit, this included weekly lunchtime meetings (temporarily transitioned to Zoom), which were restructured to interest and advantage residents and SOAR visiting research fellows.

Resources Close at Hand

“We’ve broadened the direction of SOAR and added structure to advance all types of research,” says current Co-resident Director Allan Stolarski, MD, MS, now in his second year as a research resident. With funding support from an NIH T32, his research focuses on investigating sepsis phenotypes and mechanisms of improved survival and organ function with HAT (hydrocortisone, ascorbic acid, and thiamine) therapy in septic shock. He says, “If someone needs help from an epidemiologist, for example, they have it.” In fact, three scientist-researchers with broad experience are now available to assist both trainees and faculty with project design and the methodology needed for complex analyses, as well as grant writing.

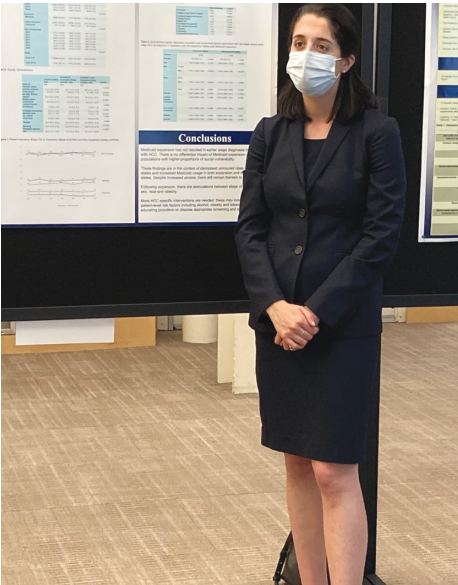
Kelly Kenzik, PhD, MS, and Sunday Clark, ScD, MPH, are experienced research scientists and epidemiologists whose guidance has been well utilized, while Hillary Mull, PhD, MPP, holds a doctorate in health services research and provides expertise in harnessing the power of large data sets. For faculty who are in the planning stages of a project or who find themselves staring at a grant application, Dr. Sachs says that having these experts at the ready has been invaluable. “They help to operationalize the big-picture vision and identify areas that might be of concern to grant reviewers.”

Diverse Interests

Gordana Rasic, MD, SOAR Co-resident Director together with Dr. Stolarski, has just started her two years as a research resident and will be evaluating the utility of circulating tumor DNA in peri-operative surveillance for persistent and/or recurrent oncologic disease in head and neck cancer, as well as utilizing national health databases to investigate factors contributing to healthcare

disparities in HPB cancers. Both HPB and gastric cancers are at the center of the work being done by SOAR visiting research fellow Marianna Papageorge, MD. A significant focus of her research is evaluating screening practices for individuals at high risk of developing gastric cancer.

A sampling of other recent or ongoing research topics from SOAR, the Boston Trauma Institute, and elsewhere throughout the Department of Surgery is indicative of the range of current interests. They include utilization and efficacy of psychosocial services for female victims of violent trauma and utilization of large-scale database and machine learning models to inform clinical decision-making and surgical planning. SOAR fellows and research residents have published multiple first-author papers in journals that include the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, *Journal of Surgical Education*, *Journal of the*



SOAR visiting research fellow Marianna Papageorge, MD, presents her research on the impact of Medicaid expansion on the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma.

American College of Surgeons, Annals of Surgery, and *Surgery*, and have presented their work at a number of national meetings.

“We’ve broadened the direction of SOAR and added structure to advance all types of research.”
— Allan Stolarski, MD, MS

Collaborative Spirit

While hard work on their part has been the key to the department’s research residents’ productivity and successes in publications and presentations, they have undoubtedly benefitted from the support and camaraderie that the expanded version of SOAR has provided. This includes the launch this year of the first annual Department of Surgery Research Bootcamp, a two-day event that covered topics including Randomized Clinical Trial Design 101 and R Programming.

Despite its expanded role in the department, outcomes research centered on inequities in surgical care remains integral to SOAR. This year saw the addition of a SOAR Colorectal Disparities Research Fellow, focused on exploring the impact of racial disparities on colorectal surgery outcomes. Going forward, Dr. Sachs says, “We want to continue to expand the footprint of SOAR and develop multi-institutional collaborations.”



Moving the Mission Forward

For the new Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery Niloo Edwards, MD, the honeymoon period at Boston Medical Center (BMC) was unusually brief. On January 2, 2020, he assumed his new role. Three months later, he was 6,600 miles away in Kandahar, Afghanistan, after being called up to active duty as a commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Dr. Edwards joined the reserves in 2016, when he was in his fifties—much later than most. He says, “I was motivated by a Jeffersonian belief that it is important to serve. I had applied a few years earlier but was told I was too old. I decided to

apply again and they needed doctors, so I was accepted.”

The Navy required that he demonstrate his fitness for duty by passing a series of grueling tests in 2016, and again prior to his recent deployment. After passing with flying colors, he went on to take his place as one of six surgeons in the brick-and-mortar field hospital where he was stationed. Two orthopedic surgeons, two general surgeons, and a neurosurgeon completed the surgical team. The NATO hospital, outfitted with three operating rooms, cared for coalition forces, members of the Afghan Army, and civilians with war injuries or

those who required care that exceeded the capabilities of the local hospitals.

Charting the Course

Since returning to BMC in late 2020, Dr. Edwards has set about what he was recruited to do, strengthen the hospital’s cardiothoracic surgery program. “My mission is to take the division to the next level, by focusing on improving clinical outcomes and delivery of care, as well as increasing our participation in departmental teaching and our research activities, not just concentrating on volume. Patient outcomes are important to me, but service is as well.”

Over a career that spans 25 years, Dr. Edwards’ background includes posts in academia and private practice. After receiving his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1986, and during his general surgery residency at the University of Rochester, Strong Memorial Hospital, he did research fellowships in primate heart transplantation at Columbia. He went on to serve as Director of Cardiac Transplantation at New York Presbyterian Hospital and then Vice Chair of Surgery for Quality and Outcomes. A move to the Midwest and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health followed. After serving as Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery there, he spent nearly a decade as Chief of Cardiovascular Services and Chief of Staff at St. Peter’s Health Partners in Albany.

Enhancing Quality and Efficiency

By adopting a multidisciplinary approach and with buy-in from multiple teams, Dr. Edwards has implemented several key changes. These include reducing the number of blood transfusions and the duration of intubation, as well as streamlining inventory. “We’ve worked with the anesthesiologists, perfusionists, and our physician assistant team to decrease the transfusion rate by about 70 percent,” says Dr. Edwards. In addition, he says that for many patients, the intubation times were much longer than necessary. Working across teams, they have been able to reduce this to three or four hours, cutting the time on the ventilator by 80 percent. Another change has involved cutting down on the number and standardizing the variety of valves and surgical equipment in the operating room, reducing the opportunity for error, as well as the

cost. These measures have the metrics heading in the right direction. He says, “We started under the 50th percentile in cardiac surgical outcomes, and over the last six months, we have shifted to the upper 15th to 20th percentile in morbidity and mortality due to these and other changes in systems and protocols.”

“I want the cardiothoracic program at BMC to be known for its quality outcomes, compassionate care, complex surgical repertoire, and ease of access.”

— Niloo Edwards, MD

Another focus for Dr. Edwards is advancing care by embracing technology—in a calculated manner—that he believes will be advantageous to the patient population BMC serves. Under his watch, the hospital recently added extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, to its quiver. He says, “This is a win for our patients and BMC because it allows us the ability to provide a level of care for the extremely sick patient, who in the past would have required transfer to another center. We now have a safety net if the patient decompensates.” Further, having ECMO (originally developed to care for pediatric patients) available will enable the hospital’s pediatric team to care for acutely ill children who need this level of intensive therapy.

Meeting Patients’ Needs

One group of patients definitively advantaged by having Dr. Edwards onboard are the not insignificant number

of patients at BMC diagnosed with endocarditis and in need of complicated surgery, an area of particular interest for the Chief. He says, “My career in transplant has been extremely helpful because these surgeries mimic what you do in transplant—pull the heart apart and reassemble it.” He hopes that BMC can learn from these patients to improve delivery of care here and beyond. The increasing complexity of these procedures now being performed at the hospital has broader implications as more and more complex cardiac operations of other types are also being performed at BMC, including complex aortic reconstructive surgery and valve repair surgeries.

While in Afghanistan, Dr. Edwards scrubbed in on a surgery not typically seen by cardiac surgeons, abdominal surgery to treat gastric volvulus, or “gas bloat.” The patient was a four-year-old German shepherd named Sip (pictured on the cover of this report). An Army veterinarian diagnosed Sip’s condition and asked Dr. Edwards to assist. The operation was a complete success.

Back in Boston and fully engaged in his mission to lead the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Dr. Edwards is committed to guiding and collaborating with his team in the delivery of excellent clinical care and in providing high-quality and timely service to patients, families, and referring physicians. He says, “I want the cardiothoracic program at BMC to be known for its quality outcomes, compassionate care, complex surgical repertoire, and ease of access.”

Matrix for Success

The Department of Surgery at Boston Medical Center recognizes the importance of providing mentorship and support for its faculty to foster professional growth and elevate job satisfaction. Two new roles have been created to strengthen the foundation required to meet these needs. Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery Jason Hall, MD, MPH, has been appointed Associate Chair for Academic Affairs and Faculty Development, and Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH, attending surgeon in the Section of Acute Care and Trauma Surgery, has been appointed Deputy Associate Chair.

After assuming their new positions on Jan. 1, 2021, they are really just getting started. Their scope of responsibilities encompasses advising on all facets of academic medicine, including recruitment, promotions, and faculty wellness. A detailed survey was developed to aid in identifying colleagues’ needs and priority areas of intervention.

Both surgeons joined the Boston University School of Medicine faculty and Boston Medical Center in 2016 and bring their own wish lists developed over the last five years, as a mid-career surgeon—Dr. Hall—and an early-career surgeon—Dr. Sanchez. Considering one of many aspects of development that he has pondered recently, Dr. Hall says, “How do you transition from a young assistant professor to a mid-career surgeon with a heavy clinical volume to a senior leader? What kind of resources can we provide along the way and at each juncture?”

“It’s a loss to the department and very expensive to replace a surgeon,” says Dr. Sanchez. “We want to provide our faculty with the support they need to be successful and thrive while also creating a more diverse faculty.” Drs. Sanchez and Hall have also been named as Department of Surgery representatives to Boston Medical Center’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Dr. Sanchez notes that since she joined the department five years ago, progress has been made in hiring female surgeons; more than half of faculty hired over the last three years have been women.



Drs. Jason Hall and Sabrina Sanchez assumed their new roles in January.

One area of focus will be on facilitating academic advancement to meet a variety of needs and interests. “There are many faculty who make amazing contributions to the institution through teaching as well as service,” says Dr. Hall, “and we have to do a better job of recognizing these elements as a critical part of the academic mission.” The results of the survey can provide big-picture guidance as the new team sets priorities. Going forward, more individualized faculty advising is planned.

“We want to provide our faculty with the support they need to be successful and thrive while also creating a more diverse faculty.”

— Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH

In Memoriam

Geoffrey Habershaw, DPM, former longtime Chief of Podiatry at Boston Medical Center (BMC) and Emeritus Assistant Professor of Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine passed away suddenly on May 14. Dr. Habershaw retired to Hawaii in 2019, after 20 years as a surgeon at BMC and having established the hospital’s podiatry surgery program. An expert in the care of diabetes-related foot problems, his reputation extended well beyond Boston Medical Center. Earlier in his career, Dr. Habershaw broke new ground with his multidisciplinary management and surgical approach to diabetic foot problems while at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he spent the first 20 years of his career. He was a wonderful mentor to many trainees and in 2018 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Foot and Ankle Society. Dr. Habershaw was instrumental in raising the quality of life for innumerable patients burdened with diabetic foot issues.



Surgery Residency Participating in Military Match

As of the 2021–2022 residency recruitment cycle, the Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM)/Boston Medical Center (BMC) General Surgery Residency Program will be offering one categorical position in the Military Match. The process of matching to a residency is slightly different for the military medical match, with the match taking place in December. Students who do not match to a military residency can then participate in the civilian match. Participation in this match means that the BUSM/BMC surgery residency program plans to match one additional categorical resident, bringing the total to six.

Inaugural Robert M. Beazley Scholar



F. Thurston Drake, MD, MPH, has been selected as the inaugural incumbent of the Robert M. Beazley Scholar in Surgical Science, a newly created opportunity that honors Dr. Beazley, Emeritus Professor of Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) and beloved mentor and teacher. Dr. Drake is an attending physician in the sections of Surgical Endocrinology and Surgical Oncology and an Assistant Professor of Surgery at BUSM. As the Beazley Scholar, he will have protected time and funding to pursue his own research and build on his very successful record of mentorship of BUSM students and BMC trainees. Dr. Drake joined Boston Medical Center and the BUSM faculty in 2016, with appointment

as the Laszlo N. Tauber Assistant Professor of Surgery the following year. Dr. Drake was the site co-Principal Investigator, along with Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH, for BMC in the multi-institutional Comparison of Outcomes of Antibiotic Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) Trial; findings were published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in 2020. Dr. Drake continues to study the epidemiology of appendicitis and also has an active research program aimed at improving surgical care for patients who are not English-language proficient. During the height of the Covid pandemic, Dr. Drake established and directed the BMC Covid-19 Procedure Team, which freed up internal medicine and critical care providers to staff an additional Covid-19 clinical care team.

Surgery Education Office

SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Donald Hess, MD
Associate Chair for Education,
Program Director

Luise Pernar, MD
Associate Program Director

Aaron Richman, MD
Associate Program Director

Lana Ketlere, MD, Residency Program
Coordinator

SURGERY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Tracey Dechert, MD, Program Director
Tejal Brahmabhatt, MD, Deputy Director
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Fellowship
Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, MBA, Program Director

PODIATRY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Ewald Mendeszoon, Jr., DPM
Program Director
Justin Ogbonna, DPM
Associate Program Director

SURGERY CLERKSHIP

Joanne Favuzza, DO, 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
Elliot Brill, MD, Assistant Director, Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara
Michael DiSiena, DO, Assistant Director, Berkshire Medical Center
Yagnik Pandya, MD, Assistant Director, MetroWest Medical Center

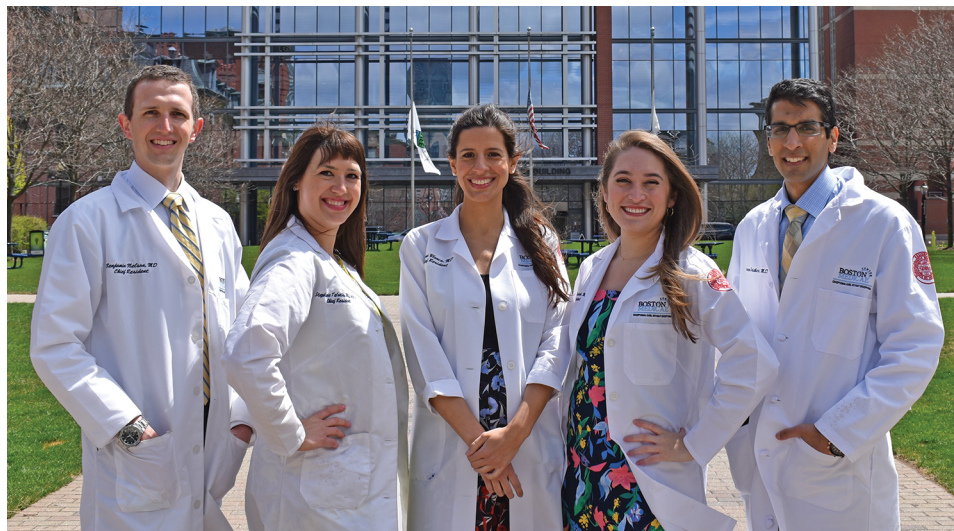
SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Boston University General Surgery Residency Program provides residents with the range and depth of surgical experience and academic exposure required to develop superior surgical skills and an ability to make informed, independent judgments. Our five-year program, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), is committed to preparing future generations of highly skilled surgeons.

The surgery residency program is based at Boston University Medical Center, a modern 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, the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories, as well as Boston Medical Center.

Through exposure to a large, diverse patient population, residents gain broad and deep experience in complex open and minimally invasive surgery. With very few fellowship programs, the focus of our program is the education of the general surgery resident.

Residents interested in careers in academic surgery develop the necessary skills in surgical research through a broad range of training opportunities designed to maximize academic development.



(Left to right) Benjamin Nelson, MD; Stephanie Talutis, MD; Aldana Blanco, MD; Andrea Madiedo, MD; and Praveen Sridhar, MD.

2021 Surgery Residency Graduates

Aldana Blanco, MD
Clinical Practice
Memorial Medical Center
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Andrea Madiedo, MD
Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship
Keck School of Medicine of USC

Praveen Sridhar, MD
Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
University of Utah Health

Stephanie Talutis, MD
Vascular Surgery Fellowship
UCLA Health

Benjamin Nelson, MD
Private Practice
Waldo County Hospital, Belfast, Maine

CURRENT RESIDENTS (2021–2022 Academic Year)

PGY1

Categorical

Julia Danford, MD
Geisel School of Medicine
at Dartmouth

Heba Elassar, MD
Oakland University William
Beaumont School of Medicine

Sophia Foroushani, MD
Tulane University School
of Medicine

Sara Myers, MD
Case Western Reserve
University School of Medicine

Ashlee Seldomridge, MD
West Virginia University School
of Medicine

Preliminary

Stephen Dalton-Petillo, MD
Eastern Virginia Medical School

Zi Jun (Jimmy) Deng, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

Yousif Kettoola, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

Andrew Kimber, DO
Rocky Vista University College
of Osteopathic Medicine

Jason Park, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

PGY2

Categorical

Andrea Alonso, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

Louis Kester, MD
Drexel University College
of Medicine

Anna Kobzeva-Herzog, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

Maia Nofal, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

Olivia Sacks, MD
Geisel School of Medicine
at Dartmouth

Preliminary

Zachary Waldman, MD
University of South Carolina
School of Medicine Greenville

PGY3

Priyanka Chugh, MD
Cooper Medical School
of Rowan University

Alaina Geary, MD
Tufts University School
of Medicine

Gillian Goddard, MD
University of Texas Medical
School at Houston

Maha Haqqani, MD
Albert Einstein College
of Medicine

Brenda Lin, MD
Keck School of Medicine
of the University of
Southern California

Michael Poulson, MD
Georgetown University School
of Medicine

PGY4

Rebecca Hasley, MD
Drexel University College
of Medicine

Scott Levin, MD
Warren Alpert Medical School
of Brown University

Miriam Neufeld, MD
Indiana University School
of Medicine

Jacob Nudel, MD
Harvard Medical School

Mark Zapata, MD
Medical College of Georgia
at Augusta University

PGY5

Sherif Aly, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

Nkiruka Arinze, MD
Vanderbilt University School
of Medicine

Olivia Duhaime, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

Megan Janeway, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

Na Eun Kim, MD
Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School

Lenée Plache, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine

Named Visiting Professors

In addition to multiple eminent grand rounds speakers, the Department of Surgery was honored to welcome these surgical leaders as named visiting professors during the 2020–2021 academic year.



**Grasberger Research Symposium
Lecture and Visiting Professorship
(hybrid)**

Sareh Parangi, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery, Harvard
Medical School
Chair of Surgery, Newton-Wellesley
Hospital
Director, Thyroid Cancer Research
Laboratory, Massachusetts
General Hospital



**Smithwick Visiting Professorship
in Vascular Surgery (virtual)**

Jonathan Woodson, MD
Professor of Surgery, Boston
University School of Medicine
Director, Boston University Institute
for Health System
Innovation & Policy
Larz Anderson Professor in
Management and Professor of
the Practice, Boston University
Questrom School of Business

CURRENT FELLOWS

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Chris Barrett, MD
Sheina Theodore, MD

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Fellowship

Katie Shean, MD
Omar El-Shazly, MD

CURRENT PODIATRY RESIDENTS

PGY1

David Coker, DPM
 Des Moines University
 College of Podiatric Medicine
 and Surgery

Anna-Kay Thompson, DPM
 Barry University School of
 Podiatric Medicine

PGY2

Michele Chan, DPM
 Western University of
 Health Sciences College of
 Podiatric Medicine

PGY3

Lya Basha, DPM
 Barry University School
 of Podiatric Medicine

Ashley Daniel, DPM
 Barry University School
 of Podiatric Medicine

Residents on Research

Residents have the option to spend two years conducting 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. In addition, residents may choose to conduct research with faculty from other institutions, providing them with a wealth of opportunities to pursue their interests, develop as academic surgeons, and make significant contributions.

Brendin Beaulieu-Jones, MD, MBA

Site: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/
 Harvard Medical School

Research Mentor: Gabriel Brat, MD

Area of research: Dr. Jones is utilizing large-scale database and machine learning models to inform clinical decision-making and surgical planning in order to improve surgical outcomes and optimize patient care. Dr. Jones is also pursuing a master's degree in biomedical information at Harvard Medical School.

Nicole Cimbak, MD

Site: Boston Children's Hospital

Research Mentor: Christopher Weldon, MD, PhD

Area of Research: Dr. Cimbak is currently enrolled in a three-year fellowship program based at Boston Children's Hospital and will spend the first year as a surgical critical care fellow. During the latter two years, Dr. Cimbak will participate in a variety of clinical outcomes research projects centered around pediatric anorectal anomalies and nutrition in critically ill children.

Loreski Collado, MD

Site: VA Boston Healthcare System

Research Mentors: Kamal Itani, MD, and
 Jaime McPhee, MD

Area of Research: As VA Chief Resident in the Quality and Patient Safety Program, Dr. Collado is focused on learning and teaching quality improvement and patient safety principles through identification of adverse events and other issues.

Gordana Rasic, MD

Site: Boston University School of Medicine

Research Mentors: Tony E. Godfrey, PhD, and
 Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH

Area of Research: Dr. Rasic is evaluating the utility of circulating tumor DNA in peri-operative surveillance for persistent and/or recurrent oncologic disease, specifically in head and neck cancer. Dr. Rasic will also be working with the Surgical Outcomes Analysis & Research (SOAR) initiative to utilize national health databases to investigate factors contributing to healthcare disparities in hepatopancreatobiliary cancers.

Allan Stolarski, MD, MS

Site: Boston University School of Medicine

Research Mentor: Daniel G. Remick, MD

Area of Research: Dr. Stolarski is investigating sepsis phenotypes and mechanisms of improved survival and organ function with HAT (hydrocortisone, ascorbic acid, and thiamine) therapy in septic shock. Dr. Stolarski has funding support from an NIH T32 and has been awarded a Boston Trauma Institute grant to support his ongoing efforts investigating sepsis phenotypes and sepsis-related coagulopathies.

Spencer Wilson, MD

Site: Boston University School of Medicine

Research Mentors: David McAneny, MD, and
 Pamela Rosenkranz, RN, BSN, MEd

Area of Research: Dr. Wilson serves as Quality Improvement Research Fellow in the Department of Surgery and currently leads a multidisciplinary project to reduce the rate of post-operative urinary tract infections at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Wilson is also reassessing institutional models for postoperative mobilization as well as postoperative deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prophylaxis.

Resident News



Sherif Aly, MD, was first author of a paper published in the *Journal of Surgical Endoscopy* and co-authored a paper published in the *American Journal of Surgery*. Dr. Aly matched to the Advanced Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital.



Nkiruka Arinze, MD, matched to the Vascular Surgery Fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine.



Priyanka Chugh, MD, made oral presentations at the International Pediatric Intestinal Failure and Rehabilitation Symposium, the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Annual Meeting, and the Association of VA Surgeons Annual Meeting. Dr. Chugh co-authored papers that were published in the following journals: *Surgery*, *American Journal of Surgery*, *International Journal of Case Reports*, *Journal of Laparoendoscopic & Advanced Surgical Techniques*, *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care*, and *International Journal of Surgical Education*.



Gillian Goddard, MD, made two oral presentations at the Pediatric Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction Scientific and Clinical Seminar and was first author of a paper published in the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*. Dr. Goddard also co-authored papers in *Clinical Nutrition*, *Hepatology Communications*, and *Journal of Perinatology*.



Na Eun Kim, MD, matched to the Endocrine Surgery Fellowship at UCLA Health. Dr. Kim was a co-author of six articles, including as first author of a paper in *Annals of Surgery*.



Scott Levin, MD, MS, made oral presentations at the annual meetings of the European Congress of Radiology, European Society for Vascular Surgery, the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society, the Society for Vascular Surgery, and the New England Society for Vascular Surgery, as well as the Vascular Quality Initiative Annual Meeting. Dr. Levin made three poster presentations during the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Annual Meeting. In addition, Dr. Levin co-authored a chapter in the 45th edition of *Current Vascular Surgery*, as well as 26 papers, eight as first author, in the following journals: *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, and *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*.



Brenda Lin, MD, received the Surgical Critical Care Award, presented to the junior resident who has excelled in management of critically ill surgical patients.



Michael Poulson, MD, MPH, was appointed Clinical Instructor of General Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) as well as affiliate faculty at the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research. Dr. Poulson received a master of public health degree from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and completed a primary care research fellowship through the BUSM Department of

Medicine. In addition, Dr. Poulson was appointed as resident liaison to the Legislative Committee of the American College of Surgeons and resident member of the Committee on Legislation through the Massachusetts Medical Society. Over the course of the year, Dr. Poulson published 14 papers, eight as first author, in the following journals: *Annals of Surgery*, *Journal of the National Medical Association*, *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, and *Annals of Surgical Oncology*. Based on his research, Dr. Poulson published an op-ed in the *Boston Globe* and was interviewed for an article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as well as for a piece that aired on Sirius XM radio. He continued as Research Chair for the department's Socially Responsible Surgery organization and was appointed Chief Learning Officer through Race to Better Health, where he works with Apple, Atrius Health, and other large firms to understand and address racial bias in their algorithms and care.



Allan Stolarski, MD, MS, completed his first year as a research fellow under the mentorship of Daniel Remick, MD. Dr. Stolarski was an author of five peer-reviewed articles,

three as first author. Additionally, Dr. Stolarski was invited to present two oral presentations at the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST), an oral presentation at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, and a presentation at the New England Surgical Society Resident/Fellow Research Day. Dr. Stolarski was awarded the intramural Boston Trauma Institute grant to support his team's investigation into sepsis phenotypes and sepsis-related coagulopathies. He continues in his role as Co-resident Director of SOAR (Surgical Outcomes Analysis & Research), working closely with SOAR Director **Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH**, and has been very active in mentoring medical students participating in the summer research program.

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 department who are engaged in research.

- Tony Godfrey, PhD
- Donald Hess, MD (ex officio)
- Kelly Kenzik, PhD, MS (guest faculty)
University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Marina Malikova, PhD, MSci, MA
- Gordana Rasic, MD (resident member)
- Amy Rosen, PhD
- Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH
- Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, MBA
- Allan Stolarski, MD, MS (resident member)
- Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH (ex officio)
- Christina Wee, MD, MPH (guest faculty)
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center;
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: BUMC.BU.EDU/SURGERY (SURGICAL RESEARCH).

Selected Grants

NEW

Immunobiology of Trauma

Principal Investigators: Daniel Remick, MD, and **Tony Godfrey, PhD**
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Institute of General Medical Sciences
Grant amount: \$1,293,022

Race-specific Molecular Changes in Nasal Epithelium to Assess Lung Cancer Risk

Principal Investigator: **Kei Suzuki, MD**
Sponsor: American Association for Thoracic Surgery Foundation
Grant amount: \$100,000

ONGOING

Contribution of Cellular Senescence to Delayed Wound Healing

Principal Investigator: **Daniel Roh, MD, PhD**
Sponsor: Boston Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center REC Award
Grant amount: \$54,000

Role of Senescence in the Impaired Wound Healing of Aging

Principal Investigator: **Daniel Roh, MD, PhD**
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Institute on Aging
Grant amount: \$330,000

Single Cell RNA-Sequence Analysis of Tumor-Immune Microenvironment in Stage I Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients

Principal Investigator: **Kei Suzuki, MD**
Sponsor: The Elsa U. Pardee Foundation
Grant amount: \$166,932

Community Violence Response Team

Principal Investigator: **Lisa Allee, MSW, LICSW**
Sponsor: Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance
Grant amount: \$1,494,880

Understanding the Patient-Centered Outcomes for One-stage and Two-stage Brachial Basilic Arteriovenous Fistula: A Pilot Trial

Principal Investigator: **Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, MBA**
Sponsor: American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology
Grant amount: \$25,000

Prognostic Immune Score for Stage I Lung Adenocarcinoma

Principal Investigator: **Kei Suzuki, MD**
Sponsor: CHEST Foundation
Grant amount: \$60,000

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**
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health/ National Cancer Institute
Grant amount: \$2,456,723

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: \$759,836

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 HealthTrust Innovation Grant
Grant amount: \$50,000

Selected Clinical Research Projects

There are 151 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.

Selected Clinical Trials Currently Open for Enrollment

DIVISION OF ACUTE CARE AND TRAUMA SURGERY

A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Proof-of-Concept Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Elezanumab in Acute Traumatic Cervical Spinal Cord Injury

Principal Investigator: **Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD**
Sponsor: AbbVie

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY, SECTIONS OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY AND ENDOCRINE SURGERY

Comparison of Outcomes of Antibiotic Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) Trial
BMC Site Co-Principal Investigator: **F. Thurston Drake, MD, MPH**
BMC Site Co-Principal Investigator: **Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH**
Sponsor: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

DIVISION OF VASCULAR AND ENDOVASCULAR SURGERY

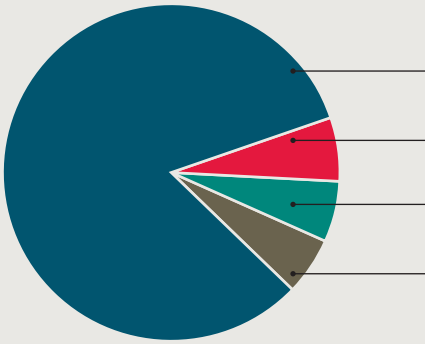
Percutaneous Deep Vein Arterialization for the Treatment of Late-Stage Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia (PROMISE II Trial)

Principal Investigator: **Alik Farber, MD, MBA**
Sponsor: LimFlow, Inc

Natural Progression of High-Risk Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia. CLariTI Study

Principal Investigator: **Alik Farber, MD, MBA**
Sponsor: LimFlow, Inc.

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY PORTFOLIO OF CLINICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS (N=151), FY 2021



- 114** | Investigator-initiated studies
- 19** | Industry-sponsored trials
- 11** | Federally sponsored studies
- 7** | Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), foundations

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, MBA**
Sponsor: NIH/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

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

Principal Investigator: **Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, MBA**
Sponsor: Smith and Nephew

A Comparative Evaluation of a Marine Polysaccharide Dressing and Carboxymethylcellulose Dressing on Subjects with Lower Extremity Venous Ulcers

Principal Investigator: **Alik Farber, MD, MBA**
Sponsor: Medline

DIVISION OF PODIATRY SURGERY

A Multi-Center, Prospective, Randomized, Controlled, Blinded Assessor Trial, Comparing the Safety and Efficacy of ActiGraft™ to Standard of Care in Patients with Chronic Neuropathic Diabetic Foot Ulcers

Principal Investigator: **Hau Pham, DPM**
Sponsor: RedDress Ltd.

SECTION OF MINIMALLY INVASIVE AND WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY

A Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Study to Assess the Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacodynamics of SYN8802 in Healthy Volunteers and in Patients with Enteric Hyperoxaluria

Principal Investigator: **Donald Hess, MD**
Principal Investigator: Madhusmita Misra, MD
Sponsor: Synlogic

SECTION OF COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

A Phase III, Randomized, Double Blind, Parallel Group, Placebo-Controlled, International, Multicentre Study to Assess Efficacy and Safety of Cx601, Adult Allogeneic Expanded Adipose-Derived Stem Cells (Easc), for the Treatment of Complex Perianal Fistula(s) in Patients with Crohn’s Disease Over a Period of 24 Weeks and a Follow-Up Period Up to 52 Weeks. ADMIRE-CD II Study

Principal Investigator: **Jason Hall, MD, MPH**
Sponsor: TiGenix

The Comparison of Surgery and Medicine on the Impact of Diverticulitis (COSMID) Trial

Principal Investigator: **Jason Hall, MD, MPH**
Sponsor: George Washington University

Publications

Research conducted by faculty and trainees of the Department of Surgery is published widely in leading journals and textbooks. During the 2020–2021 academic year, the department had more than 195 articles published in peer-reviewed journals and 12 published books or book chapters.

Selected Papers

Inadequate Adherence to Imaging Surveillance and Medical Management in Patients with Duplex Ultrasound-Detected Carotid Artery Stenosis. Boelitz K, Jirka C, Eberhardt RT, **Kalish JA, Siracuse JJ, Farber A**, Jones DW. Ann Vasc Surg. 2021.

Residential Racial Segregation and Disparities in Breast Cancer Presentation, Treatment, and Survival. **Poulson MR, Beaulieu-Jones BR, Kenzik KM, Dechert TA**, Ko NY, **Sachs TE, Cassidy MR**. Ann Surg. 2021.

The Impact of Residential Racial Segregation on Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Treatment and Outcomes. Annesi CA, **Poulson M**, Mak KS, Tapan U, **Dechert TA**, Litle VR, **Suzuki K**. Ann Thorac Surg. 2020.

A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Treatment and Natural History of Popliteal Artery Aneurysms. Beuschel B, Nayfeh T, Kunbaz A, Haddad A, Alzuabi M, Vindhyaal S, **Farber A**, Murad MH. J Vasc Surg. 2021.

The Society for Vascular Surgery Clinical Practice Guidelines on Popliteal Artery Aneurysms. **Farber A**, Angle N, Avgerinos E, Dubois L, Eslami M, Geraghty P, Haurani M, Jim J, Ketteler E, Pulli R, **Siracuse JJ**, Murad MH. J Vasc Surg. 2021.

Changes in Medical Student Perceptions of Surgery Are Sustainable Through Focused Preclinical Surgical Exposure. **Zambare WV, Dechert TA, Sanchez SE, Brahmabhatt TS**. J Surg Educ. 2021.

Cancer Stage at Presentation for Incarcerated Patients at a Single Urban Tertiary Care Center. Sunthakar KI, Griffith KN, **Talutis SD, Rosen AK, McAneny DB**, Kulke MH, **Tseng JF, Sachs TE**. PLoS One. 2020.

A Randomized Trial Comparing Antibiotics with Appendectomy for Appendicitis. Flum DR, Davidson GH, Monsell SE, Shapiro NI, Odom SR, **Sanchez SE, Drake FT**, Fischkoff K, Johnson J, Patton JH, Evans H, Cuschieri J, Sabbatini AK, Faine BA, Skeete DA, Liang MK, Sohn V, McGrane K, Kutcher ME, Chung B, Carter DW, Ayoung-Chee P, Chiang W, Rushing A, Steinberg S, Foster CS, Schaetzel

SM, Price TP, Mandell KA, Ferrigno L, Salzberg M, DeUgarte DA, Kaji AH, Moran GJ, Saltzman D, Alam HB, Park PK, Kao LS, Thompson CM, Self WH, Yu JT, Wiebusch A, Winchell RJ, Clark S, Krishnadasan A, Fannon E, Lavalley DC, Comstock BA, Bizzell B, Heagerty PJ, Kessler LG, Talan DA. N Engl J Med. 2020.

Use of a Laparoscopic Witzel Gastrostomy Without Gastropexy in Bariatric and General Surgery. **Davies J, Pernar L**, Eble D, Fernandez AZ, **Carmine B, Hess D, Carter C**. Obes Surg. 2020.

National Disparities in COVID-19 Outcomes between Black and White Americans. **Poulson M, Geary A**, Annesi C, **Allee L, Kenzik K, Sanchez S, Tseng J, Dechert T**. J Natl Med Assoc. 2021.

Undertreatment of Gallbladder Cancer: A Nationwide Analysis. **Papageorge MV, de Geus SWL, Woods AP, Ng SC, Drake FT, Cassidy MR, McAneny DB, Tseng JF, Sachs TE**. Ann Surg Oncol. 2021.

Selective Nonoperative and Delayed Management of Severe Asymptomatic Carotid Artery Stenosis. Dominguez D, **Levin SR**, Cheng TW, **Farber A**, Jones DW, Eberhardt RT, **Kalish JA**, Eslami MH, **Siracuse JJ**. Ann Vasc Surg. 2021.

Association of State Tobacco Control Policies with Active Smoking at the Time of Intervention for Intermittent Claudication. **Levin SR**, Hawkins SS, **Farber A**, Goodney PP, Osborne NH, Tan TW, Malas MB, Patel VI, **Siracuse JJ**. J Vasc Surg. 2021.

Bovine Versus Porcine Acellular Dermal Matrix for Abdominal Wall Herniorrhaphy or Bridging. **Van Orden K**, Santos J, Stanfield B, Frost LS, Ruditsky A, Foster A, **Brahmbhatt TS, Burke PA**, Fernandez-Moure J, Haines K, Agarwal S, Kasotakis G. Eur J Trauma Emerg Surg. 2021.

Disparities in Utilization of Ambulatory Cholecystectomy: Results From Three States. **Janeway MG, Sanchez SE, Rosen AK**, Patts G, **Allee LC**, Lasser KE, **Dechert TA**. 2021.

Amplifying Inequity: The Compounding Impact of COVID-19 and Violence. **Neufeld MY, Poulson M, Stolarski AE, Dunnington C, Burke PA, Allee L**. J Natl Med Assoc. 2021.

Volume of Pancreas-Adjacent Operations Favorably Influences Pancreaticoduodenectomy Outcomes at Lower Volume Pancreas Centers. **de Geus SWL**, Hachey KJ, **Nudel JD, Ng SC, McAneny DB, Davies JD, Tseng JF, Sachs TE**. Ann Surg. 2020.

The Impact of Racial Residential Segregation on Colorectal Cancer Outcomes and Treatment. **Poulson M**, Cornell E, **Madiedo A, Kenzik K, Allee L, Dechert T, Hall J**. Ann Surg. 2021.

Impact of Fellow Compared to Resident Assistance on Outcomes of Minimally Invasive Surgery. **Aly S, de Geus SWL, Carter CO, Sachs TE, Hess DT, Tseng JF, Pernar LIM**. Surg Endosc. 2021.

A Structured Mentorship Elective Deepens Personal Connections and Increases Scholarly Achievements of Senior Surgery Residents. **Schultz KS, Hess DT, Sachs TE, Tseng JF, Pernar LIM**. J Surg Educ. 2021.

Is Preoperative Consultation the Right Time for Advance Care Planning? **Sacks OA, Sachs TE**. JAMA Surg. 2021.

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials: Developing Best Practices Based on Lessons Learned for Risk and Change Management. **Marina Malikova**. International Journal of Clinical Trials. 2021.

I Text for I COUGH: A Clinical Pilot Study to Evaluate the Impact of Text Messaging upon Postoperative Ambulation in the Hospital. Ghio M, Vallès K, **Aly S**, Simpson JT, Guidry C, **Rosenkranz P, McAneny D**. Am J Surg. 2021.

The Role of Racial Segregation in Treatment and Outcomes Among Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma. **Poulson MR, Blanco BA, Geary AD, Kenzik KM, McAneny DB, Tseng JF, Sachs TE**. HPB (Oxford). 2021.



Boston Depends on BMC

In these unprecedented times, we are more grateful than ever for your support. Just as we have for more than 150 years, at Boston Medical Center and in the Department of Surgery, we carry out our mission of caring for our community’s most vulnerable residents with compassion and conviction. We are resilient and driven by an unstoppable commitment to be here for those in need.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have given to support the department and Boston Medical Center.

Please consider 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 ensure your gift is directed to us.

For more information about supporting the Department of Surgery, contact the Boston Medical Center Development Office at 617-383-8990 or **development.bmc.org**.



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 alumni events. We will use this information only for items of interest 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.

And be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram [@BMCSurgery](#).

**Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center
Department of Surgery**

72 East Concord Street, Collamore-C500
Boston, MA 02118


Phone: 617.638.8609

E-mail: surgery@bu.edu

Website: bumc.bu.edu/surgery

Connect with us:

 Twitter: [@BMCSurgery](https://twitter.com/BMCSurgery)

 Instagram: [@BMCSurgery](https://www.instagram.com/BMCSurgery)

 Facebook: [@BostonMedicalCenter](https://www.facebook.com/BostonMedicalCenter)



Boston University School of Medicine