

Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



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

INSIDE SURGERY



15 YEARS OF
GROWTH, INNOVATION,
AND EXCELLENCE

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Message from the Chair

In this issue of *Inside Surgery*, we take the opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved during the opening decades of the 21st century as we have endeavored to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time.



Throughout this period, we have approached these challenges with passion, humility, and unrelenting curiosity, and the conviction that, together, we could make meaningful progress toward our goals. We have supported one another in summoning the resolve to question established norms and to imagine and pursue alternative futures. While acknowledging our accomplishments, we have remained critically aware of the considerable work ahead.

We are deeply mindful of the many extraordinary individuals who have shaped our department over the course of its proud 150-year history. It is our sincere hope that through our collective efforts we have not only honored their legacy but also reinforced the foundation upon which future progress will be built.

As we embark on the next quarter century and the challenges ahead, we remain committed to our mission: to enhance the well-being of all members of our community, both within and beyond the boundaries of our healthcare system; to advance health through innovation, discovery, and excellence in clinical care; and to inspire and prepare the next generation of leaders who will define the future of American medicine. We reaffirm our commitment to the core values that have long defined Harvard and BIDMC—values that advance knowledge, strengthen the bonds of community, and serve the greater good.

Thank you, as always, for your continued interest in and support of the Department of Surgery.

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

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Beth Israel Lahey Health



15 Years of Growth, Innovation, and Excellence

The Department of Surgery, 2010-2025

THE LAST 15 YEARS have been a period of extraordinary progress and growth in the Department of Surgery in its continual pursuit of excellence in patient care, education, research, and community service.

This has also been a period during which the department faced unprecedented challenges, foremost among them the Boston Marathon bombings and the COVID-19 pandemic. These extraordinary events demonstrated our department's innovation, teamwork, commitment, and compassion in meeting even the most formidable challenges.

As the department marks 15 years under the leadership of Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, who is stepping down as chair later this year, we are devoting part of this issue to sharing some highlights of the past decade and a-half in the core areas of our mission: patient care, education, research, and service to the community.

Hundreds of faculty, trainees, staff, alumni, and philanthropic supporters—some of whom have sadly passed away—contributed to the achievements described on these pages. While space does not permit us to mention their names, we are deeply indebted to each and every person who helped build the department into one of the best and most respected academic surgery departments in the nation and to position it for continued growth and success for many decades to come.

Since 2010, the Department of Surgery has experienced dramatic and unprecedented growth. Today, the department comprises a vibrant community of nearly 1,000 faculty, trainees, and staff. Our faculty consists of approximately 200 individuals who are affiliated with Harvard Medical School, including **163 employed faculty, more than 120 clinical faculty, and over 30 research faculty.**

The department is large, encompassing 14 clinical divisions, including Urologic Surgery, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and Ophthalmology, among other core surgical specialties. In early 2025, it was announced that our Division of Neurosurgery will become the first new department at BIDMC in many years, a testament to the growth and stature of our neurosurgery program.

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY CLINICAL DIVISIONS

Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care	Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Cardiac Surgery	Podiatric Surgery
Colon and Rectal Surgery	Surgical Oncology
General Surgery	Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology
Neurosurgery	Transplant Surgery
Ophthalmology	Urologic Surgery
Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery	Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Excellence in Patient Care

Fifteen years ago, the department's clinical programs were based largely in Boston at BIDMC, with a limited presence outside the Longwood Medical Area. Today, the department provides care for patients throughout Eastern Massachusetts at 25 clinical sites in both community and academic settings.

Annual clinical activity from 2010 through 2024 more than doubled. This growth represents an increase in yearly surgical volume from **13,000 to more than 25,000 operative procedures** conducted across 10 distinct locations, along with nearly **190,000 patient encounters** in outpatient clinics each year. Since the creation of Beth Israel Lahey Health in 2019, the department's network has expanded significantly, now serving more than 1.3 million patients throughout the region.

As a result of the Dana-Farber Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Collaboration, which will include the construction of a new 300-bed hospital for adult cancer inpatients on BIDMC's campus, the department anticipates the



continued growth of its clinical programs across multiple surgical specialties, particularly surgical oncology. Because the majority of patients with cancer require surgery as part of their treatment, the excellence of the department's surgeons and surgical programs was a major factor in this historic collaboration.

Many of the department's surgical programs, which are among the busiest in the region, are recognized nationally and internationally. This recognition reflects not only their clinical and academic excellence but also their **exceptional record of quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness**, as measured by specialty-specific national clinical data registries.

To cite just one of many examples, last year the Rectal Cancer Program, which is led by our Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery, was accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer of the American College of Surgeons, making it the first such program in Massachusetts to earn this indicator of high-quality care.

Increasingly over the past

15 years, many of our surgical specialists and programs have earned a national reputation for offering patients access to innovative—and often increasingly minimally invasive—treatments that may be unavailable elsewhere in the region and, often, the nation. Many of our faculty are trailblazers in the use of robotic-assisted surgery, which has expanded treatment options and reduced length of hospital stays and recovery times for many patients.

Patients from near and far seek out our surgical specialists to undergo treatment for conditions both common and rare, including cancers of all types, epilepsy, lung diseases, cardiovascular diseases, lymphatic disease, and many other maladies. The 2023 opening of the Klarman Building, a 158-bed inpatient facility with a state-of-the-art surgical pavilion, further enhanced our ability to provide the most advanced, complex surgical treatments and an improved experience for patients and their families.

Today, our transplant



surgeons are among the nation's best and busiest, offering excellent outcomes to patients in need of lifesaving organs, including kidneys, livers, and, as of last year, hearts through the **BILH Heart Transplant Program**.

In just the past year, our Division of Transplant Surgery performed the highest volume of liver and pancreas transplants in the program's history. As one of only a few transplant centers in the United States to offer minimally invasive living donation for liver transplantation, last year the division's transplant surgeons performed **New England's first laparoscopic living donor for liver transplant and the first living donor liver transplant for colorectal metastases**. Earlier this year, the transplant team performed BIDMC's **first robotic living donor for liver transplant and the first robotic kidney transplant in a transplant recipient in Boston**.

Our commitment to continually improving and expanding patient care does not end there. Led by one of our plastic surgeons and in collaboration with other BIDMC

specialists, our department was one of the first in the nation to offer a multidisciplinary program that focuses on the unique needs of patients requiring complex limb reconstruction. Other nationally recognized multidisciplinary programs built and led by department faculty include the **BIDMC Comprehensive Epilepsy Center**, which is accredited by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers as a Level 4 Epilepsy Center, and the Lymphatic Center at BIDMC and Boston Children's Hospital, which is designated as a **Comprehensive Center of Excellence in Lymphatic Disease** by the Lymphatic Education & Research Network.

These are just a few of the many new programs and services for specific patient populations that have been introduced by the department over the past 15 years. In each case, launching these programs required extensive planning, teamwork, and a passion for improving care

for all patients. The department's faculty are the frequent recipients of honors and awards for their clinical innovation and excellence, and many have been recognized by grateful patients and family members who have made generous gifts to the department in their honor.

The department's dedication to providing excellent patient care extends well beyond the United States to many underserved regions around the globe (below). Over the past 15 years, faculty and trainees have led or taken part



in **medical missions to provide essential, often lifesaving, surgical care to adults and children in Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America, India, and Southeast Asia**. Many faculty also travel abroad to share their knowledge and skills with colleagues in underserved regions around the world so they can provide the best possible surgical care to their own communities.



Leadership in Education

Led by a broad group of dedicated and inspiring educators and mentors, the Department of Surgery's educational programs have undergone a major expansion over the past 15 years. These programs, many of which serve as models for initiatives elsewhere in the nation, enable the department to shape the

positions of senior leadership in academia and industry, where they have made—and continue to make—major contributions to American surgery.

The department now offers **12 training programs accredited by the ACGME** (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) as well as **five society-approved fellowship programs**.

Through committed leadership throughout the department, six of the ACGME-accredited residencies were established over the past 15 years: Neurosurgery, Urologic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery (both Integrated and Independent programs), Vascular Surgery (Integrated), and Colon and Rectal Surgery. In addition, the department launched an accredited Acute Care Surgery fellowship and expanded the residency in Cardiothoracic Surgery.

The department also provides a challenging and enriching learning experience for second-year Harvard Medical School students through the three-month Core Clerkship in Surgery. Faculty members provide students with a thorough introduction to general surgery and surgical subspecialties and introduce them to the fundamentals and highly collaborative nature of surgical care. Reflecting its excellence, the Core Clerkship in Surgery consistently earns high ratings from medical students.

Over the past decade and a half, outstanding educators in the department have designed

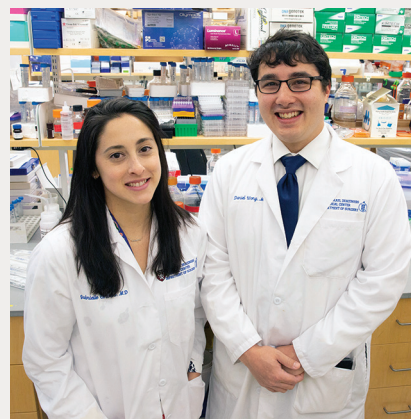
and introduced numerous innovative teaching programs for the benefit of both residents and medical students alike. One such initiative is the **Clinical Scholarship Program**, which was launched in 2011 to provide residents with a robust foundation for scholarship early in their training and facilitate their interest in lifelong scholarship, research, and an academic career. In 2020, Harvard Medical School recognized the Clinical Scholarship Program with its **Culture of Excellence in Mentoring Award**.

Another successful educational program developed by the department and still going strong is the **Harvard Medical School/BIDMC Pre-Internship Surgical Boot Camp**, which launched in 2012. The first such course in New England and at the time one of only a few in the United States, Surgical Boot



future of surgery and health care for many decades to come.

The department currently supports the development of more than **120 trainees in numerous residency and fellowship programs** (see sidebar), along with more than 220 clinical and basic science research fellows. These individuals, who consistently represent the very best and brightest from around the globe, will undoubtedly emerge as surgical leaders across the United States and abroad. Indeed, many of our alumni have attained



Camp (below) provides fourth-year medical students with the practical information and skills they need to hit the ground running before they start their internships.

In support of our academic ecosystem, over the past 15 years the department has introduced a number of new teaching sessions and didactic courses for trainees and initiated several new series of seminars in clinical and translational research, such as our **Surgical Horizons Seminars**.

To provide our residents with the ongoing guidance they need to excel as successful academic surgeons, several years ago the department established the **Resident Research Training Program**. This unique program, which involves clinical faculty, non-clinical research faculty, and senior residents, provides the infrastructure to support residents prior to and during their research years. As a result of this program,



by the time residents reach their research years, they have a research plan, a mentor, and funding in place.

Another very successful initiative is **Harvard Surgery Research Day** (above), which our chair, in collaboration with his fellow Harvard departments of



surgery chairs, established in 2012 as a forum for surgical trainees, students, and faculty across the

four Harvard teaching hospitals to share their research. Each year, this event draws hundreds to Harvard Medical School to hear a renowned keynote speaker, view and discuss posters, listen to presentations by their peers, and form valuable connections.

Yet another is our **Harvard Surgical Program in Innovation (SPIN)**, which was launched in 2017. Through hackathons and educational workshops, SPIN provides trainees from Boston-area surgical residency programs, as well as graduate students from Harvard and MIT, with the opportunity to develop the diverse skills required to become a surgeon-innovator, from how to rapidly develop a prototype to how to make a pitch to potential investors.

RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Residency Programs

General Surgery
Independent Plastic Surgery
Integrated Plastic Surgery
Integrated Vascular Surgery
Neurosurgery
Otolaryngology
Podiatric Surgery
Urologic Surgery

Fellowship Programs

Acute Care Surgery
Aesthetic and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery
Breast and Microsurgery Reconstructive Surgery
Breast Surgical Oncology
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Colon and Rectal Surgery
Endovascular and Operative Neurovascular Surgery

Head and Neck Oncology
Interventional Pulmonology
Lymphatic Surgery
Medical Retina
Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery
Neurosurgery Spine
Surgical Critical Care
Vascular Surgery

Innovation in Research

Research is central to the mission of the Department of Surgery, which seeks to advance scientific discovery and foster the translation of research into clinical practice to improve the health and well-being of individuals worldwide.

Our research initiatives are diverse and span the entire spectrum from bench to bedside. For example, our 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 conduct 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.



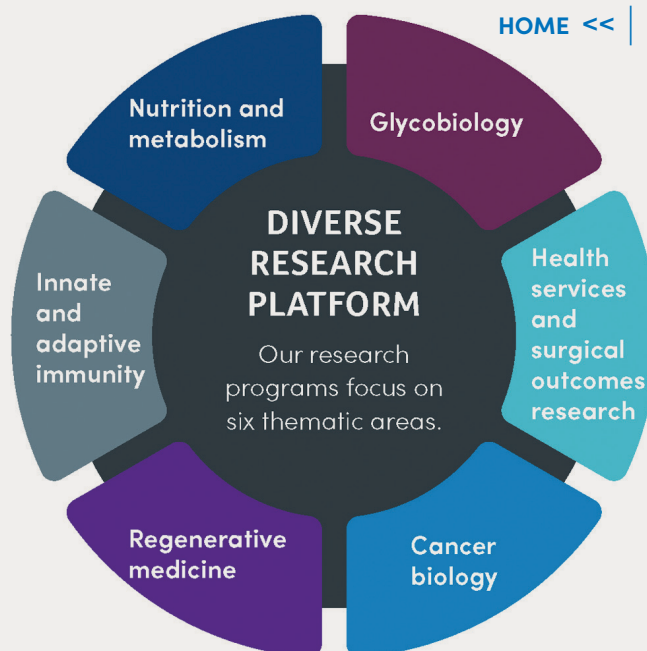
In addition, our investigators conduct research to determine the best ways to train surgeons to meet the challenges of the 21st century. They are also designing

new molecular and biologic agents to treat patients with cancer and other serious conditions, as well as investigating novel applications of machine learning and recent innovations in the field of data science.

The commitment of all members of the department to pursue answers to important questions affecting human health and share the results of their investigations broadly is reflected in our scholarly contributions, which often exceed **500 peer-reviewed publications each year**. Many of the department's faculty also serve as editors and reviewers for high-impact academic journals such as *JAMA*, *The New England*

Journal of Medicine, *Lancet*, *Science*, and *Nature*, among others. In addition, members of our faculty have published numerous books and textbooks that influence surgical practice worldwide. Our chair, for example, served as Editor-in-Chief of the first and upcoming second edition of one of the leading textbooks in vascular surgery, *The Atlas of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy*, with translations in Chinese and Portuguese.

The department's enormous growth in research has been



fueled, in large part, by the **FIRST Program**, the department's unique clinical research core. The FIRST (Facilitating Innovative Research and Surgical Trials)



Program has enabled this growth by mentoring faculty and trainees, supporting best practices in research, and serving as a resource and model to departments throughout BIDMC as well as academic surgery departments around the nation.

Harvard Medical School recognized the FIRST Program in 2021 with its **Culture of Excellence in Mentoring Award**, the department's second such award. This award pays tribute to the leaders of this program and the passion of both faculty and trainees to close ingenuity gaps within and outside operating

rooms and to continually improve the delivery of high-quality health care to all members of society.

Over the past several years, the department has recorded a **300 percent increase in the number of open Institutional Review Board (IRB)-approved clinical research studies**, with nearly 90 faculty members currently serving as principal investigators of at least one IRB-approved study. There are now **more than 500 open clinical research investigations**, including multiple Phase I first-in-human clinical trials.

The department has experienced commensurate growth in funded research over the past 15 years, with an increasing number of clinical and research faculty across multiple divisions receiving grants from the federal government, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense, and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute as



well as industry and non-profit organizations.

In fiscal year 2024 alone, total research dollars (federal and non-federal) awarded to the department exceeded \$22 million. These grants enable our investigators to pursue answers to important questions that will ultimately improve lives. To cite just one example, a member of our faculty was recently awarded a major NIH grant that supports his research aimed at

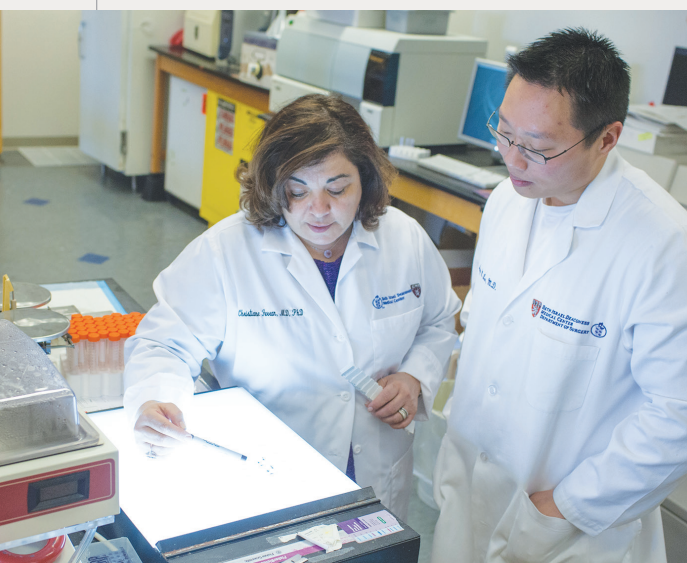
predicting a breast cancer patient's risk of developing lymphedema so that interventions can be implemented to prevent this painful and potentially life-threatening condition. The department is also the longtime recipient of numerous research training grants from the NIH that provide medical school students

and trainees with research opportunities.

Our stature as an innovative research force within the greater Harvard community also led to the establishment in 2016 of the **Harvard Medical School Center for Glycoscience**, one of only a few research centers designated by the medical school and the only such center based at BIDMC or a Harvard-affiliated Department of Surgery. The rapid growth and expanding scope of our research program spurred the creation, in 2022, of a **new division within our department—the Division of Surgical Sciences**.



Our faculty and trainees have been the recipients of numerous honors over the past decade and a half that recognize their significant contributions to research. In 2019, for example, our chair (above, second from left) received the American Surgical Association's Flance-Karl Award, considered one of the most prestigious recognitions of scientific achievement in the world.



Commitment to Community

Over the past 15 years, the department has prioritized its longstanding commitment to the communities it serves through inclusive educational opportunities and accessible health care to underserved groups throughout Eastern Massachusetts. Indeed, our commitment to serving our communities with sensitivity and compassion is a central tenet of our mission. For example, the department recently introduced a clinic—the first in Massachusetts—that provides culturally competent colorectal surgery care to the LatinX community in the Greater Boston area.

In 2011, the department established the **Committee for Social Responsibility**, an all-volunteer group comprising faculty, trainees, and staff from throughout the department. Through a wide range of initiatives, the members of this committee have provided meaningful support to individuals and groups throughout the Greater Boston community—from children and teens to seniors—who have been neglected, left behind, or exploited. The efforts by faculty and trainees serving

on the committee have been recognized with multiple awards from Harvard Medical School, including the **Dean's Community Service Awards as well as the Equity, Social Justice, and Advocacy Award.**

Among the committee's most impactful outreach initiatives



is the Food is Health program. Launched by the department in 2011 in partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, Food is Health has helped raise awareness about food insecurity in the region. And with the ongoing support of BIDMC and many generous individuals, organizations, and businesses, Food is Health has also **raised more than \$1.1 million**—the equivalent of approximately three million meals—to put nutritious food on the tables of hungry families.

Other Committee for Social Responsibility initiatives, some of which have been coordinated with hospital-wide programs and local nonprofit organizations to maximize their impact, have also had a lasting, positive impact on the communities we serve. These include an annual

winter coat drive for people experiencing homelessness, a partnership with **"My Life My Choice"** to support vulnerable teenage girls, a holiday gift drive for disadvantaged children, and a surgical shadowing program to introduce college and high school students to careers in surgery.

Closer to home, the department has worked diligently to create an environment where diversity is both welcomed and celebrated. The measurable outcomes of this commitment include an increase in the number of individuals who are underrepresented in medicine (UIM) among our trainees and faculty, improved retention



rates, and enhanced community engagement.

These efforts have not only contributed to a more diverse and inclusive academic environment but have also been recognized with multiple awards, underscoring the department's impact on advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in medicine.



The commitment to this endeavor and the work of the department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee was recognized in 2021 with the **Harold Amos Faculty Diversity Group Award** from Harvard Medical School (opposite page, bottom left), with an invitation to serve on the Harvard Medical School Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion.

The department's sustained and focused efforts have led to notable improvements in gender



and racial diversity, with significant increases in the percentages of women and UIM individuals in our surgical training programs. For example, between 2010 and 2024, the percentage of women in the General Surgery Residency Program—our largest training program—increased from 36 percent to 62 percent. During this time frame, the percentage of residents who are Black, Hispanic, Asian, or other people of color rose from 39 percent to more than 50 percent, with Black and Hispanic trainees growing from 3 percent to 27 percent.

Likewise, the proportion of faculty who are women, Black, Hispanic, Asian, or other people of



color has increased substantially. Individuals who are Black, Hispanic, Asian, or other people of color now represent nearly 40 percent of our department faculty, and the proportion of female faculty has more than doubled.

Pursuing a goal to establish a comprehensive mentorship program aimed at supporting all faculty, but especially women and those who are underrepresented in medicine, we instituted the **RAMPS Program (Research and Academic Mentorship Program in Surgery)** in 2022.

As of late last year, nearly three dozen faculty (above, right) were receiving ongoing and structured support over a two-year period to develop a mentorship team and execute a career strategic plan. Last year, Harvard Medical School recognized this innovative program with its **Culture of Excellence in Mentoring Award**, the department's third such award since 2020.

Another successful mentorship program is the International Research Initiative. Launched and

led by one of our international residents, this program provides unique training opportunities to medical school graduates from around the world with a desire to explore and nurture their interest in scientific and clinical research.

The department's community includes many generous donors who share and support our mission. The department is grateful for philanthropic gifts that have funded endowed BIDMC and Harvard Medical School professorships—including the new \$10 million Harvard Medical School-endowed **Center for Regenerative Therapeutics** (below)—as well as multiple BIDMC chairs, clinical and research fellowships, visiting professorships, and scholarships for trainees.



NEWS BRIEFS



The Harvard Surgical Program in Innovation (SPIN) has resumed under the leadership of Program Director **Samuel Lin, MD, MBA**, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. SPIN, which was launched in 2017 by the Department of Surgery and paused during the pandemic, provides trainees from Boston-area surgical residency programs, as well as graduate students from Harvard and MIT, with the opportunity to develop the skills required to pursue clinically driven innovations.

Through a series of workshops, participants are exposed to the innovation process and enabling technologies that facilitate innovation. The program also fosters collaboration by creating a local community that brings together clinicians, engineers, scientists, and business strategists to work toward a common goal of improving patient care.

In addition to Dr. Lin, SPIN expert advisors from BIDMC are Co-Director **Daniel Wong, MD, MHS**, General Surgery; **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, Surgery Chair; Henry Feldman, MD, BIDMC Chief Information Architect; **Ted Gomez, MD, MTR**, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and this year's program coordinator Lacey Foster.



Mark Callery, MD, was selected by the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) to receive the prestigious Founders Medal, which is given annually to an individual who has provided leadership and service to the SSAT over their career in surgery. Taylor Riall, MD, PhD, President of the SSAT Board of Trustees, awarded the medal to Dr. Callery, former SSAT president and SSAT board chair, during the society's 66th annual meeting in San Diego in May. Dr. Callery, who led the Division of General Surgery at BIDMC for more than two

decades, joins a long line of distinguished surgeons to receive this honor, including the late **William Silen, MD**, former Chair of Surgery, who was the first recipient in 1976.



Tara Kent, MD, MS (right), Surgical Oncology, received the 2024 National Pancreas Foundation's (NPF) Nobility in Science Award at the foundation's "Courage for a Cure" gala held at the Harvard Club of Boston. Dr. Kent was nominated for this honor by Steven Freedman, MD, PhD, Director of the BIDMC Pancreas Center, based on her exceptional leadership, innovation, and compassion in advancing pancreatic health research, education, and patient care. Dr. Kent's family members, mentors, and current and former colleagues joined her to celebrate the award, which she accepted in honor of her patients and in memory of her late father, Steven Sotsky, who passed away from pancreatic cancer. Also at the event, **Jeanne Carbone, RN** (left), Lead Nurse Coordinator for the Division of Surgical Oncology, received the NPF Compassionate Care Award.



Samuel Lin, MD, MBA, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the New England Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, one of the nation's oldest regional plastic surgery societies. In addition, Dr. Lin is leading a clinical trial studying a new non-opioid pain medication for 28 clinical surgical indications.



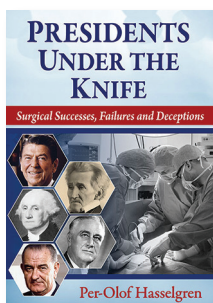
The Division of Urologic Surgery has launched a new BIDMC Urologic Oncology Research Fellowship under the leadership of Program Director **Boris Gershman, MD**. This one- to two-year structured research fellowship will provide the fellow with an immersive, applied research

education experience that will include a variety of projects with a focus on the diagnosis, risk-stratification, evaluation, and management of genitourinary malignancies. The incoming fellow for 2025-2026 is **Jamil Almohtasib, MD** (above), a graduate of the University of Jordan School of Medicine.



Aria Olumi, MD, Chief of Urologic Surgery, was awarded another NIH R01 grant (\$3.5M) for a new project, "New Treatment Strategies and Epigenetic Biomarkers for the Management of BPH." This research aims to identify non-invasive biomarkers and evaluate

a novel combination therapy using androgenic and estrogenic modifiers for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). This study has the potential to improve the understanding of BPH management and contribute to the development of new therapeutic approaches.



The latest book by **Per-Olof Hasselgren, MD, PhD**, "Presidents Under the Knife: Surgical Successes, Failures and Deceptions," was published in May by McFarland & Company. A number of American presidents underwent surgery while in office. Dr. Hasselgren's book describes these operations from a surgeon's

perspective and some of the political ramifications of having the president "under the knife." The book also reveals lies and deceptions surrounding many presidential surgeries. Dr. Hasselgren is the author of four other books, including "Revolutionary Surgeons: Patriots and Loyalists on the Cutting Edge," published in 2021 by Knox Press. His interest in medical and surgical history has also resulted in several articles, including a recent paper on pioneering abdominal surgeries

performed without the benefit of anesthesia or an understanding of aseptic techniques. (Hasselgren PO. Early Laparotomies in America. JACS 2025, in press)



The Endovascular and Operative Neurovascular Neurosurgery research team, led by **Christopher Ogilvy, MD**, Director of the BIDMC Brain Aneurysm Institute, received the prestigious Duke Sampson Award for the best cerebrovascular abstract at the national meeting of

the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. The award was given for the team's study entitled "The Dynamic Adaptability of the Circle of Willis in Response to Major Branch Artery Coverage with a Flow Diverter." The group's research demonstrated that in adult patients the Circle of Willis has the capacity to respond to a flow diverter device placed in a major branch artery to treat brain aneurysms. This was the first documentation of plasticity in response to flow changes over time.

Authors of the paper, which was presented by research fellow **Felipe Ramirez-Velandia, MD** (pictured above, left, accepting the award), were **Emmanuel Mensah, MD, Mira Salih, MD, Philipp Taussky, MD, Justin Granstein, MD**, and (senior author) Dr. Ogilvy.



Surgery Chair **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Founded in 1780 by John Hancock and John Adams, the Academy honors excellence and convenes leaders across a wide range of disciplines to work together to

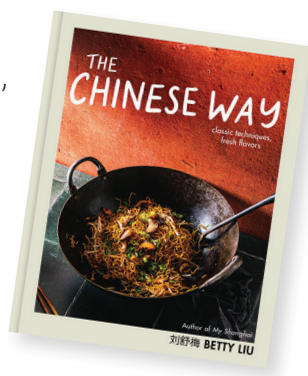
promote the common good. Among the newly elected members are activist and journalist Gloria Steinem, cancer geneticist Kenneth Offit, and Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella. Notable former members include George Washington, Charles Darwin, Margaret Mead, and Martin Luther King Jr. Induction ceremonies for new members will take place at the Academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass., in October.

NEWSBRIEFS



"The Chinese Way," the second cookbook by General Surgery resident **Betty Liu, MD**, was recently published to high acclaim, cited as one of the best cookbooks of 2024 by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Bon Appétit*, and *Forbes*, among other national

publications. Dr. Liu's debut cookbook, "My Shanghai," which was published in 2021, was also named one of *The New York Times* best cookbooks that year. Featuring her own photographs, Dr. Liu's cookbooks demystify Chinese cooking in the modern kitchen.



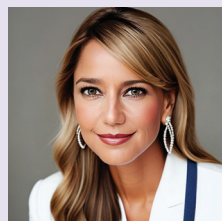
Benjamin James, MD, MS, Chief of General Surgery, was elected to serve as a councilor of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. Also, Dr. James was named an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Surgical Research*.



Under the direction of **Boris Gershman, MD**, Urologic Surgery, patients now have access to the novel intravesical therapy nadofaragene for the management of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer that is unresponsive to BCG immunotherapy treatment.

Administered intravesically once every three months, nadofaragene—which clinical trials have shown to achieve durable responses—offers an alternative to radical cystectomy for these patients. BIDMC patients also have the opportunity to participate in several clinical trials examining novel intravesical therapies in non-muscle invasive bladder cancer, including intermediate-risk disease.

ALUMNI NEWS



Paula Ferrada, MD, was recently named Chair of Surgery at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia, an independent academic medical center affiliated with the University of Virginia. Dr. Ferrada, who graduated from the General Surgery Residency Program in 2008, continues to serve as division and system Chief for Trauma and Acute Care Surgery of Inova Healthcare System.



An article authored by General Surgery resident **Andrew (Drew) Sanders, MD** (top left), and Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery



Marc Schermerhorn, MD, was selected as the Editor's Choice article for the January 2025 issue of the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. "Ten Years of Physician Modified Endografts" provided an overview of BIDMC's extensive experience using physician-modified endografts (PMEGs) over more than a decade (2012-2023). Citing improvements in

operative outcomes, the authors concluded that PMEGs are crucial for the comprehensive care of patients with complex aortic disease. Other contributing authors were: **Jorge Gomez-Mayorga, MD**, **Mohit Manchella, BS**, and BIDMC general surgery residency and vascular surgery fellowship alumnus **Nicholas Swerdlow, MD**.





General Surgery resident **Justin Heidel, MD, MEng** (left), was elected in late 2024 as the first-ever resident representative of the Boston Surgical Society (BSS), which was founded more than a century ago. Dr. Heidel will serve a two-year term on the BSS Executive Committee. Pictured above with Dr. Heidel is Claire Cronin, MD, BSS's immediate past president, and Richard Ehrlichman, MD, nominating chair of the Executive Committee and an alumnus of the BIDMC General Surgery Residency Program.

Diabetic Lower Extremity Symposium

The 2024 International Diabetic Lower Extremity Symposium: From Innovation to Therapy was held at Harvard Medical School in November. The three-day event, presented by the BIDMC Rongxiang Xu, MD Center for Regenerative Therapeutics and the Wyss Institute at Harvard University, addressed the management of diabetic lower extremity (DLE) complications and new therapeutic approaches.

The course directors were: **Aristidis Veves, MD, DSc**, Director of the BIDMC Rongxiang Xu, MD Center; **John Giurini, DPM**, former Chief of Podiatric Surgery; **Marc Schermerhorn, MD**, Chief of Vascular and

Endovascular Surgery; and **David Mooney, PhD**, of the Wyss Institute. Dr. Schermerhorn presented the keynote address: "BEST Treatment of CLTI [chronic limb-threatening ischemia], Now and the Future." Department of Surgery faculty members were: Chief of Podiatric Surgery **Thanh Dinh, DPM, Arriyan (Sammy) Dowlatshahi, MD, Allen Hamdan, MD, Patric Liang, MD, Kevin Riemer, DPM, Barry Rosenblum, DPM, Lars Stangenberg, MD, PhD, Georgios Theodoridis, PhD, and Mark Wyers, MD.**

The 2025 International Diabetic Lower Extremity Symposium will be held in Bali on October 22-23.



The BIDMC Rectal Cancer Program was accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC) of the American College of Surgeons, making it the first such program in Massachusetts to earn this distinction of high-quality care. NAPRC accreditation is based on successful international models that emphasize a program's structure, patient-care processes, performance improvement, and performance measures. The multidisciplinary program, which was accredited last year, is led by **Evan Messaris, MD, PhD**, Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery. Pictured above, from left, are program members from Surgery, Hematology/Oncology, and Radiation Oncology: Matthew Abrams, MD, **Thomas Cataldo, MD, Daniel Wong, MD, MHS**, Jessica Zerillo, MD, MPH, **Kristin Crowell, MD**, Mary Keane, RN, Peter Whooley, DO, MBA, **Jeanne Quinn, NP**, Sarah Cowan, Caroline Trickett, NP, and Evan Messaris, MD, PhD.

NEWSBRIEFS



Allen Hamdan, MD.

A gift from the Pray family established the endowed Pray Family Fund, which provides critical funds on an annual basis for two college or medical school students who are underrepresented in

The Department of Surgery is grateful to the following donors for their generous gifts, which will support programs of the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and the work of Surgery Vice Chair and vascular surgeon

medicine to spend two to four weeks being mentored in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.

A gift from Marilyn and Ralph J. Tedesco of Kittery, Maine, will support the Vascular Surgery Research Fellowship at BIDMC. The fellowship provides vascular and general surgery residents and international research students with more than two years of dedicated research time to participate in the Vascular Surgery Outcomes Research Program. Fellows also participate in the Program in Clinical Effectiveness at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.

IN MEMORIAM

The Department of Surgery mourns the tragic loss of two members of our community—Dr. Denis Gilmore and Dr. Michael Groff.



Denis Michael Gilmore, MD

Dr. Gilmore, a 2015 alumnus of the General Surgery Residency Program, passed away in December at the age of 44.

Dr. Gilmore graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2002 and the

Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland) in 2007. After his surgical residency, Dr. Gilmore completed a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Nashville, Tennessee) in 2018.

Dr. Gilmore was Chief of Thoracic Surgery at TriStar Centennial Medical Center in Nashville and was an active member of numerous national professional organizations, including the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Dr. Gilmore took great pride in being a doctor and supporting his patients to the very best of his ability and was devoted to his wife, Erin Gilmore (nee MacConchie), and his sons, Nate and Jake.

Dr. Gilmore was preceded in death by his brothers, Jack and Danny, and his father, John. In addition to his wife and sons, Dr. Gilmore is survived by his brother, Kevin, and his mother, Anita, as well as many other family members who cared for him deeply.



Michael W. Groff, MD

Dr. Groff, his wife Joy Saini, MD, and two of their adult children, Karennia and Jared, along with their respective partners, died in a plane crash in April in upstate New York. Dr. Groff, who was Executive Medical Director of Neuroscience at

Rochester Regional Health in New York State, was 58.

Dr. Groff was a member of the BIDMC Department of Surgery from 2006 to 2011, where he held multiple leadership roles, including Co-Director of the BIDMC Spine Center and Neurosurgeon-in-Chief. He also co-directed the spine surgery fellowship and led numerous initiatives focused on surgical quality, multidisciplinary spine care, and education. Dr. Groff's work in spine oncology and spinal biomechanics and his role in the development of the Spinal Instability Neoplastic Score (SINS) have had a lasting national impact.

Following his tenure at BIDMC, Dr. Groff served in leadership roles at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), including as Director of Spinal Neurosurgery and Vice-Chair of Clinical Affairs. An Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Groff also led the BWH spine fellowship program and mentored and contributed to the education of countless trainees and junior faculty members. Among Dr. Groff's and Dr. Saini's survivors is their youngest child, Anika.

HONORING EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS

"A Celebration of Exceptional Leadership in Surgical Care, Education, and Research" was held in January to recognize the innumerable contributions of 10 faculty members who retired over the past several years. The event, which included cocktails and dinner, was attended by colleagues and family members of the honorees. Surgery Chair **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, and many others in attendance expressed their heartfelt appreciation for each honoree's dedication and service and shared stories about the numerous ways each had influenced their own and others' careers and lives.

The guests of honor were:



Michael Cahalane, MD
Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care



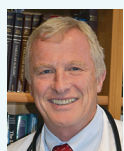
Per-Olof Hasselgren, MD, PhD
Surgical Oncology
George H. A. Clowes Jr. Distinguished Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School



Mark Callery, MD
General Surgery (Former Chief)
William V. McDermott Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School



Mary Jane Houlihan, MD
Surgical Oncology



David Campbell, MD
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery



Sidney Levitsky, MD
Cardiac Surgery
Cheever Professor of Surgery Emeritus, Harvard Medical School



Jonathan Critchlow, MD
General Surgery



James Rodrigue, PhD
Transplant Surgery
Professor of Psychiatry and Surgery Emeritus, Harvard Medical School



John Giurini, DPM
Podiatric Surgery (Former Chief)



Nicholas Tawa Jr., MD, PhD
Surgical Oncology



Dr. Michael Cahalane (second from right) and his wife, Nancy, with former colleagues (from left) Drs. Alok Gupta, Charles Cook (seated behind Dr. Gupta), Steve Odom, and Michael Yaffe.



Honorees Drs. Mary Jane Houlihan and Jonathan Critchlow



Honoree Dr. Jim Rodrigue (seated, center) enjoys a good-natured ribbing by Chair Dr. Elliot Chaikof.

Harvard Surgery Research Day



Keynote speaker Dr. Sunil Singhal (top row, second from left) and the four Surgery chairs with the winners of Harvard Surgery Research Day (not pictured is Dr. Ana Bogdanovski).

Harvard Surgery Research Day, a forum for surgical trainees, students, and faculty across the four Harvard teaching hospitals to share their research, was established in 2012 by Surgery Chair **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, along with his fellow Chairs of Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Boston Children's Hospital. Now in its 14th year, the symposium is held annually at Harvard Medical School.

This year's keynote speaker was Sunil Singhal, MD, MBA, whose lecture was entitled "Glow in the Dark: The Future of Cancer Surgery." Dr. Singhal is the William Maul Measey Professor of Surgical Research, Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery, and Vice Chair for Translational Research for the Department of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine.

As they have for the past few years, **Dhruv Singhal, MD**, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and **Heidi Rayala, MD, PhD**, Urologic Surgery, served on the event's 2025 organizing committee. BIDMC event coordinators included Barbara Ainsley, Rebecca Howard, Emily Hunter, Lulu Lamb, and Karen Sullivan.

Congratulations to all the BIDMC winners:

PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

Basic Science Research

Second Place:

Michelle Walsh, MD, PhD

"Self-Assembling Protein Nanoparticles for Cytosolic Delivery of Therapeutic Macromolecules"

Mentor:

Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD



Michelle Walsh, MD, PhD

Clinical/Health Services Research

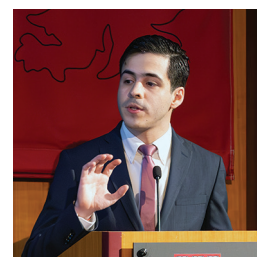
First Place (Tied):

Jorge Gomez-Mayorga, MD

"Financial Toxicity is Associated with Higher Mortality Among Patients with Cancer"

Mentor:

Benjamin James, MD, MS



Jorge Gomez-Mayorga, MD

Emily St. John, BS

"Fenestrated/Branched Endovascular Aneurysm Repair Versus Open Surgical Repair of Juxtarenal Aneurysms in the Vascular Quality Initiative"

Mentor:

Marc Schermerhorn, MD



Emily St. John, BS

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Best Basic Science Poster

Ea Kristine Clarisse Tulin, PhD

"Mapping the Human Glycome Using Smart Anti-Glycan Reagents (SAGRs)"

Mentor:

Richard D. Cummings, PhD

Best Clinical/Health Services Poster

Ana Bogdanovski, MD

"Risk Factors Associated with Financial Toxicity in Patients with Cancer in the State of Massachusetts"

Mentor:

Benjamin James, MD, MS

Welcome New Residents

We welcome our 2025 residents to the Department of Surgery and to BIDMC.

GENERAL SURGERY: Categorical Interns



Breana Franklin, MD
University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine



Leigh Friedman, MD, MEng
Drexel University
College of Medicine



Jorge Gomez-Mayorga, MD
Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia)



Eunice Odusanya, MD
Howard University
College of Medicine



Dakota Perez, MD
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine



Alisa Pugacheva, MD, MPH
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University



Asia Smith, MD
Howard University
College of Medicine



Rhea Verma, MD
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine



Kibret Yohannes, MD
University of Virginia School of Medicine

GENERAL SURGERY: Preliminary Interns



Rafael Martin, MD
Faculdade de Ciências Médicas e da Saúde de Juiz de Fora-Suprema (Brazil)



Samir Mitri, MD
Lebanese University



James Patti, MD
Tufts University School of Medicine



Devin Reddy, MD
University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine



Maria Velasquez Hammerle, MD
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud (Colombia)

INTEGRATED PLASTIC SURGERY



Niklas Hase, MD
Tufts University School of Medicine



John Park, MD
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

INTEGRATED VASCULAR SURGERY



Baqir Kedwai, MD
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

NEUROSURGERY



Justin Im, MD
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Buffalo

OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD AND NECK SURGERY



Matthew Holdaway, MD
Albany Medical College



Summer Xu, MD
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

PODIATRIC SURGERY



Miko Fogarty, DPM
Samuel Merritt University College of Podiatric Medicine



Mei Choi Reina, DPM
Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine

UROLOGIC SURGERY



Julian Giakas, MD
St. Louis University School of Medicine



Niharika Malviya, MD
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Adrenal Center Offers Advanced Multidisciplinary Care

Patients with adrenal disorders often require management by a multidisciplinary team of specialists to ensure that their care is well coordinated and individually tailored to achieve the best outcomes. By bringing together a team of experienced adrenal specialists from the departments of Surgery, Medicine, and Radiology, the BIDMC Adrenal Center provides just such care to patients with the following disorders:

- Adrenal tumors/incidentaloma
- Primary hyperaldosteronism (Conn's syndrome)
- Cushing's syndrome
- Mild autonomous cortisol secretion (MACS)
- Adrenal insufficiency (Addison's disease)
- Pheochromocytoma
- Paraganglioma
- Adrenal cancer
- Metastatic cancer to the adrenal gland

The center's surgical team has extensive experience in minimally invasive techniques for patients requiring adrenalectomy.

Launched by Department of Surgery faculty **Q. Lina Hu-Bianco, MD, MS, Benjamin James, MD, MS, and Andrew Wagner, MD**, the Adrenal Center team also includes: Monica Flores, MD, Partha Sinha, MD, PhD, Zachary



Members of the BIDMC Adrenal Center physician team (from left): Drs. Marwan Moussa, Partha Sinha, Benjamin James, Andrew Wagner, Lina Hu-Bianco, Monica Flores, Zachary Taxin, and Jennifer Cluett. Not pictured are Drs. Anna Krawisz, Jeffrey William, and Laura Zeman.

Taxin, MD, and Laura Zeman, MD (Endocrinology); Jennifer Cluett, MD, and Anna Krawisz, MD (Complex Hypertension Clinic); Marwan Moussa, MD (Interventional Radiology); and Jeffrey William, MD (Nephrology).

This team meets bi-weekly to develop treatment plans, review cases, and coordinate the often-complex care that patients with adrenal disorders require.

The Adrenal Center offers services and expertise available only at high-volume centers. In addition to its multidisciplinary team of adrenal specialists, these include advanced diagnostic

options, such as adrenal vein sampling (AVS), and resources, such as the Comprehensive Hypertension Clinic. The center's surgical team has extensive experience in minimally invasive techniques for patients requiring adrenalectomy, including laparoscopic and robotic-assisted surgery. Patients have access to all surgical approaches, including the latest, such as the retroperitoneal (through the back) approach, which results in less pain and faster recovery.

In keeping with BIDMC's academic mission, the Adrenal Center also conducts adrenal health research and educates students and trainees in this specialty.



For more information about the BIDMC Adrenal Center, visit our website. To make a referral, email: BIDMC-AdrenalCenter@bidmc.harvard.edu.

Congratulations to Our 2025 Graduates

RESIDENTS

GENERAL SURGERY

Kevin Arndt, MD

Fellowship: Colon and Rectal Surgery, Lahey Hospital & Medical Center

Daniel Cloonan, MD

Fellowship: Thoracic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic

Carly Comer, MD

Fellowship: Plastic Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Rashi Jhunjhunwala, MD

Fellowship: Acute Care Surgery/ Surgical Critical Care, University of New Mexico Hospital

Daniel Kent, MD

Fellowship: Thoracic Surgery, University of California San Francisco

Ana Sofia Ore, MD

Fellowship: Colon and Rectal Surgery, Mayo Clinic

Carolina Torres Perez-Iglesias, MD

Fellowship: Advanced Abdominal Wall Surgery, Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Sharif Sabe, MD

Fellowship: Cardiothoracic Surgery, Duke University

Ashlyn Whitlock, MD

Fellowship: Pediatric Surgery, University of Toronto

Alison Woods, MD

Fellowship: Breast Surgical Oncology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

INTEGRATED VASCULAR SURGERY

Sophie Wang, MD

NEUROSURGERY

Charles Mackel, MD, JD

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Victoria Huang, MD

Peter Nagy, MD

PODIATRIC SURGERY

Frances Rivera Alves, DPM

Rahul Mishra, DPM

UROLOGIC SURGERY

Alejandro Abello, MD

Joseph Black, MD

FELLOWS

ACUTE CARE SURGERY

Sarah Stokes, MD

ADVANCED GI AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY

Madeline Rasmussen, MD

BREAST SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

Jessica Means, MD

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Diana Pratt, MD

Cardiac Track

Miguel Leiva Juarez, MD

Thoracic Track

COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

Alexander Xu, MD

ENDOVASCULAR AND OPERATIVE NEUROVASCULAR SURGERY

Sandeep Muram, MD

INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY

Diana Espinoza Barrera, MD

Catherine Fiore, MD

Ilana Krumm, MD

Raymond Parrish, MD

*Advanced Diagnostic
Bronchoscopy*

Divya Kalluru, MD

Adex Taddesse, MD

MINIMALLY INVASIVE

UROLOGIC SURGERY

Adam Nolte, MD

PLASTIC AND

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

*Aesthetic and Reconstructive
Plastic Surgery*

Leela Mundra, MD

Independent Plastic Surgery

Aska Arnautovic, MD

Stephanie Preston, MD

Lymphatic Surgery

Ying-Sheng Lin, MD

Reconstructive Microsurgery

Sarah Karinja, MD

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

Daniel Bent, MD

Niel Page, MD

VASCULAR SURGERY

Shinrong Lee, MD



Photo courtesy of Fleming Mathew, MBBS, a research fellow in the Division of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology.

Meet Our Research Trainees

Research trainees are postdoctoral fellows or soon-to-be MS, PhD, MD, DVM, or MD/PhDs who are training in basic/translational or clinical research to gain experience and produce publications with the goal of obtaining an independent position in academia or industry. These individuals are the foundation of the research program in the Department of Surgery, producing the majority of hands-on results as well as providing valuable mentoring opportunities for faculty. Our research trainees hail from throughout the United States and many other countries.

Here we introduce six of our outstanding research trainees.



Elisa Caron, MD

Mentor: Marc Schermerhorn, MD; Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Where I grew up: Marshfield, Massachusetts, USA

Educated at: Boston University School of Medicine (MD)

Current project: My clinical research project focuses on evaluating the outcomes and effectiveness of various vascular treatment options, with a particular emphasis on carotid disease management using the Vascular Quality Initiative, a national registry database. Additionally, I am involved in a project evaluating the impact of socioeconomic status on patient outcomes to help identify disparities and improve care for our most vulnerable populations.

Personal interests: Skiing, mountain biking, gardening



Rafael R. H. Martin, MD

Mentors: Benjamin James, MD, MS, Q. Lina Hu-Bianco, MD, MS; General Surgery

Where I grew up: Juiz de Fora, Brazil

Educated at: Faculdade de Ciências Médicas e da Saúde de Juiz de Fora

Current project: My clinical research projects focus on identifying and improving health care disparities for surgical conditions, with an emphasis on cancer care. My current project aims to assess sociodemographic inequities in the delivery of guideline-concordant care for thyroid cancer. Other ongoing projects include investigating the development of both objective and subjective financial burden after cancer diagnosis and liver and kidney transplants.

Personal interests: Cooking, swimming, reading



Hyangsu Nam, PhD

Mentor: Georgios Theodoridis, PhD; Surgical Sciences

Where I grew up: Seoul, Republic of Korea

Educated at: University of Seoul (PhD)

Current project: My project aims to develop a DNA nanostructure-based reactive oxygen species (ROS) regulatory biomaterial bandage to accelerate diabetic wound healing. By integrating antioxidant molecules or nanozymes within DNA frameworks, excessive ROS in chronic wounds can be mitigated. Additional pro-reparative factors can also be incorporated within the bandage. This multi-functional hydrogel improves biocompatibility, enables targeted drug release, and allows for controlled microenvironment modulation. Ultimately, the system fosters regeneration by regulating inflammation and supporting tissue repair, offering a promising platform for advanced diabetic wound care.

Personal interests: Running, CrossFit, traveling



Maxence Noel, PhD

Mentor: Richard D. Cummings, PhD; Surgical Sciences

Where I grew up: Saint-Omer, France

Educated at: University of Lille, France (PhD)

Current projects: My research focuses on the role of glycoproteins in health and disease. Glycoproteins are proteins modified with glycans, also known as sugar chains. In the brain, we discovered that glycans have a unique profile compared to other organs. In addition, N-linked and O-linked glycans are uniquely enriched in grey and white matter, respectively. We study the underlying molecular mechanisms and the implications of these specific glycan modifications in the pathogenesis of brain disorders.

Personal interests: Kayaking, other domains of science, reading



Anh Tuan Pham, PhD

Mentor: Lijun Sun, PhD; Center for Drug Discovery and Translational Research

Where I grew up: Ninh Binh, Vietnam

Educated at: School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Geneva (PhD)

Current project: My current research focuses on the discovery of small-molecule immunomodulators. Using cutting-edge computer-aided drug design techniques, I design and synthesize highly biologically active compounds and characterize their drug-likeness properties. My primary targets include proteins responsible for immune responses, such as the aryl hydrocarbon receptor and Orai/CRAC calcium channels. Through collaborations with other research groups, I actively investigate the efficacy of these compounds in disease models, aiming for meaningful therapeutic applications.

Personal interests: Photography, hiking, painting, calligraphy



Michelle Walsh, BS

Mentor: Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD; Vascular and Endovascular Surgery/Surgical Sciences

Where I grew up: Brookline, Massachusetts, USA

Educated at: Harvard College (BS); ongoing MD/PhD: Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Harvard Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program

Current project: I am pursuing my PhD in biological and biomedical sciences. My research in the Chaikof lab is focused on developing self-assembling protein-based nanoparticles as a platform for delivering a variety of therapeutic macromolecules, spanning nucleic acids (siRNA and mRNA) to proteins (such as CRISPR). My PhD project focuses on optimizing and applying our nanoparticle-based platform as a novel treatment modality for a range of conditions, from cancer to genetic disease.

Personal interests: Painting and drawing, squash, singing

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Richard A. Lynn, MD, FACS, RPVI

Dr. Richard Lynn is a prominent vascular and general surgeon whose many honors include serving as Second Vice-President of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), President of the Florida chapter of the ACS, and serving on the board of the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS), as well as the boards of the ACS and SVS foundations. Now retired, the longtime Florida resident is also the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the SVS's inaugural Excellence in Community Service Award, which he received in 2019.

Despite his long and successful career, Dr. Lynn's journey to becoming a renowned surgeon with a national standing was anything but predictable. A native of New York City who grew up in a lower-middle-class community, Dr. Lynn was the first in his family to graduate from college. A self-described "mischievous, wise-guy kid," he was not especially interested in schoolwork during his early years. Still, he showed artistic talent and in his teens became an accomplished drummer. In fact, in the early 1960s, Dr. Lynn's band was the opening act for the legendary Four Seasons band. When The Four Seasons drummer failed to show up one evening, the group implored Dr. Lynn to take his place, which he did enthusiastically, playing for over two hours.

A life-changing decision

With his artistic ability, Dr. Lynn was considering a career as an architect. But when he was registering for his college classes, he made a spur-of-the-moment decision to take pre-med courses—a choice that altered the trajectory of his life.

At New York University, Dr. Lynn buckled down and excelled academically, graduating Phi Beta Kappa, and was accepted to Cornell University Medical College (now Weill Cornell Medical College), graduating in 1971. It was at Weill Cornell that he met C. Walton Lillehei, MD, PhD, the Chair of Surgery, and began working in Dr. Lillehei's lab, learning operative skills and discovering in the process that he wanted to pursue surgery. "I had an incredible four years there," says Dr. Lynn.



Dr. Lynn was delighted to be accepted to the surgical residency program at Beth Israel Hospital (now the BIDMC General Surgery Residency) under the leadership of the late William Silen, MD, who was Chief of Surgery from 1966 to 1994. But at the time he had no inkling of the profound impact Dr. Silen would have on his life, playing a major role in who he would become as a doctor, a surgeon, and a person.

Dr. Lynn recalls how Dr. Silen would arrive at the hospital at 5 a.m. to begin patient rounds, expecting his eager interns to show up far earlier, prepared to learn. "Dr. Silen would sit at each patient's bedside and 'kibitz' with them, treating each with respect and compassion. He was the very antithesis of the stereotypical surgeon of that era," says Dr. Lynn. "To us green trainees, his attention to detail sometimes seemed over the top, but I discovered that everything he taught us was right, and I grew to love the man."

Pursuing variety and technical expertise

Early in his residency, Dr. Lynn knew he wanted to pursue general surgery and vascular surgery and to excel in both. “I enjoyed the variety of general surgery and the technical expertise required of vascular surgery,” he says.

After two years at BIDMC, and with Dr. Silen leaving for a year-long sabbatical—and possibly not returning—Dr. Lynn decided to complete his surgical residency at Roosevelt Hospital (now Mt. Sinai West) in the heart of New York City. Though Dr. Silen urged him to stay, Dr. Lynn believed the Roosevelt program would provide him with the specific clinical experience he needed to achieve his goals.

Regardless, Dr. Lynn stayed very close to Dr. Silen throughout his mentor’s long life and has maintained contact with many of his fellow BIDMC trainees. “Dr. Silen and the [BIDMC] program gave me the solid foundation on which my entire career was built,” says Dr. Lynn. “I will forever be grateful to him and for all the lessons I learned there.”

Following his residency, Dr. Lynn, his wife, and their young sons moved to Palm Beach, Florida, where he established a thriving private practice, providing general, vascular, and oncologic surgical care to patients, including those of limited means. He also held numerous leadership positions at several major hospitals in the area, including Chief of General and Vascular Surgery at St. Mary’s Medical Center and Good Samaritan Medical Center.

Lifelong learning

Throughout his 37 years in private practice, Dr. Lynn stayed true to his origins as an academic surgeon, often earning him the moniker “the Professor” by his colleagues. He lectured widely; took innumerable courses; and organized large educational symposia, several with Dr. Silen on the faculty.

Dr. Lynn also learned and mastered entirely new approaches, such as minimally invasive procedures and endovascular surgery, to ensure that his patients had access to the latest, best

options. “I tell medical students that being a surgeon requires continual, lifelong learning,” says Dr. Lynn, who for several years after his 2013 retirement led the third-year clerkship as an Associate Professor of Surgery at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University (FIU).

Dr. Lynn was also very active in state and national surgical societies, serving on key committees and assuming leadership positions in the ACS, SVS, and American Venous Forum, and receiving numerous honors for his contributions.

Dr. Lynn also participated in several medical missions: two through the ACS to Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria and two leading a group of FIU medical students to an underserved area of Peru. Today, he is engaged in a project to help improve the health of the Batwa people of Rwanda and plans to travel to Rwanda next year. Equally active in his local community, Dr. Lynn served as president of his synagogue in Palm Beach for seven years.

Very highest standards

Throughout it all, Dr. Lynn has held himself to the very highest standards, which were instilled in him by Dr. Silen. “Dr. Silen often told us, ‘There are

“To us green trainees, [Dr. Silen’s] attention to detail sometimes seemed over the top, but I discovered that everything he taught us was right.”

— Dr. Richard Lynn

no minor surgeries, only minor surgeons,’” says Dr. Lynn. “For every patient I treated—whether it was to remove a gallbladder or repair an aortic aneurysm—I would recall Dr. Silen’s words and remind myself that, for them, this surgery was anything but minor.”

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Department of Surgery congratulates the following faculty members on their Harvard Medical School promotions or appointments from September 2024 through April 2025.

2024

Appointed:
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
OF SURGERY



Daniel Wong, MD, MHS
Colon and Rectal Surgery

Promoted:
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
OF SURGERY



Chantel Hile, MD
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

2025

Appointed:
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
OF SURGERY



Christina Marcaccio, MD, MPH
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

New Faculty

For more information about our faculty, including their clinical and research interests, practice sites, and contact information, please visit the [“Find-A-Doctor”](#) section on the BIDMC website.

CARDIAC SURGERY



Diana Pratt, MD
Medical School: University of Maryland Medical School
Residency: General Surgery, Baystate Medical Center

Fellowship: Cardiothoracic Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

PODIATRIC SURGERY



Helen Cho, DPM
Medical School: Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine, Temple University
Residency: Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Temple University Hospital

UROLOGIC SURGERY



James Wren, MD
Medical School: Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland
Residency: Urology, Indiana University

Fellowship: Male Infertility and Andrology, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

OPHTHALMOLOGY



Mostafa Mazen, MD, PhD
Medical School: Cairo University, Egypt
Residency: Ophthalmology, Cairo University
Fellowship: Cornea and Refractive Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

TRANSPLANT SURGERY



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Residency: General Surgery; Massachusetts General Hospital, New York-Presbyterian Queens
Fellowship: Abdominal Transplant Surgery, Duke University Medical Center

Transplant Surgery Grows and Expands Options



Members of the team that performed the first robotic living donor for liver transplant in early 2025 are transplant surgeons (from left): Drs. Vincenzo Villani, Thomas Lee, Devin Eckhoff, Martin Dib, Vanessa Cowan, and Amy Evenson.

The Division of Transplant Surgery has undergone significant growth and expansion, introducing several new programs and achieving a number of noteworthy “firsts” in New England. In 2024, the division, which is part of the BIDMC Transplant Institute, performed the highest volume of liver and pancreas transplants in the program’s history. As one of only a handful of transplant centers in the country to offer

minimally invasive living donation for liver transplantation, last year the division’s transplant surgeons performed the first laparoscopic living donor for liver transplant and

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the first living donor liver transplant for colorectal metastases in New England. And earlier this year, as part of its new Robotic Hepatobiliary Surgery Program led by **Martin Dib, MD**, the transplant team performed BIDMC’s first robotic living donor for liver transplant, which reduces donors’ pain and length of hospitalization and accelerates their return to normal activities.



Dr. Martin Dib (second from left) and the OR nursing team that participated in the first robotic living donor for liver transplant (from left): Jess Lam, RN, Kaylin Amado, RN, and Jillian Fisher, CST.



Liver donor Scott Zeller and his sister, transplant recipient Lisa Barrus, at two weeks following surgery, which was performed with the aid of a surgical robot. Discharged from the hospital just five days after surgery, Scott was soon back on his treadmill. Lisa, who went home after nine days, also soon resumed her normal activities.

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Novel Collaboration Benefits Patients

A novel collaboration developed by interventional pulmonologist **Kai Swenson, MD**, and thoracic surgeon **Jennifer Wilson, MD, MPH**, of the Division of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology, enables patients with suspicious peripheral lung nodules to be diagnosed and, if cancer is detected, treated on the same day during a single trip to the operating room.

By contrast, patients typically have to undergo two procedures—one by an interventional pulmonologist to obtain a biopsy and the other by a thoracic surgeon to remove the lesion—separated by weeks, if not months, if the biopsy indicates cancer. This wait is not only disruptive and stressful for patients; in some cases, delaying treatment could worsen their prognosis. Drs. Swenson and Wilson use state-of-the-art, minimally invasive robotic technologies to diagnose and treat lung cancer.

Since launching the program—the first such collaboration in Boston—last year, Drs. Swenson and Wilson have performed 20 combined robotic

“Patients really appreciate having this option available to them.”

— Dr. Kai Swenson

bronchoscopy and robotic thoracic surgery cases. They have now expanded the program so that all faculty in the division offer it to their patients.



Drs. Jennifer Wilson and Kai Swenson team up to diagnose and, if needed, treat patients with suspicious peripheral lung nodules in a single trip to the operating room.

“Patients really appreciate having this option available to them,” says Dr. Swenson, noting that WBZ-TV News recently featured a patient who underwent the combined procedure. Dr. Swenson points out that this approach, which requires good communication and coordination among the specialists involved, is feasible because the BIDMC division encompasses both interventional pulmonologists and thoracic surgeons, who collaborate frequently on their patients’ care.