



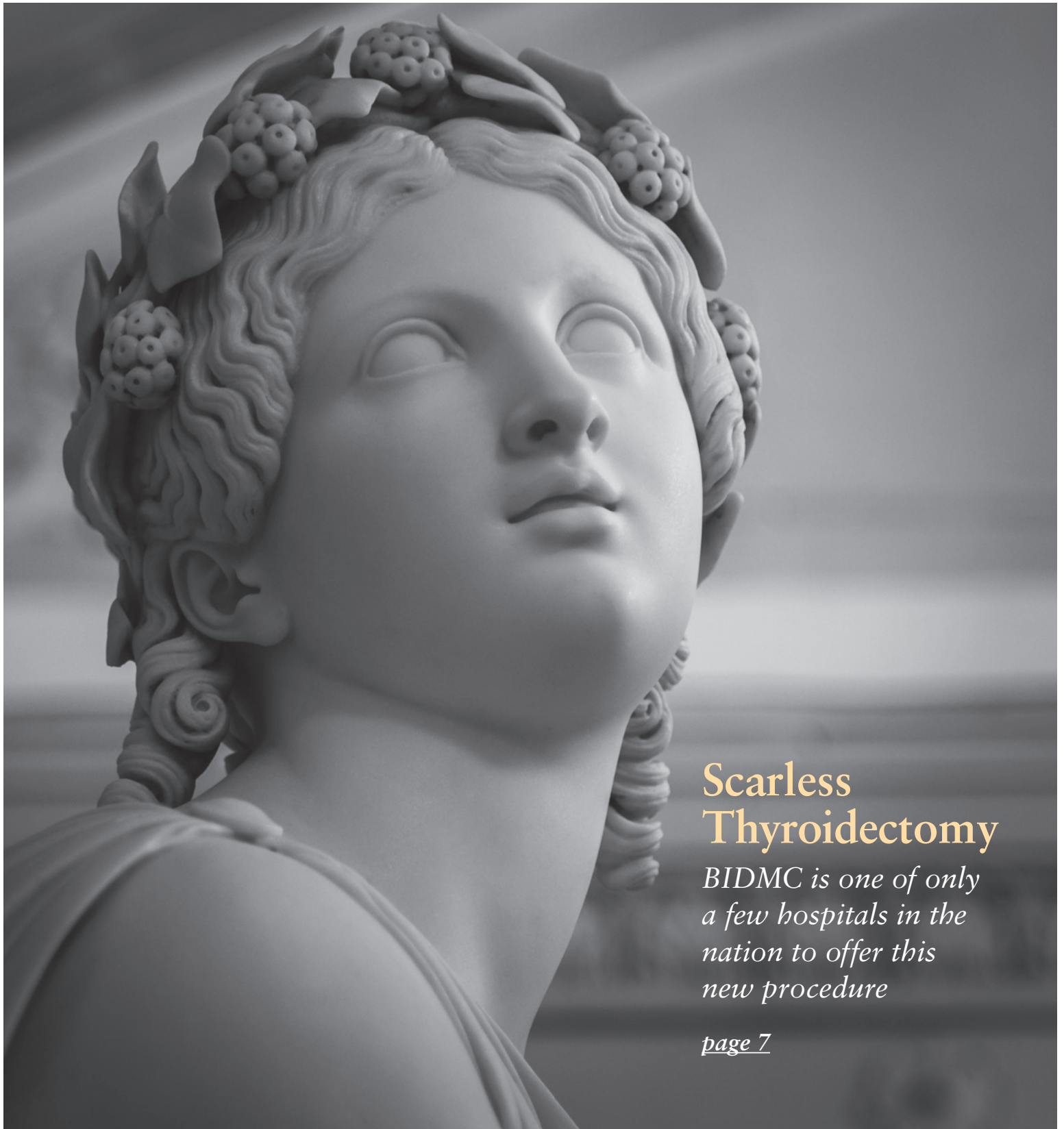
Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL

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

# INSIDE SURGERY



## Scarless Thyroidectomy

*BIDMC is one of only  
a few hospitals in the  
nation to offer this  
new procedure*

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## Message from the Chair

As this issue goes to press, we are embarking on an exciting new era under the banner of Beth Israel Lahey Health. This system brings together leading hospitals with mutually aligned missions to provide extraordinary care to patients while advancing medicine through discovery and education.

Individually, each of the institutions that comprise Beth Israel Lahey Health has a well-earned reputation for excellence. Together they will equal more than the sum of their parts, ensuring a healthier future for all those we serve through collaboration, expanded access, and a renewed focus on the health of our communities.

Beth Israel Lahey Health has deep roots in the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Department of Surgery. Dr. Frank Lahey, a surgical leader at New England Deaconess Hospital in the first half of the 20th century, founded Lahey Clinic, one of the first multispecialty clinics in the United States. Dr. Lahey was also a member of one of the oldest academic surgical programs in the nation, the Fifth (Harvard) Surgical Service, of which the BIDMC General Surgery Residency Program is the direct descendent. You can read about one of the illustrious alumni of the Fifth Surgical Service, Dr. Marvin Corman, [on page 22](#).

The BIDMC Department of Surgery also has longtime, strong ties to many other hospitals in the Beth Israel Lahey Health system. For example, for decades surgeon leaders at Mount Auburn Hospital have been active members of our faculty, and for many years our surgical residents have benefited from outstanding clinical experiences at Mount Auburn. This and other surgery departments in the new system are part of our extended family.

As we look forward to the future as a proud member of Beth Israel Lahey Health, we do so with the conviction that our shared past will strengthen our ability to provide care of the very highest quality, improve health through innovation and discovery, prepare future leaders in American surgery, and serve our communities with sensitivity and compassion.



Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD



## Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
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

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# BIDMC Aortic Center

*Coordinated Care and Latest Treatments in One Setting*

If an aortic aneurysm, a weakened balloon-like bulge in the aorta, ruptures, the result is often catastrophic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aortic aneurysms were the primary cause of nearly 10,000 deaths in 2014 in the United States. The [BIDMC Aortic Center](#) was established to provide well-coordinated, multidisciplinary care and the latest treatments, including advanced minimally invasive options, for patients with or at risk for all types of aortic aneurysms.

Under the leadership of Co-Directors **Marc Schermerhorn, MD**, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, and **Kamal Khabbaz, MD**, Chief of Cardiac Surgery, and Medical Director **Brett Carroll, MD**, the BIDMC Aortic Center provides an entire spectrum of services for patients with aortic disease in one setting:

- diagnosis
- medical management
- genetic testing and counseling
- the latest surgical treatments for all types of aortic disease, including minimally invasive treatment, open surgery, and hybrid surgical procedures
- emergency treatment
- long-term follow-up care

## National leaders

The Aortic Center is unique in the region for the depth and breadth of its surgical expertise. The center's surgeons, who work collaboratively in the care of patients, are national leaders in the research and treatment of aortic disease, conducting research and publishing academic articles that improve care for patients worldwide. Moreover, the Aortic Center has one of the



*BIDMC has three state-of-the-art hybrid operating rooms for surgeons to treat aortic aneurysms using a combination of open and endovascular approaches.*

highest volumes of patients in the Northeast; in fiscal year 2018 alone, the Aortic Center performed 220 aortic procedures, many of them highly complex.

Notably, nearly 80 percent of aneurysm repairs in the Aortic Center are done using an endovascular (minimally invasive) approach, which reduces complications and length of hospitalization and hastens return to normal activity. Because of the center's extensive experience in endovascular repair of aortic aneurysms (EVAR), this option is often available even for patients with complex anatomies or conditions who might not be candidates for EVAR elsewhere.

At the Aortic Center more than 93 percent of descending thoracic and abdominal aortic aneurysms (compared to 20 percent nationally)

are performed using a percutaneous (incision-less) approach, which was pioneered and perfected by Aortic Center surgeons. The center also offers patients access to the latest endovascular devices, including branched, fenestrated, and individually customized stent-grafts, making it possible to repair even the most complex aneurysms.

The Aortic Center is also renowned for its expertise and good outcomes in highly complex, technically challenging open surgical procedures, such as aortic valve-sparing procedures and aortic valve and root replacement. "Our team of cardiac surgeons has extensive experience performing open surgeries to repair complex aortic aneurysms," says Dr. Khabbaz.

When appropriate, surgeons use a hybrid approach in which vascular/endovascular surgeons and cardiac

*[Continued on page 15 >](#)*



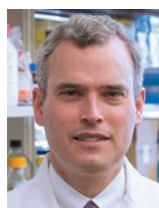
## HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

## Promotions and Appointments

The Department of Surgery congratulates the following faculty members on their Harvard Medical School promotions or appointments in 2018.

### Promotions

#### PROMOTED TO: PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**A. James Moser, MD**  
December 2018

Dr. Moser is Co-Director of the BIDMC Pancreas and Liver Institute and a member of the Division of Surgical Oncology. He is a leader in complex, advanced surgical oncology, including minimally invasive surgery of the pancreas and liver and

vascular resection for borderline-resectable tumors.

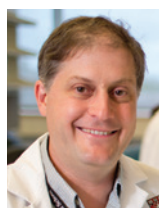
Dr. Moser co-founded and serves as Co-Director of BIDMC's Pancreatic Cancer Research Program — a program of the BIDMC Cancer Research Institute that focuses on pancreatic cancer biology, non-coding RNA, biomarker development, and computational biology approaches to precision medicine for pancreatic cancer. Dr. Moser is also the principal investigator for Project Survival™, a multisite collaborative research initiative to develop early prognostic and therapeutic biomarkers for pancreatic cancer and a phase II prospective clinical trial of a novel adjunct to adjuvant treatment of resected pancreatic cancer. Dr. Moser's research group is supported,

in part, by a large community of philanthropic foundations established by grateful patients and families, including the Alliance of Families Fighting Pancreatic Cancer.

Dr. Moser earned his medical degree, *Alpha Omega Alpha*, from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis after graduating *summa cum laude* from Princeton University. He pursued his surgical residency at the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences and UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, where he completed a two-year research fellowship in membrane biology, followed by a fellowship in surgical metabolism.

Dr. Moser has more than 100 publications, book chapters, reviews, and editorials published. He is co-mentor to four PhD candidates and several surgery research fellows. He also is an active member of numerous professional societies, and was recently elected to the American Surgical Association.

#### PROMOTED TO: PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**Leo E. Otterbein, PhD**  
March 2018

Dr. Otterbein is an internationally recognized, pioneering investigator of the biology of carbon monoxide (CO). Early in his career, Dr. Otterbein discovered that CO imparted important and powerful physiologic and therapeutic effects,

which established a new field of investigation resulting in laboratories worldwide studying how CO regulates cell and organ function. His work has led to CO testing in multiple clinical trials.

After earning a doctorate in physiology from Johns Hopkins, and postdoctoral work at Yale University, Dr. Otterbein joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Recruited to BIDMC in 2004 as a full-time investigator, he also serves as the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Chair, and the BIDMC representative for the Consortia for Improving Medicine

with Innovation & Technology and the Boston Biomedical Innovation Center.

Dr. Otterbein's research has resulted in over 150 original peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He is a consulting editor for the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* and has served on NIH study sections for over 15 years. He has mentored more than 30 trainees, including BIDMC faculty members Barbara Wegiel, PhD (Surgery) and Khalid Hanafy, MD (Neurology).

Dr. Otterbein is the principal investigator on multiple NIH grants evaluating an oral CO delivery solution to improve kidney function after transplantation and as a treatment for traumatic injury. He also co-directs a Department of Defense award studying immune failure after trauma, and is co-investigator on a grant from the National Football League focused on concussion.

## PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**Thomas Cataldo, MD**

*June 2018*

Dr. Cataldo joined the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery in 2013. He earned his medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, completed a general surgery residency at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, and pursued a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the Alton Oschner Medical Foundation. Previously, Dr. Cataldo was on the faculty at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Cataldo's clinical interests include robotic minimally invasive colon and rectal surgery; rectal and colon cancers; diverticular disease; inflammatory bowel disease; and the management of anorectal disease, rectal prolapse, and fecal incontinence. Dr. Cataldo is Program Director of the new BIDMC Colorectal Surgery Fellowship and a member of the BIDMC Academy of Medical Educators.

Dr. Cataldo's current research projects include identifying opportunities for cost reduction in abdominal colorectal surgery patients, improving outcomes following open or minimally invasive colectomy, and methods to improve enhanced recovery after colon and rectal surgery.

Dr. Cataldo is a fellow and an active member of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, and has published 15 peer-reviewed publications and six book chapters. He is also a reviewer for *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum* and *Surgical Endoscopy*.

## PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**Alia Qureshi, MD, MSc**

*July 2018*

Dr. Qureshi joined the Division of General Surgery in 2014. Previously she practiced surgery in Canada at the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Qureshi received her undergraduate degree, master's degree, and medical degree from the University of Toronto. She completed her internship and residency in surgery at the University of Toronto and a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at the Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Qureshi has a strong interest in foregut surgery and practices minimally invasive general surgery. She lectures frequently on anti-reflux surgery, and her research interests

include Barrett's esophagus. Dr. Qureshi has published multiple papers on anti-reflux procedures and the creation of a novel procedure for reflux disease and hiatal hernia. Her basic science research is focused on discovering signaling proteins and pathways involved in the progression of Barrett's esophagus.

Dr. Qureshi is a recipient of the Eleanor and Miles Shore 50th Anniversary Fellowship Program for Scholars in Medicine from Harvard Medical School and the Department of Surgery and has published 15 peer-reviewed articles. She also is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Dr. Qureshi is an active member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, the Association of Women Surgeons, and the Boston Surgical Society.

## PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**Yael Vin, MD, MPH**

*July 2018*

Dr. Vin, a graduate of the BIDMC General Surgery Residency Program, joined the Division of Transplant Surgery in 2008. Dr. Vin received her medical degree from Hadassah Medical School and earned a Master's of Public Health from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. After completing a fellowship in interventional radiology and image-guided therapy at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Vin returned to BIDMC in 2008 to serve as Medical Director of the Advanced Vascular Care Center, an outpatient dialysis access center that she established.

Dr. Vin's practice focuses on dialysis access procedures, with an emphasis on noninvasive percutaneous procedures. She is engaged in outcomes research related to dialysis access, with a particular interest in assessing outcomes-based guidelines to inform the choice of dialysis access for individual patients.

Dr. Vin has published nine peer-reviewed publications and has co-authored two book chapters, and teaches trainees at all levels. She has served or currently serves in numerous leadership roles for the American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology and is on the board of the Vascular Access Society of the Americas.

*[Continued on page 24 >](#)*

## Aria F. Olumi, MD: Chief of Urologic Surgery

Aria F. Olumi, MD, an internationally recognized surgeon-investigator who specializes in treating urologic tumors, was named Chief of Urologic Surgery in the Department of Surgery and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Professor of Surgery in the field of Urology at Harvard Medical School. He succeeds William C. DeWolf, MD, who retired as Chief of Urology after three decades in the position (see page 18).

Dr. Olumi began his career at BIDMC and in 2007 was recruited to Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), where he was Director of Urology Research and Co-Director of the Genitourinary Oncology Program. During his career, he has advanced surgical techniques that have significantly improved outcomes for patients with prostate cancer, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), kidney cancer, and bladder cancer.

A prolific researcher, Dr. Olumi directs an NIH-funded laboratory, which currently focuses on the differential growth pattern of the prostate gland in healthy men. Dr. Olumi's translational research of the genetic regulators of prostate growth and development has implications for BPH treatment and prostate cancer chemoprevention. He has reported his clinical and translational studies in more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, as well as book chapters and textbooks. Dr. Olumi is a former Associate Editor of the *Journal of Urology* and a reviewer for the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, among other leading publications.

Dr. Olumi currently serves as Chair of the Research Council for the American Urological Association, the largest international urologic society. As chair, Dr. Olumi has promoted initiatives to advance research, advocacy, and education in the field. Most recently, he led an effort to create a new ACGME-accredited residency pathway to promote the training of clinician-investigators in urology.

Throughout his career, Dr. Olumi has mentored trainees at all levels. At MGH, he was Program Director



of the Residency in Urology and helped create the combined Urologic Oncology Fellowship at MGH and Brigham and Women's Hospital. At BIDMC, Dr. Olumi is Program Director of the new, independent Harvard Urology Residency Program at BIDMC, which was ACGME accredited in January.

Dr. Olumi earned his medical degree at the University of Southern California and completed the Harvard-Longwood Combined Urology Residency Program. He also completed a research fellowship in molecular medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.

# Scarless Thyroidectomy

## *For Many, a Better Alternative*



Benjamin James, MD, MS

For many cancer survivors who have undergone surgery to treat their disease, their scars are hidden from public view, enabling them to go about their lives without unwanted stares and with their privacy intact.

Unfortunately, this has not been the case for patients treated for cancer of the thyroid, a butterfly-shaped gland at the base of the neck that produces hormones that regulate metabolism and other important functions. The standard approach to the treatment of thyroid disease, including cancer, has been the surgical removal of the thyroid gland through a horizontal incision across the front of the neck. Often, the incision heals with minimal scarring, but some patients develop keloids or hypertrophic scars that can be unsightly and cause emotional distress.

Fortunately, BIDMC is one of only a few centers in the nation, and one of only two in Boston, that now offers a better alternative for many patients: scarless thyroidectomy. Technically known as transoral endoscopic thyroidectomy vestibular approach (TOETVA), this procedure is available to patients with surgically treated diseases of the thyroid or parathyroid glands, including cancer, Grave's disease (hyperthyroidism), indeterminate or symptomatic nodules, and goiter (non-cancerous enlargement of thyroid).

At BIDMC, the procedure is performed by **Benjamin James, MD, MS**, chief of Endocrine Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology, who was recruited to the Department of Surgery in 2018 ([see page 25](#)). Dr. James performed the first scarless thyroidectomy at BIDMC in November 2018 on a woman with cancer.

TOETVA is performed under general anesthesia via three small incisions inside the lower lip, which provides direct access to the thyroid via a camera. The procedure was pioneered several years ago by a Thai surgeon, Angkoon Anuwong, MD, of Siam University, from whom Dr. James learned how to execute the technically challenging operation. Subsequently, Dr. James participated in several intensive courses taught by other TOETVA experts in the United States.

Dr. James explains that in the hands of a well-trained, experienced endocrine surgeon, scarless

thyroidectomy offers the same low risks as conventional surgery — which include a one percent chance of vocal cord or parathyroid injury — but with one significant benefit: no scarring.

This is not merely a cosmetic issue, notes Dr. James. “Patients often tell us that their scar is a constant, and public, reminder that they have had cancer,” adding that one patient told him, “It’s the first thing I see in the morning when I look in the mirror.”

Scarless thyroidectomy is available to a broad spectrum of patients, including women and men of all ages. However, patients with large cancers or large nodules, or a very large thyroid gland, are currently

**Scarless thyroidectomy offers the same low risks as conventional surgery but with no scarring.**

not eligible, says Dr. James. Following this minimally invasive surgery, patients are usually discharged from the hospital the following morning. Most are back to normal activities within one to two weeks.

“I chose this option because I was concerned about the aesthetics of having a scar on my neck, and I also did not want to be reminded of the problem whenever I looked in the mirror,” says a female patient (requesting anonymity) who recently underwent scarless thyroidectomy for thyroid cancer at BIDMC. “I’m very happy I chose Dr. James and BIDMC and would definitely recommend this procedure to others.”

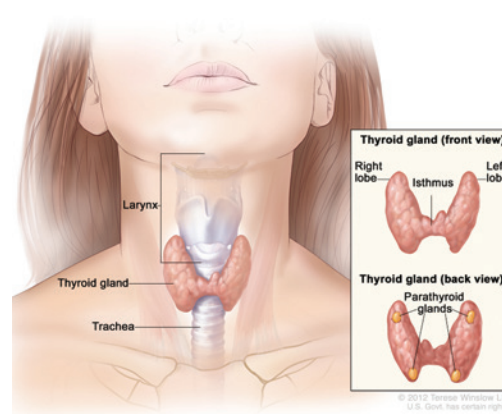


Illustration courtesy of NIH





Speakers at the 2018 Food is Medicine event were (from left): Eric Fleegler, MD, MPH, Boston Children's Hospital; David Waters, Community Servings; Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, BIDMC; Catherine D'Amato, GBFB; Allen Hamdan, MD, BIDMC and GBFB; and Joseph Elliot, a GBFB client.



Among the 200-plus guests at Food is Medicine were (from left): Joyce Delgargo, Stephanie Harriston-Diggs, Carol Anderson, and Evelyn Obregon.

## Food Is Medicine Raises Funds, Impacts Health

BIDMC's sixth annual "Food is Medicine" gala raised more than \$90,000 for the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB). The funds provide the equivalent of 270,000 meals for hungry families in eastern Massachusetts. Since its inception, Food is Medicine has raised \$535,000 for the GBFB, the equivalent of 1.6 million meals.

More than 200 people attended this year's fall event, which raises money through sponsorships, donations, and a silent auction. The gala is organized by the Department of Surgery Committee on Social Responsibility, in partnership with other BIDMC departments, Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at BIDMC, and other organizations and individuals.

In opening remarks **Allen Hamdan, MD**, a Surgery Vice Chair and member of the Board of Directors at GBFB, said, "In spite of how divisive our world has

become, we need to commit ourselves to taking care of one another. This event is one way to do so."

**Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, Chair of Surgery, observed that Food is Medicine is a reminder that bad things can happen to good people. "By attending and supporting events like this," he said, "we bear witness to our inextricable human connection."

Keynote speaker **Eric Fleegler, MD, MPH**, a pediatric emergency physician and health services researcher at Boston Children's Hospital, cited studies showing that as many as one-third of patients do not have enough to eat. "Hunger has an impact on health," Dr. Fleegler said. "Food insecurity exacerbates chronic health conditions such as asthma and diabetes, makes it hard to comply with medical therapy, and increases chances of hospitalization."

*Continued on page 28 >*



**DONATIONS TO THE GBFB OF ANY AMOUNT ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**

To donate, visit [my.gbfb.org/events/foodismedicine](https://my.gbfb.org/events/foodismedicine).



## Evangelos Messaris, MD, PhD: Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery

Following a national search, Evangelos Messaris, MD, PhD, was named Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Messaris, renowned for his expertise in the surgical treatment of colorectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), was recruited from Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania, where he was Associate Professor of Surgery at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, and Program Director of the Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship.

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 is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons.

Dr. Messaris's clinical focus is minimally invasive surgery and surgery in high-risk patients. In his previous position, Dr. Messaris expanded a single-site laparoscopic colorectal surgery program that is now one of the largest in the country. He served as the Surgeon Champion for the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), and helped establish or expand several multidisciplinary services, including the Colorectal Cancer Program, the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, and the Advanced Neoplasia Program.

Dr. Messaris has been honored with many teaching awards during his career, including the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Faculty Leader/Mentor in Surgery Award. At BIDMC, Dr. Messaris was instrumental in launching a Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship Program, which will admit its first trainee later this year.



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, among them *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.

## NEWS BRIEFS



Mark Callery, MD, Chief of General Surgery, was voted President-Elect of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT), an acclaimed academic gastrointestinal surgery organization, and will assume the presidency in May 2019. Dr. Callery, a leading hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeon, will also become Chair of the SSAT Board of Trustees in 2020. Dr. Callery also serves as President of the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA)



Improving lives  
through education,  
research and innovation.

Foundation, which supports research, education, and training

to enhance the quality of HPB surgery and patient care. In December 2018, Dr. Callery (below, fourth from right) concluded his tenure as President of the Boston Surgical Society.



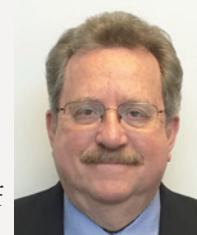
Thirty-four Department of Surgery faculty were named "Top Doctors" in the January 2019 issue of *Boston Magazine*. Congratulations to: Drs. Jeffrey Arle, Brad Baker, Michael Cahalane, Mark Callery, David Caradonna, Thomas Cataldo,

Elliot Chaikof, Joseph Ciccone, Anurag Das, Sidhu Gangadharan, Raul Guzman, Terri Halperin, Allen Hamdan, Scharukh Jalisi, Ted James, Daniel Jones, Gregory Kechejian, Kamal Khabbaz, Khalid Khwaja, Mark Kuperwaser, Bernard Lee, Samuel Lin, Adnan Majid, Abraham Morgentaler, Donald J. Morris, A. James Moser, Aria Olumi, Christopher Ogilvy, Vitaliy Poylin, Marc Schermerhorn, Sumner Slavin, Ajith Thomas, Andrew Wagner, and Richard Whyte.



The 2018 *Surgery Research Report* is now available online and in print. The report provides an overview of research underway in the department, individual researchers' reports, and a bibliography. To download a PDF of the report, please visit our website: [bidmc.org/surgery](http://bidmc.org/surgery) and click on Research. To request a print copy, please email us at: [surgerycommunications@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:surgerycommunications@bidmc.harvard.edu).

To provide support for the next generation of innovative investigators, **Richard D. Cummings, PhD**, Vice Chair of Basic and Translational Research in the Department of Surgery, and his wife, Senior



Research Associate **Sandra Cummings, PhD**, launched the Sandra and Richard Cummings Resident Research Fellowship in Surgery. The fellowship provides recipients with at least \$25,000 a year, for one- or two-year periods, to support promising research projects across an array of fields. A Surgery Fellowship Review Committee selects recipients based on the merits of their research and its potential to transform care. The first award recipients are: **Jane Cheng, MD**, **Michael Dombek, MD**, **Kortney Robinson, MD**, and **Kathryn Stackhouse, MD**.



Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, Chair of Surgery, hosted a luncheon to celebrate the launch of the Cummings Resident Research Fellowship and congratulate the award recipients. From left are: Dr. Chaikof; Kortney Robinson, MD; Michael Dombek, MD; Richard Cummings, PhD; Sandra Cummings, PhD; Kathryn Stackhouse, MD; and Jane Cheng, MD.

“Primer on Cerebrovascular Diseases, second edition” received a “highly commended” designation in Neurology from the British Medical Association (BMA) at its 2018 Medical Book Awards. Presented annually, the BMA awards promote excellence in medical publishing. The BIDMC editors are **Ajith Thomas, MD** (Neurosurgery) and Louis R. Caplan, MD (Neurology); the other editors are Drs. José Biller, Megan C. Leary, Eng H. Lo, Midori Yenari, and John H. Zhang.



The Joseph M. and Thelma Linsey BreastCare Center at BIDMC received a 2018 Women's Choice Award as one of America's Best Breast Centers — the second consecutive year the center has received this designation. The BreastCare Center, co-directed by **Ted A. James, MD, MS**, Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology, was recognized for meeting the National Accreditation Program for Breast

Centers (NAPBC) standards from the American College of Surgeons, and for carrying the seal of the American College of Radiologists as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence. In addition, the BreastCare Center received a rating in the top 75 percent for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' patient recommendation measures.



**Samuel Lin, MD, MBA**, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery; Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery (right), was awarded the BIDMC Department of Surgery's 2018 Excellence in Clinical Research Mentorship award. The award, presented

here by **James Rodrigue, PhD**, Vice Chair for Clinical Research, recognizes a faculty member who is an outstanding mentor, and is committed to guiding students, residents, fellows, and junior faculty as they conduct research to improve patient care.



**Amy Evenson, MD, MPH**, Transplant Surgery, and Director of Undergraduate Education in the Department of Surgery, was selected for a 2018-2019 Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education.

The fellowship is a nationally recognized faculty development program that provides recipients with protected time to attend weekly seminars by experts across Harvard Medical School. Fellows also conduct research on issues related to medical education. Dr. Evenson is exploring obstacles to cross-specialty care of patients as well as interventions to promote collegiality with the goal of improving care.



**Daniel Jones, MD, MS**, was named chief of the new Division of Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery. The new division encompasses the existing Bariatric and Minimally

Invasive Surgery Service at BIDMC and an expanded bariatric and general surgery service at BID-Milton. Dr. Jones and his colleagues are implementing a network strategy in which conventional weight loss treatment is provided in the community, and more complex bariatric procedures are performed at BIDMC. “Dr. Jones is a committed, innovative, and energetic leader in our department,” says **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, Chair of the Department of Surgery. “I am confident that he and his colleagues will expand the delivery of outstanding clinical care, while continuing their commitment to education and research.” Dr. Jones was also recently recognized as an Honorary Member of the Peruvian Society of Laparoscopic Surgery.



## NEWS BRIEFS



**Anna Rose Johnson, MPH**, a medical student research fellow in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, received a BIDMC Latino/Hispanic Achievement Award, which honors BIDMC staff who have made

significant contributions to advancing care for the Latino/Hispanic community. Ms. Johnson, who is in her third year at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, is the originator and project leader of a study looking at machete injuries in Honduras.



**Tara S. Kent, MD, MS**, General Surgery, was inducted as an Associate Member of the new American College of Surgeons

Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. The Academy recognizes surgeon educators who have devoted their careers to surgical education. Individuals are selected for membership following stringent peer review.



**Marc Schermerhorn, MD**, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, was voted President-Elect of the New England Society for Vascular Surgery (NESVS) in October 2018. Founded in 1973 and covering New England and parts of New York state, NESVS was the first regional vascular society in the country. Dr. Schermerhorn will take the helm as president in September 2019.



**Dhruv Singhal, MD**, Director of Lymphatic Surgery, received two grants to support his research to improve care for patients with lymphedema. The Osher Center for Integrative Medicine awarded Dr. Singhal a pilot grant to

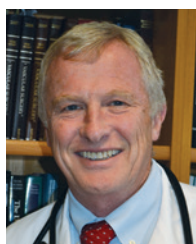
demonstrate the feasibility and efficacy of acupuncture for lymphedema in breast cancer patients. The Lymphatic Education and Research Network (LE&RN) and the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (ASRM) awarded Dr. Singhal the first LE&RN/ASRM combined pilot grant. The award will support his effort to develop a novel method to measure changes in real-time lymphatic flow after removal of lymph nodes in order to provide an objective way to measure patient outcomes.



Each year, the Department of Surgery and the Joseph M. Koufman Foundation award educational grants to three surgical nurses. These grants, established in 2005 for nursing career enhancement, recognize nurses with prominent leadership potential who also demonstrate humanism and excellence in patient care. A celebratory lunch enables the award winners and those who nominated them to meet the Koufman family, which has strong ties to BIDMC.

Pictured from left are: Steven Leckie, MD, Orthopedic Surgery, BID-Plymouth (a grand-nephew of Mr. Koufman); Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, Chair of Surgery; Stephen Odom, MD; the 2018 award winners Hannah Schwartzstein, RN, BSN, Maria Semnack, RN, and Jeffrey Keane, RN; Daniel Jones, MD, MS; Clinton Koufman, MD, who trained at BIDMC and whose late brother established the foundation; and Michael Cahalane, MD.

**Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, Chair of Surgery, and **Richard D. Cummings, PhD**, Surgery Vice Chair of Basic and Translational Research, were awarded funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to support a career development program at Harvard Medical School. The Harvard Program in Translational Glycobiology Career Development (**Harvard ProTG**) will focus on the career development of the next generation of biomedical investigators in glycosciences. Drs. Chaikof and Cummings will serve as co-directors of the Harvard ProTG program.



**David Campbell, MD**, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, was recently an invited speaker at the Wan Su Diabetic Foot Forum in Anqing, China and Tongren Medical School in Beijing and Yichang. Dr. Campbell addressed the diagnosis

and treatment of peripheral vascular disease in the diabetic patient.



**Richard Whyte, MD, MBA**, Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology and a Surgery Vice Chair, completed a fellowship in Bioethics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Whyte chairs the Ethics Committee of the Society of

Thoracic Surgeons, and is a member of the Ethics Committee at the American College of Surgeons. He used the fellowship year to explore bioethical issues in cardiothoracic surgery.



**Christiane Ferran, MD, PhD**, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, was recently elected to serve a three-year term as a member of the Harvard Medical School Faculty Council. The council advises the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine,

George Q. Daley, MD, PhD, regarding major policy changes and innovations for Harvard's schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. Dr. Ferran will serve through 2021.



Faculty and staff from BIDMC's Brain Aneurysm Institute participated in the Brain Aneurysm Foundation's 17th annual Arterial Challenge at Fenway Park. The event raised nearly \$119,000 to support brain aneurysm research. Pictured at the event (from left) are: brain aneurysm survivor Billy Weiland, **Deidre Buckley, NP**, and **Christopher S. Ogilvy, MD**, of the Brain Aneurysm Institute.



**Thahn Dinh, DPM**, Podiatry, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS). Dr. Dinh will become president-elect in 2020 and assume the role of president in 2021.

Founded in 1942, the ACFAS is a national surgical association of more than 7,500 foot and ankle surgeons.



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## NEWS BRIEFS



**Ajith Thomas, MD**, Co-Director of the BIDMC Brain Aneurysm Institute (second from right), was awarded the 2018 Brain Aneurysm Foundation Physician Champion Award. The award recognizes Dr. Thomas's surgical advances and translational research, which have improved treatment options and outcomes for patients with brain aneurysms. Dr. Thomas was joined by (from left): Brain Aneurysm Institute Director **Christopher S. Ogilvy, MD**, Hilary Bennett, **Deidre Buckley, NP**, Rachel Thomas, Anila Jacob, and Peter Healy, BIDMC President.



**Tara S. Kent, MD, MS**, General Surgery Residency Program Director (far left), and **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, Chair of the Department of Surgery (far right), posed with 2018 General Surgery Residency Program graduates (from left): **Peter Soden, MD**; **Christina Feng, MD**; **Ali Linsk Butash, MD**; **Nakul Prakash Raykar, MD**; **Anita Mamtani, MD**; **Alessandra Mele, MD**; **Mansher Singh, MD**; and **Prathima Nandivada, MD**.



Members of the Advisory Board of the Rongxiang Xu, MD, Center for Regenerative Therapeutics at BIDMC attended the opening ceremony of the International Society of Regenerative Medicine and Wound Repair, hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The group also attended the first symposium of the International Society of Regenerative Medicine and Wound Repair. The Rongxiang Xu, MD, Center for Regenerative Therapeutics, led by **Aristidis Veves, MD, DSc**, was funded by a generous gift from the National Rongxiang Xu Foundation. Dr. Veves was among the speakers at the symposium.



**Adnan Majid, MD**, Chief of Interventional Pulmonology in Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology, received an award from the Association of Interventional Pulmonology Program Directors in recognition of his contributions as chair of the Education Committee, where he led the in-service exam for the past three years and developed a board examination preparation book.



< [Continued from page 3](#)

surgeons work side-by-side in one of BIDMC's three state-of-the-art hybrid operating rooms to treat aortic aneurysms using a combination of open and endovascular approaches. Among the benefits of this hybrid approach is reduced risk for patients.

### Latest, best technologies

Patients also benefit from access to the latest, best technologies available today, including VesselNavigator. This state-of-the-art image-fusion technology provides surgeons in the OR with a continuous 3-D roadmap through the patient's blood vessels, giving them unprecedented views in real time so they can precisely and safely execute even the most complex aneurysm repairs. "We were one of the first medical centers in the world to make this available to patients, and we now use VesselNavigator for virtually all endovascular aortic procedures," says Dr. Schermerhorn, who helped develop and refine this technology.

Patients who come to BIDMC on an emergency basis also receive excellent, well-coordinated care. The Aortic Center developed and implemented special protocols for the rapid evaluation and treatment of all aortic emergencies, including ruptured aneurysm and acute aortic dissection, which ensures that patients receive appropriate treatment without delay.

"The Aortic Center's multidisciplinary team works collaboratively to evaluate and treat patients with aortic disease," says Dr. Schermerhorn. "Our approach ensures that patients benefit from the combined expertise of leading specialists in aortic aneurysm working closely together on their behalf."



Using the latest endovascular devices, including branched, fenestrated, and individually customized stent-grafts, Aortic Center surgeons can repair even the most complex aneurysms.

The BIDMC Aortic Center has one of the highest volumes of patients in the Northeast. In (fiscal year) 2018 alone, the Aortic Center performed 220 aortic procedures, many of them highly complex.



Kamal Khabbaz, MD



Marc Schermerhorn, MD



Brett Carroll, MD

## The Aortic Center Team

### LEADERSHIP

#### CO-DIRECTORS

Kamal Khabbaz, MD  
*Chief, Cardiac Surgery*

Marc Schermerhorn, MD  
*Chief, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*

#### MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Brett Carroll, MD

#### CARDIAC SURGERY

Kamal Khabbaz, MD  
Louis Chu, MD  
David Liu, MD  
Senthil Nathan, MD

#### VASCULAR AND ENDOVASCULAR SURGERY

Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD  
Giovanni Ferrante, MD  
Raul Guzman, MD  
Allen Hamdan, MD  
Chantel Hile, MD  
Andy Lee, MD  
Marc Schermerhorn, MD  
Mark Wyers, MD

#### CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

Brett Carroll, MD

#### CARDIOVASCULAR RADIOLOGY

Diana Litmanovich, MD



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# BIDMC Urologic Surgery Today

## *Expanding and Building on a Legacy of Excellence*



*Jim Ferzoco underwent a robotic-assisted prostatectomy at BIDMC, a national leader in minimally invasive treatment of urologic cancers.*

Jim Ferzoco, a retired teacher and father of four, was understandably concerned when he learned he had prostate cancer. But he was relieved to know that the surgeon — **Andrew Wagner, MD**, Chief of Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery — who had successfully treated his youngest brother for prostate cancer, would also be providing his care.

After reviewing his treatment options with Dr. Wagner, Mr. Ferzoco decided on robotic-assisted prostatectomy, a minimally invasive procedure in which the entire prostate is removed. The advantages of minimally invasive treatment are excellent cure rates, quicker recovery, less bleeding and pain, and a lower complication rate — as long as the procedure is performed by an experienced surgeon. “I knew that BIDMC is a national leader in minimally invasive treatment of urologic cancers and the region’s foremost center for robotic surgery, so I felt very confident about my decision,” says Mr. Ferzoco, whose brother also underwent the same procedure.

Mr. Ferzoco’s confidence was justified. He was discharged from the hospital the day after his procedure, the few side effects he had were gone within a few weeks, and he remains cancer-free. “But what impressed me the most was the personal attention of Dr. Wagner, my nurse practitioner [**Jodi Mechaber-Di Fiori, NP**], and the entire team,” says Mr. Ferzoco. “They prepared me for everything and always put me first. I guess I’ve had the ideal outcome.”

Ideal outcomes are the norm for patients who undergo treatment in the BIDMC Division of Urologic Surgery, which for many years has had a well-earned national reputation for excellence not only in clinical care but also research, education, and training. Building on this solid foundation, the division is undergoing growth and continued improvement under

the leadership of its new Chief of Urologic Surgery, **Aria Olumi, MD** ([see page 6](#)).

With the expansion of the BIDMC network to encompass affiliated hospitals throughout the region, one of Dr. Olumi’s high priorities is to continue to provide outstanding subspecialty urologic care, but with an even greater emphasis on teamwork. “Team-based care that includes surgeons, advanced practice providers, and administrative personnel ensures that all of our patients receive excellent, well-coordinated care wherever they go within our healthcare system for treatment,” says Dr. Olumi.

### Advanced treatments

The Division of Urologic Surgery’s surgeons (see “Our Team”), all of whom are fellowship-trained, provide the most advanced treatments for a broad range of urologic disorders:

- Benign prostate hypertrophy (BPH)
- Stone disease (kidney, ureter, bladder, and other stones)
- Elevated PSA
- Hematuria (blood in the urine)
- Kidney blockage/obstruction and kidney cysts
- Urologic cancers: kidney cancer, bladder cancer, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, penile cancer
- Adrenal gland tumors: benign and malignant
- Urinary incontinence
- Male sexual health: infertility, erectile dysfunction (ED)
- Neuro-urologic conditions, including urinary retention

Patient care is provided throughout the BIDMC system: at BIDMC in Boston, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton, and Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare-Chestnut Hill.

BIDMC has the most experience in the region in minimally invasive robotic-assisted procedures

for complex urologic conditions, and is considered a national leader in these techniques. For example, 90 percent of procedures for kidney cancer are performed using minimally invasive techniques. And BIDMC is one of the only academic centers in New England to offer robotic-assisted radical cystectomy and urinary tract reconstruction (removal of the bladder and surrounding organs and urinary diversion) for patients with advanced bladder cancer.

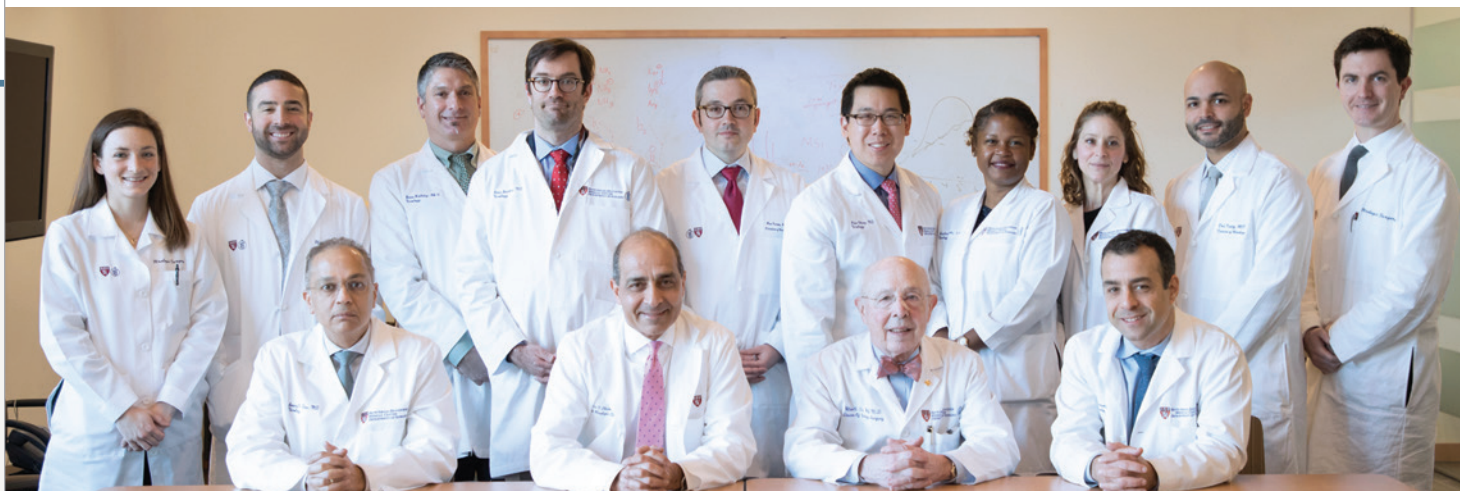
In addition, the division now offers comprehensive services in men's sexual health and is recruiting a urologist with expertise in the minimally invasive treatment of women's urologic disorders. BIDMC is also the lead site for kidney cancer of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) and a co-lead site for prostate cancer at DF/HCC, giving patients with these cancers access to a wide range of clinical trials.

### Diverse research portfolio

Research has always been an integral part of the Division of Urologic Surgery's mission, and has led to its prominence in urologic research spanning many areas, with results published frequently in top academic journals. "We conduct a diverse portfolio of research focused on improving outcomes for patients with a wide range of urologic conditions," says Dr. Olumi.

Some current major areas of investigation include patient outcomes, including quality of life; kidney stone prevention; evaluation of overactive bladder; the cost-effectiveness of robotic and minimally invasive procedures; and recovery trends and narcotic use after major surgery.

The division is also a national leader in the research and use of active surveillance for selected patients with low-risk prostate or kidney cancer,



Members of the Urologic Surgery team (standing, from left): Ariel Fredrick, MD, Kareem Alazem, MD, Brian Holliday, PA-C, Peter Steinberg, MD, Ruslan Korets, MD, Peter Chang, MD, MPH, Analesa Baraka, NP, Jodi Mechaber-Di Fiori, NP, Robert Carrasquillo, MD, and Matthew Moynihan, MD; (seated, from left): Anurag Das, MD, Aria Olumi, MD, William DeWolf, MD, and Andrew Wagner, MD.

## Our Team

### SURGEONS

Aria Olumi, MD, *Chief*  
Philip Barbosa, MD  
Robert Carrasquillo, MD  
Peter Chang, MD, MPH  
Anurag Das, MD  
Robert Eyre, MD  
Stephen Eyre, MD  
Ruslan Korets, MD  
Peter Steinberg, MD  
Andrew Wagner, MD

### ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

Analesa Baraka, NP  
Mary Bushee, RN  
Carol Daugherty, ANP  
Mary Gallo, NP  
Brian Holliday, PA-C  
Janice Krohn, NP  
Jodi Mechaber-Di Fiori, NP



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sparing them unnecessary surgical treatment and preserving quality of life. Dr. Olumi's laboratory research, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health, focuses on mechanisms of hormonal change in the prostate and how those affect treatment options and outcomes after treatment. In addition, the division is one of 13 sites in the U.S. participating in a national study to assess the use of biomarkers and MRI for the optimal diagnosis of prostate cancer.

### Unique training opportunities

The division offers unique, world-class training opportunities for residents and fellows through its accredited Esta and Robert Epstein Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery and its new, independent Urology Residency Program.

Established ten years ago by Program Director Dr. Wagner, the Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery was the first such academic program in New England. Fellows spend one to two years focusing on advanced surgical techniques in minimally invasive urologic cancer surgery (much of which is robotic kidney, prostate, and bladder surgery), conducting urologic research, and teaching. They also complete a seven-week intensive training program in clinical effectiveness (biostatistics, epidemiology, and health outcomes) through the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. "Upon completion of the fellowship, fellows are well-prepared to establish minimally invasive urologic programs at other institutions," says Dr. Wagner.

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 ACGME-accredited Urology Residency Program, led by Program Director Dr. Olumi and Assistant Program Director **Ruslan Korets, MD**. The Harvard Urology Residency Program at BIDMC will accept its first trainees in 2019.

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.

"BIDMC Urologic Surgery has always stood for excellence in patient care, research, and education," says Dr. Olumi. "Through teamwork and a continued focus on excellence as we expand, we will build on this legacy well into the future."



*Attended by many colleagues, family, and friends, a research symposium in Urology and dinner to honor Dr. DeWolf and celebrate his retirement was held at the Harvard Club of Boston.*

## A Fond Farewell to William C. DeWolf, MD

**William C. DeWolf, MD**, joined BIDMC in 1984 and served as Chief of Urology from 1996 until his retirement in early 2019. In July, Dr. DeWolf was named the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Distinguished Professor of Surgery by Harvard Medical School.

In addition to serving as Chief of Urology and Director of the Urologic Research Laboratories at BIDMC, Dr. DeWolf has a long list of achievements that include a National Institutes of Health Research Career Development Award and selection as an American Urological Association Scholar. In addition, he was president of the National Urologic Forum and served on the editorial board of *Urology*, the leading academic urologic journal.

"Throughout his career, Dr. DeWolf artfully combined his clinical and research interests while also serving as a leader and mentor to scores of faculty and trainees," says **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, Chair of Surgery. "We are very grateful for his countless contributions and wish him many years of health and happiness in his retirement."

**The William C. DeWolf, MD, Visiting Professorship in Urology was established to honor Dr. DeWolf's legacy at BIDMC. To make a donation to the fund, please contact Kevin Mitchell, Director of Development in the Department of Surgery, at [kmmitch@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:kmmitch@bidmc.harvard.edu) or 617.632.8388. Or give online at: [bidmcgiving.org/dewolf](http://bidmcgiving.org/dewolf).**

## Selected Publications

### Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care

**Barrett CD**, Hsu AT, Ellson CD, Y Miyazawa B, Kong YW, Greenwood JD, Dhara S, Neal MD, Sperry JL, Park MS, Cohen MJ, Zuckerbraun BS, **Yaffe MB**. Blood clotting and traumatic injury with shock mediates complement-dependent neutrophil priming for extracellular ROS, ROS-dependent organ injury and coagulopathy. *Clin Exp Immunol* 2018;194(1):103-17.

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**Dombek M**, Lopez CA, Han Z, Lungarini A, Santos N, Schwaitzberg S, Cao C, **Jones DB**, De S, Olasky J. FUSE certification enhances performance on a virtual computer based simulator for dispersive electrode placement. *Surg Endosc* 2018;32(8):3640-5.

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### Cardiac Surgery

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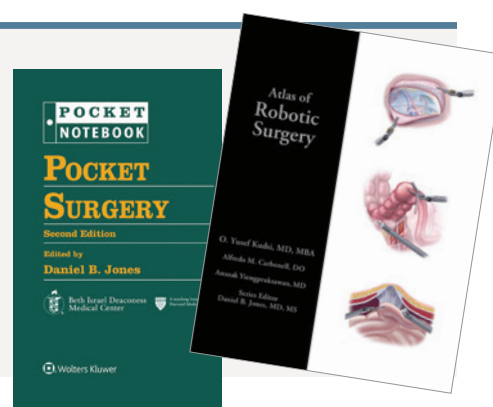
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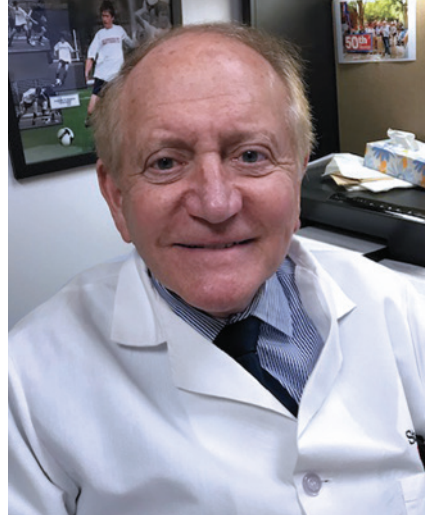
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## Marvin L. Corman, MD, 1971

Professor of Surgery, Renaissance School of Medicine  
at Stony Brook University

Author, *Corman's Colon and Rectal Surgery*



*Marvin L. Corman, MD,  
is the longtime author  
of Corman's Colon and  
Rectal Surgery.*

For as long as he can remember, Marvin L. Corman, MD, wanted to be a surgeon. Starting at age 15 and continuing until his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia teenager worked every summer at Hahnemann University Medical College, conducting library and animal research in the Department of Anatomy. “I was always attracted to the romance of surgery, so there was never any doubt about becoming a surgeon,” says Dr. Corman, author of the definitive textbook on colon and rectal surgery that bears his name.

Following his graduation from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Corman matched to his first choice of general surgery residency programs: the Fifth (Harvard) Surgical Service, the predecessor of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center General Surgery Residency, which was then based at Boston City Hospital. In 1973, the Fifth Surgical Service, known to its alumni as “Five Surg,” was relocated to New England Deaconess Hospital, which in 1996 merged with Beth Israel Hospital to become Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

In 1965, full of youthful enthusiasm, Dr. Corman began his residency. But his early experience was not what he expected and he was sometimes disheartened. “Back then, residents at Boston City did everything: we drew blood, transported patients, and worked very long, very hard hours without much supervision,” he says. “But we had great senior residents and I learned a huge amount.” Dr. Corman particularly enjoyed his rotation at New England Deaconess Hospital, where he fondly recalls an influential mentor, Chief of Surgery Cornelius Sedgwick, MD, “a master surgeon and wonderful person.”

### Leeds: ‘The best year of my life’

During his PGY3 year, Dr. Corman was encouraged to spend a year at the University of Leeds in England

as a Senior Registrar (equivalent to a chief resident) with Professor John C. Goligher, a world-renowned authority on colon and rectal surgery. “I was excited about the opportunity to go to London,” recalls Dr. Corman, who was thrilled to be accepted (but dismayed when he discovered that Leeds was some 200 miles from London!)

But his disappointment did not last long. “It was the best year of my life,” says Dr. Corman. “At first I was way in over my head but I got to work as first assistant with Professor Goligher and did more than 1,000 operations that year.” He recalls one day when he did 21 operations on his own. It was during this formative year that Dr. Corman decided he wanted to follow in Professor Goligher’s footsteps and specialize in colon and rectal surgery.

After returning to Boston and finishing his residency in 1971, Dr. Corman joined Lahey Hospital & Medical Center in Massachusetts, where he was a busy staff surgeon for nearly 11 years. During this period, Dr. Corman teamed up with two other Lahey surgeons to write a textbook on colon and rectal surgery. Although he had already written 12 chapters, the project was interrupted when Dr. Corman relocated to California to join the Sansum Medical Clinic in Santa Barbara.

Determined to see the project through to completion, but remembering the challenges of getting others to submit their chapters on time, “I decided to write the book myself,” says Dr. Corman. He found a publisher [Lippincott, now Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins], which was delighted to publish it, and a medical illustrator, Lois Barnes, whose work has graced the pages of all six editions.

### ‘Best Book in Medicine’

Published in 1984 and 780 pages long, the first edition of *Colon and Rectal Surgery* received first prize from the American Medical Writers Association in 1985 as

the “Best Book in Medicine.” Dr. Corman wrote the next four editions, which came out about every five years and grew in size and scope with each printing. Reflecting Dr. Corman’s love of history, every edition includes biographical sketches of surgeons throughout history who have made contributions to the field.

During his years on the West Coast, Dr. Corman was on the faculty at UCLA Medical Center and later, the University of Southern California. In 2001, he returned East to serve as Vice Chair of Surgery for the North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health System and in 2004, he was recruited to SUNY Stony Brook University, where he is a Professor of Surgery.

In 2012, the sixth edition of his book — now nearly 1,600 pages long — was published, a milestone that was celebrated by the American College of Surgeons during its annual Clinical Congress that year. For the first time, the book included Dr. Corman’s name in the title and had associate editors: colorectal surgeons Roberto Bergamaschi, MD, PhD; R. John Nicholls, MD; and Victor Fazio, MD. Described by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* as the “gold standard in its discipline,” *Corman’s Colon and Rectal Surgery* has long been considered the bible of textbooks for colorectal and general surgeons. It is on the shelves of virtually every medical library and surgery department in the nation, and has been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Turkish.

### Founded three residency programs

While Dr. Corman is justifiably proud of his textbook, he is prouder still of his contributions to the education of aspiring colorectal surgeons. During his career, he has led five colorectal surgery residency programs, three of which he founded: at Sansum Medical Clinic — the first colorectal residency program in California; at North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health System; and at Stony Brook University.

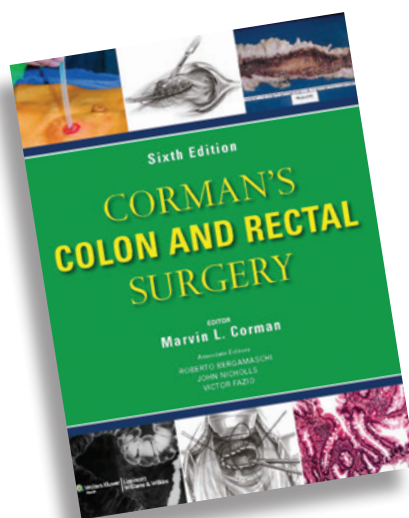
“My greatest joy is teaching, and I love to be around young people,” says Dr. Corman. Now 79, he is still actively engaged in teaching residents as well as writing, and continues to lecture frequently as a visiting professor around the world. “I’m a bit of a thespian and love public speaking,” he admits. One of Dr. Corman’s most memorable invitations was to present the first John C. Goligher Memorial Lectureship at the 100th anniversary meeting of the American Society of Colon

and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) in 1999.

Many other awards and honors have been bestowed on Dr. Corman throughout his career. One of his most cherished was the John C. Goligher Memorial Medal of the Association of Coloproctology, Great Britain and Ireland, and the Section of Coloproctology of the Royal Society of Medicine. Dr. Corman has also been a named visiting professor at nearly 50 institutions throughout the world. In addition, he has served in many leadership roles, including Vice President of the ASCRS and President of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery, and was Associate Editor of *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum* for 15 years.

Despite his still-busy schedule in the Stony Brook Department of Surgery, Dr. Corman finds time to indulge his love of reading, finishing two books a week on average. He is a fan of the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Charles Dickens, and anything by or about Winston Churchill. As for the seventh edition of *Corman’s Colon and Rectal Surgery*, now close to 2,000 pages? Dr. Corman has offered the rights to the ASCRS at no cost, as long as it continues to be updated. “It’s a huge undertaking and it’s time to hand over the reins to someone else,” he says.

Dr. Corman recently attended a reunion in Boston of “Five-Surg” alumni — “the dinosaurs,” as they jokingly refer to themselves. He was pleased to spend time with some 30 fellow surgeons of his era, including some giants in the field. “Our residency years were occasionally wonderful and often demanding,” he says, “but they helped shape who we became.”



Now in its sixth edition, *Corman's Colon and Rectal Surgery* is widely considered the definitive textbook for general and colorectal surgeons.



## HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

## Promotions and Appointments

The Department of Surgery congratulates the following faculty members on their Harvard Medical School promotions or appointments in 2018.

[< Continued from page 5](#)

### Promotions

#### PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**Jennifer L. Wilson, MD**  
December 2018

Dr. Wilson, a member of the Division of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology, joined the Department of Surgery in 2016. A graduate of the BIDMC Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, Dr. Wilson

earned her medical degree from the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Medicine, and completed her residency in general surgery at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle.

Dr. Wilson is a general thoracic surgeon who practices at BIDMC and Cambridge Health Alliance. She provides care for patients with complex airway diseases, benign esophageal disease, and lung and esophageal cancers, and has expertise in adult tracheobronchomalacia (TBM). Dr. Wilson and her colleagues have developed a new technique to treat severe cervical TBM that preserves the trachea. Dr. Wilson's scholarship is reflected in 22 publications, including the first multicenter comparison of robotic lung resection to video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) in early stage non-small cell lung cancer.

Dr. Wilson, who is working toward her MPH degree at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, has a strong interest in public health and clinical disparities research. She is involved in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Lung Cancer Screening Workgroup, which provides support to lung cancer screening programs by promoting quality standards for screening and educating providers and patients about lung cancer screening.

### Appointments

#### APPOINTED AS: GEORGE H. A. CLOWES JR. PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**Marc L. Schermerhorn, MD**  
July 2018

Dr. Schermerhorn is Chief of the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and Co-Director of the BIDMC Aortic Center ([see story, page 3](#)). Promoted to Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School in

2017, Dr. Schermerhorn is an international leader in the field of clinical effectiveness research, with a particular focus on the impact of new endovascular therapies for aortic aneurysm repair.

Dr. Schermerhorn received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC, and completed his residency in general surgery at BIDMC. He subsequently completed a fellowship in vascular surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire, where he was on the faculty before joining the Department of Surgery at BIDMC in 2004.

Dr. Schermerhorn's scholarship is reflected in more than 120 peer-reviewed publications and 17 book chapters. He is a member of the editorial boards for several leading medical journals, and is President-Elect of the New England Society for Vascular Surgery. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Clinical Scholarship Program and Associate Program Director of the Vascular Surgery Fellowship at BIDMC.

The George H. A. Clowes Jr. Professorship of Surgery was previously held (2004-2018) by **Per-Olof Hasselgren, MD, PhD**. Dr. Hasselgren, the Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Surgery, is now the George H. A. Clowes Jr. Distinguished Professor of Surgery. Dr. Hasselgren is the former Chief of the Section of Endocrine Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology, a position he held from 2002 until 2018. Although he has stepped down from his role as section chief, Dr. Hasselgren continues to make significant contributions to BIDMC and the Department of Surgery through his research, teaching, and other administrative activities.

## APPOINTED AS: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**Ted A. James, MD, MS**  
February 2018

Dr. James is Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology in the Department of Surgery and Co-Director of the BIDMC BreastCare Center. He is also Vice Chair of Academic Affairs in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. James was recruited to BIDMC from the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 2016.

Dr. James received his medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine in Pennsylvania. He completed his residency in general surgery at North Shore-Long Island Jewish, and a fellowship in surgical oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, both in New York state. Dr. James also earned a Master of Science in Health Care Management from Harvard University.

Dr. James's clinical interests include breast cancer, benign breast disease, and familial breast cancer risk. His outcomes research is focused on assessing the effectiveness, quality, and value of specific care practices and interventions in the surgical management of breast cancer.

Dr. James holds leadership positions in many professional societies and lectures nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of numerous honors, including multiple awards for education, research, service, and leadership. He has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and is a reviewer for numerous journals, including the *Journal of Surgical Oncology* and *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, and serves on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Medical Quality*.

## APPOINTED AS: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY\*



**Adnan Majid, MD**  
November 2018

Dr. Majid is Chief of the Section of Interventional Pulmonology in the Division of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology. Dr. Majid attended medical school at the Universidad del Rosario in

Colombia. He began his residency at Cook County Hospital in Chicago and completed it at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. He subsequently completed fellowships at Tufts Medical Center and BIDMC, joining the BIDMC faculty in 2007. Dr. Majid's clinical interests include complex airway disorders, lung cancer, tracheostomy-related complications, severe COPD and emphysema, severe asthma, and pleural disease. He has extensive experience treating patients with tracheobronchomalacia (TBM).

Dr. Majid is engaged in clinical research aimed at improving care for patients with lung, airway, and pleural disorders. He is also involved in developing new technologies and innovative approaches for diagnosis, including the

validation of dynamic flexible bronchoscopy for the diagnosis of TBM.

Dr. Majid is Program Director of the combined Harvard BIDMC-MGH (Massachusetts General Hospital) Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship Program, one of the largest such programs in the nation. He also teaches advanced diagnostic and therapeutic bronchoscopy, endobronchial ultrasound, and pleural procedures at national and international meetings. In addition, Dr. Majid also serves as Co-Director of the Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship for Latin America, a collaborative effort among BIDMC; the Clinica Alemana in Santiago, Chile; and ThoraxKlinik in Heidelberg, Germany.

*\* Secondary appointment. Dr. Majid's primary appointment is Associate Professor of Medicine.*

## APPOINTED AS: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**Benjamin C. James, MD, MS**  
April 2018

Dr. James is Chief of the Section of Endocrine Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology, and Associate Director of the BIDMC Surgery Clerkship. Dr. James attended medical school at Pennsylvania

State College of Medicine, and completed his residency in general surgery at Penn State Health/Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Later he completed a clinical fellowship and a research fellowship in endocrine surgery at the University of Chicago. Dr. James was on the faculty at Indiana University for two years before joining the Department of Surgery in late 2017.

Dr. James's clinical interests are thyroid cancer, parathyroid disease, Grave's disease, multinodular goiter, hyperaldosteronism, Cushing's syndrome, pheochromocytoma, and adrenocorticocarcinoma. He has a particular interest in minimally invasive surgery of the thyroid and parathyroid glands and is one of only a few surgeons nationwide trained to remove the thyroid and parathyroid glands through the mouth, referred to as transoral endoscopic thyroidectomy vestibular approach ([see story, page 7](#)).

Dr. James's research interests include outcomes research, health policy and health disparities, and quality of life in patients with thyroid cancer. He is also working with Richard Cummings, PhD, to evaluate the glycomic profile of thyroid cancer. Dr. James is the author of 16 peer-reviewed papers and reviews, has co-authored five book chapters, and serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Surgical Research*.

**Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center**

**Justin M. Moore, MD, PhD**  
*Neurosurgery*  
617-632-7246



**Stephen J. Eyre, MD**  
*Urologic Surgery*  
781-433-2110

**Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton**

**Souheil W. Adra, MD**  
*Bariatric and  
Minimally Invasive Surgery*  
617-313-1450



**Giovanni A. Ferrante, MD**  
*Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*  
617-313-1450  
*Dr. Ferrante also sees patients at  
Atrius Health – Weymouth Woods.*



**Rahul Gupta, MD**  
*Bariatric and  
Minimally Invasive Surgery*  
617-313-1450



**Robert C. Eyre, MD**  
*Urologic Surgery*  
781-433-2110

**Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth**

**Christian T. Campos, MD, MBA**  
*Thoracic Surgery and  
Interventional Pulmonology*  
508-746-6385  
*Dr. Campos also sees patients at  
BIDMC in Boston.*



**Edward ("Chip") Malin IV, MD**  
*Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*  
508-746-2345  
*Dr. Malin also sees patients at Signature  
Healthcare Brockton Hospital.*



**Aubrey Okpaku, MD**  
*Neurosurgery*  
508-830-6991

**Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham**

**Philip V. Barbosa, MD**  
*Urologic Surgery*  
781-433-2110



**Robert Carrasquillo, MD**  
*Urologic Surgery*  
781-433-2110



**Rona Spector, MD**  
*Thoracic Surgery and  
Interventional Pulmonology*  
508-746-6385  
*Dr. Spector also sees patients at  
BIDMC in Boston.*



## Richard D. Cummings, PhD, Appointed S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Surgery

Harvard Medical School (HMS) appointed Richard (Rick) D. Cummings, PhD, as the S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Surgery in the Field of Nutrition Medicine. An international leader in the field of glycobiology, Dr. Cummings is Vice Chair of Basic and Translational Research in the Department of Surgery and directs the [HMS Center for Glycoscience](#) and the [National Center for Functional Glycomics](#), which is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Cummings joined the Department of Surgery in 2015.

Glycobiology involves the study of the structure, biology, evolution, and function of glycans, which are chemically linked chains of sugars, or carbohydrates.

Glycans are widely prevalent throughout nature and are present in all cells, connective tissue, and bodily fluids. Glycans program a wide variety of biologic processes impacting both health and disease, and are associated with vast numbers of diseases and disorders, including cancer, inflammation, infectious diseases, immunity, and congenital disorders, to cite just a few. In addition to its great

promise, glycobiology research has already led to many applications in clinical practice, including drugs to treat conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes, osteoarthritis, and influenza.

### 'No one more deserving'

"Dr. Cummings is an investigator of immense talent, creativity, and integrity who has made, and continues to make, significant strides toward our understanding of human health, disease, and development, while bringing together investigators from diverse disciplines and inspiring and training the next generation of scientists to work in this exciting field," says **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, Surgery Chair. "No one is more deserving of this honor."

The S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Surgery in the Field of Nutrition Medicine was previously held by

the late **George L. Blackburn, MD, PhD**, who died in 2017 at age 81. A member of the Department of Surgery for 45 years, Dr. Blackburn was Director of the Center for the Study of Nutrition

Medicine at BIDMC and Director of the Feihe Nutrition Laboratory in the Department of Surgery. A true visionary in surgery, Dr. Blackburn made many seminal contributions to the fields of surgery, metabolism, nutrition, and obesity that have had a positive effect on the lives, health, and well-being of countless people worldwide.

### Gift from S. Daniel Abraham

The endowed professorship was made possible by a 1998 gift from S. Daniel (Danny) Abraham, a longtime close friend of Dr. Blackburn. Mr. Abraham, now 94, was a pioneer in the pharmaceutical and diet-food industry who founded the multi-billion dollar Slim-Fast Foods. Mr. Abraham collaborated with Dr. Blackburn to develop Slim-Fast as a healthy, nutritionally balanced product that would help people control their weight and live longer, healthier lives.

In addition to his lifelong dedication to championing healthy lifestyles, Mr. Abraham has been an longtime, effective advocate for Middle East peace whose achievements have been honored by presidents and prime ministers alike. His memoir, *Everything is Possible*, was endorsed by former President Bill Clinton, who described Mr. Abraham as "a tireless advocate for peace."

In 2015, Mr. Abraham made another generous gift to endow the George L. Blackburn, MD, PhD, Professorship of Surgery in honor of his longtime friend and advisor. At the time Dr. Blackburn said, "I am very grateful to Danny for his wisdom and his recognition that for us to move forward, we need the resources to continue our leadership in surgical innovation that has defined our department for decades."



S. Daniel Abraham (right) and the late George L. Blackburn, MD, PhD, were longtime close friends and collaborators.



Richard D. Cummings, PhD

< *Continued from page 8*

### Food is Medicine 2018 Co-Chairs

Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, Chair,  
BIDMC Department of Surgery  
Allen Hamdan, MD, Vice Chair,  
BIDMC Department of Surgery  
Peter Healy, President, BIDMC  
Alexa B. Kimball, MD, President  
and CEO, Harvard Medical  
Faculty Physicians at BIDMC  
Kevin Tabb, MD, CEO, BIDMC

### Major Donors

#### Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at BIDMC (\$27,000)

Department of Surgery (Elliot  
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Department of Anesthesia,  
Critical Care, and Pain Medicine  
(Daniel Talmor, MD, Chief)\*  
Department of Dermatology  
(Suzanne Olbright, MD, Chair)\*  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
(Richard Wolfe, MD, Chief)\*  
Department of Medicine (Mark  
Zeidel, MD, Chair)\*  
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Gynecology (Hope Ricciotti, MD,  
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Department of Orthopaedics  
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#### 15,000 Healthy Meals: Community Health Partner (\$5,000)

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Kevin Tabb, MD, CEO)

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