

Dr. Balachundhar Subramaniam appointed as the first incumbent of the BIDMC Ellison “Jeep” Pierce Chair of Anaesthesia

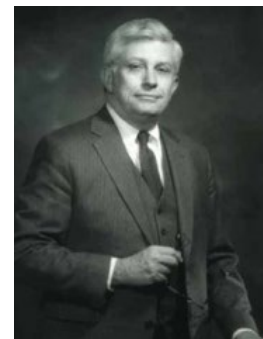


Ellison C. Pierce Jr., MD, was called the “father of the anesthesia safety movement,” in the Wall Street Journal in 2005. He did pioneering work that played a significant role in reducing the rate of anesthesia-related fatalities. On February 13, 2019, during the annual Anesthesia Week celebration, Dr. Daniel Talmor, the Anesthesia Department Chair announced that the first incumbent of the Ellison “Jeep” Pierce Endowed Chair will be Dr. Balachundhar Subramaniam.

“Bala’s work is the embodiment of how a busy clinician with a career in research can impact patient care,” said Dr. Talmor. “He is known in the Department as an incredibly good clinician, a generous person, and someone who has led in the science of patient care with his innovative research.”

Dr. Subramaniam came to BIDMC as a resident in 2000 from his native India and specialized in cardiac anesthesia. He has excelled in patient care and as a highly skilled investigator with over 60 publications in peer reviewed journals. His studies have focused on such areas as glycemic and blood pressure control in the OR.

Dr. Subramaniam’s work to protect patients who undergo anesthesia makes him the ideal recipient of this Chair named for Dr. Pierce, who headed the Anesthesia Department at New England Deaconess Hospital before they merged with Beth Israel, and founded of the Anesthesia Safety Foundation. “Dr. Pierce recommended the kind of electronic monitoring systems we have now, and this is one of the major reasons for the drop in anesthesia mortality rates over the years,” says Dr. Talmor.



Ellison “Jeep” Pierce

Dr. Subramaniam expressed his gratitude for this award that will help him continue his important work. “I am privileged and honored to be recognized and endowed with this chair. I am constantly motivated by skilled clinicians I have known on three different continents (India, UK and US) and the unsung clinician scientists from all over the globe. Knowledge gained from aspects of care and clinical research really brings the bottom line up and there is no replacement for an excellent clinician to get the best possible clinical outcome.”

Dr. Talmor lauded Dr. Subramaniam for his ground-breaking work as well as his role in promoting research participation among other clinicians in the department. “His Center for Anesthesia Research Excellence has done superb work and promoted research in our department at all levels – attendings, residents, and students.”