

Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL

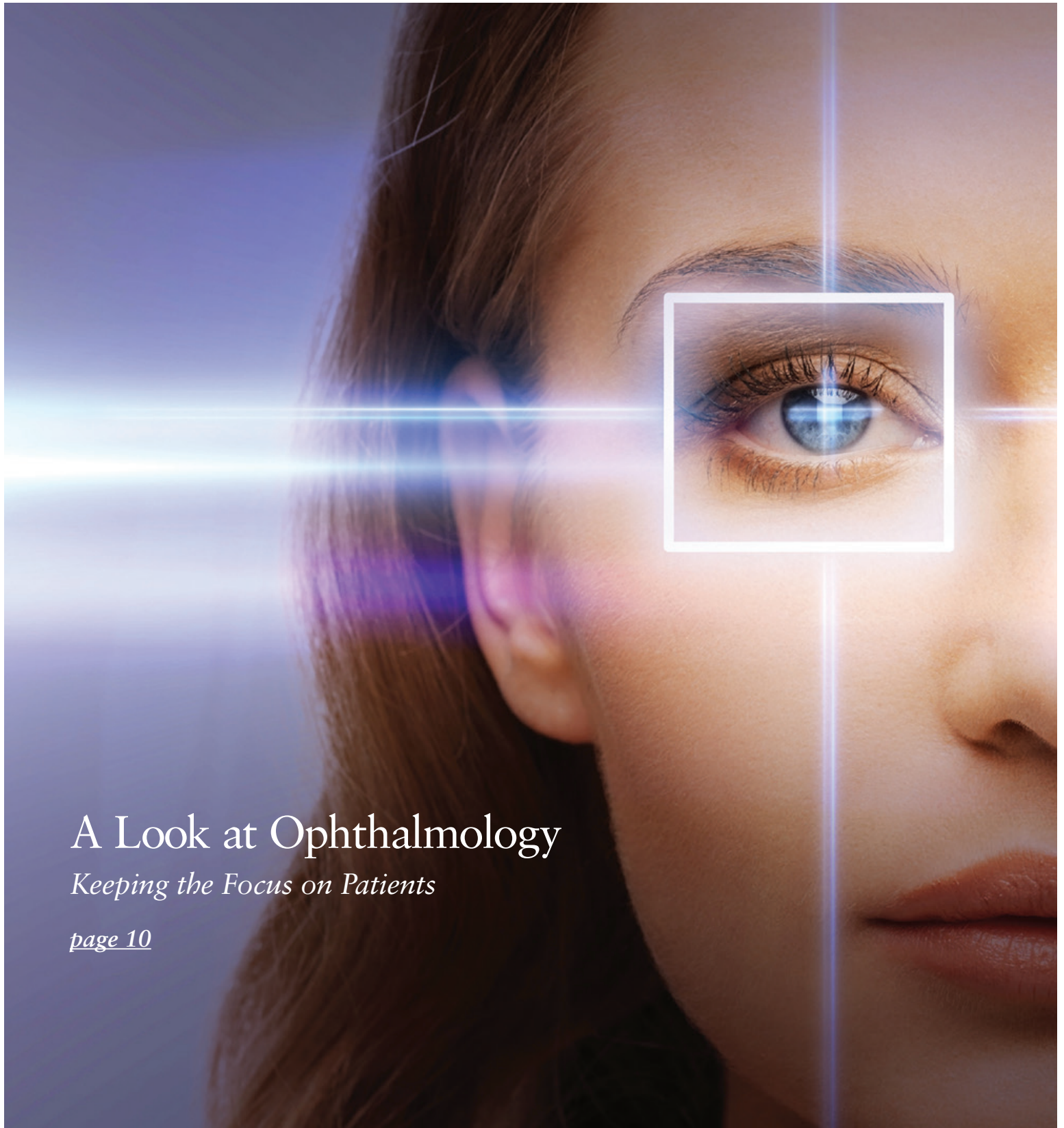
News from the Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner Department of Surgery
at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

INSIDE SURGERY

A Look at Ophthalmology

Keeping the Focus on Patients

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Message from the Chair

In June, BIDMC held a groundbreaking ceremony for its first new building on campus in 20 years — a ten-story, 345,000-square-foot inpatient building on our West Campus. From my office, I will be able to watch the new structure emerge from a vacant lot to become, when it is completed in 2022, a state-of-the-art facility designed to meet the needs of our patients and define what we mean by extraordinary care in the 21st century.

While groundbreaking ceremonies are relatively rare, within our department groundbreaking work is not. Since the founding of our Harvard Surgical Service more than 150 years ago, members of the Department of Surgery have introduced innumerable groundbreaking advances — from the development of peritoneal dialysis to the identification of a rapid assay to advance organ transplantation, to cite just a few.

Today, as in the past, our department continues to relentlessly pursue innovative solutions to important problems, some of which you will read about in this issue. For example, a team of faculty members funded by the NIH is working on genetically engineering bypass grafts to reduce the likelihood of late graft failure ([page 24](#)). A neurosurgical resident is pioneering the use of minimally invasive techniques to identify patients at risk of delayed complications after brain hemorrhage ([page 17](#)). One of our surgeons is developing novel approaches to identify breast cancer patients who can safely avoid the need for aggressive treatment ([page 5](#)).

Perseverance in the pursuit of excellence brings to mind the autobiography of retired astronaut Scott Kelly — *Endurance: My Year in Space, a Lifetime of Discovery*. In his journey from working-class kid to military and test pilot and, ultimately, to an astronaut who holds the U.S. record for the longest single spaceflight, the qualities that enabled Kelly to accomplish so much are identical to those displayed each and every day by our faculty and trainees: an implicit understanding of the centrality of teamwork, the capacity to persevere to achieve a worthy goal, and — most importantly — the courage to challenge the status quo and break new ground to improve the lives and well-being of others.



Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD



Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



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TEACHING HOSPITAL

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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

Chair, Surgery

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HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Promotions and Appointments

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

PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



Kiyoshi Itagaki, PhD

Dr. Itagaki is an investigator in the Division of Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care. He has made significant contributions to the understanding of calcium signaling, the molecular biology of inflammation from injury, and methodologies for the assessment of

neutrophil function.

Dr. Itagaki earned a BS in marine biology and a PhD in veterinary pharmacology from the University of Tokyo. Prior to joining BIDMC in 2006, Dr. Itagaki conducted research at the University of Cincinnati, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

In a study published in the *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*, Dr. Itagaki described a unique therapy using intratracheal application of exogenous neutrophils aimed at preventing and/or

treating health care-associated pneumonia after serious injury. This discovery may lead to a novel treatment that uses an established neutrophil cell line to prevent or treat this potentially life-threatening condition.

Dr. Itagaki is principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health grant entitled "mtDAMPs and nosocomial pneumonia after injury" and also serves as co-investigator on a Department of Defense grant entitled "DAMP-mediated innate immune failure and pneumonia after trauma."

Dr. Itagaki's scholarship is reflected in 46 peer-reviewed publications and three book chapters. He serves as a reviewer for numerous basic science journals, including the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Journal of Immunology*, *Journal of Cellular Physiology*, *Cell Death and Differentiation*, and *Frontiers in Microbiology*. He also teaches and mentors postdoctoral fellows and surgical trainees in the laboratory.

APPOINTED AS: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



Evangelos Messaris, MD, PhD

Dr. Messaris is Chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He is renowned for his expertise in the surgical treatment of colorectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease.

Dr. Messaris earned his medical degree and doctorate from Athens Medical School at the University of Athens, Greece. He completed a residency in general surgery at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, followed by a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in Hershey. Dr. Messaris was recruited to BIDMC from Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Dr. Messaris' clinical focus is minimally invasive surgery and

surgery in high-risk patients. He was instrumental in launching a Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship Program at BIDMC, which will admit its first trainee later this year (see page 9).

Dr. Messaris has published more than 65 peer-reviewed papers in scientific journals, and contributed two chapters to textbooks. His research interests include outcomes of patients undergoing surgical intervention for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and minimally invasive surgery. He lectures internationally, and is a reviewer for more than 20 medical journals, including *Critical Care Medicine*, *Surgical Endoscopy*, and *Journal of Crohn's & Colitis*. Dr. Messaris is also on the editorial board of *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, the highest ranked journal in the specialty.



SAVE THE DATE October 17, 2019 | 6-9 PM

"Food is Medicine" Gala to support the Greater Boston Food Bank

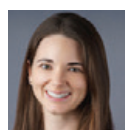
Greater Boston Food Bank, 70 South Bay Ave., Boston

Tickets, information, and to donate:gbfb.org/events/foodismedicine

New Trainees Welcomed to Department

Each June, the Department of Surgery welcomes new trainees at a reception at the Harvard Club in Boston. At the event, chief residents and faculty members welcomed these new members of the Department of Surgery family to BIDMC.

CATEGORICAL INTERNS



Margaret Berrigan, MD
George Washington
University School
of Medicine



Praachi Raje, MD
Boston University School
of Medicine



Lucas Souza-Mota, MD
Howard University College
of Medicine



Thomas Hirsch, MD
Medical College
of Wisconsin



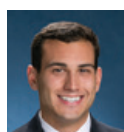
Kelsey Romatoski, MD
Rush Medical College
of Rush University
Medical Center



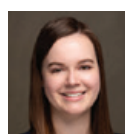
Winona Wu, MD
Harvard Medical School
*Integrated Vascular
Surgery (0-5)*



Betty Liu, MD
Tufts University School
of Medicine



Andrew Sanders, MD
Emory University School
of Medicine



Leah Ott, MD
Tulane University School
of Medicine



**Pamela "Nina"
Scalise, MD**
University of Illinois
College of Medicine

PRELIMINARY INTERNS

Godwin Abiola, MD
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Angelica Hernandez Alvarez, MD
Universidad Centro-Occidental
Lisandro Alvarado Decanato
de Ciencias de la Salud

Tara Hogan, MD
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical
Sciences at the University at Buffalo

Aron Lechtig, MD
Universidad Central de Venezuela
Escuela de Medicina Luis Razetti

Blaine Phillips, MD, MPH
Harvard Medical School

Francesca Saldanha, MD
University of Cambridge School
of Clinical Medicine

NEUROSURGERY INTERN

Andrew Powers, MD
Warren Alpert Medical School
of Brown University

PODIATRY INTERNS

Tommy Ho, DPM
Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine
and Science

Lowell Tong, DPM
California School of Podiatric Medicine
Samuel Merritt University

FELLOWS

**Aesthetic and Reconstructive Breast
Surgery/Microsurgery**

Ryan Cauley, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital

**Aesthetic and Reconstructive
Plastic Surgery**

Rick Grover, MD
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Breast Surgery
Isha Emhoff, MD, MPH
Warren Alpert Medical School
of Brown University

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Ammara Watkins, MD, MPH
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Hand/Microsurgery
David L. Colen, MD
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Interventional Pulmonology
Ramsy Abdelghani, MD
Tulane University

Muhammad Ali, MD
University of Wisconsin

Tanmay Panchabhai, MD
Cleveland Clinic

Priya Patel, MD
Mayo Clinic-Rochester

Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy
Sameh Hanna, MD
University of South Carolina

Shahzad Khan, MD
University of Massachusetts

Asma Tariq, MD
Tufts University

Surgical Critical Care
Sean Hersey, MD
Warren Alpert Medical School
of Brown University

Stacey Keith, MD
University of Vermont Medical Center

Vascular Surgery
Melinda Schaller, MD
University of California San Francisco

In many issues of *Inside Surgery*, we focus on the question a member of our faculty “owns” — a question that inspires his or her research.

THE QUESTION I OWN — Ted A. James, MD, MS

Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology
and Vice Chair of Academic
Affairs, Department of Surgery
Co-Director, BIDMC
BreastCare Center

There is good news and bad news when it comes to breast cancer treatment. The good news is that research conducted at BIDMC and elsewhere has led to the development of best practices and standards of care designed to ensure that breast cancer patients — wherever they are treated or by whom — receive the best therapies available. The bad news is that there are still considerable variations in care nationwide, which leads to disparate outcomes, and in some situations, best practices have not yet been established.

Ted James, MD, MS, believes that all patients deserve the best possible care based on the latest scientific evidence. Toward that end, he conducts research that uses all available resources, including large national cancer databases and patient-reported outcomes, to assess the effectiveness, quality, and value of specific care practices and interventions in the surgical management of breast cancer.

“Our goal is to establish best practices, determine optimal processes, and improve the quality of care for all patients with breast cancer,” says Dr. James, who leads a research team of research and clinical fellows, surgery residents, and medical students.



Negative margins

Dr. James has focused on this goal his entire career. Before he joined BIDMC in 2016, Dr. James conducted research in collaboration with others that led to the establishment of guidelines defining what constitutes a negative margin — the depth of healthy tissue surrounding a malignant tumor following surgical excision — which had previously varied widely. As a result of this work, which was published in *JAMA* and other top journals, it is now known that for invasive breast cancer, any negative margin is acceptable if the patient is undergoing radiation therapy after surgery, sparing many women from having to undergo a second operation.

At BIDMC, Dr. James’ research has led to other findings that are improving care and outcomes. For example, mining data from the massive National Cancer Database, which contains data from 75 percent of all cancer cases in the United States, Dr. James and his

group created an algorithm that predicts which patients with lymph node involvement undergoing chemotherapy prior to surgery (neoadjuvant chemotherapy) are highly likely to have a complete response in the lymph nodes. These patients can undergo sampling of only a few “sentinel” lymph nodes and, if those are cancer free, avoid the more aggressive complete lymph node dissection, which can cause complications such as lymphedema. This work was published in the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*.

Predicting responses

Another project that was recently published, also in the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, is using genomic analysis of tumor tissue from many thousands of patients to predict who will have a high likelihood of a good response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy, which is used to reduce tumor size prior to surgery.

Patients whose tumors are not likely to respond could avoid

Continued on page 28 >

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

C. Keith Ozaki, MD, FACS, 1995

John A. Mannick Professor of Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School

With his hint of a southern accent, it comes as little surprise that C. Keith Ozaki, MD, hails from the South. He was born and raised in northern Florida, where his family has deep roots reaching back seven generations. In fact, the family still owns 600-plus acres of land in the northern part of the state, where pine trees are grown and forested as a source of renewable energy.

Dr. Ozaki did his undergraduate studies and attended medical school at North Carolina's Duke University. During medical school, he came to Boston to do a year of research at Boston Children's Hospital, as well as a rotation at New England Deaconess Hospital (which merged with Beth Israel Hospital to become Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center). It was during this time that Dr. Ozaki discovered the allure of working in such a robust academic environment, not to mention the charms of the city. "I loved my time in Boston," he recalls.

Dr. Ozaki, whose father (now 93) was a pediatrician, was attracted to surgery for many reasons, which still hold true today. "I like the people, the science, and the hardworking culture of surgery, as well



in whose lab Dr. Ozaki spent two years during his residency researching the biology of artificial vascular grafts. "This experience crystallized my desire to conduct research to find new, better ways to treat patients," he says, as well as his decision to specialize in vascular surgery.

Dr. Ozaki says he also learned a great deal from his fellow residents, which include surgical leaders like Drs. Betsy Tuttle-Newhall, Elizabeth (Lisa) Breen, Christopher Caldarone, and Peter Marcello to name just a few. Dr. Ozaki also met his wife, Kimberly, then a vascular surgery nurse at the Deaconess, during his residency. Looking back, he says the Deaconess residency was the perfect fit for him. "I was the right trainee at the right place at the right time."

Following two years of a vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Michigan, in 1997 Dr. Ozaki returned to Florida. He joined the faculty at the University of Florida Medical School in Gainesville with the goal of building a vascular surgery research program in a very busy clinical environment. He accomplished that and was soon named Chief of Vascular Surgery at the Malcolm Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

In 2006, Dr. Ozaki was promoted to Chief of Surgical Services for the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, one of the biggest VA systems in the nation, and was promoted to Professor of Surgery in 2007. He had a well-funded research

"My experience crystallized my desire to conduct research to find new, better ways to treat patients."

C. Keith Ozaki, MD

as the opportunities to make improvements," he says. "I also like taking care of very sick people and dealing with challenging, complex cases and issues."

The right place, the right time

Following graduation, Dr. Ozaki was pleased when he matched to the Deaconess/Harvard Surgical Service, even though it meant leaving the warm, sunny South for years.

"I was blessed with being able to train with faculty like Drs. Albert Bothe, Dorothy Freeman, and [then Chair] Glenn Steele, as well as Dr. Frank LoGerfo,"

program, an interesting clinical practice, and was challenged and content. “I thought I’d never leave Florida,” he says.

But one afternoon, Dr. Ozaki got a call from Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) inviting him to come to Boston to discuss joining the Department of Surgery. “At first I was reluctant, as I loved Florida and my job,” he says. “But then I remembered my great experiences in Boston and thought about all the potential opportunities for education and research collaborations, so I made the trip, knowing I’d regret it someday if I didn’t.” Dr. Ozaki accepted the faculty position, including the role of Director of Vascular Surgery Research, and moved to Boston in 2008. “It was a very good decision, as the past 11 years have been a wonderful experience, both professionally and personally,” he says.

Many hats

At BWH, Dr. Ozaki wears many hats. In addition to serving as Director of Vascular Surgery Research, he is Clinical Director of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and Co-Director of the Biomedical Research Institute’s Cardiovascular, Diabetes, and Metabolic Disorders Research Center. He is also Director of Resident Research, charged with helping general surgery residents identify their research interests during their academic enrichment years. “Our trainees are real superstars,” he says, adding that he relishes his role as a teacher and mentor.

Dr. Ozaki also maintains a busy clinical practice focusing on complex open vascular procedures and dialysis access surgery, and conducts basic and clinical research funded largely by the NIH and the American Heart Association.

One major focus of Dr. Ozaki’s basic research is delineating the mechanisms by which physical forces alter the structure of the blood vessel wall, specifically the adaptations of vein bypass grafts. His recent investigations have focused on inflammatory and adipose-driven mechanisms of these adaptations.

Dietary restrictions before surgery

Dr. Ozaki’s latest research focuses on investigating whether dietary changes (such as restricted intake of protein, certain amino acids, and calories) shortly before elective major surgery can potentially improve

outcomes by turning on nutrient-sensitive pathways that may reduce injury resulting from the trauma of surgery. “This is a growing area of investigation in many areas of surgery,” says Dr. Ozaki. He is also working on improving care and outcomes for dialysis patients.

To date, Dr. Ozaki has had more than 120 peer-reviewed articles published in top journals. He is also the co-editor of the recently published, two-volume comprehensive vascular surgery textbook and atlas, *Master Techniques in Surgery: Vascular Surgery*, with co-editor and fellow BIDMC Surgery alumnus R. Clement Darling, III, MD (profiled in the [Spring 2012 issue of Inside Surgery](#)).

In 2014, Dr. Ozaki was named the first John A. Mannick Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and in 2016, he was promoted to Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. Being named the Mannick Professor of Surgery is an honor that particularly resonates with him as Dr. Mannick was a visiting professor at the Deaconess when Dr. Ozaki was a trainee.

“Dr. Mannick inspired a generation of surgeon-scientists, including me, to work hard to generate new knowledge to help patients,” he says. “It is my dream that someday a discovery I make in the basic lab will lead to a clinical trial and eventually an intervention that will improve patient care.”

NEW FACULTY

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



Boris Gershman, MD

Division: Urologic Surgery

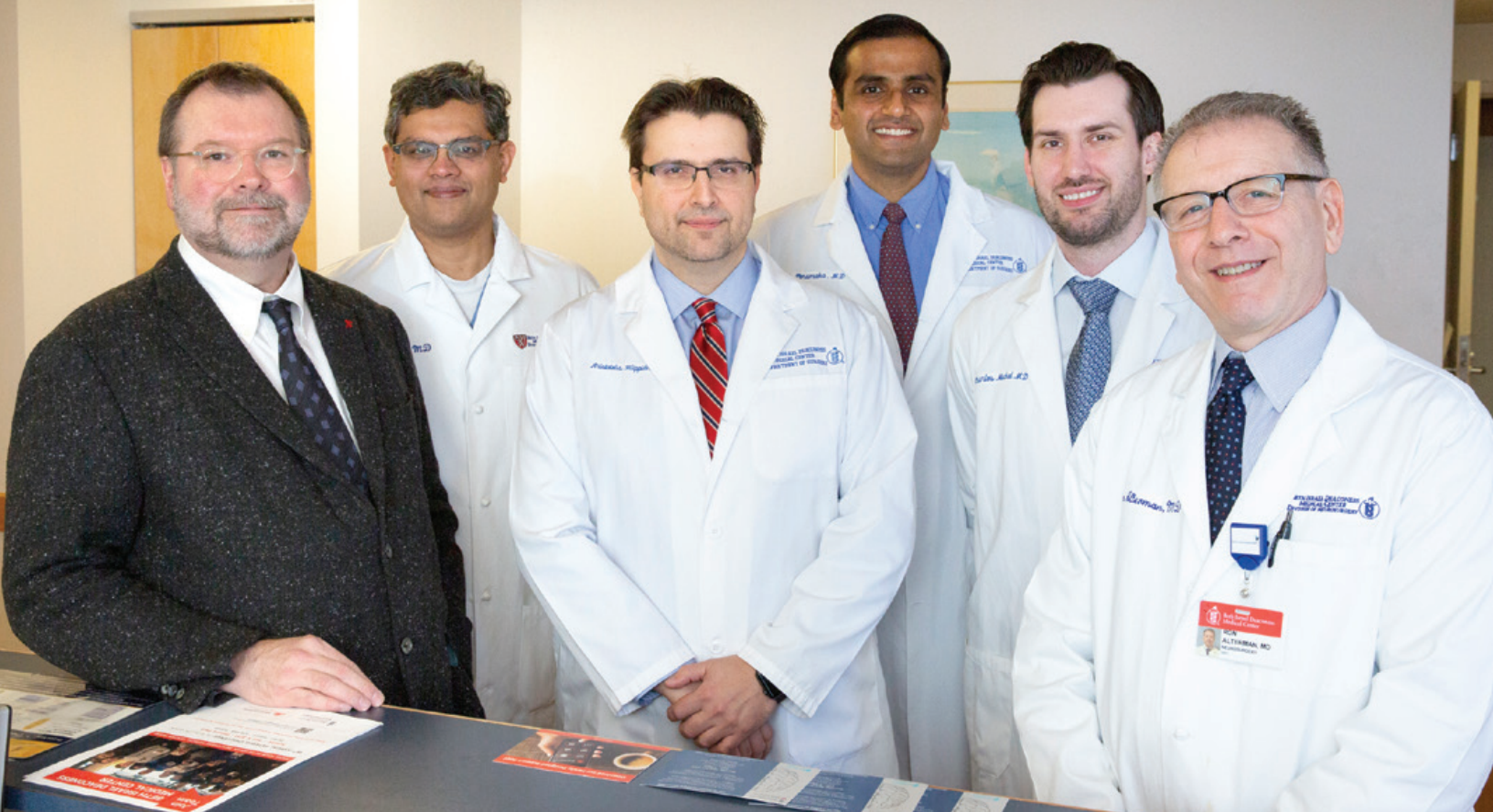
Medical School: University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Residency: Massachusetts General Hospital

Fellowship: Mayo Clinic

Phone: 617-667-3739

Dr. Gershman sees patients at BIDMC and Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare-Chelsea.



From left: James Holsapple, MD, Ajith Thomas, MD, Aristotelis Filippidis, MD, PhD, Anirudh Penumaka, MD, MS, Charles Mackel, MD, JD, and Ron Alterman, MD.

Neurosurgical Residency Program

At Three Years, Going Strong

The road to becoming an academic neurosurgeon is demanding and long, requiring seven years of residency after medical school, often followed by one to two years of fellowship training. Understandably, those who choose this surgical specialty are eager to select a program that offers an outstanding faculty that is deeply committed to education and training, clinical exposure to all neurosurgical subspecialties, broad research opportunities, and a supportive environment that allows them to grow and flourish.

The combined Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center-Boston Medical Center Neurosurgical Residency Program is just such a program. Following years of planning and accreditation in early 2016 following its first review by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the program, approved for one resident per year, is now well into its third year and recently welcomed its fourth resident.

Unique in many respects

The chair of the program is **Ron Alterman, MD**, Chief of Neurosurgery at BIDMC, which serves as the program's administrative base. **James Holsapple, MD**, Chief of Neurosurgery at Boston Medical Center (BMC) is the program director and **Ajith Thomas, MD**, co-director of the BIDMC Brain Aneurysm Institute, is the BIDMC site director.

According to Dr. Thomas, the BIDMC-BMC Neurosurgical Residency Program is unique in many respects, attracting more than 200 U.S. applicants each year for a single opening. One is that residents train at three of the busiest hospitals in New England, each of which focuses on different patient populations: BIDMC, BMC, and Boston Children's Hospital, all of which provide care for patients with an array of complex neurosurgical conditions. Residents divide their time equally between BIDMC and BMC, the largest safety-net

hospital in New England, and spend six months during their fifth year at Boston Children's Hospital.

"Residents in our program benefit from the best of both worlds, plus six months at Children's, offering them exposure to diverse types of patients, faculty, and clinical environments," says Dr. Holsapple. The site directors of BMC and Boston Children's Hospital are, respectively, Justin Massengale, MD, and Mark Proctor, MD, and the program is managed by **Ashma Bhandary** at BIDMC.

Other major strengths of the program are the high caliber of the faculty, which includes renowned leaders in all neurosurgical subspecialties, and the wealth of research opportunities available to residents, who spend 12 to 18 months starting in their fourth year engaged in research. "This is an extraordinarily rich academic environment, offering residents endless opportunities to pursue their research interests," says Dr. Thomas.

'Part of our mission'

One of the greatest strengths is the faculty's commitment to the program and the education of its residents.

"Training and educating the next generation of academic neurosurgeons is an important part of our mission as an academic medical center," says Dr. Thomas. "Many people worked very hard and collaborated across institutions to bring this program to fruition and we are proud of what we offer to our residents."

"This is an extraordinarily rich academic environment, offering residents endless opportunities to pursue their research interests."

Ajith Thomas, MD
BIDMC site director

The first resident in the program, now in his fourth postgraduate year, is **Aristotelis Filippidis, MD, PhD**. A graduate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Medical School in Greece who holds a PhD in physiology from the University of Thessaly, Dr. Filippidis completed a postdoctoral fellowship in aquaporin research from Virginia Commonwealth University and neurosurgical fellowships at the

[Continued on page 17 >](#)

TWO NEW TRAINING PROGRAMS LAUNCHED

The Department of Surgery launched two new training programs during the previous year: in Colon and Rectal Surgery and Urologic Surgery. These programs provide a rich training experience for trainees in these surgical specialties. To learn more about these and all of our training programs, please visit the "Training and Education" section of the Surgery website (bidmc.org/surgery).

COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In 2018, the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery, under the leadership of Chief **Evangelos Messaris, MD, PhD**, launched a one-year, ACGME-accredited Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship Program, which will admit its first trainee, **Kristina Go, MD**, in August. The Program Director is **Thomas Cataldo, MD**. Fellows will participate in all aspects of colon and rectal surgery practice at

BIDMC, including outpatient clinics, the Multidisciplinary Rectal Cancer Clinic, inpatient and outpatient surgeries, endoscopy, and inpatient patient care. In addition, fellows will perform colonoscopies in collaboration with BIDMC gastroenterology (GI) faculty, who will also expose fellows to GI motility and pelvic floor evaluation as well as interventional GI procedures. Fellows will also participate in research projects and develop and complete a quality improvement project.

HARVARD UROLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM AT BIDMC

With decades of experience training residents from the Harvard-Longwood Combined Urology Residency Program and Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, BIDMC Urologic Surgery now offers its own independent, accredited Urology Residency Program, led

by Program Director and Chief of Urologic Surgery **Aria Olumi, MD**, and Associate Director **Ruslan Korets, MD**. In January, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved the Harvard Urology Residency Program at BIDMC for two residents a year. The program will accept its first trainees this year.

Residents in the five-year program will rotate between BIDMC and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham, gaining exposure to all aspects of urologic practice including general urology, endourology/stone disease, neuro-urology, urologic oncology, infertility, and pediatric urology (at Boston Children's Hospital). In addition, residents will conduct research and choose an elective clinical experience to explore their specific areas of interest.



Chief of Ophthalmology Nurhan Torun, MD, credits the entire Ophthalmology team for the division's reputation for excellence.

A Look at Ophthalmology

Keeping the Focus on Patients

Of the five senses, sight is the most valued, largely because humans are so dependent on vision for navigating and understanding their environment. Ever mindful of this, the members of the Division of Ophthalmology are dedicated to providing patient-focused, state-of-the-art medical and surgical care to individuals with all types of eye conditions — from common disorders in healthy people to complex eye diseases in patients who may also have other serious medical conditions.

Under the leadership of Chief of Ophthalmology **Nurhan Torun, MD**, the Division of Ophthalmology (see “Our Team”)

offers comprehensive general ophthalmology services, as well as subspecialty services in the following areas:

- cataract
- cornea/ocular surface diseases
- glaucoma
- neuro-ophthalmology
- ocular oncology
- oculoplastics and orbital disorders
- refractive management (Lasik and other forms of laser vision correction)
- retina

The division also provides on-site optometry services as well as a variety of ancillary tests. Many services are provided in the Eye

Clinic on the medical center's main campus; some are also offered at BIDMC affiliate Cambridge Health Alliance sites and plans are underway to make them available at other community locations.

Reputation for excellence

Dr. Torun, who has been a member of the division for 13 years and was named chief in 2018, says that BIDMC Ophthalmology has a longstanding reputation for clinical excellence, resulting in more than 28,000 visits a year from patients from throughout New England. This success is due, in large part, because “We keep our focus on our patients in all we

do,” says Dr. Torun, noting that the staff and systems are in place to ensure that patients are seen in an efficient manner, are well-informed, and have their needs addressed promptly and professionally.

One service that sets BIDMC apart is neuro-ophthalmology, in particular because it includes an ophthalmology-trained neuro-ophthalmologist (Dr. Torun) and a neurology-trained neuro-ophthalmologist (**Marc Bouffard, MD**). Drs. Torun and Bouffard work together to diagnose, treat, and manage patients with a range of neurologic and systemic

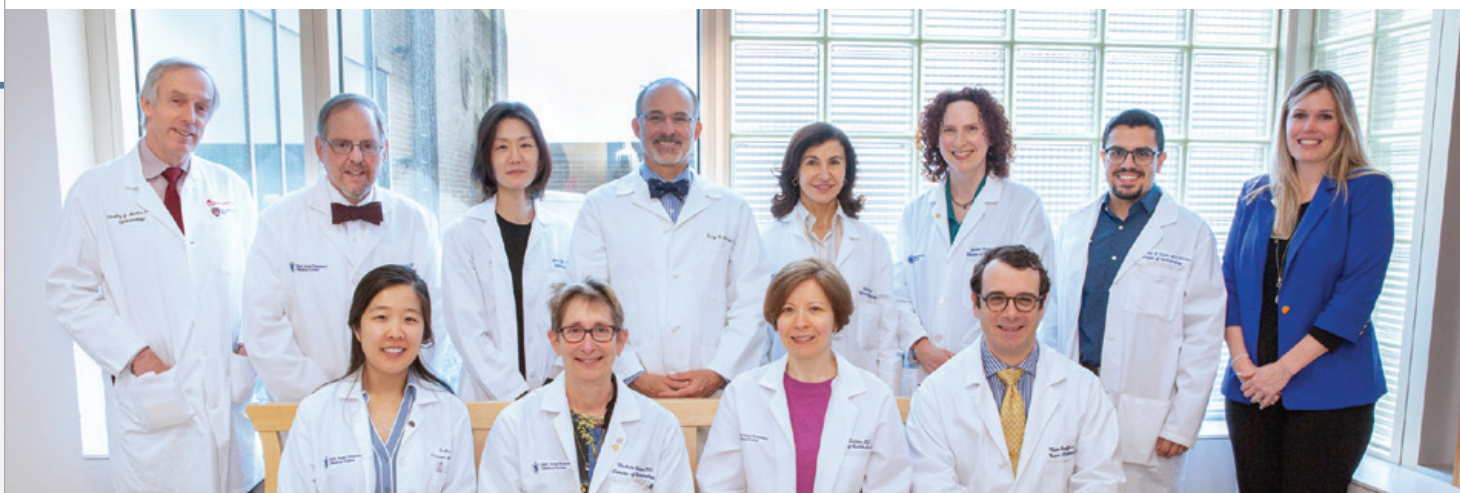
disorders that affect the eyes and parts of the brain involved in vision. This expertise can save vision — and lives.

A few years ago, for instance, Dr. Torun saw a patient, 66-year-old Osiris Bernabel, who had vision loss of unclear origin, with one eye legally blind. Immediately, Dr. Torun ordered an MRI that revealed the cause: a large brain tumor. Following urgent surgery by a BIDMC neurosurgeon, Mr. Bernabel’s vision was almost completely restored. As a result of this early diagnosis and intervention, today Mr. Bernabel

remains able to work and drive, and only needs glasses for reading.

The division’s success is also due to the fact that its 10 fellowship-trained specialists have close working relationships with many other specialists throughout BIDMC, including neurosurgeons, neurologists, endocrinologists, rheumatologists, and oncologists. This teamwork provides patients, particularly those with complex medical conditions such as Mr. Bernabel, with well-coordinated care that helps improve outcomes. “Because of our collaborative culture and shared

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Members of the Ophthalmology team (standing, from left) include: Timothy Murtha, MD, Mark Kuperwaser, MD, Jae Young (Jane) You, MD, Jorge Arroyo, MD, MPH, Nurhan Torun, MD, Jessica Poscover, OD, Mohammad (Nima) Shahi, MD, and Operations Manager Whitney Griesbach; (seated, from left): Esther Yang, OD, Michele Coleman, OD, Olga Zeldin, OD, and Marc Bouffard, MD.

OUR TEAM	SUBSPECIALTY
Nurhan Torun, MD, <i>Chief</i>	Comprehensive ophthalmology, Neuro-ophthalmology
Jorge Arroyo, MD, MPH	Retina
Frank Berson, MD	Glaucoma
Marc Bouffard, MD*	Neuro-ophthalmology
Efren Gonzales, MD	Ocular oncology
Mark Kuperwaser, MD	Glaucoma
Timothy Murtha, MD	Retina
Mohammad (Nima) Shahi, MD	Glaucoma
Michael Yoon, MD	Oculoplastics and orbital diseases
Jae Young (Jane) You, MD	Cornea

*Neurologist

OPTOMETRISTS

Heather Bell, OD
Michele Coleman, OD
Jessica Poscover, OD
Esther Yang, OD
Olga Zeldin, OD



**FOR APPOINTMENTS
OR REFERRALS, CALL:
617-667-3391**

Selected Publications

Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care

Barrett CD, Moore HB, Kong YW, Chapman MP, Sriram G, Lim D, Moore EE, **Yaffe MB**. Tranexamic acid mediates proinflammatory and anti-inflammatory signaling via complement C5a regulation in a plasminogen activator-dependent manner. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg* 2019;86(1):101-7.

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Committee for Social Responsibility founder and surgeon co-leader Allen Hamdan, MD, speaking at Food is Medicine. Beth Israel Lahey Health President and CEO Kevin Tabb, MD (right), also speaks at the event.

Established in 2011, the Committee for Social Responsibility is going strong, with an extensive list of accomplishments and partnerships that have benefited countless people.

Committee for Social Responsibility

Helping Those in Need Live Healthier, Better Lives

Eight years ago, at the urging of vascular surgeon **Allen Hamdan, MD**, the Department of Surgery formed a committee with the goal of extending the department's mission of improving lives to help those in need in the broader community. Today, the Committee for Social Responsibility (CSR) is going strong, with an extensive list of accomplishments and partnerships that have benefited — and continue to benefit — countless people in need.

The CSR is now led by surgeon co-leaders Dr. Hamdan, Vice Chair of Surgery (Director of Operations), and **Ted James, MD, MS**, Vice Chair of Surgery for Academic Affairs and Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology, as well as **Emily Utaski**, Surgery Administration, and **Jeffrey Dawson**, Perioperative Services.

Its members include Surgery faculty, trainees, advanced practice providers, and staff as well as surgical and perioperative nurses and a member of the BIDMC Community Relations department.

“Everyone is welcome to participate in the CSR,” says Dr. Hamdan, emphasizing that participation is voluntary and that the group's top priorities are identified through open discussion and consensus among members. While all ideas are considered, the CSR prioritizes initiatives that build on existing programs or groups to achieve the maximum benefit.

The early top priorities of the CSR, which meets quarterly to gather ideas, report on progress, and establish working groups for new initiatives, have remained: hunger/food insecurity, homelessness, and childhood

education. Another major priority — raising awareness of and preventing human sex trafficking — was added in 2017. Over the years the CSR has also supported and participated in many one-time initiatives that align with its mission, from helping obtain equipment for doctors participating in medical missions to organizing volunteers to take part in Boston neighborhood cleanups.

Reducing hunger

In 2012, on behalf of the CSR, Dr. Hamdan reached out to the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) with the proposal to host an event to raise awareness about hunger and raise funds for the GBFB. Held each fall, “Food is Medicine” (see page 3) is now the largest single event supporting the GBFB and has raised more than \$535,000 —

the equivalent of more than 1.6 million meals.

Each year, Food is Medicine has grown in size and scope and now receives major support from BIDMC and its affiliated hospitals; Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at BIDMC; and individuals, organizations, and businesses throughout Greater Boston. One of the first physicians formally involved with the GBFB, Dr. Hamdan now serves on its Board of Directors.

To introduce new surgical residents to the importance of social responsibility and the detrimental effects of hunger on health, residents are now expected to volunteer at the GBFB as part of their orientation. Drs. Hamdan and James also plan to engage Harvard Medical School students during their surgery rotations and have connected with the resident-led BIDMC Department of Medicine CSR to find ways to team up.

“We want to integrate social responsibility into the education of the next generation of doctors while encouraging teamwork among doctors who collaborate in patient care,” says Dr. Hamdan, adding that volunteerism may soon become a graduate medical education requirement for all BIDMC residents.

The CSR has also helped with efforts to reduce hunger and food insecurity through other partnerships. For several years, for example, the committee worked with others at BIDMC to raise funds for the Parker Hill/Fenway Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) gift card

drive, which helps recipients purchase essential items, including food. In addition, the group advocates for food security through its support of efforts to bring the Breakfast after the Bell program, which provides breakfasts to students in the classroom, to Massachusetts.

Helping the homeless

Since its inception, the CSR has partnered with several organizations to help with their ongoing initiatives to improve the health and well-being of individuals, including teens, who are homeless

socks. Approximately 12,000 pairs of socks have been contributed since the inception of BIDMC’s partnership with this program.

For years, the CSR has also partnered with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless by holding an annual coat drive to collect new or gently used winter coats. Last year, the drive netted 130 coats, which were shared with the BIDMC Social Work Department for dissemination to patients in need and the Coalition for the Homeless to stock “teen closets” in area public schools. This initiative provides



The annual Food is Medicine gala has raised more than \$535,000 for hungry families. This year's gala is October 17.

or struggling with poverty.

In collaboration with the Division of Podiatric Surgery and other community service groups at BIDMC, the CSR has participated each year in the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless and Red Sox annual “Sox for Socks” campaign, which collects new socks for homeless women and men, who are at risk of frostbite and other serious foot conditions without clean

free clothing and personal-care products in schools so that homeless or poor students can easily obtain what they need. For several years, the CSR also participated in a toiletries drive to provide essential personal-care products to young patients served by the Sidney Borum Jr. Health Center.

Continued on page 16 >



Left: Social responsibility and teamwork are now integrated into surgical training by encouraging interns to volunteer during their orientation. Below: The CSR's annual gift drive brings joy to many disadvantaged children as well as gift-givers.

< Continued from page 15

Addressing human sex trafficking

A recent CSR initiative is aimed at raising awareness of and preventing human sex trafficking through a partnership with “My Life My Choice.” A program of the Justice Resource Institute in Boston, My Life My Choice provides mentoring, community education, and skills training for vulnerable teenage girls with the goal of ending commercial sexual exploitation. The CSR has partnered with My Life My Choice by providing items that help teens return to high school, such as backpacks, calculators, and gift cards with which to purchase school supplies. Through the CSR's efforts, last year BIDMC became a major sponsor of the annual My Life My Choice event, which raises funds for the program.

According to Dr. James, who championed this initiative with the CSR, “We plan to build on this partnership by providing these girls and young women with opportunities to learn about careers in health care. We are also working with our colleagues to raise awareness of this issue among residents in specialties that often encounter patients in this population, including surgery as well as obstetrics/gynecology and emergency medicine,” says Dr. James.

Educating and supporting students

Helping educate and support disadvantaged children and teens is another high priority for the CSR. For the past five years, the CSR has partnered with two local schools with diverse student populations (the Richard J. Murphy School in Dorchester and the Mary Lyons School in Brighton) to provide its



delivered more than 400 gifts to 50 children at the Mary Lyons School, according to NSQIP Program Manager **Mary Beth Cotter, RN**, who has been actively involved in the gift drive since its inception.

The CSR also helps educate and inspire students in local schools; for example, surgical residents have visited schools such as Madison Park to talk to students about medical careers, and the annual BIDMC/MIT Surgical Shadowing Program was an early CSR initiative. “We would like to offer a similar type of shadowing experience to high school students, providing them with exposure to a range of career opportunities in health care,” says Dr. Hamdan.

The projects undertaken by the CSR are diverse, but all aim to achieve the same goal: to help those in need in the community live healthier, better lives and advocating on their behalf. Now entering its ninth year, the CSR has become a model for social responsibility in health care throughout BIDMC and, as word of its impact spreads, at hospitals across the nation.

The Committee for Social Responsibility Mission

We aim to make an impact on the lives and communities of people in need by bridging financial, educational, and social gaps. Our endeavors will raise awareness; inspire others; and focus on realistic, sustainable, and measurable goals. We will be inclusive of all interested people.

students with wrapped holiday gifts ranging from games to bicycles and trampolines. Last year alone, the gift drive, which is made possible through the generosity of members of the Department of Surgery, Nursing, and many others,

< [Continued from page 9](#)

Barrow Neurological Institute and Boston University. Dr. Filippidis is thrilled to be in the program and appreciates that he is given broad exposure to different

all outstanding,” says Dr. Thomas.

Everyone involved in the program is deeply committed to the continued enhancement and growth of the residency and, most importantly, to providing the best possible training to residents so they acquire the knowledge, skills, experience, judgment, and values to excel as academic neurosurgeons.

“The faculty are world leaders in neurosurgery and have clearly made a tremendous commitment to this program to develop surgeon-scientists.”

PGY-4 resident Aristotelis Filippidis, MD, PhD

institutions and patient populations, as well as challenging cases, from elective procedures to trauma. He also appreciates the opportunities to pursue his research interests.

World leaders

“The faculty are world leaders in neurosurgery and have clearly made a tremendous commitment to this program to develop surgeon-scientists, and they are very supportive,” says Dr. Filippidis, adding that “it is an honor and tremendous responsibility” to be a member of the first class of seven, which “sets the tone for the entire program.”

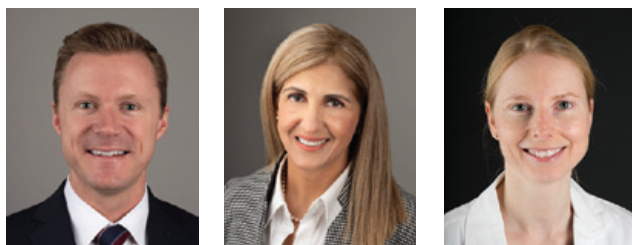
This year, Dr. Filippidis will focus on Brain Computer Interface (BCI), his primary research interest, at Brown University and the BrainGATE research group. BCI involves the interface between the brain and computers for potential clinical applications such as enabling quadriplegics to move their limbs. Dr. Filippidis has also been pursuing other areas of research during his residency. In 2017, for example, he received the \$50,000 Hydrocephalus Association Innovator Award for his project aimed at using minimally invasive techniques to identify patients at risk of developing delayed hydrocephalus — a significant risk for cognitive and functional decline — after subarachnoid hemorrhage.

The other residents in the program are **Andrew Powers, MD (PGY-1)**, a graduate of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University; **Charles Mackel, MD, JD (PGY-2)**, a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law and Tufts University School of Medicine; and **Anirudh Penumaka, MD, MS (PGY-3)**, a graduate of Duke University School of Medicine. “This is our first generation of residents, and they are



Neurosurgeon Jeffrey Arle, MD, PhD

NEWS BRIEFS



The department's Office of Academic Affairs, led by Surgery Vice Chair and Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology **Ted James, MD, MS**, recently announced the leaders of three new committees (from left): **Benjamin James, MD, MS**, Endocrine Surgery, the Professionalism Committee; **Alia Qureshi, MD, MSc**, General Surgery, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee; and **Martina Stippler, MD**, Neurosurgery, the Physician Wellness Committee.



Andrew (Drew) Wagner, MD (right), Chief of Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery, received the 2019 Annual Award for Excellence in Clinical Research Mentorship. This award recognizes a Department of Surgery faculty member whose commitment to and investment in the development of students, residents, fellows, and/or junior faculty as clinical scientists demonstrates excellence in mentoring. "This award acknowledges faculty members who give so freely of their time and expertise to create a supportive environment that encourages the development of clinical scientists," says **James Rodrigue, PhD**, Vice Chair of Clinical Research in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Rodrigue presented the award to Dr. Wagner during Surgery Grand Rounds in May.

In May, the third annual Innovation Showcase and Pitch Finale for the Harvard Surgical Program in Innovation (SPIN) took place



From left: Drs. Udelsman, Crum, and Lazow; not pictured: Alexander Munoz.

at Harvard Medical School. BIDMC Surgery SPIN participants were residents **Seema Anandalwar, MD**, **Jane Cheng, MD**, **Stefanie Lazow, MD**, and **Jenny Yu, MD**. At the event, four teams pitched their innovation to the audience and a panel of experts, who voted on the projects. The members of this year's winning team were: **Dr. Lazow**, Robert Crum, MD (Boston Children's Hospital), Alexander Munoz (student, Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology), and Brooks Udelsman, MD (Massachusetts General Hospital), for their project, a device called "TubeSeal" for safer chest tube removal. The event also featured a keynote address by **Gabriel Brat, MD, MPH**, Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care, who spoke on "Balancing Innovation and Commercialization During Surgical Training."



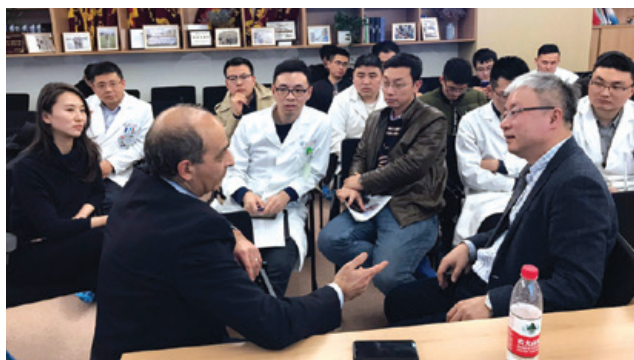
Scharukh Jalisi, MD, Chief of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, was an invited speaker and master trainer at the 28th International Conference of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in Pakistan in the fall. Dr. Jalisi (second from right) ran a two-day course to train physicians on thyroidectomy, laryngectomy, neck dissection, parotidectomy, and regional flap reconstruction of the head and neck. He also gave keynote lectures on cranial base surgery and the advanced management of thyroid cancer. At Fenway Park in April, Dr. Jalisi was honored by the Boston Red Sox as a "Medical All Star."

Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, Surgery Chair, received the American Surgical Association's (ASA) 2019 Flance-Karl Award in April. Each year, the ASA recognizes one surgeon in the United States who has made seminal contributions in translational research that have applications to clinical surgery of any specialty. The award is considered one of the most prestigious recognitions of scientific achievement in the world.

Dr. Chaikof's research has advanced the development of engineered living tissues, implantable devices, and artificial organs, as well as cell-based therapies. Most recently, in collaboration with medicinal and computational chemists, his work has focused on drug discovery to develop more effective treatments for atherosclerosis, venous thrombosis, metabolic syndrome, and inflammatory bowel disease.



Joining Dr. Chaikof (second from left), the 2019 Flance-Karl Award recipient, at the ASA were (from left) Surgery chiefs: Mark Callery, MD, Charles Cook, MD, Russell Nauta, MD, and Daniel Jones, MD, MS.



Aria Olumi, MD, Chief of Urologic Surgery, addressed “The Changing Landscape of Prostate Cancer Screening” at the annual Massachusetts Prostate Cancer Symposium in May. In addition, Dr. Olumi (front left) spoke at the Shanghai Tenth Hospital of Nanjing Medical University and Tianjin Hospital, Tianjin University on PSA screening earlier this year. There is growing interest in this topic in China, as prostate cancer is increasing rapidly in the nation.



Jacques Kpodonu, MD, Cardiac Surgery, attended an event at the Harvard University Center for African Studies to welcome Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, president of the Republic of Ghana, to a recent visit to the university. Dr. Kpodonu, who completed medical school at the University of Ghana, discussed health care and innovation in the African nation with the president and the possibility of future academic and program-development partnerships. Pictured from left are: Emmanuel Akyeampong, PhD, Director of the Center for African Studies, President Akufo-Addo, and Dr. Kpodonu.

NEWS BRIEFS



The Sandra and Richard Cummings Resident Research Fellowship in Surgery provides support for the next generation of innovative investigators. The fellowship was established with a generous gift from **Richard Cummings, PhD**, Vice Chair of Basic and Translational Research, and Director of the Harvard Medical School Center for Glycoscience and the National Center for Functional Glycomics (right), and his wife, Senior Research Associate **Sandra Cummings, PhD** (left). The fellowship provides recipients with at least \$25,000 a year, for one- or two-year periods, to support promising research projects spanning an array of fields. This year's award recipients are **Daniel Wong, MD**, and **Gabrielle Cervoni, MD**.



The winners of the 2019 Clowes Research Symposium were resident **Chun Li, MD**, for basic science, and postdoctoral fellow **Santiago Gomez-Paz, MD**, for clinical science, shown here with the George Clowes Visiting Professor of Surgical Research, **Ronald Weigel, MD, PhD, MBA, EA Crowell Jr. Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Iowa**.



Pictured from left are: Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, Chair of Surgery; Ron Alterman, MD, Chief of Neurosurgery; award recipients Jan Fleischman, NP, Catherine Kilroy, RN, and Leigh-Ann Berk, NP; and Mark Callery, MD, Chief of General Surgery.

The Department of Surgery and the Joseph M. Koufman Foundation awarded educational grants to three surgical nurses, who received the awards in May at a luncheon in their honor. Established in 2005 for nursing career enhancement, the Joseph M. Koufman Awards for Excellence in Surgical Nursing recognize nurses with prominent leadership potential who also demonstrate humanism and excellence in patient care. This year's recipients are **Leigh-Ann Berk, NP**, Inpatient Services; **Jan Fleischman, NP**, Ambulatory Surgical Practice; and **Catherine Kilroy, RN**, Perioperative Services. Among those who attended the luncheon was Clinton Koufman, MD, whose late brother established the foundation.



Martina Stippler, MD, Neurosurgery, is the recipient of a Rabkin Fellowship for 2019-2020. The yearlong fellowship, which emphasizes experiential learning, provides faculty with an opportunity to develop the expertise and skills

needed to launch or advance academic careers in medical education and/or academic administration. In addition, Dr. Stippler recently started a ThinkFirst chapter at BIDMC. ThinkFirst's mission is to prevent traumatic brain, spinal cord and other traumatic injuries in children, teens, and adults. Dr. Stippler is also serving on the organization's Board of Directors.



Resident **Omar Haque, MD**, was awarded a Zuckerman Fellowship at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. Fellows are selected based on their commitment to public service, leadership abilities, and intellectual and academic

achievement. Dr. Haque also recently received a Translational Science Fellowship Research Grant from the American Society of Transplantation and a Resident Research Award from the American College of Surgeons.



Frank LoGerfo, MD, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, was recognized for his exemplary work and mentoring by the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) at its Vascular Research Initiatives Conference in May. Dr. LoGerfo

is the longtime Director of the NIH T32 Harvard-Longwood Research Training Program in Vascular Surgery, which provides surgical residents with two years of intensive basic and outcomes research training in vascular surgery. Recently renewed, this is the longest funded training program in vascular surgery in the nation and its alumni hold distinguished positions in academic vascular surgery throughout the nation.



Dhruv Singhal, MD, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, was the first recipient of the Department of Surgery FIRST Program's pilot Randomized Controlled Trials (pRCT) grant for his project "Lymphatic Reconstitution in

Microvascular Breast Reconstruction." His collaborators include plastic surgery residents Joani Christensen, MD, and Ryan Cauley, MD, MPH, and plastic surgery research fellow **Anna Rose Johnson, MPH**. Dr. Singhal also served as a faculty member at the 8th World Symposium for Lymphedema Surgery in April, held at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan. He and the hospital's team performed the first case of immediate lymphatic reconstruction at the institution during the live surgery portion of the symposium.



Resident **Meredith Baker, MD**, was first author of a paper published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* entitled, "Fish Oil-Based Injectable Lipid Emulsions Containing Medium-Chain Triglycerides or Added

α -Tocopherol Offer Anti-Inflammatory Benefits in a Murine Model of Parenteral Nutrition-Induced Liver Injury." The Department of Surgery resident co-author was **Lorenzo Anez-Bustillos, MD, MPH**. This work was done under the mentorship of General Surgery Residency Program alumnus **Mark Puder, MD, PhD**, at Boston Children's Hospital.



Ted James, MD, MS, Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology, spoke recently at the Harvard Medical School Global Business School's Leadership in Healthcare Management Program on "Turning Doctors into Leaders."

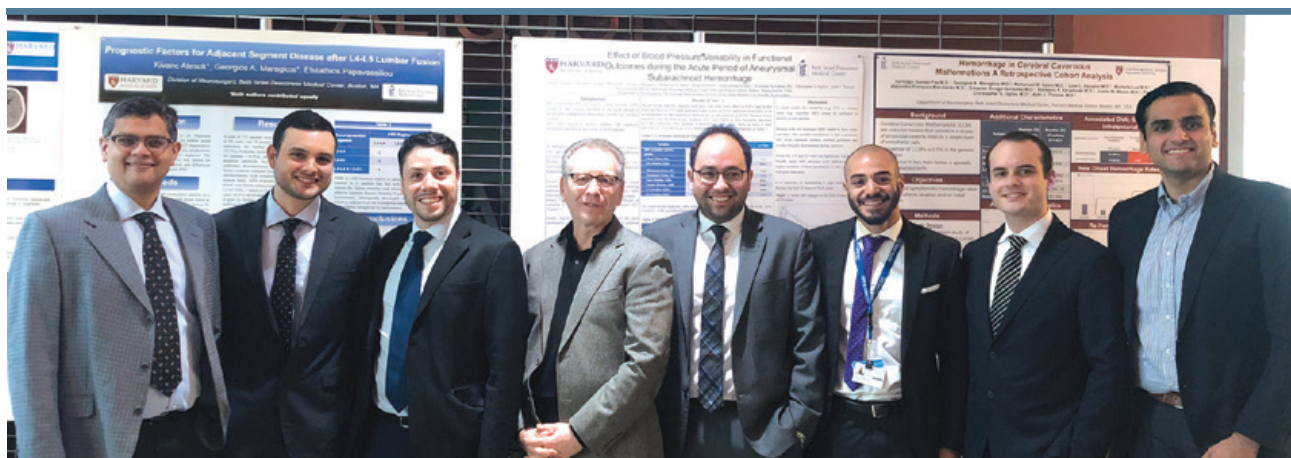
Dr. James also presented at the Master in Health Care Management Educational Forum at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, of which he is an alumnus, on "The Role of Leadership in Preventing Physician Burnout."



In July, **Ajith Thomas, MD** (left), Neurosurgery, and **Ted James, MD, MS**, Breast Surgical Oncology, will participate in the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine Forum in Washington, DC. The

invitation-only forum connects 70 emerging leaders in health and medicine with NAM members, enabling attendees to gain new perspectives, identify novel strategies to tackle difficult problems, and spark transformative change.

NEWS BRIEFS



Neurosurgery faculty Ajith Thomas, MD (left), Chief Ron Alterman, MD (fourth from left), residents, and research fellows at the Harvard Surgery Research Day poster session with some of the posters that showcased their research.

Harvard Surgery Research Day

The 8th Annual Harvard Surgery Research Day was held March 9 at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School. The daylong event, created to highlight the research of surgery trainees in the four major Harvard-affiliated teaching hospitals and coordinated this year by Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), was organized by a committee of faculty members from the participating hospitals, including **Christiane Ferran, MD, PhD**, and **Raul Guzman, MD**, from BIDMC.

Following an introduction by the four Surgery chairs — **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, BIDMC; **Robert Shamberger, MD**, Boston Children's Hospital (BCH); **Keith Lillemoe, MD**, Massachusetts General Hospital; and **Gerard Doherty, MD** (BWH) — trainees presented 16 oral abstracts: eight in basic science and eight in clinical science.

BIDMC trainees selected to present oral abstracts in basic science were: **Alexander Chalphin, MD** (mentor **Dario Fauza, MD, PhD**, Boston Children's Hospital), who won second place for his presentation; **Patric Liang, MD** (mentor **Frank LoGerfo, MD**); and **Georgios Theocaridis, PhD** (mentor **Aristidis Veves, MD**).

BIDMC trainees chosen to present oral abstracts in clinical science were: **Jordan Pyda, MD** (mentors **Mark Shrime, MD, PhD**, and **Khalid Khwaja, MD**); **Savas Tsikis, MD** (mentors **Elliot Chaikof,**

MD, PhD, and **James Rodrigue, PhD**); and **Mark Kashtan, MD, MPH** (mentor **Shawn Rangel, MD**, Boston Children's Hospital), who won second place for his presentation.

A well-attended poster session exhibited 175 posters of trainees' research. This year's visiting professor was **Steven Libutti, MD**, Professor of Surgery at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, who addressed navigating a career as a surgeon-scientist.



Residents Alexander Chalphin, MD (left), and Mark Kashtan, MD, MPH (right), posed with Robert Shamberger, MD, Chief of Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital. Drs. Chalphin and Kashtan, who are conducting their research elective at Children's, each received second place awards for their oral presentations at Harvard Surgery Research Day.



David Campbell, MD, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery (second from left), **Christopher Tveter, DPM**, Podiatric Surgery (third from left), and **William Sullivan, MD**, of Joslin Diabetes Center (far left), presented a diabetic foot seminar and made rounds at Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam, as part of the Harvard Vietnam Education Program led by Dr. Campbell for the past 21 years. During the visit, the doctors provided patient care, including surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurysm performed by Dr. Campbell. The group, which included Vietnamese surgeon Dr. Pham (far right), also presented a seminar in Saigon.



Allen Hamdan, MD, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, was among the faculty members who participated in BIDMC's annual Job Shadow Day, during which 23 students from Sociedad Latina and Boston Public Schools spent part of the day learning about different health care careers.

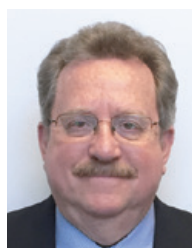


Resident **Stephanie Serres, MD, PhD**, presented the results of a quality improvement initiative to improve access and timeliness for breast cancer surgery at the 2019 meeting of the American College of Medical Quality in Bethesda, MD in April.



Barry Rosenblum, DPM, Podiatric Surgery, received the 2019 American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) Distinguished Service Award, one of the college's highest honors. Dr. Rosenblum received the award at the ACFAS Annual

Scientific Conference in New Orleans in February.



Richard Cummings, PhD, Vice Chair of Basic and Translational Research in the Department of Surgery, and Director of the National Center for Functional Glycomics and the Harvard Medical School Center for Glycoscience,

received the 2019 IGO Award from the International Glycoconjugate Organization (IGO) in honor of his exceptional contributions to the field of glycobiology. Dr. Cummings will receive the award at the IGO meeting in Milan in August. In addition, Dr. Cummings organized and served as Chair of the 13th Jenner Glycobiology and Medicine Symposium held in Cambridge in May. The international conference on "Glycoimmunology — the Roles of Sugars in Immune Functions and Medicine," featured a keynote address by Nobel Laureate Jack W. Szostak, PhD.



Mojdeh Kappus, MD, Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellow, received the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) Quality Improvement Award at the annual SAGES meeting in April. Dr. Kappus' study is entitled "Ten-Year Outcomes of Patients Rejected from Undergoing Bariatric Surgery." Here Dr. Kappus (center) is with (left) Steven Schwaitzberg, MD, and (right) **Daniel Jones, MD, MS**, Chief of Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery and a past SAGES president.

NEWS BRIEFS



National Heart, Lung,
and Blood Institute

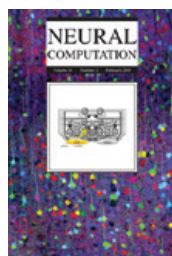
Principal investigators
Christiane Ferran, MD,
PhD, Frank LoGerfo, MD,

Manoj Bhasin, PhD, and co-investigators **Leena Pradhan-Nabzdyk, PhD, MBA,** and **Mauricio Contreras, MD,** received an NIH (NHLBI) RO1 grant to genetically engineer vein bypass grafts to reduce graft failures in vascular and cardiovascular surgery. The investigators propose to prevent this failure by genetically engineering the vein graft to reduce harmful and increase protective genes, using state-of-the-art techniques that can be applied in the operating room.



Resident **Mautin Hundeyin, MD,** was named a finalist for best basic/translational research poster at the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) meeting for her work entitled “RIP1 Kinase Promotes

Macrophage Mediated Adaptive Immune Tolerance in Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma.” The mentor for this project was George Miller, MD, at NYU Langone Health.



A paper by **Jeffrey Arle, MD, PhD,** Neurosurgery, and colleagues in the January issue of *Neural Computation* describes their dynamic computational model of the human spinal cord connectome, an important starting point to develop and test hypotheses focused on the spinal cord. The paper

was featured on the journal's cover.



In May (from left) Chief of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology **Sidhu Gangadharan, MD, MHCM,** received a Master of Health

Care Management, and residents **Kortney Robinson, MD, MPH,** **Jordan Pyda, MD, MPH,** and **Lorenzo Anez-Bustillos, MD, MPH,** received a Master of Public Health from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.



Earlier this year the department welcomed 12 students from MIT for the 7th annual BIDMC/MIT Surgical Shadowing Program, a day of surgical activities, lectures, and OR shadowing. The program, designed to introduce college students to a career in surgery, was started by **Allen Hamdan, MD,** and Surgery Chair **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD.** Here students perform virtual surgical techniques in the BIDMC Carl J. Shapiro Simulation and Skills Center.



Resident **Jenny Zhang, MD,** presented research on burnout and professional fulfillment among breast surgeons at the American Society of Breast Surgeons meeting in May. Dr. Zhang's mentor for this work was **Ted James, MD, MS.**



In February, **Tara Kent, MD, MS,** Director of the General Surgery Residency Program, led a panel on overcoming a hostile work and learning environment in academic surgery at the annual Academic Surgical Congress in Houston.

Another Department of Surgery panelist was **Benjamin James, MD, MS,** Chief of Endocrine Surgery.



A novel insulin-independent therapy developed by **Christiane Ferran, MD, PhD**, to treat diabetes (types 1 and 2) was selected as a finalist for presentation to venture capitalists and others at this year's Science2Startup (S2S) Symposium at the Broad Institute. Dr. Ferran is collaborating with numerous venture capital firms to determine next steps for translation to the clinic.



Daniel Jones, MD, MS, Chief of Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery, was nominated for the 2019 Excellence in Mentoring Awards given by Harvard Medical School (HMS). HMS and Harvard School of Dental Medicine faculty, residents,

fellows, and students were asked to identify a mentor who has had an impact on their career. The Excellence in Mentoring Awards were presented at Harvard Medical School in May.

Residents **Rodrigo Calvillo-Ortiz, MD**, and **Courtney Barrows, MD**, gave podium presentations at the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association conference in Miami in March. Dr. Calvillo-Ortiz presented his work on "Patient Perceptions of the Post-Pancreatectomy Discharge Process." Dr. Barrows' presentation was entitled "Resection of Oligometastatic Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis." The residents' mentors for this work were **Mark Callery, MD**, **James Moser, MD**, and **Tara Kent, MD, MS**.

IN MEMORIAM:

Michael L. Steer, MD



Michael L. Steer, MD, Professor at Harvard Medical School and Tufts School of Biomedical Sciences, Chief of Surgery Emeritus at Harvard Medical School (HMS), and a pioneer in the field of the cell and molecular biology of the pancreas,

passed away in April. Dr. Steer, who was at BIDMC (Beth Israel Hospital) throughout most of his career, was a world-leading pancreatic surgeon and highly regarded teacher and mentor. Later in his career, Dr. Steer became an affiliate with Partners in Health and the HMS Program for Global Surgery and Social Change, spending time in Haiti caring for patients and training residents. Dr. Steer, who was married to his late wife, Vera, for 47 years, is survived by his three adult children and four grandchildren.

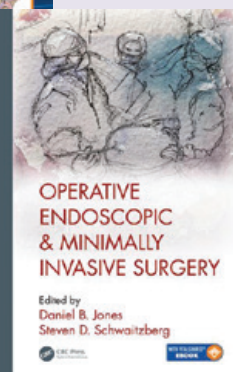
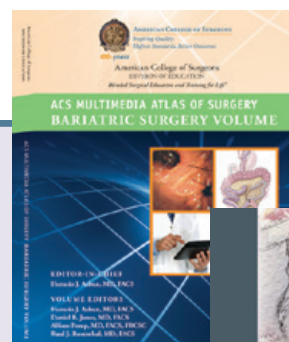
The Bookshelf

Books by Our Faculty

Horacio J. Asbun, **Daniel B. Jones**, Alfons Pomp, Raul J. Rosenthal, Volume Editors; Horacio J. Asbun, Editor-in-Chief. *American College of Surgeons (ACS) Multimedia Atlas of Surgery: Bariatric Surgery Volume*. Ciné-Med 2019.

Daniel B. Jones, Steven D. Schwartzberg, Editors. *Operative Endoscopy & Minimally Invasive Surgery*. CRC Press 2019. BIDMC Department of Surgery chapter contributors are current

and former faculty and residents: **Drs. Jones, Mark Callery, Jonathan Critchlow, Sidhu Gangadharan, Tara Kent, James Moser, Caroline Park, Alessandra Storino, and Ammara Watkins**; and past fellows: Drs. James Ellsmere, Omar Yusef Kudsi, Robert Lim, Henry Lin, Jaia Olasky, and Shawn Tsuda. Faculty from BIDMC Anesthesiology and Gastroenterology also contributed multiple chapters.



< Continued from page 11

systems, we efficiently co-manage patients with complex eye and other medical conditions to ensure that they receive the best possible care,” says **Jae Young (Jane) You, MD**, who directs the Cornea Service.

Better, less-invasive options

The division also provides state-of-the-art treatments that offer patients better options. For example, **Mohammad (Nima) Shahi, MD**, Director of the Glaucoma Service, offers a safer, less-invasive alternative to traditional surgery for selected patients with glaucoma. A disease of the optic nerve and a leading cause of blindness in this country, glaucoma is often associated with elevated eye pressure.

Performed in combination with phacoemulsification cataract surgery, a safe procedure done under light sedation, Dr. Shahi does one or two additional procedures, each taking about 5-10 minutes, which, respectively, increase fluid outflow and reduce fluid production in the eye to help lower eye pressure.

The first procedure, called the i-Stent Inject ©, involves

inserting two tiny devices that create bypass pathways through the trabecular meshwork, leading to increased outflow. The second, a laser procedure called endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation (ECP), targets the ciliary bodies that produce the fluid. “In some patients, this triple procedure is very effective at reducing the intraocular pressure and can reduce their need for eye drops, and thereby improve their quality of life,” says Dr. Shahi.

Diverse research

In addition to its comprehensive clinical services, the division conducts a diverse range of research aimed at improving the care of patients with eye disorders. This work, which is supported by grants from various funding agencies and generous individuals, is published frequently in leading academic journals and presented at national and international meetings.

For example, **Jorge Arroyo, MD, MPH**, who directs the Retina Service, has recently published several influential studies that evaluated minimally invasive

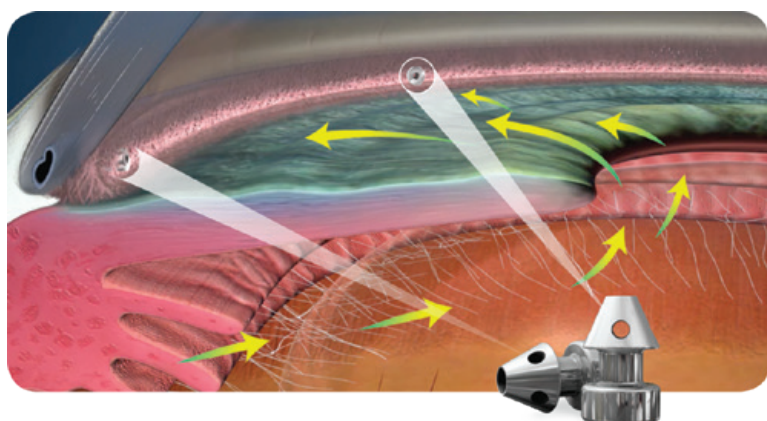
treatments for vitreomacular traction, which can cause vision loss, and also investigates the efficacy and outcomes of novel surgical techniques for a range of retinal disorders. He is currently investigating the effects of normobaric hyperoxia in patients with various retinal ischemic conditions.

Dr. Torun is investigating prediction models and noninvasive tools for the diagnosis of giant cell arteritis, the most common vasculitis of the elderly, which causes irreversible blindness in up to 20 percent of patients. In collaboration with the BIDMC Movement Disorders Clinic, she is also conducting research to use eye movement as a novel biomarker to assess, diagnose, and monitor the progression of Huntington’s disease.

Joy of teaching

Education is also central to the division’s mission. As a member of the Harvard Medical School Department of Ophthalmology, faculty members teach and train HMS students; neurology and ophthalmology residents; and retina, neuro-ophthalmology, and cornea fellows, as well as visiting faculty from around the world.

Trainees benefit from close access to all faculty members and frequently show their appreciation for their exceptional training. In fact, all senior members of the division have received resident teaching awards. Dr. Torun, the recipient of an Outstanding Teacher Award from Harvard Neurology residents, says “Like all of my colleagues, I receive lots of joy from teaching the next generation.”



Mohammad (Nima) Shahi, MD, offers a procedure to selected patients with glaucoma that involves inserting two tiny devices (shown above) that create bypass pathways, permitting increased fluid outflow to help lower eye pressure. The procedure is done in combination with phacoemulsification cataract surgery.



The new chief residents donned their new chiefs' white coats for the first time. From left are: Surgery Chair Dr. Elliot Chaikof; chief residents Drs. Sayuri Jinadasa, Eran Brauner, Alton Sutter, Mautin Hundeyin, Stephanie Serres, Christopher Digesu, Meredith Baker, Daniel Buitrago, Courtney Barrows, and Jennifer Zhang; and General Surgery Residency Program Director Dr. Tara Kent.

Residents and Faculty Recognized at Year-End Event

At the close of each academic year, trainees and faculty come together to recognize colleagues who received departmental teaching awards and celebrate incoming chief residents as they receive their new white coats from graduating chief residents. Congratulations to this year's award recipients and new chief residents.

ABSITE* AWARDS

Highest Junior-Level Resident
on the 2019 ABSITE

Scott Fligor, MD
Savas Tsikis, MD

Highest Senior-Level Resident
on the 2019 ABSITE

Meredith Baker, MD

Residents scoring above the 90th
percentile on the 2019 ABSITE

Kevin Arndt, MD
Meredith Baker, MD
Gabrielle Cervoni, MD
Alexander Chalphin, MD
Daniel Cloonan, MD
Scott Fligor, MD
Mark Kashtan, MD, MPH
Stefanie Lazow, MD
Kortney Robinson, MD
Savas Tsikis, MD

RESIDENT TEACHER AWARD

Eliza Lee, MD

Voted by residents as the senior
resident who best exemplifies
teaching to other residents.

ISAAC O. MEHREZ, MD, AWARD

Claire Sokas, 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."



Sidhu Gangadharan, MD, MHCM, Chief of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology, received the George W.B. Starkey Award, presented by Amy Evenson, MD, Transplant Surgery.

GEORGE W.B. STARKEY AWARD

Sidhu Gangadharan, MD, MHCM

To the faculty member with the highest-rated teaching evaluations from second-year Harvard Medical School students in the Core Surgery Clerkship.

HAROLD BENGLOFF AWARD

Kristin Raven, MD

Voted by residents as the faculty member who best exemplifies humanism in teaching.

JOHN L. ROWBOTHAM AWARD

Christopher Boyd, MD

Voted by residents as the faculty member who best exemplifies excellence in clinical surgical teaching.

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

Also announced were the second-year residents selected to attend a weeklong course in comparative physiology at Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory on the Maine coast in August. This unique educational and team-building experience was made possible by generous donor Ted Boylan. The top five ABSITE scorers are invited to participate.

Kevin Arndt, MD
Daniel Cloonan, MD
Scott Fligor, MD
Savas Tsikis, MD
Ashlyn Whitlock, MD



Christopher Boyd, MD, Chief of Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham, received the John L. Rowbotham Award, presented by recent graduate Nisha Narula, MD.

* ABSITE: American Board of Surgery In-Service Training Exam

< [Continued from page 5](#)

months of chemotherapy and go directly to surgery, as well as be considered for alternative approaches or agents that might be effective. Conversely, patients who are likely to respond could be confident that neoadjuvant chemotherapy is worthwhile and might enable them to undergo lumpectomy rather than mastectomy. “Sometimes we perform surgery after neoadjuvant chemotherapy and the cancer is completely gone,” says Dr. James, noting that further research in this area, which is underway by numerous groups, “may soon enable us to reliably identify those who can avoid surgery altogether.”

Reducing disparities

Another of Dr. James’ areas of interest is disparities in breast cancer care. “There is ample data showing

that coordinated care by nurse navigators improves outcomes,” says Dr. James, “but the question is how to make this happen, especially among underserved populations.” Supported by an NIH grant, Dr. James is the BIDMC collaborating principal investigator for “Translating Research into Practice (TRIP),” a collaborative of five Boston hospitals that is developing and evaluating strategies, such as a network of nurse navigators who address social determinants of care, to reduce disparities in care.

“Outcomes research to identify issues like gaps in care or poor outcomes is an essential first step, but we can’t stop there,” says Dr. James. “Translating the results into clinical practice and public policy is the key to improving the quality of care for all patients.”

Congratulations 2019 Graduates

On June 23 graduating residents and fellows received their diplomas at the Department of Surgery graduation dinner at the Boston Harbor Hotel. Congratulations to all of our graduates!

GENERAL SURGERY

Arthur Celestin, MD, MPH

Fellow, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

David Chen, MD

Fellow, Cardiothoracic Surgery, New York
University Langone Health

Mariam Eskander, MD, MPH

Fellow, Complex General Surgery Oncology,
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Brenna Fullerton, MD

Fellow, Pediatric Surgery, Wayne State
University Children’s Hospital of Michigan

Eliza Lee, MD

Fellow, Abdominal Transplant Surgery,
Johns Hopkins University

Nisha Narula, MD

Fellow, Advanced GI and Minimally Invasive
Surgery, Staten Island University

David Tomich, MD

Fellow, Trauma and Surgical Critical Care,
New York University

Ammara Abbasi Watkins, MD, MPH

Fellow, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Beth Israel
Deaconess Medical Center

PODIATRIC SURGERY

Hayley Iosue, DPM

Derek Ley, DPM

FELLOWS

Advanced GI and Minimally Invasive Surgery

Mojdeh Kappus, MD

Aesthetic and Reconstructive Breast
Surgery/Microsurgery

Brady Sieber, MD

Aesthetic and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery

Laurel Chandler, MD

Breast Surgery

Alessandra Mele, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Oliver Chow, MD

Hand/Microsurgery

Marissa Baca, MD

Interventional Pulmonology

Suliman Alamro, MD

Jason Beattie, MD

Catherine Oberg, MD

Surgical Critical Care

Molly Douglas, MD

Wei Wei Zhang, MD, MPH

Vascular Surgery

John McCallum, MD, MPH



From left are: General Surgery Residency Program Director Dr. Tara Kent; graduates Drs. Arthur Celestin, Nisha Narula, David Tomich, Brenna Fullerton, Eliza Lee, Ammara Watkins, David Chen, and Mariam Eskander; and Surgery Chair Dr. Elliot Chaikof.