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Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL TEACHING HOSPITAL

News from the Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner Department of Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

INSIDE SURGERY

OWNING QUESTIONS FINDING ANSWERS

Improving Health through Research

page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chair

As we emerge from the pandemic with hope of returning to the life we once knew, we remember those who lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who struggle to regain a sense of balance and community. All of us continue to bear witness to the fragility of our global community and the transience of health and well-being.

As a society, we have long embraced the critical importance of fostering the generation of knowledge to make a difference in every facet of our lives. One truly remarkable aspect of the past 18 months was our capacity to mobilize every available resource from the worlds of science, public policy, and public health to "work the problem." This effort catalyzed new fields of therapeutics of unprecedented efficacy and novel approaches to evaluating and translating discoveries.

The generation of knowledge through research has been a cornerstone of our department since its founding. As you will read in our cover story, virtually all of our faculty and trainees conduct research that is transforming our understanding and treatment of challenging diseases, enhancing surgical training, and revealing and finding solutions to address disparities in surgical care.

We believe that for research to thrive and bear fruit, it requires an optimal milieu. We understand that innovation and discovery do not occur in isolation but rather at the interface of disciplines, where diverse viewpoints interact, problems are examined from multiple perspectives, and ideas germinate into new solutions to intractable clinical problems. Thus, we continually strive to foster innovation by providing an environment that nurtures intellectual diversity, embraces individual freedom and flexibility, and promotes spontaneity and originality. By embracing these values, we are able to further our mission to develop more effective approaches to promote health and well-being, prevent illness, and treat or cure disease.

The author and aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote, "As for the future, your task is not to foresee it, but to enable it." By questioning the status quo, innovating, and collaborating, the women and men of the Department of Surgery work together to enable an equitable future where each and every one of us will be graced with better, healthier lives.

Elliot Chaikof

Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

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The mission of the Department of Surgery:

- Provide care of the very highest quality
- Improve health through innovation and discovery
- Prepare future leaders in American surgery
- Serve our communities with sensitivity and compassion

Surgery Chair
Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD

Editor/Writer
Hilary Bennett

Photography
Danielle Duffey/BIDMC
James Dwyer/BIDMC

Please forward comments, news items, and requests to be added to or removed from the mailing list to: Editor, *Inside Surgery*, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Department of Surgery, LMOB-9C, 110 Francis St., Boston, MA 02215.

E-mail: surgerycommunications@bidmc.harvard.edu

Tel: 617-632-9581

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Cover photo: Susan Hagen, PhD, Associate Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Surgery and Director of the BIDMC Microscopy and Histopathology Cores. Dr. Hagen's research focuses on the development of gastric cancer, one of the leading causes of cancer deaths worldwide.

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Beth Israel Lahey Health

Owning Questions. Finding Answers.

Improving Health through Research

Lymphedema is an incurable, painful, and potentially life-threatening condition that affects 1.2 million patients in the United States, most of whom have undergone surgery for breast cancer, which often requires the removal of lymph nodes.

To plastic surgeon **Dhruv Singhal, MD**, Director of Lymphatic Surgery at BIDMC, this state of affairs is simply unacceptable. So, when he is not providing the latest treatments for patients with or at high risk of lymphedema, he is engaged in research focused on improving their care and, ideally, preventing the condition entirely.

"One of the biggest challenges we face in treating lymphedema is that the current understanding of the lymphatic system is limited, and we also have no way to accurately measure its function," says Dr. Singhal, who is also Co-director of the Boston Lymphatic Center.

Thanks to Dr. Singhal's ongoing research, that will likely change. Earlier this year, Dr. Singhal received an R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund his research project that seeks to define the anatomy of an alternate pathway involved in lymphatic drainage from the arm (see page 16). He and his team will map its variations in both healthy women and those who have undergone breast cancer treatment that puts them at high risk for lymphedema.

With this information, surgeons could predict which variations predispose breast cancer patients to develop lymphedema. Dr. Singhal then plans to develop a novel method of noninvasive intraoperative optical imaging to assess the function of this pathway during surgery. "This would enable us to predict a patient's risk of developing lymphedema and, if warranted, implement preventive interventions," says Dr. Singhal.

Unsolved problems an inspiration

For surgeon-scientists like Dr. Singhal, as well as non-clinical researchers in the Department of Surgery, the inspiration for their research—the question they "own"—often arises from unsolved problems in the clinic, which fuels their passion to find answers that will improve patients' lives.

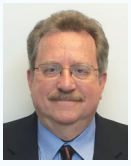
That is certainly the case for **Richard D. Cummings, PhD**, whose laboratory research led to a new, FDA-approved treatment that significantly reduces the frequency of vaso-occlusive crises—

Dhruv Singhal, MD (left), conducts NIH-funded research aimed at predicting and preventing lymphedema.

an intensely painful and potentially life-threatening condition—in patients with sickle cell disease.

It is also true for surgical oncologist **A. James Moser, MD**, who is collaborating with researchers nationwide to identify biomarkers for the diagnosis and targeted treatment of pancreatic cancer (see page 24), and **Christiane Ferran, MD, PhD**, whose Harvard Medical School-funded research may lead to a novel treatment for type 1 diabetes that does not require insulin.

Surgery Research Leadership



Richard D. Cummings, PhD
Vice Chair, Basic and Translational Research

Susan Hagen, PhD
Associate Vice Chair, Research

Benjamin James, MD, MS
Director, Resident Research

James Rodrigue, PhD
Vice Chair, Clinical Research

Continued on page 4 >

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And it is likewise the case for the scores of other surgeon-scientists and laboratory investigators—as well as the trainees they mentor—in the Department of Surgery, whose research is inspired by unsolved problems and the patients it may someday benefit.

A cornerstone of the department

Research has been a cornerstone of the Department of Surgery since its founding more than 150 years ago. Today, all divisions and nearly all faculty members participate in translational or clinical research programs, receiving funding from multiple sources. Many of these programs include undergraduates, medical students, and residents pursuing research electives and fellowships, as well as postdoctoral fellows. Additionally, numerous research nurses, clinical coordinators, and biostatisticians support these research efforts, which take place in 25,000 square feet of space across the BIDMC campus.

The types of research in which the department is engaged are diverse and span the entire spectrum from bench to bedside. For example, investigators conduct laboratory-based research to define the molecular basis of disease; develop novel surgical approaches, tools, and devices; and evaluate the effectiveness of competing interventions. They also carry out studies of large communities that shed light on disparities in the delivery of surgical care or access to treatment for society's most vulnerable citizens. In addition, investigators conduct research to determine the best ways to train surgeons to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Interdisciplinary Research

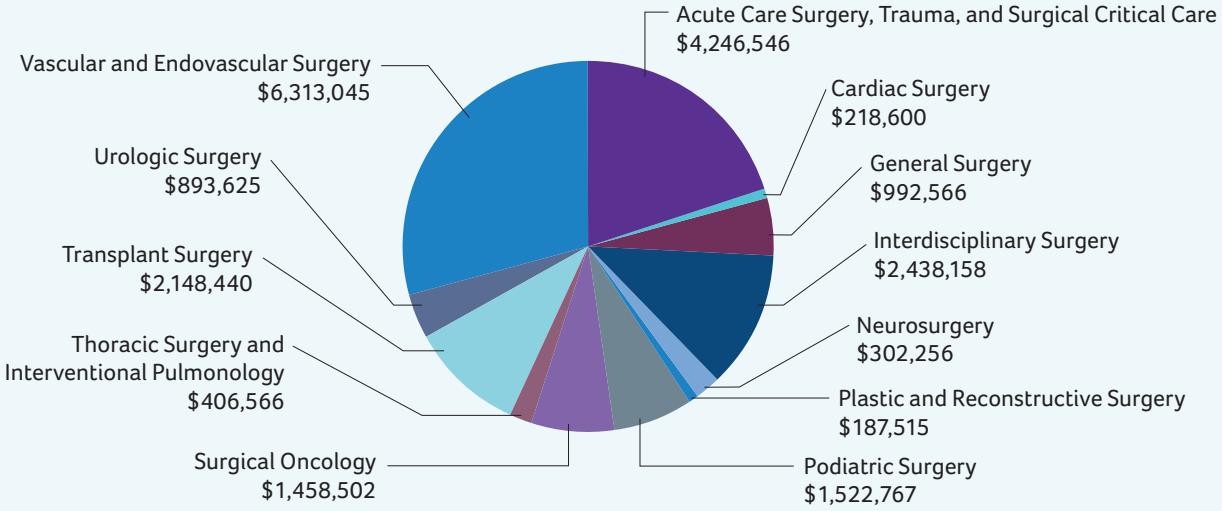
Research is conducted in all of our clinical divisions as well as our interdisciplinary research programs, which foster collaborations among investigators throughout Boston, the nation, and the world, in both academia and the life sciences and medical technology industries.

- Center for Drug Discovery and Translational Research; Director: **Lijun Sun, PhD**
- Center for the Study of Nutrition Medicine; Directors: **Richard D. Cummings, PhD, Jin-Rong Zhou, PhD**
- Harvard Medical School Center for Glycoscience; Director: **Richard D. Cummings, PhD**
- Rongxiang Xu, MD Center for Regenerative Therapeutics; Director: **Aristidis Veves, MD, DSc**

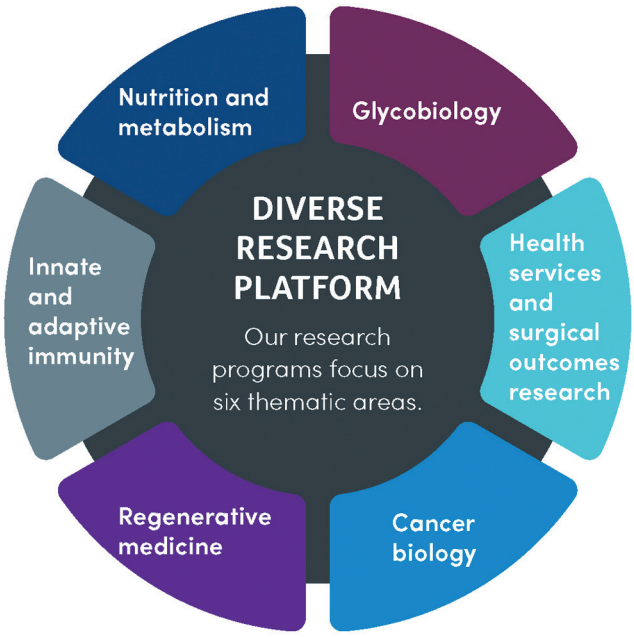
580+ Scholarly Articles

Members of the Department of Surgery disseminate their findings internationally by publishing, on average, 580+ peer-reviewed scholarly articles a year, as well as numerous chapters and textbooks in the fields of surgery and biomedical sciences. Many faculty also serve as editors or reviewers for high-impact scholarly journals such as *JAMA*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Science*, and *Nature*.

Research Grants by Division*



Fiscal year 2020 (October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020); includes research training grants



Through the department's Center for Drug Discovery and Translational Research—one of several interdisciplinary research programs—research teams are designing new molecular and biologic agents to treat patients with cancer and other serious conditions. Researchers in the department are also investigating novel applications of machine learning and recent innovations in the field of data science.

Innovative programs support research

To support faculty and trainees in these and all research endeavors, the Department of Surgery has introduced a number of innovative programs over the past 10 years.

One, which was recently described in the journal *Academic Medicine*, is the Surgical Program in Innovation (SPIN). SPIN is a six-month workshop-based curriculum to teach surgical trainees the basics of the innovation process, focusing on problem identification, product design, prototype fabrication, and initial steps in the commercialization process. Taught by medical, engineering, and medical technology industry faculty, participants collaborate in teams to develop a novel device, fabricate a prototype, and pitch their product to a panel of judges.

Another is the Clinical Scholarship Program, which pairs all first-year categorical general surgery residents with a faculty research mentor, who guides the residents throughout the year as they acquire the skills to develop and implement a clinical research project. In 2020, Harvard Medical School recognized the Clinical Scholarship Program with its annual Program Award for a Culture of Excellence in Mentoring. Nearly all Surgery residents pursue a two- or three-year research fellowship as part of their surgical training.

Still, another is the FIRST (Facilitating Innovative Research and Surgical Trials) Program, which provides faculty and trainees with comprehensive clinical research support from staff with extensive experience in all facets of clinical research. The FIRST Program also hosts research-focused seminars throughout the academic year.

Research training grants

The department is the recipient of numerous research training grants from the NIH. These include its longstanding T32 training grant in vascular surgery research and a T35 grant supporting summer research opportunities for medical students. In addition, the department was awarded two Mentored Clinical Scientist awards from the NIH to assist clinical fellows with their transition to becoming independent research investigators.

The department's research has an international impact, reaching and influencing investigators worldwide through the publication each year of hundreds of scholarly papers in high-impact, peer-reviewed scientific journals (see page 4) and the faculty's leadership in influential surgical and scientific organizations. But its most significant impact—today and in the future—is in the lives of patients.

$21M+ in Research Funding

The Department of Surgery's total research funding from all sources, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), exceeded $21 million in fiscal year (FY) 2020.

In addition to federal grants from the NIH, the Department of Defense, the Health Resources and Service Administration, and other federal agencies, our investigators receive funding from Harvard Medical School, foundations, industry, and generous donors.

For a comprehensive look at the Department of Surgery's research, please see our annual Surgery Research Reports via the home page of our website. To request a print copy of the latest (FY 2020) Surgery Research Report, please email us at: **surgerycommunications@bidmc.harvard.edu**.

A Point of Pride

Department Fosters an Inclusive Culture

When resident **Daniel Cloonan, MD**, was in his final year of medical school at the University of Nebraska, he had little doubt about which surgical residency program would be his top choice. **Jordan Broekhuis, MD**, his partner since medical school, was a first-year resident in the BIDMC General Surgery Residency Program and spoke highly not only about his training but also the inclusive culture for all residents, including LGBTQ+ individuals.

"I knew from Jordan and the residents I met through him that I would also feel welcome, safe, and valued in the BIDMC program," says Dr. Cloonan, a PGY3 who is now in the first year of his research elective at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The other programs Dr. Cloonan interviewed with had no representation from the queer community, while it was clear during his interviews at BIDMC that being openly gay was not only accepted but also celebrated. Having witnessed and experienced mistreatment and derogation throughout his education, Dr. Cloonan finds it a relief to work in an environment where he can be fully himself with fellow trainees and faculty members without fear of negative consequences.

As a white man, Dr. Cloonan acknowledges that he has it easier than others in the queer community, including women, people of color, and transgender individuals. Still, he believes that the department's inclusive culture benefits everyone in its training programs, likening it to "a rising tide that raises all boats."

Dr. Broekhuis, a PGY4 who is now in the first year of his research elective at BIDMC, is equally positive about his experiences as an applicant and resident. When he was interviewing in 2017, he attended a department-sponsored dinner where **Christopher Digesu, MD**, a general surgery residency alumnus who is now a cardiothoracic surgery fellow at BIDMC, was in attendance with his then partner. "The clear LGBTQ+ visibility at this recruitment event spoke volumes about the training program," says Dr. Broekhuis. "I got the sense—since fully justified—that these are my people and that they would support me."

The new "Progress Pride" flag was hoisted at the Massachusetts State House in Boston in June 2020. The flag is explicitly inclusive of transgender people and people of color.

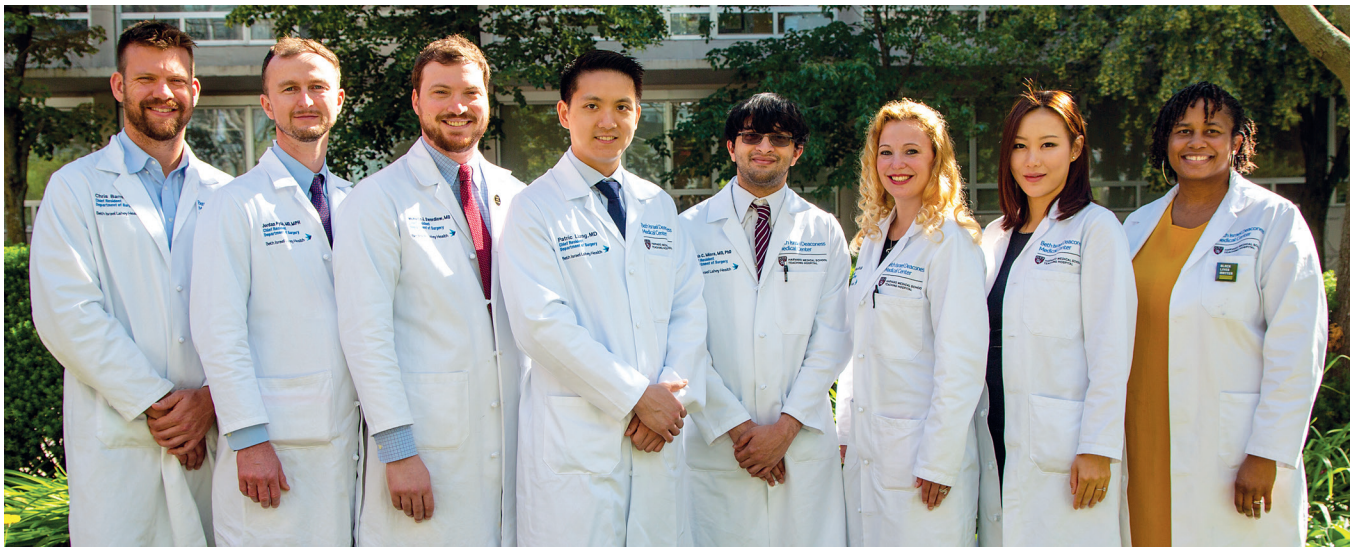
Dr. Digesu, who serves on the Surgery DEI Committee, agrees that being open about who you are is vital to thriving during the rigors of surgical training. "It is important to feel comfortable talking about your life with colleagues with whom you spend so much time over many years, sometimes in stressful circumstances," he says.

All three doctors applaud the department's multi-faceted, ongoing efforts to achieve greater diversity, equity, and inclusion, and believe it is making significant progress, as evidenced by the award it recently received from Harvard Medical School (see page 14). While they acknowledge there is still work to be done, they agree that the department's longtime commitment to DEI makes it easier to identify and address areas for improvement.

"Our [general surgery] program director Dr. [Tara] Kent, Dr. Chaikof, and the other leaders the department have always made it clear that they value the whole person, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, or background," says Dr. Broekhuis. "They see applicants and trainees as individuals who have unique backgrounds and strengths, and strive to help them become the best possible surgeons they can be."

→ **To learn more about the Department of Surgery Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, visit our website: bidmc.org/surgery.**

Congratulations to Our 2021 Graduates



Recent graduates of the General Surgery and Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency Programs (from left): Christopher Barrett, MD, Jordan Pyda, MD, MPH, Nicholas Swerdlow, MD, Patric Liang, MD (Integrated Vascular Surgery), Asish Misra, MD, PhD, Kortney Robinson, MD, MPH, Borami Shin, MD, and Charity Glass, MD, MPP. Not pictured is Shen Li, MD.

RESIDENTS

General Surgery

Christopher Barrett, MD
Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Boston Medical Center

Charity Glass, MD, MPP*
Fellowship: Breast Surgical Oncology

Shen Li, MD*
Fellowship: Surgical Oncology, University of Chicago

Asish Misra, MD, PhD
Fellowship: Transplant Surgery, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Jordan Pyda, MD, MPH
Fellowship: Transplant Surgery, The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Kortney Robinson, MD, MPH
Fellowship: Cardiothoracic Surgery, Baylor Scott & White Dallas-Fort Worth

Borami Shin, MD
Fellowship: Cardiothoracic Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Nicholas Swerdlow, MD
Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Integrated Vascular Surgery

Patric Liang, MD

Podiatric Surgery

Casey Lewis, DPM
John Martucci, DPM

** Graduating Fall 2021*

FELLOWS

Acute Care Surgery

Stephanie Maroney, MD

Advanced GI and Minimally Invasive Surgery

Keitaro Nakamoto, MD

Breast Surgical Oncology

Stephanie Serres, MD, PhD

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Ammara Abbasi Watkins, MD, MPH

Colon and Rectal Surgery

Jeremy Dressler, MD

Endovascular and Operative Neurovascular Surgery

Dominic Harris, MD

Hand/Upper Extremity Surgery

Rikesh Gandhi, MD
Swapnil Kachare, MD
Brian Schurko, MD

Interventional Pulmonology

Hyun Kim, MD
Anastasiia Rudkovskaia, MD
Faisal Shaikh, MD
Sandeep Somalaraju, MD

Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy

Anjan Devaraj, MD
Shahzad Khan, MD
Keren Mendez-Ramirez, MD
Sidra Raoof, MD

Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery

Da David Jiang, MD

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery

Ashley Nadia Boustany, MD

Microsurgery

Amy Maselli, MD

Surgical Critical Care

Eran Brauner, MD

Vascular Surgery

Melinda Schaller, MD

Selected Publications

Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care

Ledderose C, Bromberger S, *Slubowski CJ, Sueyoshi K*, **Junger WG**. Frontline Science: P2Y11 receptors support T cell activation by directing mitochondrial trafficking to the immune synapse. J Leukoc Biol 2021;109(3):497-508.

Narula N, *Tsikis S, Jinadasa SP*, **Parsons CS, Cook CH**, Butt B, **Odom SR**. The effect of anticoagulation and antiplatelet use in trauma patients on mortality and length of stay. Am Surg 2021; in press.

Siracusa R, Schaufler A, Calabrese V, Fuller PM, **Otterbein LE**. Carbon monoxide: From poison to clinical trials. Trends Pharmacol Sci 2021;Mar 26:S0165-6147(21)00041-9.

Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery

Abdalla M, **Jones DB**. Weight loss following Roux-en-Y gastric bypass causally implicated with serum levels of IL-22: A Mendelian randomization and phenome-wide association study. Obesity 2021;29(3):610-5.

Jones DB, *Abu-Nuwar MRA*, Ku CM, Berk LS, Trainor LS, Jones SB. Less pain and earlier discharge after implementation of a multidisciplinary enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) protocol for laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy. Surg Endosc 2020;34(12):5574-82.

Cardiac Surgery

Vervoort D, Premkumar A, Ghandour H, **Kpodonu J**. Health system needs to establish cardiac surgery centers. Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2021; in press.

Colon and Rectal Surgery

Kulaylat AN, Kulaylat AS, Schaefer EW, Mirkin K, Tinsley A, Williams E, Koltun WA, Hollenbeak CS, **Messaris E**. The impact of preoperative anti-TNFα therapy on postoperative outcomes following ileocolectomy in Crohn's disease. J Gastrointest Surg 2021;25(2):467-74.

Storino A, Wong D, Ore AS, Gaytan-Fuentes IA, **Fabrizio A, Cataldo T, Messaris E**. Recurrence and survival of neuroendocrine neoplasms of the rectum: Single-center experience. J Gastrointest Surg 2020; in press.

Neurosurgery

Cavalcanti DD, Nelson PK, Raz E, Shapiro M, Nossek E, Tanweer O, Riina HA; Endovascular Neurosurgery Research Group (ENRG) including **Ogilvy CS** and **Thomas AJ**. Endovascular treatment of aneurysms using flow-diversion embolization: 2-dimensional operative video. Oper Neurosurg 2021;20(4):E284-5.

Gomez-Paz S, Akamatsu Y, Salem MM, Enriquez-Marulanda A, Robinson TM, **Ogilvy CS, Thomas AJ, Moore JM**. Upfront middle meningeal artery embolization for treatment of chronic subdural hematomas in patients with or without midline shift. Interv Neuroradiol 2020;Dec 29:1591019920982816.

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Maragkos GA, Filippidis AS, Chilamkurthy S, *Salem MM*, Tanamala S, *Gomez-Paz S*, Rao P, **Moore JM, Papavassiliou E**, Hackney D, **Thomas AJ**. Automated lateral ventricular and cranial vault volume measurements in 13,851 subjects utilizing deep learning algorithms. World Neurosurg 2021;148:e363-73.

Salem MM, Maragkos GA, Gomez-Paz S, Ascanio LC, Ngo LH, **Ogilvy CS, Thomas AJ, Moore JM**. Trends of ruptured and unruptured aneurysms treatment in the United States in Post-ISAT era: A national inpatient sample analysis. J Am Heart Assoc 2021;10(4):e016998.

Stippler M, Keith S, *Nelton EB*, Parsons CS, Singleton J, Bilello LA, Tibbles CD, Davis RB, Edlow JA, Rosen CL. Pathway-based reduction of repeat head computed tomography for patients with complicated mild traumatic brain injury: Implementation and outcomes. Neurosurgery 2021;88(4):773-8.

Ophthalmology

Arroyo JG, Seto B, Yamada K, Zeng K, Minturn R, Lemire CA. Rapid reduction of macular edema due to retinal vein occlusion with low-dose normobaric hyperoxia. Graefes Arch Clin Exp Ophthalmol 2021; in press.

North VS, Reshef ER, Lee NG, Lefebvre DR, Freitag SK, **Yoon MK**. Lower eyelid malposition following repair of complex orbitofacial trauma. Orbit 2020;22:1-6.

Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery

Gomez ED, Ceremsak JJ, Leibowitz A, **Jalisi S**. A novel cough simulation device for education of risk mitigation techniques during aerosol-generating medical procedures. Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg 2021; in press.

Naples JG, Castellanos I, Moberly AC. Considerations for integrating cognitive testing into adult cochlear implant evaluations: Foundations for the future. JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg 2021; in press.

Rubin SJ, Wu KY, Kirke DN, Ezzat WH, Truong MT, Salama AR, **Jalisi S**. Head and neck cancer complications in the geriatric population based on hospital case volume. Ear Nose Throat J 2021;100(2):NP62-68.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

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Del Valle DD, Pardo JA, Maselli AM, Valero MG, Fan B, Seyidova N, James TA, **Lee BT**. Evaluation of online Spanish and English health materials for preventive mastectomy. Are we providing adequate information? Breast Cancer Res Treat 2021; in press.

Granoff MD, Pardo J, **Singhal D**. Power-assisted liposuction: An important tool in the surgical management of lymphedema patients. Lymphat Res Biol 2021;19(1):20-2.

Johnson AR, Fleishman A, *Granoff MD*, Shillue K, Houlihan MJ, Sharma R, Kansal KJ, Teller P, James TA, **Lee BT, Singhal D**. Evaluating the impact of immediate lymphatic reconstruction for the surgical prevention of lymphedema. Plast Reconstr Surg 2021;147(3):373e-81e.

Kim G, *Johnson AR*, Hamaguchi R, Adondakis M, Tsai LL, **Singhal D**. Breast cancer-related lymphedema: Magnetic resonance imaging evidence of sparing centered along the cephalic vein. J Reconstr Microsurg 2021; in press.

Faculty names are in bold within their primary division or center; trainee names are in italics.

Marks H, Bucknow A, Roussakis E, Nowell N, Kamali P, Cascales JP, Kazei D, **Lin SJ***, Evans CL*. A paintable phosphorescent bandage for postoperative tissue oxygen assessment in DIEP flap reconstruction. Sci Adv 2020;6:eabd1061. (*co-corresponding authors)

Podiatric Surgery

Matoori S, **Veves A**, Mooney DJ. Advanced bandages for diabetic wound healing. Sci Transl Med 2021;13(585):eabe4839.

Smith A, Watkins T, **Theocharidis G**, Lang I, Leschinsky M, Maione A, Kashpur O, Raimondo T, Rahmani S, Baskin J, Mooney D, **Veves A**, Garlick J. A novel three-dimensional skin disease model to assess macrophage function in diabetes. Tissue Eng Part C Methods 2021;27(2):49-58.

Surgical Education

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Chung JJ, Qiu JM, **Chaikof EL, Naples JG**. Multidisciplinary care initiative: A paradigm shift in the pre-clinical curriculum. Med Educ 2021; in press.

Polanco-Santana JC, Storino A, Souza-Mota L, **Gangadharan SP, Kent TS**. Ethnic/racial bias in medical school performance evaluation of general surgery residency applicants. J Surg Educ 2021;Feb 23:S1931-7204(21)00048-9.

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Surgical Oncology

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Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology

Kheir F, Thakore SR, *Uribe Becerra JP*, Tahboub M, Kamat R, *Abdelghani R*, Fernandez-Bussy S, Kaphle UR, **Majid A**. Cone-beam computed tomography-guided electromagnetic navigation for peripheral lung nodules. Respiration 2021;100(1):44-51.

Marin-Corral J, Pascual-Guardia S, Amati F, Aliberti S, Masclans JR, Soni N, Rodriguez A, Sibila O, Sanz F, Sotgiu G, Anzueto A, Dimakou K, Petrino R, van de Garde E, Restrepo MI; GLIMP investigators including **Kheir F**. Aspiration risk factors, microbiology, and empiric antibiotics for patients hospitalized with community-acquired pneumonia. Chest 2021;159(1):58-72.

Transplant Surgery

Torres X, Menjivar A, Baillès E, Rangil T, Delgado I, Musquera M, Paredes D, Martínez M, Avinyó N, Vallés C, Cañas L, Lorenzo D, Vila-Santandreu A, Ojeda R, Arcos E, De Sousa-Amorim E, Fernández A, **Rodrigue JR**. The Spanish version of the fear of kidney failure questionnaire: Validity, reliability, and characterization of living donors with the highest fear of kidney failure. Transplant Direct 2021;7(2):e655.

Urologic Surgery

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The Department of Surgery congratulates the following faculty members on their recent Harvard Medical School promotions or appointments.

PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Ryan P. Cauley, MD, MPH

Dr. Cauley, who joined the faculty in 2020, is a member of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He is board certified in both plastic and reconstructive surgery and surgical critical care.

Dr. Cauley received his medical degree from Weill Cornell Medicine, graduating Alpha Omega Alpha, and completed his plastic surgery residency in the Harvard Combined Plastic Surgery Residency Program. He later pursued clinical fellowships in acute burn surgery and reconstruction at Massachusetts General Hospital, surgical critical care at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and microsurgery at BIDMC. Dr. Cauley also earned a master of public health degree from Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Cauley's clinical focus is complex reconstructive surgery of the head and neck, breast, thorax, and lower extremity; the treatment of facial trauma; wound and burn management; and gender-affirmation surgery. In addition, he is a key member of the new BIDMC Multidisciplinary Wound Care Clinic.

Dr. Cauley's research interests encompass health services, wound and burn surgery, microsurgical outcomes, and the optimization of surgical care in patients at high risk of wound complications. He also conducts research of patient-reported outcome measures in the assessment of surgical efficacy and cost effectiveness. Dr. Cauley's scholarship is reflected in 27 peer-reviewed publications, and he serves as a reviewer for the *Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery*.

APPOINTED AS: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Kristen T. Crowell, MD

Dr. Crowell joined the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery in 2020, following the completion of a clinical fellowship in colorectal surgery at Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Dr. Crowell's clinical focus is colorectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Dr. Crowell earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch and completed her residency in general surgery at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. During her residency, Dr. Crowell spent two years conducting research in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Physiology at Penn State, where she investigated sepsis in the murine model. In addition, Dr. Crowell has led multiple clinical studies, including an investigation of the compliance and efficacy of *C. difficile* infection treatment guidelines. Her findings have been published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at national meetings.

Dr. Crowell's scholarship is reflected in 23 publications, including 16 peer-reviewed papers, and she has co-authored six book chapters. A committed educator, Dr. Crowell wrote an educational module on colostomy and colostomy closure for the Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE) curriculum that is used nationally by surgery residents studying for exams. Dr. Crowell is also an active member of several national professional societies.

PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Arriyan Samandar (Sammy) Dowlatshahi, MD

Dr. Dowlatshahi is a plastic surgeon with added qualification in hand surgery. He joined BIDMC in 2017 and holds a dual appointment in the Department of Surgery (Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery) and the Department of Orthopedic Surgery (Division of Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery).

Dr. Dowlatshahi received his medical degree from Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, Germany. He completed an integrated plastic surgery residency at the University of Massachusetts, and a fellowship in hand and microsurgery at BIDMC.

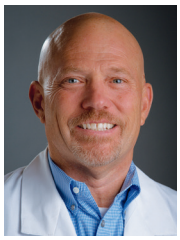
Dr. Dowlatshahi's clinical expertise is in hand surgery and complex reconstructive surgery and microsurgery with a focus on orthoplastic surgery, which combines principles from plastic surgery and orthopedic surgery to treat difficult musculoskeletal conditions involving bone, nerve,

vasculature, and soft tissue. Dr. Dowlatshahi is Director of the BIDMC Orthoplastic and Reconstructive Microsurgery Program.

Among other accomplishments, Dr. Dowlatshahi has increased the volume and sophistication of microsurgical reconstructions at BIDMC, including using a technique known as super-microsurgery, which involves operating on vessels and nerves with a diameter of 0.7 mm or smaller.

Dr. Dowlatshahi's scholarship is reflected in 19 publications, and he has authored or co-authored five book chapters. He is a core faculty member of the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program, the BIDMC Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Residency Program, the BIDMC Hand Surgery Fellowship, and the BIDMC Microsurgery Fellowship. He also serves as BID-Milton Site Director for BIDMC's Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Residency Program.

APPOINTED AS: PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



Devin Eckhoff, MD

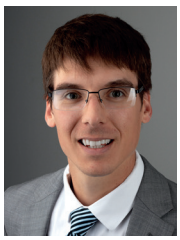
Dr. Eckhoff is Chief of Transplant Surgery and Director of the Transplant Institute at BIDMC. Dr. Eckhoff was recruited to BIDMC in 2020 from the University of Alabama (UAB) at Birmingham, where he was Professor of Surgery and held the Arnold G. Diethelm Endowed Chair in Transplantation Surgery. Among many other leadership roles at UAB, Dr. Eckhoff was Director of the Division of Transplantation for 17 years.

Dr. Eckhoff received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota, graduating Alpha Omega Alpha. Following the completion of his residency in general surgery at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Eckhoff pursued a research fellowship in transplantation and subsequently a clinical/research fellowship in transplant surgery, also at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Eckhoff's major research interests have been focused on xenotransplantation and expanding the supply of organs for transplantation. His work has investigated transplanting genetically modified kidneys from pigs to humans, thereby expanding the supply of organs for transplantation. Dr. Eckhoff's research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and industry, and is reflected in more than 150 published peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters.

A Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, and the American Society of Transplantation, Dr. Eckhoff is frequently invited to speak nationally and internationally, and serves on the Council of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons.

PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY



James Naples, MD

Dr. Naples, a neurotologist who specializes in disorders of the ear and skull base, joined the Division of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery in 2019.

Dr. Naples earned his medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, completed his residency in otolaryngology at the University of Connecticut, and pursued a fellowship in otology/neurotology (ear diseases) at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Naples's clinical interests include hearing loss and cochlear implants, skull base surgery, acoustic neuroma, and Meniere's disease. He established a novel "Dizzy Clinic" at BIDMC that integrates many of the services needed to manage patients with complex dizziness/vertigo.

Dr. Naples has diverse research interests that include hearing loss due to cisplatin-induced ototoxicity and the history of medicine. He currently serves on the History and Archives Committee of the American Academy of Otolaryngology, and his research efforts are reflected in 43 peer-reviewed publications.

With a longstanding interest in education, Dr. Naples serves as an Associate Program Director of the Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Residency at BIDMC/Harvard Medical School, and also serves on the Otology and Neurotology Education Committee of the American Academy of Otolaryngology.

PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Heidi Rayala, MD, PhD

Dr. Rayala is a member of the Division of Urologic Surgery who was recruited to the Department of Surgery in 2020 following ten years at Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA). At CHA, Dr. Rayala held numerous leadership positions, including Chair of the Cancer Committee, where she led many quality-improvement projects focused on improving cancer care for the underserved.

Dr. Rayala's clinical interests include prostate cancer, bladder cancer, kidney stone disease, erectile dysfunction, recurrent urinary tract infections, benign prostatic hypertrophy, and male and female urinary incontinence.

Dr. Rayala received her medical and doctoral degrees from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. She completed an internship in surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a residency in urologic surgery at the Harvard Program in Urology (Longwood Area), and a fellowship in urologic oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Rayala is dedicated to teaching and serves as the supervising attending for the resident-run Genitourinary Clinic, which provides care to underserved patients. She is also course instructor for the Harvard Medical School Practice of Medicine Introduction to the GU exam, and co-directs the Harvard Medical School Introduction to Suturing workshop. In addition, Dr. Rayala serves as a member of the Harvard Medical School Admissions Committee.

Continued on page 18 >

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Prathima Nandivada, MD, 2018

Department of Surgery, Boston Children's Hospital
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Although she trained and performed for many years as a classical vocalist, Prathima Nandivada, MD, never seriously considered a professional singing career. Instead, from a very young age her sights were always set on becoming a doctor.

After graduating from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Nandivada attended Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, fully intending to become an academic pediatrician. But she changed course following a sub-internship in vascular surgery at BIDMC, deciding to pursue a career as a surgeon-scientist in vascular surgery. "My top residency choice was BIDMC, largely because of its clinical and research strengths in vascular surgery," says Dr. Nandivada, who graduated from medical school Alpha Omega Alpha.

It was during her clinical rotation at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH), however, that Dr. Nandivada's previous dream of working with children was rekindled. It was further fueled by her three-year research elective at BCH with BIDMC alumnus **Mark Puder, MD, PhD**, a pediatric surgeon-scientist whose translational research led to a lifesaving treatment for children with liver disease resulting from long-term intravenous (parenteral) nutrition. "Dr. Puder has been an influential role model who prepared me for a career as a surgeon-scientist," says Dr. Nandivada.

After graduating from residency in 2018, Dr. Nandivada—now confident she had found the right career path—completed a two-year fellowship in pediatric surgery at BCH, where she is now an attending surgeon. "I came full circle and am now doing what I dreamed about as a child—caring for children and their families," says Dr. Nandivada.

While she provides the full range of pediatric general surgery, as a member of the Colorectal and Pelvic Malformation Center Dr. Nandivada has a particular clinical focus on the treatment of anorectal malformations. "Over the course of several operations performed during infancy, we can often reconstruct the anatomy to give these children a normal life," she says, noting that she will find great satisfaction following these patients throughout their childhood.

Dr. Nandivada continues to conduct research, aiming to divide her time equally between patient care and basic and clinical research. Her basic research, under the mentorship of Jerrold Turner, MD, PhD, of Brigham and Women's Hospital, is focusing on the biology of tight junctions in the developing gastrointestinal tract and their role in pediatric diseases such as necrotizing enterocolitis and Hirschsprung disease. She will also participate in clinical research projects through the Colorectal and Pelvic Malformation Center under the mentorship of its director, Belinda Dickie, MD, PhD.

As much as she loves patient care and research, Dr. Nandivada's favorite roles are teacher and mentor, for which she has received numerous teaching awards. She finds it rewarding to educate parents about their child's condition and to teach residents, including those from BIDMC, in the OR, clinic, or research setting.

Dr. Nandivada also enjoys being a mentor and role model to trainees who seek her advice about how to balance a career as a surgeon-scientist with parenthood. "I tell them that in addition to having a supportive partner, a supportive residency program is critically important," says Dr. Nandivada, who has a five-year-old son. "I am grateful to the BIDMC residency program not only for the excellent training I received, but also for the support of so many outstanding faculty throughout my residency and beyond."

New Faculty

For more information about our new faculty, including their clinical and research interests, practice sites, and contact information, please visit the "Find-A-Doctor" section on the BIDMC website.

ACUTE CARE SURGERY, TRAUMA, AND SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

Anupamaa (Anu) Seshadri, MD

Medical School: University of Maryland School of Medicine
Residency: General Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital
Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Trauma, and Acute Care Surgery, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Alisa Prager, MD, MPH

Medical School: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Residency: Ophthalmology, Northwestern University
Fellowship: Glaucoma, Northwestern University

Joseph (Jamie) Raevis, MD

Medical School: Georgetown University School of Medicine
Residency: Ophthalmology, State University of New York Downstate
Fellowship: Vitreoretinal, University of Wisconsin-Madison

OTOLARYNGOLOGY/ HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

Christopher Brook, MD

Medical School: Albany Medical College
Residency: Otolaryngology, Boston Medical Center
Fellowship: Rhinology and Anterior Skull Base Surgery, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Ashley Nadia Boustany, MD

Medical School: West Virginia University School of Medicine
Residency: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, University of Kentucky School of Medicine
Fellowship: Aesthetic and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

PODIATRIC SURGERY

John "JT" Marcoux, DPM

Medical School: Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine
Residency: Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Presbyterian Medical Center, UPenn Health System

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

Stephanie Serres, MD, PhD

Medical School: University of Texas Southwestern Medical School
Residency: General Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Fellowship: Breast Surgical Oncology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

THORACIC SURGERY AND INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY

Chenchen Zhang, MD, PhD

Medical School: Xiangya School of Medicine, Central South University (China)
Residency: Internal Medicine, Norwalk Hospital/Yale School of Medicine
Fellowships: Interventional Pulmonology, University of Pennsylvania; Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care, Saint Louis University Hospital

UROLOGIC SURGERY

Marissa Kent, MD

Medical School: Tufts University School of Medicine
Residency: Urology, Mount Sinai Hospital
Fellowship: Prosthetic Surgery, Reconstructive and Transgender Urology, Mount Sinai Hospital

VASCULAR AND ENDOVASCULAR SURGERY

Patric Liang, MD

Medical School: Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Residency: Vascular Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Fellowship: Harvard-Longwood Research Fellowship

NEWS BRIEFS

Harvard Medical School selected the Department of Surgery for the 2021 Harold Amos Faculty Diversity Group Award, which was established to recognize and celebrate those who have made significant achievements in moving the medical school toward being a diverse and inclusive community.

The department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, formerly chaired by **Sidhu Gangadharan, MD, MHCM**, Chief of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology, and now chaired by **Anne Fabrizio, MD**, Colon and Rectal Surgery, continues the longtime work of Department of Surgery faculty, staff, trainees, and researchers to create a diverse community that is equitable and welcoming to all. "This has always been a critically important area of focus for our community, and we are truly honored to have our achievements recognized with this award," said Surgery Chair **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**.

A virtual ceremony hosted by Harvard Medical School to acknowledge and celebrate the recipients of the 2021 Harold Amos Faculty Diversity Group Award was held in April.

Jacques Kpodonu, MD, Cardiac Surgery, was a moderator of an inaugural webinar on congenital and pediatric heart surgery in Africa. The program was sponsored by the African University for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, which promotes the development of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery in Africa via virtual lectures and educational webinars. Dr. Kpodonu presents and publishes frequently about global health disparities in cardiothoracic surgery.

Asish Misra, MD, PhD, a 2021 General Surgery Residency Program graduate who will be pursuing his fellowship in transplant surgery at Keck School of Medicine of USC, was awarded a $100,000 fellowship training grant from the OneLegacy Foundation in April. Dr. Misra's project, "Nanostructured Mass Exchanger for Hepatic Replacement Therapy," will apply his microfluidics/nanoparticle expertise toward the goal of developing a bioartificial liver. Dr. Misra will be collaborating on this project with Juliet Emamaullee, MD, PhD, an abdominal organ transplant surgeon in the Department of Surgery at Keck School of Medicine of USC. The OneLegacy Foundation supports the mission of OneLegacy, the nation's largest organ, eye, and tissue recovery organization.

Michael Yaffe, MD, PhD, Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care, was named a Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he is the David H. Koch Professor of Biology and Biological Engineering and Director of the MIT Center for Precision Cancer Medicine. Dr. Yaffe also holds an appointment in the Division of Surgical Oncology in the BIDMC Department of Surgery.

The MacVicar Faculty Fellows Program recognizes exemplary and sustained contributions to undergraduate education at MIT. The 2021 fellows join an elite group of scholars from across MIT who are committed to curricular innovation, scientific research, and improving the student experience through teaching, mentoring, and advising.

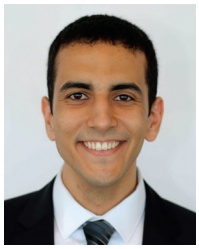
In addition, Dr. Yaffe was elected to the Association of American Physicians (AAP), an honorary medical society founded in 1885 for "the advancement of scientific and practical medicine." Election to the AAP, which is limited to 70 per year, is an honor extended to physicians with outstanding credentials in basic or translational biomedical research.

Three dozen members of the Department of Surgery were named "Top Doctors" in the January 2021 issue of *Boston Magazine*: Drs. **Jeffrey Arle, Mark Callery, David Caradonna, Thomas Cataldo, Elliot Chaikof, Peter Chang, Joseph Ciccone, Anurag Das, Lisa Ferzoco, Sidhu Gangadharan, Allen Hamdan, William Innis, Scharukh Jalisi, Ted James, Daniel Jones, Kamal Khabbaz, Ernest Kornmehl, Mark Kuperwaser, Stephen Lazarou, Bernard Lee, Samuel Lin, David Liu, Adnan Majid, Leonard Miller, Abraham Morgentaler, Donald Morris, A. James Moser, Christopher Ogilvy, Aria Olumi, Heidi Rayala, Marc Schermerhorn, Terri Silver, Sumner Slavin, Ajith Thomas, Andrew Wagner, Mark Wyers,** and **Richard Whyte.**

Seema Anandalwar, MD (top), and **Chun Li, MD, MPH**, were selected as Administrative Chief Residents of the General Surgery Residency Program for the 2021-2022 academic year. They were selected for this honor by their peers and approved by faculty because of their dedication to the residency, leadership, and commitment to the education and well-being of all residents.

The journal *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* named **Samuel Lin, MD, MBA**, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, to its "Reviewer Hall of Fame" for having reviewed between 700-799 articles for the journal since 2004. Dr. Lin serves on the journal's editorial board and is the outcomes section editor.

Each year, the Department of Surgery and the Clinton and Joseph Koufman Foundation award educational grants to four surgical nursing professionals with prominent leadership potential who also demonstrate humanism and excellence in patient care. The recipients of this year's Clinton and Joseph Koufman Foundation Awards for Excellence are: **Brianna Nadeau, BSN, RN**, perioperative services; **William Entwistle, BSN, RN**, inpatient services; **Sharon Kaden, PA-C**, Cardiac Surgery; and **Elizabeth Tillotson, RN, MSN, NP-C**, ambulatory surgical care. Runners-up are: **Alyssa Kuba, MSN, NP-BC**, and **Alec Spooner, BSN, RN,** both of inpatient services.



Residents **Sharif Sabe, MD**, and **Betty Liu, MD**, each received a 2021 Resident Research Award from the Thoracic Surgery Foundation, the charitable arm of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. The highly competitive awards provide two years of financial support for surgical trainees seeking to acquire investigational skills. Dr. Sabe's project is "The Impact of Glycemic Control on Extracellular Vesicle-Mediated Angiogenesis in a Porcine Model of Chronic Myocardial Ischemia and Metabolic Syndrome." Dr. Liu's project is "Accelerating Wound Healing of Mesothelial Injuries Using a Bio-Derived Interface with the Heart and Lungs."

Joseph Ogbonna, MPH, was promoted to Director of Quality Programs in the Department of Surgery. In this role, Mr. Ogbonna leads the planning, facilitation, and implementation of quality-improvement, patient-safety, and clinical-effectiveness projects throughout the department and its specialty divisions. After working in quality and safety management at Tufts Medical Center, Mr. Ogbonna joined the department as Senior Quality Improvement Project Manager in 2015. Mr. Ogbonna graduated cum laude from American University of Nigeria with a full-tuition, merit-based scholarship, and later earned a Master of Public Health degree from Tufts University.

Continued on page 16 >

NEWS BRIEFS

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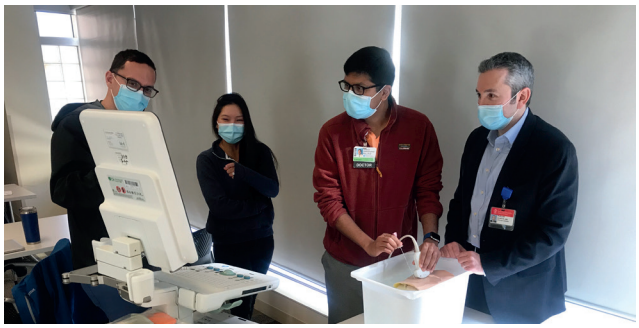
Cardiothoracic Surgery fellow (thoracic track) and General Surgery Residency Program alumnus **Christopher Digesu, MD**, was selected for the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) Leadership Academy, which this year focuses on a diversity perspective. Through an intensive, didactic, and interactive program, the AATS Leadership Academy provides participants with administrative, interpersonal, and mentoring skills needed to succeed as academic cardiothoracic surgeons.

Resident **Daniel Cloonan, MD**, was selected to serve on the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) Pipeline Taskforce. The taskforce focuses on recruiting trainees to the field of transplant surgery by establishing programming in career development, mentorship, and diversity. Dr. Cloonan also serves on the Trainee Advisory Board, which is the first and only exclusively trainee group within the ASTS. This group works to guide ASTS programming from the medical student, resident, and fellow perspective. Dr. Cloonan is completing his research elective in the Center for Transplantation Sciences at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Resident **Jordan Broekhuis, MD**, who is completing his research elective under the mentorship of **Benjamin James, MD, MS**, was selected to serve on the Association for Academic Surgery's (AAS) Membership Committee. The mission of the AAS, which has more than 4,000 members, is to inspire and develop young academic surgeons.



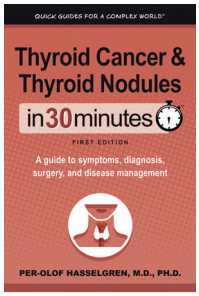
Ruslan Korets, MD (right), Urologic Surgery, was nominated for the 2021 American Urological Association (AUA) Residents and Fellows Committee Teaching Award for his dedication to teaching and outstanding professional accomplishments. "We are grateful for Dr. Korets's commitment to education and for providing an innovative learning environment for our trainees," says Urologic Surgery Chief **Aria Olumi, MD**.

Dhruv Singhal, MD, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, received an R01 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Singhal is Co-director of the Boston Lymphatic Center, a joint program between BIDMC and Boston Children's Hospital. The grant will fund Dr. Singhal's research project entitled "Mapping and Quantifying Lymphatic Drainage of the Arm's Alternate Pathway."

Employing imaging techniques, Dr. Singhal and his team will aim to define the anatomy of an alternate pathway

involved in lymphatic drainage from the arm. They will map its variations in both healthy women and those who have undergone breast cancer treatment that puts them at high risk for lymphedema but did not develop the condition.

With this information, surgeons could predict which variations predispose breast cancer patients to develop lymphedema, an incurable, painful, and potentially life-threatening condition that affects 1.2 million patients in the United States. Later, Dr. Singhal plans to develop a novel method of noninvasive intraoperative optical imaging to assess the function of this pathway during breast cancer surgery to predict a patient's risk of developing lymphedema and, if warranted, implement preventive interventions.



A book authored by **Per-Olof Hasselgren, MD, PhD**, *"Thyroid Cancer & Thyroid Nodules in 30 Minutes: A Guide to Symptoms, Diagnosis, Surgery, and Disease Management,"* was selected as a Silver Winner in the 33rd annual Benjamin Franklin Award program (health and fitness category). Published in mid-2020, Dr. Hasselgren's book is one of a series of "in 30 Minutes" guides published by i30 Media. Regarded as one of the highest national honors for independent publishers, the Benjamin Franklin Award program recognizes excellence in book editorial and design.

Resident **Carolina Torres Perez-Iglesias, MD**, was awarded the prestigious Paul Farmer Global Surgery Research Fellowship for 2021-2023 by the Harvard Program in Global Surgery and Social Change. The purpose of the fellowship is to train leaders who will further promote surgical, anesthesia, and obstetrics and gynecology care; education; research; and policy development in global surgery in resource-poor settings throughout the world. Past Paul Farmer Global Surgery Research fellows from the Department of Surgery are **Nakul Raykar, MD, MPH**, a graduate of the General Surgery Residency Program, and **Jordan Pyda, MD, MPH**, who graduated from the General Surgery Residency Program in June.

American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons®
Proven leaders. Lifelong learners. Changing lives.

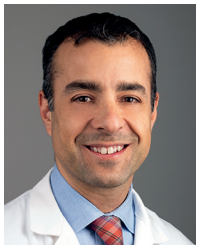
Thanh Dinh, DPM, Podiatric Surgery, was installed as President of the American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons, the specialty's leading organization. Dr. Dinh is Program Director of BIDMC's Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency Program.

The annual **Department of Surgery Research Report** is now available in print and on the department's website. The 144-page publication includes an overview of research underway within the department, a bibliography of published and in-press publications during the 2020 fiscal year, and reports from faculty across all divisions and interdisciplinary research centers. To request a print copy, contact: surgerycommunications@bidmc.harvard.edu.

RISE RESEARCH INNOVATION SCHOLARSHIP ENTREPRENEURS

Andrew Chang, an undergraduate biology student at Northeastern University, won a RISE award for his research on aromatase inhibitors and mechanisms of resistance to benign prostatic hyperplasia, which was conducted under the mentorship of **Aria Olumi, MD**, Chief of Urologic Surgery. RISE is an annual showcase for research and creative projects undertaken by Northeastern undergraduate and graduate students.

Daniel Jones, MD, Chief of Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery, was selected by the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) Foundation to receive the 2021 Andrew L. Warshaw Master Educator Award. In 2010, the SSAT Foundation established the award to recognize an outstanding surgical educator and mentor. Dr. Jones was presented with the award at the virtual SSAT and SSAT Foundation awards ceremony in May.



The National Institutes of Health awarded an R01 grant to a team of investigators from BIDMC (**Andrew Wagner, MD, Peter Chang, MD, MPH**, Urologic Surgery, and Seymour Rosen, MD, Pathology) along with a team from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (James Fujimoto, PhD, study principal investigator) to explore a new non-linear microscope (NLM) technology to assess radical prostatectomy specimen margins in real time during robotic prostatectomy. Their multidisciplinary study will first evaluate the feasibility of the NLM microscope. The team will subsequently conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate outcomes using the NLM technology. The study goals are to evaluate whether the use of NLM can improve nerve-sparing rates and cancer control during robotic prostatectomy.

Continued on page 18 >

NEWS BRIEFS

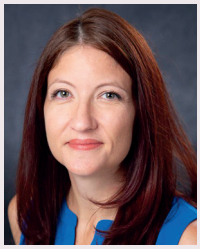
< Continued from page 17

In April, resident **Benjamin Allar, MD**, and Gezzer Ortega, MD, MPH, Brigham and Women's Hospital, had an opinion piece published in *Scientific American* entitled "Our Health System is Failing Patients with Limited English." The authors highlight disparities in care due to patient-provider language discordance and highlight avenues to improve access to medical interpretation at state and local levels.

Kathryn Kowalsky, LICSW, Division of Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care, received a certificate of appreciation from Blue Ledge Co-op, an affordable senior housing facility in Roslindale, Mass., for her commitment to supporting members of the Blue Ledge community during the past year via a weekly virtual trauma session. Among Ms. Kowalsky's achievements were helping build the culturally diverse residents' trust in the COVID-19 vaccine, leading to a very high rate of vaccination, and reducing their fears about going to the hospital for important medical appointments.

ALUMNI NEWS

Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH, a 2012 graduate of the BIDMC General Surgery Residency Program, was named Chief of Surgical Oncology at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Sachs also serves as Associate Program Director for the surgery residency at Boston Medical Center.



Kristina Giles, MD, a 2012 graduate of the BIDMC General Surgery Residency Program, was named Director of the Division of Vascular Surgery at Maine Medical Center. Prior to joining Maine Medical Center in 2020, Dr. Giles practiced for several years at the University of Florida.

Alumni, do you have news you would like to share with our readers?

We would love to hear from you!
Please send your news to:
surgerycommunications@bidmc.harvard.edu

< Continued from page 11

APPOINTED AS: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Lars Stangenberg, MD, PhD

Dr. Stangenberg is a member of the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery who was recruited to the Department of Surgery in early 2020.

Dr. Stangenberg received his MD and PhD (magna cum laude) from Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, Germany. After a research fellowship in oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), he completed his general surgery residency at MGH, followed by a clinical fellowship in vascular and endovascular surgery at BIDMC.

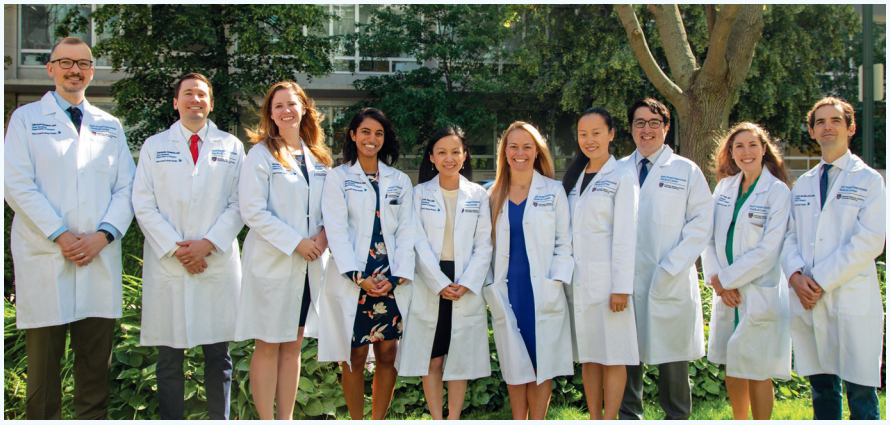
Prior to joining BIDMC, Dr. Stangenberg was an attending surgeon at a University of Basel-affiliated hospital in Liestal, Switzerland, and subsequently an attending at Rhode Island Hospital for nearly four years, where he was an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Stangenberg's clinical interests include endovascular and open repair of abdominal and thoracic aortic aneurysms, carotid artery surgery and stenting, stenting and bypass surgery for peripheral vascular disease, and thoracic outlet syndrome.

Dr. Stangenberg's primary research interest is aortic pathologies, and his scholarship is reflected in 19 peer-reviewed publications. He is a member of the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, the Society for Vascular Surgery, and the New England Society for Vascular Surgery, and is engaged in teaching trainees at all levels.

Teaching Awards

Each June, departmental teaching awards are announced at the White Coat Ceremony, where awardees are acknowledged and rising chief residents receive their white coats from graduating chief residents. We are proud to announce this year's award recipients and acknowledge our 2021-2022 chief residents.



Rising chief residents wearing their new white coats (from left): Michael Dombek, MD, Alexander Chalphin, MD, Michelle Fakler, MD, MPA, Seema Anandalwar, MD, MPH, Quynh Chu, MD, Kirsten Dansey, MD, MPH (integrated vascular surgery), Chun Li, MD, MPH, Daniel Wong, MD, MHS, Sarah Tracy, MD, and Lorenzo Anez-Bustillos, MD, MPH.

RESIDENT TEACHER AWARD
Kortney Robinson, MD, MPH
Voted by residents as the senior resident who best exemplifies teaching to other residents.

RUSSELL J. NAUTA, MD AWARD
Kortney Robinson, MD, MPH
To the resident who best exemplifies the compassion and commitment that Dr. Nauta shared with each of his patients.

JOHN L. ROWBOTHAM, MD AWARD
Amy Wyrzykowski, MD
To the faculty member who, as chosen by residents, best exemplifies excellence in clinical surgical teaching.

KHALID KHWAJA, MD FACULTY AWARD
David Liu, MD
To a junior clinical faculty member who best fosters a culture of collaboration, respectfulness, compassion, and shared sense of purpose in their interactions with trainees, employees, and patients.

ISAAC O. MEHREZ, MD AWARD
James Wallace, MD
To the third-year resident selected by Mount Auburn Hospital surgeons for "Dedication to the highest quality care, honesty, willingness to learn, and a sense of humor."

HAROLD BENGLOFF, MD AWARD
Stephen Odom, MD
Voted by residents as the faculty member who best exemplifies humanism in teaching.

GEORGE W.B. STARKEY, MD AWARD
Stephen Odom, MD
To the faculty member with the highest-rated teaching evaluations from second-year Harvard Medical School students in the Core Surgery Clerkship.

PRIMARY CLINICAL EXPERIENCE RESIDENT TEACHING AWARD
Jordan Pyda, MD, MPH
Selected for dedication to teaching by all Harvard Medical School students who rotated at BIDMC Surgery.

THORACIC SURGERY SERVICE AWARDS
To the intern and PGY4 with the best performance on the Thoracic Surgery Service.
Jennifer Pan, MD (PGY1)
Chun Li, MD, MPH (PGY4)

Department Welcomes New Trainees

RESIDENTS

GENERAL SURGERY: Categorical Interns

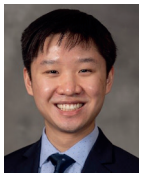
Huma Baig, MD
Harvard Medical School

Ritah Chumdermpadetsuk, MD
Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Nicholas DeStefino, MD
Harvard Medical School

Camila Guetter, MD
Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR) Faculdade de Medicina

Josephine Nwokedi, MD, MBA
Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California



Jemin Park, MD
University of Michigan Medical School

Aminah Sallam, MD
Yale School of Medicine

Emily Scire, MD
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Thomas Xu, MD
University of Virginia School of Medicine

GENERAL SURGERY: Preliminary Interns

Fatemeh Adiliaghdam, MD
Tehran University of Medical Sciences School of Medicine

Jaime Pardo Palau, MD
Universidad de Los Andes Facultad de Medicina

John Polanco Santana, MD, MSc, MPH
Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud

Mariana Juanita Rodriguez, MD
Universidad de Los Andes Facultad de Medicina

Christian Schaufler, MD
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

INTEGRATED VASCULAR SURGERY

Jeremy Darling, MD
Tufts University School of Medicine

NEUROSURGERY

Michael Avery, MD, PhD
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

OTOLARYNGOLOGY/HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

Brett Campbell, MD
Tulane University School of Medicine

Kevin Tie, MD
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Helen Xun, MD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

PODIATRIC SURGERY

Usman Aleem, DPM
Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine

Thao Nguyen, DPM
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

UROLOGIC SURGERY

Sina Monfared, MD
Boston University School of Medicine

Michelle Shabo, MD
University of Massachusetts Medical School

FELLOWS

ADVANCED GI AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY
Danbee Kim, MD
MedStar Georgetown/Washington Hospital Center

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY
Jamal Anyalebechi, MD *(Cardiac)*
University of Washington

Patrick Seastedt, MD *(Thoracic)*
Weill Cornell Medicine

COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY
Eric Rosenfeld, MD, MPH
Baylor College of Medicine

ENDOVASCULAR AND OPERATIVE NEUROVASCULAR SURGERY
Max Shutran, MD
Tufts Medical Center

HAND/UPPER EXTREMITY SURGERY
Jimmy Chan, MD
Icahn School of Medicine

Brent Pickrell, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Brian Schmitberg, MD
UCONN School of Medicine

INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY
David Abia-Trujillo, MD
Mayo Clinic

Emily Schuiteman Ducomb, DO
University of Vermont Medical Center

Anil Magge, MD
University of Connecticut Health

Abhinav Mittal, MD
West Virginia University Medicine

ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC BRONCHOSCOPY
Jan Fouad, MD
Yale-New Haven Hospital

Christian Castillo Latorre, MD
VA Caribbean Healthcare System

Chetana Pendkar, MD
SUNY-Downstate Medical Center

Aritra Sen, MD
Tufts University Medical Center

MINIMALLY INVASIVE UROLOGIC SURGERY
May Jean ("MJ") Counsilman, MD
Thomas Jefferson Medical Center

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY
Rachel Akintayo, MD
MedStar Georgetown/Washington University Hospital
Independent Plastic Surgery Fellow

Trina Ghosh, MD
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine
Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery

Anthony Haddad, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Independent Plastic Surgery Fellow

Jacob Rinkinen, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Microsurgery

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE
Joanna Etra, MD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Acute Care Surgery/Surgical Critical Care

Benjamin Hall, MD
Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown University
Surgical Critical Care

VASCULAR SURGERY
Nicholas Swerdlow, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Urologic Surgery interns Sina Monfared, MD, and Michelle Shabo, MD

Harvard Surgery Research Day

A Decade of Highlighting Trainees' Research

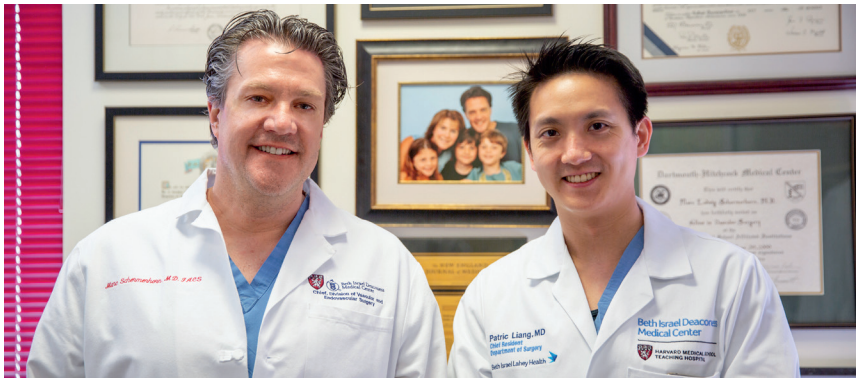
Ten years ago, Surgery Chair **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, proposed an idea to his counterparts at Boston Children's Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Massachusetts General Hospital—to engage all four of the Harvard-affiliated surgery departments in an event that would foster and highlight their trainees' research while also creating a sense of community and collaboration among trainees and faculty alike.

The response was enthusiastic. In May 2012, the inaugural Harvard Surgery Research Day was held at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School, where it has been held every spring except during the pandemic. "This event gives participants an opportunity to share their research with peers and faculty, learn about the research of others within the Harvard surgery community, and make connections that may spark future collaborations," says Dr. Chaikof.

The first year, 150 abstracts were submitted; in 2021, the total reached 190 abstracts. Trainees at all levels, not just residents, are encouraged to participate, including clinical fellows, medical or graduate students, and PhD postdoctoral fellows.

Harvard Surgery Research Day Visiting Professors

2012: Thomas Krummel, MD
2013: Yuman Fong, MD
2014: Michael Longaker, MD, MBA
2015: John Birkmeyer, MD
2016: Timothy Billiar, MD
2017: Melina Kibbe, MD
2018: Gail Besner, MD
2019: Steven Libutti, MD
2021: E. Shelley Hwang, MD, MPH



Marc Schermerhorn, MD (left), was the mentor for Patric Liang, MD's research project, which tied for second prize in the clinical/health services research category.

Each year, a committee comprising several faculty members from each hospital collaborates for months to plan the event and score the submissions, rotating the responsibility for event planning annually among the hospitals.

In 2021, following the usual rigorous review process, 18 abstracts were chosen for virtual oral presentations: nine in basic science and nine in clinical/health services research. First and second prizes were awarded for the best oral presentations in each category, and winners were announced at the event.

Based this year at BIDMC, the 2021 organizing committee members were: **Louis Chu, MD, Christiane Ferran, MD, PhD**, and **Jennifer Wilson, MD, MPH**, BIDMC; Dario Fauza, MD, PhD, and Tom Jaksic, MD, PhD, Boston Children's Hospital; Erika Rangel, MD, and Quoc-Dien Trinh, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital; and Genevieve Boland, MD, PhD, and Motaz Qadan, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital.

Since the event was held virtually this year, there was no poster session, which is always a highlight of the day. To acknowledge all those who submitted posters, a booklet was produced that listed the titles, authors, mentors, and institutions of all 190 abstracts.

Another highlight of the day is a lecture by a nationally prominent surgical leader. This year's visiting professor was E. Shelley Hwang, MD, MPH, Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Surgery at Duke University, whose topic was "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: One Surgeon's Adventures as a Physician-Scientist."

"Harvard Surgery Research Day provides a great showcase of research projects across the Harvard surgical community and a unique opportunity to connect with other scientists," says recent BIDMC vascular surgery graduate **Patric Liang, MD**. Dr. Liang's oral abstract on the outcomes of transcarotid artery revascularization compared to carotid endarterectomy tied for second place in the clinical/health services research category. "I continue to be impressed year after year by the breadth and novelty of the research projects being presented, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to present our project this year."

IN MEMORIAM

The Department of Surgery mourns the loss of two longtime, beloved colleagues: **William C. DeWolf, MD**, and **Clinton Koufman, MD**.

William C. DeWolf, MD

Dr. DeWolf joined BIDMC in 1984 and served as Chief of Urology from 1988 until his retirement in 2019. Dr. DeWolf was the BIDMC Distinguished Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School.

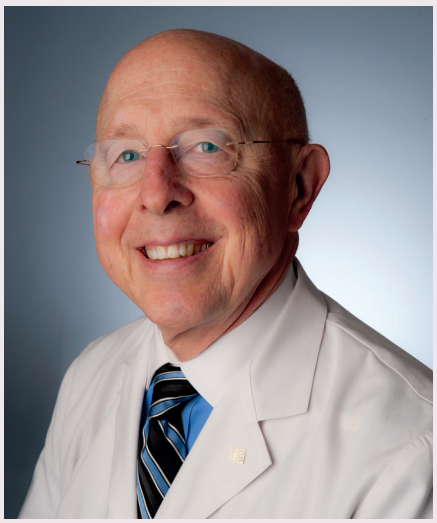
Born and raised in Illinois, Dr. DeWolf attended an advanced seven-year medical school program at Northwestern University, from which he graduated in 1967. Dr. DeWolf completed his residency at the University of Minnesota, and later completed a fellowship in transplantation at the University of Minnesota and a research fellowship at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

In addition to serving as Chief of Urology and Director of the Urologic Research Laboratories at BIDMC, Dr. DeWolf's illustrious 35-year career as a surgeon-scientist reflects a long list of achievements that include a National Institutes of Health Research Career Development Award and selection as an American Urological Association Scholar. Dr. DeWolf was president of the National Urologic Forum and served on the editorial board of *Urology*, one of the leading academic urologic journals.

In 2007, an endowed chair at Harvard Medical School—the Janet & William DeWolf Professor of Surgery/Urology at Harvard Medical School—was established in his honor. The chair is held by Dr. DeWolf's successor, Aria Olumi, MD, Chief of Urologic Surgery.

Dr. DeWolf was a role model and mentor to scores of faculty and trainees and provided compassionate care to countless patients. In addition to his family, Dr. DeWolf loved Boston sports, classical music, and trips to Maine.

Dr. DeWolf died on May 24, 2021, following a long, valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. He leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Janet; his children Steven and Julia; two grandchildren; and his siblings Cherris and Craig.



Dr. William C. DeWolf

Contributions in memory of Dr. DeWolf may be made to the William C. DeWolf, MD Visiting Professorship Endowment Fund (bidmcgiving.org/dewolf).

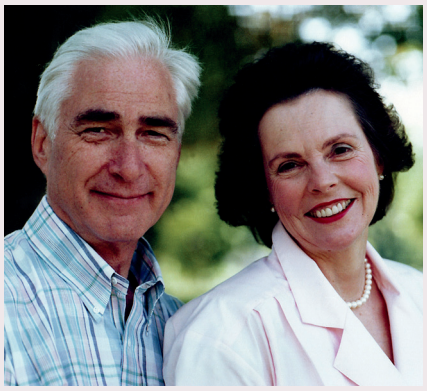
Clinton Koufman, MD

Dr. Koufman was a devoted physician, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who practiced at BIDMC for more than 50 years. After graduating from Brookline High School, William and Mary College, and Boston University School of Medicine, Dr. Koufman completed his residency in general surgery at BIDMC, interrupted by two years of service in the U.S. Air Force.

Dr. Koufman was in private practice at BIDMC for his entire career until his retirement in 2008. Late in his career, he transitioned from general surgery to specialize in breast cancer surgery. He served as president of the medical staff, and because of his technical skill, humor, and warmth, Dr. Koufman was a role model for decades of surgical trainees.

Dr. Koufman was predeceased by his wife, Laurel, and is survived by his children, Ann Koufman-Frederick, PhD, Victor Koufman, and Stephanie Koufman; seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. One of Dr. Koufman's grandsons, Steven Koufman Leckie, MD, is an orthopedic surgeon at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth.

Dr. Koufman touched the lives of dozens of family members and friends, hundreds of students and colleagues, and thousands of patients. He loved books, swimming, and travel. Dr. Koufman died peacefully at home, surrounded by his children, on December 21, 2020 at the age of 91. A private burial was held in December. The family may host a post-pandemic celebration of Dr. Koufman's life at a later date.



Dr. Clinton Koufman with his wife, Laurel.

Contributions in memory of Dr. Koufman may be made to the Clinton and Joseph Koufman Award Fund at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (bidmc.org/givenow).

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center | HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL TEACHING HOSPITAL

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Department of Surgery, LMOB-9C
110 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02215

Beth Israel Lahey Health

Gift Supports Pancreatic Cancer Research

This year, more than 60,400 adults in the United States will receive a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Sadly, only one in ten will still be alive in five years, taken by a type of cancer that in addition to being particularly aggressive often eludes detection until it is too late for treatment to be effective.

Determined to turn the tide on pancreatic cancer, in 2014 the Boston-area biotechnology company Berg Health partnered with BIDMC and other collaborators in the multi-national Pancreatic Cancer Research Team in an initiative called Project Survival®. Project Survival is led by surgical oncologist **A. James Moser, MD**, Co-Director of both the BIDMC Pancreas and Liver Institute and the BIDMC Pancreatic Cancer Research Program.

"Our partnership has advanced a true precision medicine approach to diagnosing and treating pancreatic cancer."

—Niven R. Narain, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer, Berg Health

The goal of Project Survival, which has been supported since its inception by a $5 million grant from Berg, is to identify and validate prognostic biomarkers that will enable clinicians to not only diagnose pancreatic cancer early, but also to determine which treatments are most likely to be effective in individual patients. Berg employs its powerful artificial intelligence (AI) platform to identify biomarkers based on thousands of tumor samples. Using this AI platform, Berg also developed a new cancer drug that is now ending phase 2 clinical trials for patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

BERG™

"Our partnership has advanced a true precision medicine approach to diagnosing and treating pancreatic cancer," says Niven R. Narain, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of Berg. "Dr. Moser, a partner who is forward-thinking in clinical innovation, makes the perfect collaborator on Berg's technology to address one of the most dire unmet needs in medicine."

In 2006, Dr. Narain co-founded the company with Board Chair and Silicon Valley venture capitalist and commercial real estate developer, Carl E. Berg. Mr. Berg is passionate about improving health by using patient biology and AI as the basis for developing diagnostics and drugs, and has supported Berg's leading-edge Interrogative Biology® platform development, which has been the main driver of analyses to Project Survival.

This spring, in a further act of generosity, Berg Health made a philanthropic gift of $270,000 to support Dr. Moser's ongoing pancreatic cancer biomarker research. "The sustained commitment to pancreatic cancer research by Mr. Berg and Dr. Narain over many years has been extraordinary," says Dr. Moser. "Thanks to their vision, support, and generosity, we are that much closer to our shared goal of dramatically reducing deaths from pancreatic cancer through early detection and targeted treatment."