

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

ADVANCES IN EPILEPSY SURGERY

*Level 4 Center Offers
Leading-Edge Options*

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Message from the Chair

Cancer has afflicted humankind since the dawn of recorded history. Despite significant victories against some forms of this disease—many of which have taken place here in Boston—we continue to search for innovative ways to prevent, detect, treat, and, someday we all hope, cure cancer.

Yet until that day comes, providing the most promising diagnostics and therapies, while essential, is not enough. As health care leaders, we must also offer all patients equitable and timely access to all that modern medicine has to offer, in an optimal care setting, while also providing the best possible experience for them and their loved ones. This is achievable but it requires a bold vision for a different model of cancer care—one built on collaboration, teamwork, and a focus on the needs of patients.

This was the impetus for the creation of the Dana-Farber Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Collaboration, which you will read about in this issue. This unique partnership brings together Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center—two leading academic medical centers with legacies of groundbreaking research, superb multidisciplinary clinical care, and renowned teaching programs. The centerpiece of this collaboration will be a new, freestanding inpatient cancer hospital on our campus, which will focus exclusively on the highly specialized care of adults with cancer.

As the majority of patients with cancer require surgery as part of their treatment, the caliber of the surgical team was a major consideration in this historic collaboration. We are proud of the excellence of our surgeons, multidisciplinary surgical programs, and surgical research, and look forward to continuing to collaborate with our colleagues throughout BIDMC and Dana-Farber to build a better future for all patients.



Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD



Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



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Fall 2024

Volume 13, No. 1

Inside Surgery is published by the Office of the Chair of the Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner Department of Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for faculty, trainees, staff, alumni, affiliates, and friends.

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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Cover photo by Danielle Duffey, BIDMC. Neurosurgeon Joshua Aronson, MD (left), Surgical Director of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, and former neurosurgery chief resident Anirudh Penumaka, MD, MSc. See article, [page 20](#).

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Beth Israel Lahey Health 

New Divisional Leadership

Three divisions in the Department of Surgery came under new leadership this year. We are pleased to announce our chiefs of General Surgery, Podiatric Surgery, and Surgical Oncology.



General Surgery Benjamin James, MD, MS

Dr. James was recruited to BIDMC in 2017 from his faculty position at Indiana University to lead the Section of Endocrine Surgery. Dr. James's main clinical interests are diseases of the thyroid,

parathyroid, and adrenal glands with an emphasis on the minimally invasive treatment of these disorders.

Dr. James's research centers on health policy and health disparities, outcomes, and quality of life in thyroid cancer patients. His lab, which focuses on financial toxicity in cancer survivors, has been funded by multiple sources, including the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES) and the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. James established and leads the department's Resident Research Training Program and serves as Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program. He currently serves as chair of the Health Services Research Committee for the Association for Academic Surgery, and Chair of the Research Committee and Councilor for the AAES. Dr. James has had more than 80 manuscripts and multiple book chapters published and is an associate editor for the *Journal of Surgical Research*.

After receiving his medical degree from Pennsylvania State College of Medicine, Dr. James completed his residency in general surgery at Penn State Health/Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, followed by clinical and research fellowships in endocrine surgery at the University of Chicago, where he obtained a Masters in Public Health Sciences. Dr. James, an Associate Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, succeeds **Mark Callery, MD**, who led the Division of General Surgery for more than 23 years.



Podiatric Surgery Thanh Dinh, DPM

Dr. Dinh has been a faculty member of the Division of Podiatric Surgery since completing her fellowship training in 2000. Her clinical activities focus on diabetic foot complications, complex reconstructive foot

pathologies, pediatric pathologies, and sports medicine.

Dr. Dinh is Program Director of the BIDMC Podiatric Surgical Residency Program and a faculty member of the Boston Children's Hospital Sports Medicine Fellowship Program. She has held multiple leadership roles in the nation's foremost podiatric surgery societies, including serving recently as president

of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and currently as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

Dr. Dinh has had more than 40 manuscripts and book chapters published and has served on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Lower Extremity Wounds* for nearly a decade.

Dr. Dinh was awarded the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine, followed by a residency in podiatric surgery at Palmetto General Hospital and a podiatric surgical fellowship at Hadassah Medical Center in Israel. Dr. Dinh, an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, succeeds **John Giurini, DPM**, who led the Division of Podiatric Surgery for more than 25 years.



Surgical Oncology Umut Sarpel, MD, MSc

Dr. Sarpel came to BIDMC from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she was a Professor of Surgery and Professor of Medical Education, Chief of Advanced Malignancies in the

Division of Surgical Oncology, and Program Director of the Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship.

Dr. Sarpel's clinical focus includes gastrointestinal, hepatopancreatobiliary, and soft-tissue malignancies through the application of a range of open and advanced robotic techniques. With a history of funding from the National Cancer Institute, her primary research interests are cancer disparities and health equity. Throughout her career, Dr. Sarpel has mentored numerous students and trainees, advanced the field of surgical oncology, and contributed to surgical scholarship with more than 100 peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Sarpel also served as an examiner for the Complex General Surgical Oncology certifying exam through the American Board of Surgery. She has received multiple teaching awards throughout her career, including the 2020 Teaching Attending of the Year Award.

Dr. Sarpel received her medical degree from the School of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo (now Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences). She completed a residency in general surgery and a fellowship in surgical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she also earned a Master of Science in Clinical Research. Dr. Sarpel began her faculty career in the Division of Surgical Oncology at New York University.

Dana-Farber Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Collaboration

Collaboration Will Transform Adult Cancer Care

Last fall, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-Farber) and BIDMC, along with its affiliated physician group, Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians (HMFP), announced plans for a comprehensive new collaboration. Named the Dana-Farber Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Collaboration, this alliance will transform adult cancer care in the region and set the standard for how cancer care is provided nationwide.

Central to the collaboration is the construction of the region's only independent, free-standing inpatient hospital exclusively for adults with cancer, whose numbers are growing as the population ages and younger adults are increasingly diagnosed with the disease.

The Dana-Farber Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Collaboration builds on the legacies of excellence of Dana-Farber, BIDMC, and its affiliated physicians, who are widely recognized for providing compassionate, world-class cancer care informed by their innovative research.

The collaboration is designed to achieve many important goals, including enhancing the experience of adults with cancer and their loved ones; improving equitable access to high-value care; streamlining patient care; and fostering multidisciplinary collaboration in patient care and research. Another key goal is to improve care by expeditiously bringing innovations in diagnostics, treatments, and new technologies to patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

The proposed inpatient cancer hospital will be constructed in the Longwood Medical Area on BIDMC's West Campus at the site of Joslin Diabetes Center, which will be relocated. The entirely new, 14-story building will be adjacent to and connected via tunnels and sky bridges to BIDMC and Dana-Farber's Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, creating an interlocking campus with seamless access to facilities and services.

The state-of-the-art building will have approximately 300 beds for inpatients; outpatient care will be provided at Dana-Farber's Yawkey Center and surgical treatment will be performed at BIDMC. In addition to increasing adult cancer patient capacity, the new building will facilitate the implementation of innovations and technologies in cancer care, many



The majority of cancer patients require surgery as part of their treatment, so the caliber of BIDMC's surgical team was an important consideration in selecting a partner for this historic collaboration.

of which are developed by physician-scientists and researchers at Dana-Farber and BIDMC.

"This exciting collaboration is a testament to the excellence and outstanding reputation of BIDMC, our HMFP physicians, and our renowned cancer programs," says Surgery Chair **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, adding that BIDMC was recently ranked among the top 20 hospitals for cancer care in the United States by *US News & World Report*. Dr. Chaikof points out that while cancer treatment today is highly multidisciplinary, about 60 percent of cancer patients require surgery as part of their treatment, so the caliber of the surgical team was an important consideration in selecting a partner for this historic collaboration. He adds that the alliance will facilitate further collaborations in cancer research and educational programs between Dana-Farber and BIDMC.

Pending regulatory approvals, it is expected that it will take several more years to complete the cancer collaboration and construct the new hospital. BIDMC's cancer programs will continue until the new collaboration is in place, as will Dana-Farber's current affiliation with Brigham and Women's Hospital for inpatient and surgical care. Beth Israel Lahey Health will continue to invest in advancing cancer services throughout its health care system, fulfilling its commitment to providing access to extraordinary care in all settings.

Congratulations to Our 2024 Graduates



The 2024 graduates of the BIDMC General Surgery Residency Program and Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency Program (from left): Drs. Jordan Broekhuis, Donna Marie Alvino, Jacqueline Wade, Lumeng Jenny Yu, Jane Cheng, Christina Marcaccio (Integrated Vascular Surgery), Jessica Means, Omar Haque, and James Wallace.

RESIDENTS

GENERAL SURGERY

Donna Marie Alvino, MD

Fellowship: Transplant Surgery, Columbia University/New York Presbyterian Hospital

Jordan Broekhuis, MD

Fellowship: Endocrine Surgery, Brigham and Women's/Massachusetts General Hospital Harvard Combined Program

Jane Cheng, MD

Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Omar Haque, MD

Fellowship: Transplant Surgery, Mayo Clinic Rochester

Jessica Means, MD

Fellowship: Breast Surgical Oncology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Jacqueline Wade, MD

Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

James Wallace, MD

Fellowship: Thoracic Surgery, University of Connecticut

Lumeng Jenny Yu, MD

Fellowship: Surgical Oncology, Stanford Health Care-Stanford University Program

INTEGRATED VASCULAR SURGERY

Christina Marcaccio, MD

NEUROSURGERY

Anirudh Penumaka, MD, MSc

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Rachel Akintayo, MD

Anthony Haddad, MD

PODIATRIC SURGERY

Usman Aleem, DPM

Thanh Thao Nguyen, DPM

UROLOGIC SURGERY

Suprita Krishna, MD

FELLOWS

ADVANCED GI AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY

May-Anh Nguyen, MD, MBA

BREAST SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

Guilia Borgonovo, MD

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Luchman Anwer, MD

Cardiac Track

Ryan Hendrix, MD

Thoracic Track

COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

Richard Huettemann Jr., MD

ENDOVASCULAR AND OPERATIVE NEUROVASCULAR SURGERY

Michael Young, DO

HAND/UPPER EXTREMITY SURGERY

Nicholas Genovese, MD

Corinne Wee, MD

Ryan Xiao, MD

INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY

Ernesto Casillas, MD

Amrita Karambelkar, MD

Fahim Pyarali, MD

Brian Rosenberg, MD

Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy

Huma Ahmed, MD

Pedro Baez-Gutierrez, MD

Brenda Garcia, MD

Paul Pikman, MD

Wallace Thomas, MD

MINIMALLY INVASIVE UROLOGIC SURGERY

Phillip Kim, MD

OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction

Laurent Ganry, MD

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Aesthetic and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery

Brittany Vieira, MD

Independent Plastic Surgery

Rachel Akintayo, MD

Anthony Haddad, MD

Lymphatic

Yuma Fuse, MD

Reconstructive Microsurgery

Tessa Campbell, MD

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

Arfry Marcelino, MD

Rachel Morris, MD

VASCULAR SURGERY

Chun Li, MD

Single Port Robotic Surgery

Newest Surgical Robot Offers Unique Advantages

Robotics has come a long way since the days of “Shakey,” the wobbly (hence its name) 1960’s-era robot considered by many as the early precursor to today’s highly sophisticated—and reassuringly steady—robots used in operating rooms around the world.

Since the first robot-assisted operation on a living patient—a cholecystectomy—was performed in Belgium in 1997, surgical robots have continued to evolve and improve and are now used by surgeons across a range of specialties. Although becoming proficient in robotic-assisted surgery requires specialized training and considerable experience, it offers patients some significant benefits over traditional surgery. These may include shorter hospital stays, faster recoveries, reduced pain, less damage to surrounding tissue, better cosmetic results, and, in some cases, less or no adjuvant treatment.

Two years ago, the Department of Surgery, which has offered robotic-assisted surgery for more than 14 years, added a fifth robot to its robotic armamentarium—the DaVinci Single Port (SP) Robotics System. As its name suggests, the SP robot enables surgeons to perform operations through a single, small incision, or port (or, in the case of

otolaryngology, via the mouth), in contrast to the multiple incisions required when using one of the hospital’s four multi-port robots. Presently, the SP robot’s use is FDA approved only for urologic and certain head and neck surgeries.

Narrow spaces, alternative access

The SP robot enables surgeons to perform procedures in narrow spaces or that require or benefit from an alternative access to the operative site. Through a single small incision or the mouth, it delivers a 3D, high-definition, articulating endoscope and three “wristed” instruments (below, left) controlled by the surgeon. The instruments, which offer the same range of motion as a human hand, can perform precise dissection, tissue manipulation, and suturing. The SP robot also allows for 360 degrees of anatomical access and incorporates technology that enables surgeons to assess blood flow and tissue perfusion in real time.

These and other features are of particular importance to surgeons **Ernest “Ted” Gomez, MD, MTR**, and **Scharukh Jalisi, MD, MA, MBA**, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and **Andrew Wagner, MD**, and **Peter Chang, MD, MPH**, Urologic Surgery, all of whom have many years of experience performing robotic surgery, including with the SP robot.

In fact, Drs. Gomez and Jalisi were the first in New England to use the SP robot to perform transoral robotic surgery (TORS) on a patient with throat cancer, and have completed two to four cases

a month using the SP robot for the past two-plus years. And with approximately 140 cases to date, Drs. Wagner and Chang have the largest experience in the state—if not New England—using the SP robot to treat patients with kidney, prostate, or bladder cancer, as well as adrenal tumors.

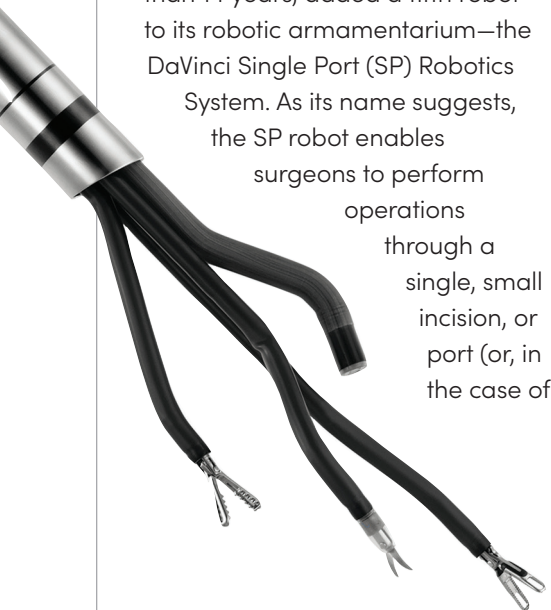
TORS a game-changer

TORS, which may be used to treat patients with malignant or benign tumors of the pharynx (throat, including the tonsils and tongue base), larynx (“voice box”), and deep lobe parotid tumors, can make a dramatic difference to patients.

With the traditional open approach, a patient with an HPV-related cancer in the tonsils or tongue base would need to undergo weeks of radiation therapy and perhaps also chemotherapy after their operation, in addition to healing from a surgical incision.

In contrast, patients undergoing TORS for the same condition may be able to forgo chemotherapy altogether and reduce or even avoid radiation therapy. They are also able to swallow and eat soon after the operation and leave the hospital after just one to two days. Dr. Gomez emphasizes that TORS is not an option for all patients, but for those who are eligible, it is a game-changer.

Dr. Jalisi adds that the superior visualization and ability to maneuver in tight spaces made possible by the SP robot enable him and Dr. Gomez to perform transoral procedures of increasing complexity, further expanding the





Pictured with the SP robot (also below, right) are members of BIDMC's experienced surgical robotics team, including: Drs. Peter Chang (second from left), Scharukh Jalisi (back row, third from left), Ernest "Ted" Gomez (back row, fifth from left), and Andrew Wagner (far right).

number of their patients who might benefit from this less-invasive option. In the future, Drs. Jalisi and Gomez may also offer TORS to selected patients with obstructive sleep apnea.

At the forefront

Urologic surgery was one of the first specialties to offer robotic-assisted surgery and BIDMC has been at the forefront of this trend, with Drs. Wagner and Chang performing thousands of robotic procedures over the years as well as training other urologic surgeons nationwide. Dr. Wagner explains that while he and Dr. Chang still frequently use BIDMC's multi-port robots, in the hands of experienced robotic surgeons the SP robot may be a better option for some patients.

For instance, patients who have had previous abdominal surgeries may have internal scar tissue that needs to be released to create the ports, and having just one port rather than four is easier and safer. The SP robot is also better for procedures that require alternative access points to reach the operative

site, such as retroperitoneal partial nephrectomy or extraperitoneal prostatectomy, or to achieve better cosmetic outcomes.

"We can control the three instruments and the endoscope through a single small [3 centimeter (1.2 inch)] incision, often in the navel where it is barely noticeable, with the added advantage of incredible dexterity of the instruments and 3-D visualization," says Dr. Wagner. Because he and Dr. Chang have done so many cases using the SP robot and have an experienced robotics OR team in place, they are able to perform procedures of increasing complexity, offering the option to a wider range of patients, including those with obesity.

Dr. Wagner says that patients treated for cancer using the SP robot experience cancer control and quality-of-life outcomes that are equivalent to those treated using multi-port robots; however, because the technology is new, more research must be done. He and Dr. Chang have several

prospective studies underway that will compare surgery outcomes and quality of life among patients whose surgery was done using the SP robot vs. those whose operation was done using a multi-port robot.

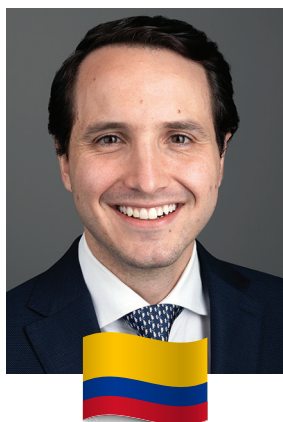
No longer an operating room oddity, surgical robots are here to stay—and in the hands of experienced and innovative surgeons like those at BIDMC, are improving patients' lives.



Meet Our Research Trainees

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

Here we introduce six of our outstanding research trainees.



Agustín Pérez-Londoño, MD

Mentors: Boris Gershman, MD, Ruslan Korets, MD; Urologic Surgery

Where I grew up: Bogotá DC, Colombia

Educated at: Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de los Andes (MD)

Current projects: My research focuses on exploring the outcomes of patients with non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. Using institutional and national registry data, we study the role of risk-predictive tools, the performance of novel diagnostic strategies, and the impact of traditional surgical approaches to improve care for these patients. Additionally, we work on developing teaching curricula for point-of-care diagnostic tools and endourological procedures.

Personal interests: Long-distance running and music



Ea Kristine Clarisse Tulin, PhD

Mentor: Richard D. Cummings, PhD; Surgical Sciences

Where I grew up: Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines

Educated at: Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (PhD)

Current project: My training is in biochemistry, with a focus on developing glycan-detecting reagents. For my PhD, I engineered proteins for enhanced glycan binding to study brain glycan localization. In the Cummings lab, I develop glycan-specific monoclonal antibodies from the immunized sea lamprey. The goal is to use these antibodies to study the human glycome, with an emphasis on the brain in health and disease, and to develop therapeutic antibodies against surface glycan antigens in cancer cells.

Personal interests: Singing, art, traveling, and community engagement



Feyisayo "Sayo" Eweje, BS

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

Where I grew up: Jacksonville, North Carolina, USA

Educated at: Harvard College (BS); Harvard Medical School/MIT (MD/PhD, ongoing)

Current project: I am currently pursuing my PhD in bioengineering in the Chaikof lab. My research is focused on the development of self-assembling protein-based nanoparticles as vehicles for intracellular delivery of therapeutic macromolecules, such as gene editors. We aim to design nanoparticles that can achieve efficient delivery of gene editor cargo to specific cell populations within the body, with the goal of creating effective therapies for a number of genetic illnesses.

Personal interests: Basketball, piano, and bird watching



Jorge Gómez-Mayorga, MD

Mentors: Marc Schermerhorn, MD; Vascular and Endovascular Surgery; Benjamin James, MD, MS; General Surgery

Where I grew up: Barrancabermeja, Colombia

Educated at: Universidad de los Andes, Colombia (MD)

Current projects: My research aims to study the comparative effectiveness of a number of vascular disease treatment options using institutional and national-registry data to improve the quality, safety, and effectiveness of vascular health care. We are enrolling patients in nine clinical trials related to carotid, aortic, and peripheral vascular disease. Additionally, I collaborated on a project to characterize objective measures of financial toxicity in cancer care through patient-level linkage of clinical variables and credit reports in Massachusetts, aiming to influence health care policy (see page 17).

Personal interests: Photography, dancing, and music



Eleftheria Angeliki Valsami, PhD, MSc

Mentor: Aristidis Veves, MD, DSc; Podiatric Surgery/Surgical Sciences

Where I grew up: Rhodes, Greece

Educated at: University of Crete (PhD, MSc)

Current project: In the Veves lab, my research focuses on utilizing innovative *in situ* bioprinting technologies to enhance diabetic wound healing. We are developing advanced bioinks containing oxygen-releasing particles and cells to facilitate wound repair by modulating the wound microenvironment and inflammatory response. These bioinks, used in conjunction with real-time bioprinting technologies, could serve as customized bandages for treating people with diabetic foot ulcers, ultimately accelerating the wound healing process in this vulnerable group of patients.

Personal interests: Running, basketball, hiking, painting, and traveling



Phillip Brennan, MD

Mentor: Christiane Ferran, MD, PhD; Vascular and Endovascular Surgery/ Surgical Sciences

Where I grew up: Mobile, Alabama, USA

Educated at: University of South Alabama (MD). I am currently a T32 Fellow in the Harvard-Longwood Research Training Program in Vascular Surgery and a General Surgery resident at UCSF-East Bay. I am also a Lieutenant in the Medical Corps, U.S. Navy Reserve.

Current project: My project in the Ferran lab focuses on A20, a potent anti-inflammatory protein. My current studies utilize an A20-like small molecule called Amlexanox, an inhibitor of TANK-binding kinase 1 (TBK1), to reduce vein graft failure and post-angioplasty restenosis in animal models that mimic peripheral artery disease. Since A20 expression is important for the success of vessel repair and homeostasis, future plans involve exploring novel A20-based gene therapy delivery platforms to treat patients with vascular disease.

Personal interests: Golf, cooking, and cycling

BILH Heart Transplant Program

BIDMC-Based Program Notes First Anniversary



Kamal Khabbaz, MD (left), Chief of Cardiac Surgery, with Masashi Kai, MD, Surgical Director of the Heart Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program.

Last fall, the Beth Israel Lahey Health (BILH) Heart Transplant Program was launched at BIDMC, offering patients throughout the region with access to the entire spectrum of cardiovascular services for the treatment of advanced heart failure. Following years of extensive analysis and planning involving scores of individuals, the BILH Heart Transplant Program was the first new service of its kind to be established in New England in decades.

As the BILH Heart Transplant Program notes its first anniversary, it has exceeded all expectations. According to BIDMC's Chief of Cardiac Surgery **Kamal Khabbaz, MD**, who co-chairs the BILH Heart Transplant Steering Committee with **A. Reshad Garan, MD**, Medical Director of BIDMC's Advanced

Heart Failure Program, the Heart Transplant Program has grown at a rate that is unprecedented for a newly established heart transplant service, performing more than 30 heart transplants by its first anniversary.

Lifesaving therapy

"The success of our program—a milestone achievement for the Department of Surgery, BIDMC, and the entire BILH system—is a testament to the power of collaboration, the excellence of the heart transplant team, and the need for this lifesaving therapy for the thousands of patients with advanced heart failure who receive cardiovascular care at hospitals in the BILH system," says Dr. Khabbaz, noting that BILH is the leading provider of cardiovascular services

in eastern Massachusetts.

Dr. Khabbaz points out that prior to the introduction of the BILH program, patients who had longstanding relationships with cardiovascular specialists within the system's hospitals and needed a heart transplant had to be transferred elsewhere for treatment. "Our patients now receive the continuity of care that is so important to their well-being and optimal outcomes," he says.

Based at BIDMC in its state-of-the-art Klarman Building, the BILH Heart Transplant Program comprises a multidisciplinary team with deep experience in the care of patients with advanced heart failure. This team includes cardiac surgeons, advanced heart failure cardiologists, cardiac anesthesiologists, advanced practice providers, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, social workers, and support staff. Members of the program collaborate with cardiovascular specialists across BILH to evaluate patients who might be a candidate for a heart transplant. The program was granted full approval by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) last year and is a member of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

'Second to none'

Heart transplants are performed at BIDMC by experienced heart transplant surgeon **Masashi Kai, MD**, Surgical Director of the Heart Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program, and the heart transplant team. BIDMC's Division of Cardiac Surgery recruited Dr. Kai to BIDMC last year to join the hospital's established

Advanced Heart Failure Program.

Dr. Kai has performed more than 300 heart transplants over the last decade with outstanding results (see *Inside Surgery*, Fall 2023). “The expertise of our team and the quality of our program are second to none,” says Dr. Kai, adding that the Klarman Building offers the optimal environment for patients and their families.

Once the dream of only a

few at BIDMC, the BILH Heart Transplant Program is now a reality that provides patients with advanced heart failure throughout the region with greater access to that most precious of gifts—a donor heart.

Says Dr. Khabbaz, “We are grateful for the institutional

support that enabled us to launch this program and to the many individuals who work together to make it a success.” Adds Dr. Kai, “Most of all we are grateful to the donors and their families who are sharing the gift of life, and to our patients and their loved ones who put their trust in us.”



For more information about the BILH Heart Transplant Program, visit our [website](#). To refer a patient for evaluation, call 617-632-8628.

HEARTFELT THANKS FOR A NEW HEART

Despite a personal and family history of heart issues and a 2018 diagnosis of heart failure, Bob Blanchard, former chief of the Wenham, Mass. Fire Department, was enjoying life as an active retiree—volunteering, spending time with his grandson, and taking care of the home he shares with his wife, Debby.

But all that changed late last summer (2023), when Mr. Blanchard became uncharacteristically tired, winded, and unable to tend to the simplest tasks.

Tests ordered by his longtime BIDMC heart failure specialist Marwa Sabe, MD, MPH, confirmed that Mr. Blanchard was suffering from advanced heart failure and that advanced treatments, including a heart transplant, should be considered.

Mr. Blanchard was admitted to BIDMC, where he and his wife met with **Masashi Kai, MD**, Surgical Director of the Heart Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program, to learn what a heart transplant and recovery would entail. “Dr. Kai was brilliant,” says Mr. Blanchard. “After talking with him I was confident he was going to do a good job. It was scary, but he put us at ease.”

To maintain his heart function while awaiting a donor heart, Mr. Blanchard was placed on a temporary heart pump. Within just four days of being placed on the transplant waiting list, a suitable heart was identified. The next day, following an eight-hour operation performed by Dr. Kai and



Bob and Debby Blanchard and their three grandchildren.

the transplant team, Mr. Blanchard had a new heart.

Recovery entailed a lengthy hospitalization followed by time in a rehabilitation facility and, later, at-home visits provided by the Beth Israel Lahey Health at Home Program. But through it all, Mr. Blanchard kept his focus on his family and the future.

“I remember thinking that if I can get through this, I can see my grandchildren’s birthdays and spend holidays with them,” says Mr. Blanchard. “And to think I almost didn’t have that chance. To everyone involved in my care, thank you. From the bottom of my new heart, thank you.”

NEWS BRIEFS



The department's Research and Academic Mentorship Program in Surgery (RAMPS) received a 2024 Program Award for a Culture of Excellence in Mentoring (PACEM) from Harvard Medical School's Office for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Partnership. RAMPS

promotes excellence in academic surgery by facilitating the academic, research, and professional development of surgeons and researchers at the instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor levels. RAMPS was developed and is led by **Jim Rodrigue, PhD**, Vice Chair of Clinical Research. The department also received a PACEM award in 2021 for its FIRST Program, led by Dr. Rodrigue and **Aaron Fleishman, MPH**, and one in 2020 for its Clinical Scholarship Program, previously led by Dr. Rodrigue and now led by **Benjamin James, MD, MS**, Chief of General Surgery.



Aria Olumi, MD, Chief of Urologic Surgery, and **Zongwei Wang, PhD**, Urologic Surgery, were awarded a multi-principal investigator \$3 million National Institutes of Health R01 grant to investigate epigenetic modulation of 5-alpha reductase 2, the gene responsible for prostatic

development and growth. In addition to using genetically modified preclinical models, the group is prospectively evaluating non-invasive biomarkers and novel therapeutics for the management of prostatic diseases.



Patric Liang, MD, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, received the prestigious 2024 Wylie Scholar Award by the Foundation to Advance Vascular Cures for his project "Biodegradable Hydrogels for Perivascular Delivery of Targeted Gene Therapy to Improve

Prosthetic Bypass Graft Patency." The Wylie Scholar award is designed to support outstanding young vascular surgeon-scientists who are dedicated to an academic career combining their clinical practice with original, innovative research. Dr. Liang will be honored at the foundation's meeting in San Francisco in September.



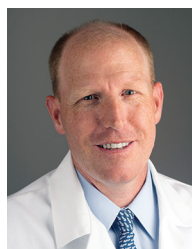
Martina Stippler, MD, Neurosurgery, was elected Chair of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons (AANS/CNS) Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care. This section of the AANS/CNS focuses on trauma and

neurocritical care research and education, providing expertise to individuals and organizations nationwide on matters relating to traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and other types of neurotrauma; critical care; and sports medicine.



Two ongoing clinical trials in the Division of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology, which are evaluating a new treatment for patients with severe emphysema with collateral ventilation, were presented by postdoctoral research

fellow **Alma Burbano, MD**, at the 2024 American Thoracic Society International Conference. At the meeting, Dr. Burbano was awarded two scholarships in support of her work: an Abstract Scholarship by the Assembly on Clinical Problems and the Underrepresented Trainee Development Scholarship. The two clinical trials (COMPLETE and SAVED) employ novel approaches that combine both surgical and endoscopic techniques. Dr. Burbano (right, with Interventional Pulmonology Section Chief **Adnan Majid, MD**) accepts the Underrepresented Trainee Development Scholarship.



Charles Parsons, MD, Gabriel Brat, MD, MPH, MSc, and **Anupamaa Seshadri, MD**, Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Critical Care, were awarded a grant from the Intuitive Foundation to study the implementation of an acute care surgery (ACS) robotics program.

Dr. Parsons, the principal investigator, launched and leads BIDMC's expanding Robotic Acute Care Surgery Program, which has recorded more than 200 cases since its inception, establishing it as a leader in ACS robotic surgery in the Boston area.



Thanh Dinh, DPM, Chief of Podiatric Surgery, was elected to the 2024 Board of Directors of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. Dr. Dinh, who is Program Director of the Podiatric Surgery Residency, begins her three-year term in September.

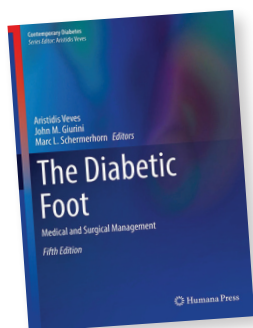


Faculty member **Q. Lina Hu-Bianco, MD, MS** (left, top), Endocrine Surgery, and 2024 General Surgery graduate **Jordan Broekhuis, MD, MPH** (below), won research awards at the annual American Association of Endocrine Surgeons meeting earlier this year. Dr. Hu-Bianco received a Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association Award for Thyroid Cancer Research for her project entitled "Factors Influencing Guideline-Concordant Care in Thyroid Cancer Management." Dr. Broekhuis's research, "An Assessment of Risk Factors for



Bankruptcy among Thyroid Cancer Patients in Massachusetts," which was spearheaded by General Surgery resident **Ana Bogdanovski, MD**, garnered the Edwin Kaplan Award for Best Poster.

The fifth edition of the classic text, "The Diabetic Foot: Medical and Surgical Management," was published recently by Humana Press. This edition was edited



by **Aristidis Veves, MD, DSc**, a faculty member of the Division of Podiatric Surgery and Director of the Rongxiang Xu, MD Center for Regenerative Therapeutics; **John Giurini, DPM**, former Chief of Podiatric Surgery; and **Marc Schermerhorn, MD**, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.



Jason Beattie, MD (top), and **Mihir Parikh, MD** (middle), Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology, performed the first bronchoscopic lung cancer ablation case in New England using a state-of-the-art technology: robotic-assisted bronchoscopy and cone beam computerized tomography.



The procedure was done as part of a BIDMC-led prospective clinical trial in which patients with lung nodules who are at risk for early-stage lung cancer undergo a "diagnose and treat" bronchoscopic procedure that uses a microwave ablation probe to destroy any cancerous lung nodules, followed by surgical resection. **Jennifer Wilson, MD, MPH** (left), performed the successful robotic-assisted post-ablation



surgery. The pilot study will answer questions about the feasibility, safety, and effect of this ablation technique and serve as the foundation for subsequent trials in other patient populations.



Ted James, MD, MHCM, Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology, was selected to serve on the editorial board of the breast oncology section of *Annals of Surgical Oncology* (ASO), the official journal of the Society of Surgical Oncology and the leading resource in surgical oncology and breast cancer surgery.



Umut Sarpel, MD, MSc, Chief of Surgical Oncology, was among a group of accomplished female surgeons selected by the Association of Women Surgeons to participate in its 2024 Signature Speaker Series. The series gives mid-career female surgeons an opportunity to further develop their skills in several areas, including their presentation skills.

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NEWS BRIEFS

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Ernest (Ted) Gomez, MD, MTR, Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, is a multiple principal investigator (MPI) of a four-year R01 grant awarded last year by the National Institutes of Health. The goal of the project, entitled “Enhancing Robotic Head and Neck

Surgical Skills Using Stimulated Simulation,” is to design, develop, and validate the first Virtual Transoral Robotic Surgical (VTORS) simulator for training transoral robotic surgery (TORS). TORS is a minimally invasive procedure for head and neck cancers that requires a unique skill set and considerable practice to gain proficiency.

This project will also concurrently investigate whether transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) can help accelerate surgical trainees’ acquisition of robotic surgical skill. tDCS is a safe non-invasive brain stimulation technique known to enhance cognitive function in healthy individuals as well as people with dementia.

This novel simulation-based training methodology will enable clinicians to learn TORS in a risk-free manner before treating patients. The project’s other MPI is Mouhsin Shafi, MD, PhD, of the BIDMC Department of Neurology. The contact PI is Suvranu De, ScD, of the Florida A&M University–Florida State University College of Engineering.



Q. Lina Hu-Bianco, MD, MS, Endocrine Surgery, received a two-year grant awarded by the Massachusetts Institute for Equity-Focused Learning Health System Science (Mass EQLHS) for her research project “Factors Influencing Equitable Access to

Guideline-Concordant Care in Thyroid Cancer.” Mass EQLHS is an alliance of regional health care institutions, including Beth Israel Lahey Health, committed to accelerating equity-focused, patient-centered research with the goal of addressing health disparities and improving outcomes.



Devin Eckhoff, MD, Chief of Transplant Surgery and Director of the BIDMC Transplant Institute, was awarded the 2024 Francis Moore Excellence in Mentorship in the Field of Transplantation Surgery by the American Society of Transplant

Surgeons (ASTS) Foundation. This award acknowledges the efforts of established surgeons for their stewardship of fellowship trainees and early-career faculty.



Bernard Lee, MD, MBA, MPH, Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, was recently appointed to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Review Committee for Plastic Surgery. In addition, Dr. Lee was elected to the Harvard T. H.

Chan School of Public Health’s Alumni Council, the executive body of the school’s Alumni Association. Dr. Lee, who earned his Masters of Public Health (MPH) from the Harvard Chan School in 2014, is currently serving a two-year term as president-elect of the Alumni Association and will assume the presidency next fall. Dr. Lee is also a director of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, where he serves as chair of the Oral Examination Committee.



Scharukh Jalisi, MD, MA, MBA, Chief of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, graduated in June from the MIT Sloan School of Management’s Executive MBA program, a rigorous 20-month program designed for mid-career executives seeking to increase their

impact on their organizations and communities.



Nurhan Torun, MD (right), Chief of Ophthalmology, was the recipient of the 2024 Dr. Ivy Dreizin Leadership Development Award, which was presented by the North American

Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS) at the society’s annual meeting. The grant provides funding to support leadership development for a NANOS member, with priority to those who have been actively involved in the organization. Also, Dr. Torun was selected for the Association of University Professors in Ophthalmology–Women Professors in Ophthalmology Mentorship Program for this academic year.



Gabriel Brat, MD, MPH, MSc, Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care, was named Chair of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) subcommittee of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Health Information Technology Committee. The committee's mission is to assist

the ACS in defining and implementing information technology to improve activities of the college and advise on health care information technology policies and legislation.



Barbara Wegiel, PhD, DSc, Surgical Oncology/Surgical Sciences, is part of an interdisciplinary team that was awarded a 2024 BIDMC Spark Grant, which encourages innovative,

interdisciplinary translational research. In collaboration with fellow BIDMC researchers Michelle Lai, MD, MPH, Yury Popov, MD, PhD, Yuho Ono, MD, DSc, and Jacqueline Wolf, MD, Dr. Wegiel is investigating systemic effects of metabolic disease, specifically hypermobility disorders and the progression of metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD) to liver fibrosis. Here (from left) Drs. Wegiel and Wolf pose with Gyongyi Szabo, MD, PhD, chief academic officer of BIDMC and Beth Israel Lahey Health.



General Surgery resident **Eve Roth, MD**, was awarded a 2024–2026 American College of Surgeons (ACS) Resident Research Scholarship. For residents in general surgery or a surgical specialty training program, the two-year scholarship encourages trainees to pursue

careers in academic surgery. Now on her research rotation, Dr. Roth is pursuing a doctorate in epidemiology at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.



Marc Schermerhorn, MD, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, is the principal investigator of several international outcomes studies aimed at identifying best practices from among an increasingly complex set of therapeutic options in endovascular surgery.

ADVANCE is a randomized controlled trial that is comparing outcomes between the two most commonly used endografts for endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair (EVAR). ROADSTER 3 is a study of transcatheter artery stenting (TCAR) in standard surgical risk patients. AAA-SHAPE is a randomized controlled trial of standard EVAR versus EVAR plus sac embolization to determine if sac embolization improves aneurysm shrinkage after EVAR.

Dr. Schermerhorn is also conducting an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) study—the first and only IDE study at BIDMC and one of fewer than 20 in the nation—of physician-modified endografts for patients with thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms, dissections, and complex abdominal aortic aneurysms. He and his research group are also involved in a study evaluating a new fiberoptic shape-sensing wire to guide complex EVAR with minimal radiation.



General Surgery residents (left) **Chris Polanco, MD, MSc, MPH**, and **Ana Sofia Ore, MD, MSc, MPH** (center, pictured here with Laura Tiusabá, MD, of Children's National Hospital), were among a select group of mid-level surgical residents accepted to the

Diverse Surgeons Initiative (DSI) 2.0. Organized by the Society of Black Academic Surgeons with the support of Ethicon/Johnson&Johnson, DSI 2.0 is designed for outstanding underrepresented surgical residents with significant potential for leadership in academic surgery. The initiative encompasses technical didactics; clinical scenario sessions; and professional/leadership development.

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NEWS BRIEFS

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Under the directorship of **Kai Swenson, MD**, Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology, the Interventional Pulmonology (IP) clerkship recently expanded its curriculum to include dedicated simulation of bronchoscopic and pleural procedures in addition to

standardized didactic teaching of common problems encountered in this specialty. The IP clerkship hosts dozens of fellows, residents, and nurse practitioner trainees from programs across the country, providing clinical training in bronchoscopic and pleural procedures through BIDMC's busy IP service.



In June, more than 100 new pulmonologists and intensivists from across the U.S. attended the annual two-day course hosted by the Interventional Pulmonology (IP) Section of the Division of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology. Led by course director

Mihir Parikh, MD, "Introduction to Bronchoscopy and Pulmonary Procedures" featured a teleconference on key topics and hands-on experience with several complex procedures under the expert guidance of course faculty in BIDMC's Simulation and Skills Center.

Course co-directors were IP Chief **Adnan Majid, MD**, **Jason Beattie, MD**, and **Kai Swenson, MD**. Course faculty, composed of leading IP and pulmonary and critical care medicine experts from academic medical centers throughout New England, included 10 BIDMC clinicians: interventional pulmonologists Drs. **Ernesto Casillas**, **Diana Espinoza-Barrera** (in photo above, at left), **Catherine Fiore**, **Amrita Karambelkar**, **Ilana Krumm**, **Raymond Parrish**, **Fahim Pyarali**, and **Brian Rosenberg**, and IP nurse practitioners **Alichia Paton** and **Molly Trachtenberg**.

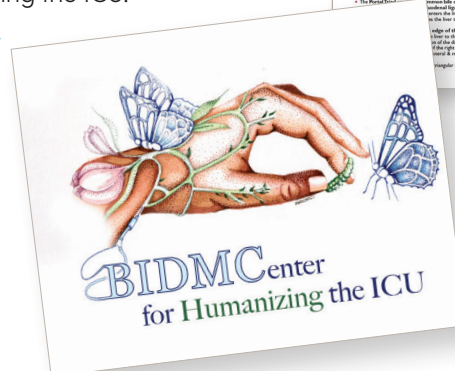
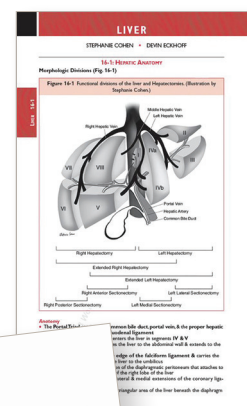


General Surgery resident **Ana Sofia Ore, MD, MSc, MPH**, received a 2023 Equity, Social Justice, and Advocacy Award from Harvard Medical School last fall. Here Dr. Ore (third from left) poses with fellow BIDMC award recipients Yarden Fraiman, MD, MPH, Neonatology, and Martha Pavlakis, MD (second and fourth from left, respectively), BIDMC Transplant Institute.



General Surgery resident **Stephanie Cohen, MD** (left), wrote and illustrated a chapter on liver surgery under the mentorship of **Devin Eckhoff, MD**, Chief of Transplant Surgery, for

the third edition of *Pocket Surgery*, which was published in 2023 by Wolters Kluwer. An accomplished artist, Dr. Cohen also created the logo for the new BIDMC Center for Humanizing the ICU.



HARVARD SURGERY RESEARCH DAY

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

Dhruv Singhal, MD, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, served on both the 2023 and 2024 organizing committees. **Charles Cook, MD**, Chief of Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care, was a member of the 2023 organizing committee and **Heidi Rayala, MD, PhD**, served on the 2024 organizing committee.

Following are highlights of the 2023 and 2024 symposia:

2023

The 12th annual Harvard Surgery Research Day featured keynote speaker Brad Warner, MD, the Jessie L. Ternberg, MD, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Pediatric Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine and Surgeon-in-Chief at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

The BIDMC winners:



Resident **Ashlyn Whitlock, MD**, received the Best Basic Science Oral Presentation Award for her research demonstrating that transamniotic stem cell therapy modulates

uterine natural killer cell activity, improving fetal cardiopulmonary outcomes in a model of intrauterine growth restriction. *Mentor:* Dario Fauza, MD, PhD, Boston Children's Hospital



Ra'ad Al-Faouri, MD, MMSc (above, right), received the Best Clinical/Health Services Poster Award for his work on the mechanism of resistance to finasteride for the management of benign prostatic hyperplasia. *Mentor:* **Aria Olumi, MD**

2024

Liane Feldman, MD, Edward W. Archibald Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Department of Surgery at McGill University, was the keynote speaker at this year's 13th annual Harvard Surgery Research Day.

The BIDMC winner:



Jorge Gómez-Mayorga, MD, received the Best Clinical/Health Services Oral Presentation Award for his research analyzing the financial toll of cancer among Massachusetts patients. *Mentor:* **Benjamin James, MD, MS**

New Faculty

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

CARDIAC SURGERY



Yusuke Tsukioka, MD, MPH

Medical School: University of Tokyo, Japan

Residency: Cardiothoracic Surgery, IMS Katsushika Heart Centre, Japan

Fellowship: Cardiothoracic Transplantation, University of Chicago Medical Center

COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY



Daniel Wong, MD, MHS

Medical School: Yale School of Medicine

Residency: General Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Fellowship: Colon and Rectal Surgery, New York University Langone Health

GENERAL SURGERY



Q. Lina Hu-Bianco, MD, MS

Medical School: Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Residency: General Surgery, University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center

Fellowship: Endocrine Surgery, New York Presbyterian-Columbia



Kathryn Schlosser, MD

Medical School: University of Vermont College of Medicine

Residency: General Surgery, Ohio State University

Fellowship: Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, Prisma Health

NEUROSURGERY



Justin Granstein, MD, MPH

Medical School: Weill Cornell Medical College

Residency: Neurology, University of Washington

Fellowships: Neurocritical Care, Mount Sinai Hospital; Neurointerventional Surgery, University of California, Irvine

OPHTHALMOLOGY



Yafeng Li, MD, PhD

Director, Retina Services

Medical School: Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Residency: Ophthalmology, Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania

Fellowship: Vitreoretinal Surgery, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai

OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD AND NECK SURGERY



Michelle Yoon, MD

Medical School: University of Kansas School of Medicine

Residency: Otolaryngology, Tufts New England Medical Center

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY



Arthur Celestin, MD, MPH

Medical School: Boston University School of Medicine

Residency: General Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Fellowships: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Hand Surgery and Microsurgery, NYU Langone Health

PODIATRIC SURGERY



Deepa Jhaveri, DPM

Medical School: Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine

Residency: Podiatric Surgery, Plantation General Hospital



Nassim Tabrizi, DPM

Medical School: California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University

Residency: Podiatric Surgery, Steward St. Elizabeth's Medical Center



Cassandre Voltaire, DO

Medical School: Nova Southeastern University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Residency: Family Medicine, United Memorial Medical Center

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY



David (Sasha) Mahvi, MD

Medical School: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Residency: General Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Fellowship: Surgical Oncology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Umut Sarpel, MD, MSc *(see page 3)* *Chief, Surgical Oncology*

Medical School: School of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo (now Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences)

Residency: General Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Fellowship: Surgical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

THORACIC SURGERY/INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY



Kai Swenson, MD

(Interventional Pulmonology)

Medical School: Yale School of Medicine

Residency: Internal Medicine, Stanford Healthcare

Fellowship: Interventional Pulmonology, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center–Massachusetts General Hospital

TRANSPLANT SURGERY



Martin Dib, MD

Director, Hepatobiliary Surgery

Director, Living Donor Liver Transplantation

Medical School: University of Chile Medical School

Residency: General Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Fellowship: Abdominal Organ Transplant Surgery, University of Toronto, Canada

UROLOGIC SURGERY



Aleksander (Sasha) Chudnovsky, MD

Medical School: Boston University School of Medicine

Residency: Urology, SUNY Buffalo

Fellowship: Urology/Andrology, University of Illinois Chicago



Jared Fialkoff, MD

Medical School: Rush Medical College

Residency: Urology, University of Chicago Medical Center



Joanna Wang, MD

Medical School: UMass Chan Medical School

Residency: Urology, Boston Medical Center/Boston University School of Medicine

VASCULAR AND ENDOVASCULAR SURGERY



Junaid Malek, MD

Medical Director, Vascular Surgery, BID Plymouth

Medical School: Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science

Residency: General Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital



Christina Marcaccio, MD, MPH

Medical School: Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Residency: Vascular Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



Emmanuel Nwachuku, MD

Medical School: Frank H. Netter, MD School of Medicine, Quinnipiac University

Residency: General Surgery, Jefferson Health–Abington

Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, Boston Medical Center/Boston University School of Medicine

Advances in Epilepsy Surgery

Level 4 Comprehensive Epilepsy Center Offers Leading-Edge Options

The ancient Babylonians believed that epilepsy, a disorder that triggers seizures caused by the sudden electrical misfiring of nerve cells in the brain, was the work of evil spirits or the gods. It was not until the fifth century B.C.E. that Hippocrates hypothesized that epilepsy was a brain disorder. Yet many centuries passed before any treatments became available—and those were often ineffective or even harmful.

Today, the understanding of the brain and of epilepsy have led to significant advances in surgical treatment, many that have emerged in just the last decade. These are less invasive, safer, and more effective at achieving the goal of treatment for the millions worldwide who suffer from this condition: to reduce the number of seizures and/or their severity or stop them altogether.

These newer surgical options, as well as traditional medical and surgical approaches, are all offered at BIDMC's Comprehensive Epilepsy Center (CEC), which is led by fellowship-trained epilepsy neurosurgeon **Joshua Aronson, MD**, and neurologist and fellowship-trained epileptologist **Niravkumar Barot, MD, MPH**, the Medical Director of Epilepsy Surgery. The CEC is accredited by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers as a Level 4 Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, designating that it has the personnel and resources to provide the highest level of medical and surgical care available.

While many patients' seizures can be managed with medications or alternative approaches such as special diets, for approximately 30 percent of patients these are not



Comprehensive Epilepsy Center Surgical Director Joshua Aronson, MD.

effective. According to Dr. Aronson, patients whose seizures are drug resistant or caused by non-epileptic conditions such as a brain tumor or vascular lesion may be candidates for surgical treatment.

Weekly conference

After diagnostic testing and monitoring is done to determine the origin(s) and nature of the patient's seizures, an individualized treatment plan is developed in the CEC's weekly surgical conference, which comprises a multidisciplinary team of experienced epilepsy specialists, including referring neurologists or epileptologists. "We consider referring physicians as essential partners in the care of each patient and encourage them to participate in person or virtually in this conference," says Dr. Aronson.

Monitoring seizures while the patient is in the hospital and taking little or no antiseizure medication is an essential step in pinpointing where in the brain seizures are starting, which is a key factor in determining the treatment approach.

sEEG: Less invasive, safer

Until the recent past, when non-invasive monitoring was insufficient to locate the seizure source(s), an open procedure (intracranial EEG with subdural grid/strip electrodes), which requires a large incision and the temporary removal of a section of the skull, was the only alternative.

For selected patients, the CEC offers a less-invasive and safer alternative called stereo EEG (sEEG). Performed by Dr. Aronson with the assistance of BIDMC's new neurosurgery-specific Globus ExcelsiusGPS robot, sEEG entails implanting 10-16 electrodes, each with four to 16 contacts, into the patient's brain via a small (2.5 mm) opening in the skull.

The robot's advanced stereotactic capabilities allow Dr. Aronson to precisely and safely align each electrode for recording seizures, which is done in BIDMC's Neuroscience Special Care Unit. A paper published in the *Journal of Neurosurgery* reported that sEEG is effective—confirming the seizure location in more than three out of

four patients—and safe, with a very low risk of infection or hemorrhage.

Laser ablation

Open surgery to resect the lobe, region, or lesion in the brain where seizures are starting may be the best option for some patients. But approximately 30 to 50 percent of patients may qualify for laser ablation, a minimally invasive procedure done under MRI guidance that enables Dr. Aronson to precisely ablate (destroy with heat) the targeted area(s) via a small incision and opening in the skull.

Patients undergoing laser ablation typically spend just one day in the hospital, versus two to four days for patients undergoing open surgery, and nearly 60 percent become seizure free. They also may have better neuropsychological outcomes than patients undergoing open surgery.

However, notes Dr. Aronson, resection or ablation are not recommended for some patients; for example, those whose seizure onset location is uncertain or in an area of the brain that is vital to function, or who have multiple areas of independent seizure onset.

Responsive neurostimulation

Until about 10 years ago, the only options for these patients were palliative surgery or the sole type of neuromodulation then available: a vagus nerve stimulator (VNS), an implanted device that uses electric current to treat seizures.

There are now two other



Members of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center team.

neuromodulation options available to patients at BIDMC. One is deep brain stimulation (DBS), a treatment for Parkinson's disease and other conditions that was approved by the FDA in 2018 for the treatment

travel to. These are attached to a neurostimulator device, which is placed in the skull.

Once the device is programmed by the epilepsy team based on the patient's brain recordings, the RNS System detects unusual electrical activity and, within milliseconds, triggers stimulation, which interrupts the abnormal activity and stops or decreases the severity of seizures. The stimulation is typically not felt by the patient.

Dr. Aronson explains that both DBS and RNS result in a median seizure reduction of nearly 75 percent over time, and that some patients may be able to lower the doses of their medications. RNS may also result in better cognitive outcomes. Additionally, RNS records critical data on an ongoing basis that specialists can upload to closely and remotely monitor their patients' status.

While there is currently no cure for epilepsy, the treatments and services that are available at BIDMC's Comprehensive Epilepsy Center can be life-altering for individuals afflicted by a condition that has challenged patients and doctors alike for millennia.

Comprehensive Epilepsy Center Leadership

Joshua Aronson, MD

Surgical Director, *Neurosurgery*

Niravkumar Barot, MD, MPH

Medical Director, Epilepsy Surgery, *Neurology*

Mouhsin Shafi, MD, PhD

Chief, Division of Epilepsy, *Neurology*

of epilepsy; the other is responsive neurostimulation (RNS), which received FDA approval in 2013.

RNS is an exciting advance that can detect and stop seizures in their tracks. The NeuroPace RNS System comprises up to four electrode leads, which Dr. Aronson, using a minimally invasive approach, precisely positions in areas of the brain where seizures start or



To make a referral, call: 617-632-7246 (Epilepsy Neurosurgery) or 617-632-8930 (Epilepsy Neurology).
Or e-mail us: BIDMC-EpilepsySurgery@bidmc.harvard.edu

Resident Research Training Program

Program Facilitates Successful Research Years

For surgical residents, one of the most compelling benefits of training at BIDMC is the wealth of choices available for their two- to three-year research rotations.

From innumerable options throughout the Harvard community as well as nationwide, residents can pursue most any research interest, from basic science to clinical outcomes research, with some of the world's leading investigators. Or they can earn advanced degrees in fields like public health or business administration at Harvard or other world-class educational institutions.

But it is this very abundance of choices that can cause residents to feel overwhelmed when it comes to making decisions that can influence the trajectory of their entire career.

"There are so many resources and mentors throughout Harvard's vast system, not to mention at academic institutions nationwide, that it can often be daunting for residents," says **Ben James, MD, MS**, Director of the Department of Surgery Resident Research Training Program and Associate Director of the General Surgery Residency Program. The expectation that residents will also secure funding—a skill that will be needed throughout their professional lives—for these non-clinical years only adds to the pressure.

Ongoing guidance and support

Under Dr. James's leadership, the Resident Research Training Program was established six years ago to provide ongoing guidance and support to residents on their journey to becoming successful academic surgeons. Says Dr. James, "This program provides

the infrastructure to support residents at two important stages: in their pre-research years and during their research years," which typically take place after the second or third year of clinical training.

During the pre-research stage, Dr. James meets with the interns to discuss their research interests and potential funding resources, establish a time frame for their research years, and provide guidance on identifying a mentor.

The following year, the program's Scholarship Development Committee meets with each resident every six months to offer advice, address concerns, and help residents stay on track. The committee comprises the department's chair and vice

"As a result of this program, by the time residents reach their research years, they have a research plan, a mentor, and funding in place."

— Benjamin James, MD, MS

chairs; non-clinical research faculty members; a pediatric surgeon from Boston Children's Hospital; and residents who are currently pursuing their research electives as well as those who have completed them.

Faculty and resident input

Recent graduate **Omar Haque, MD**, who served on the committee for several years, notes that while faculty input is extremely valuable, having residents involved in the program is also important. "Residents who are currently in or have recently completed their


research rotation can provide practical advice as well as share their perspectives on life issues that may factor into residents' decisions," he says. Other resident committee members are **Winona Wu, MD**, and **Eve Roth, MD**.

Dr. Roth, a fifth-year resident now in her second year of working toward a doctorate in epidemiology at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, was among the first group of trainees to benefit from the program. "It was a great opportunity to get the inside scoop from faculty and residents, as well as get help with obtaining grants," says Dr. Roth.

Says Dr. James, "As a result of this program, by the time residents reach their research years, they have a research plan, a mentor, and funding in place."

And the support does not stop there. During their research years, Dr. James connects with each resident every six months to see how they are faring and to offer guidance when needed. "In the past, residents, especially those who were not at BIDMC or were experiencing challenging situations, could feel lost and unsupported," he says. Dr. James adds that when residents resume their clinical rotations, they are encouraged to present their research at Grand Rounds so their work is acknowledged by and shared with others.

There are many factors involved in becoming a successful surgeon-scientist, not the least of which is a productive research rotation. Through the Resident Research Training Program, residents get a leg up on their journey toward achieving that goal.



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Department of Surgery congratulates the following faculty members on their Harvard Medical School promotions or appointments in 2023 and 2024.

2023

Promoted: PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



Sidhu Gangadharan, MD, MChM
Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology (Chief)

Promoted: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



Boris Gershman, MD
Urologic Surgery

Promoted: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



Benjamin James, MD, MS
General Surgery (Chief)

Appointed: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



David Lee, MD
Transplant Surgery

Appointed: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NEUROSURGERY



Philipp Taussky, MD
Neurosurgery

Promoted: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



Georgios Theocharidis, PhD
Surgical Sciences

2024

Promoted: PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE



Adnan Majid, MD
Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology

Appointed: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



Masashi Kai, MD
Cardiac Surgery

Appointed: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NEUROSURGERY



Joshua Aronson, MD
Neurosurgery

Appointed: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



Q. Lina Hu-Bianco, MD, MS
General Surgery

Appointed ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, Part-Time



Ranjna Sharma, MD
Surgical Oncology

Selected Publications

Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care

*Berrigan MT, Beaulieu-Jones BR, Marwaha J, Fladger A, Katlic MR, **Brat GA**.* Integrating human intuition into prediction algorithms for improved surgical risk stratification. *Ann Surg* 2024;279(1):15-6.

*Marandu TF, Dombek M, Gutknecht M, Griessl M, Riça IG, Vlková B, Macáková K, Panagioti E, Griffith A, Lederer J, **Yaffe M**, Shankar S, **Otterbein L, Itagaki K, Hauser CJ, Cook CH**.* Cytomegalovirus durably primes neutrophil oxidative burst. *J Leukoc Biol* 2023;114(5):459-74.

*Poddar M, Marwaha JS, Yuan W, Romero-Brufau S, **Brat GA**.* An operational guide to translational clinical machine learning in academic medical centers. *NPJ Digit Med* 2024;7(1):129.

Cardiac Surgery

*Isath A, Ohira S, Levine A, Lanier GM, Pan S, Aggarwal-Gupta C, Mason I, Gregory V, Spielvogel D, Gass AL, **Kai M**.* Evolution of concomitant use of veno-arterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support with Impella in cardiogenic shock: From percutaneous femoral Impella to axillary Impella 5.5. *Artif Organs* 2023;47(8):1404-12.

*Ohira S, Okumura K, Hirani R, Martinez S, Ichikawa H, Isath A, Lanier GM, De La Pena C, Spielvogel D, **Kai M**.* Use of donor hearts ≥50 years old for septuagenarians in heart transplantation. *Ann Thorac Surg* 2023;116(3):580-6.

Colon and Rectal Surgery

*Ore AS, Areán-Sanz R, Liu BS, Arndt KR, Hernandez Alvarez A, Ponce CJ, Bain PA, **Messarís E**.* United States-based colorectal cancer surgical trials lack representation and adequate reporting of racially and ethnically diverse participants: Systematic review and regression analysis. *Dis Colon Rectum* 2024;67(5):624-33.

*Whitlock AE, Arndt KR, Zakopoulos I, Wong DJ, Kaul S, Feuerstein J, Crowell KT, **Messarís E**.* Safety and efficacy of inpatient infliximab rescue therapy for acute Crohn's disease flares. *Am Surg* 2024;90(6):1591-8.

General Surgery

*Chaves N, Broekhuis JM, Fligor SC, Collins RA, Modest AM, Kaul S, **James BC**.* Delay in surgery and papillary thyroid cancer survival in the United States: A SEER-Medicare analysis. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 2023;108(10):2589-96.

*Collins RA, Broekhuis JM, Cote MP, Gomez-Mayorga JL, Chaves N, **James BC**.* Social vulnerability and time to surgeon evaluation for primary hyperparathyroidism in a Massachusetts cohort. *Surgery* 2024; 175(1):25-31.

Global Surgery

*Vervoort D, Babar MS, Sabatino ME, Riaz MMA, Hey MT, Prakash MPH, Mathari SE, **Kpodonu J**.* Global access to cardiac surgery centers: Distribution, disparities, and targets. *World J Surg* 2023;47(11):2909-16.

Neurosurgery

Filo J, Salih M, Alwakaa O, Velandia FR, Shutran M, Vega RA, Stippler M, Papavassiliou E, Alterman RL, Thomas A, Taussky P, Moore J, Ogilvy CS. Factors associated with extended hospitalization in patients who had adjuvant middle meningeal artery embolization after conventional surgery for chronic subdural hematomas. *World Neurosurg* 2024; in press.

Pettersson SD, Koga S, Ali S, Enriquez-Marulanda A, Taussky P, Ogilvy CS. Cerebral artery overexpression of the NMUR1 gene is associated with Moyamoya disease: A weighted gene co-expression network analysis. *Cerebrovasc Dis* 2024; in press.

Powers AY, Chang DC, Stippler M, Papavassiliou E, Moses ZB. Public health insurance, frailty, and lack of home support predict rehab discharge following elective anterior cervical discectomy and fusion. *Spine J* 2023;23(12):1830-7.

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Ophthalmology

*Douglas VP, Douglas KAA, **Torun N**.* Optical coherence tomography angiography in neuro-ophthalmology. *Curr Opin Ophthalmol* 2023;34(4):354-60.

Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

*Campbell BA, Flormann VB, Davis RB, **Mallur PS**.* Efficacy of botulinum A injection to the laryngeal adductor compartment for treatment of cough. *Laryngoscope* 2024;134(4):1749-56.

*Cortina LE, Amini A, Benson J, Huang VW, **Naples JG**.* Hearing loss and sociodemographic barriers to health care access using the All of Us Research Program. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg* 2024; 170(1):76-83.

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Teng SE, Booth JR, Fritz MA, Groves MW, Postma GN. Airway management in singers: A cross-sectional survey. *J Voice* 2023;37(5):772-8.

*Tie K, **Brook CD**, **Caradonna DS**.* Preoperative laboratory measurements as a predictor for nasal steroid irrigations after sinus surgery for chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps. *Am J Otolaryngol* 2024; 45(4):104359.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

*Escobar-Domingo MJ, Bustos VP, Kim E, Xun H, Foppiani J, Taylor A, Falcon D, Lin SJ, **Lee BT**.* The impact of race and ethnicity in outpatient breast reconstruction decision-making and postoperative outcomes: A propensity score-matched NSQIP analysis. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg* 2024;91:343-52.

Faculty names are in bold; trainee names are in italics; staff names are underlined.

Foppiani J, Alvarez AH, Stearns SA, Taritsa IC, Weidman AA, Valentine L, Escobar-Domingo MJ, Foster L, Schuster KA, Ho OA, Rinker B, Lee BT, Lin SJ. Utilization of patient-reported outcome measures in plastic surgery clinical trials: A systematic review. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg* 2024;90:215-23.

Friedman R, Johnson AR, Brunelle CL, Chang DW, Coriddi M, Dayan JH, Mehrara BJ, Skoracki R, Taghian AG, Singhal D. Lymphatic microsurgical preventative healing approach for the primary prevention of lymphedema: A 4-year follow-up. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 2024; 153(2):491-2.

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Valentine L, Weidman AA, Foppiani J, Hernandez Alvarez A, Kim E, Hassell NE, Elmer N, Engmann TF, Lin SJ, Dowlatshahi S. A national analysis of targeted muscle reinnervation following major upper extremity amputation. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 2024; in press.

Surgical Oncology

Chumdermpadetsuk RR, Garland M, Polanco-Santana JC, Callery MP, Kent TS. Predictors of non-home discharge after pancreatoduodenectomy in patients aged 80 years and above. *HPB (Oxford)* 2024;26(3):410-7.

Flores R, Roldan E, Pardo JA, Beight L, Ubellacker J, Fan B, Davis RB, James TA. Discordant breast and axillary pathologic response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2023;30(13):8302-7. ASO visual abstract: *Ann Surg Oncol* 2023; 30(13):8467-8.

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Surgical Sciences

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Eweje F, Walsh ML, Ahmad K, Ibrahim V, Alrefai A, Chen J, Chaikof EL. Protein-based nanoparticles for therapeutic nucleic acid delivery. *Biomaterials* 2024;305:122464.

Kudelka MR, Gu W, Matsumoto Y, Ju T, Barnes li RH, Kardish RJ, Heimbürg-Molinario J, Lehoux S, Zeng J, Cohen C, Robinson BS, Shah KS, Chaikof EL, Stowell SR, Cummings RD. Targeting altered glycosylation in secreted tumor glycoproteins for broad cancer detection. *Glycobiology* 2023;33(7):567-78.

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Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology

Brunelli A, Decaluwe H, Gonzalez M, Gossot D, Petersen RH; Collaborators including Whyte RI. Which extent of surgical resection thoracic surgeons would choose if they were diagnosed with an early-stage lung cancer: A European survey. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg* 2024; in press.

Kent MS, Mitzman B, Diaz-Gutierrez I, Khullar OV, Fernando H, Backhus L, Brunelli A, Cassivi SD, Cerfolio RJ, Crabtree TD, Kakuturu J, Martin LW, Raymond DP, Schumacher L, Hayanga JWA. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons expert consensus document on the management of pleural drains following pulmonary lobectomy. *Ann Thorac Surg* 2024; in press.

Pan JM, Ospina-Delgado D, Kaul S, Parikh MS, Wilson JL, Majid A, Gangadharan SP. Preoperative workup of patients with excessive central airway collapse: Does stent evaluation serve a role? *J Bronchology Interv Pulmonol* 2024; 31(2):146-54.

Transplant Surgery

Canizares S, Montalvan A, Chumdermpadetsuk R, Modest A, Eckhoff D, Lee DD. Liver machine perfusion technology: Expanding the donor pool to improve access to liver transplantation. *Am J Transplant* 2024; in press.

Lee DD, Joyce C, Duehren S, Fernandez L. Oxygen saturation during donor warm ischemia time and outcome of donation after circulatory death (DCD) liver transplantation with static cold storage: A review of 1114 cases. *Liver Transpl* 2023;29(11):1192-8.

Urologic Surgery

Bansal U, Estevez A, Black J, Williamson T, Kaul S, Crociani C, Sun J, Tsai LL, Fiori JM, Gershman B, Chang P, Wagner AA. How can we identify extraprostatic extension (EPE) before surgery? The use of a

preoperative prostate MRI EPE scoring system to assess postprostatectomy locally advanced prostate cancer. *J Endourol* 2024; *J Endourol* 2024;38(5):499-504.

Escobar AJ, Krishna S, Flowers KM, Abello A, Gershman B, Wagner AA, Chang P, Korets R, Mistretta CJ, Schreiber KL, Olumi AF, Rayala HJ. Practical use of self-adjusted nitrous oxide during transrectal prostate biopsy: A double-blind randomized controlled trial. *J Urol* 2024;211(2):214-22.

Gulati R, Jiao B, Al-Faouri R, Sharma V, Kaul S, Fleishman A, Wymer K, Boorjian SA, Olumi AF, Etzioni R, Gershman B. Lifetime health and economic outcomes of biparametric magnetic resonance imaging as first-line screening for prostate cancer: A decision model analysis. *Ann Intern Med* 2024; in press.

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Ciaramella MA, Liang P, Hamdan AD, Wyers MC, Schermerhorn ML, Stangenberg L. Bailout distal internal carotid artery stenting after carotid endarterectomy: Indications, technique, and outcomes. *Ann Vasc Surg* 2024; in press.

Gomez-Mayorga JL, Yadavalli SD, Allievi S, Wang SX, Rastogi V, Straus S, Mandigers TJ, Black JH 3rd, Zettervall SL, Schermerhorn ML. National registry insights on genetic aortopathies and thoracic endovascular aortic interventions. *J Vasc Surg* 2024; in press.

Michaud ME, Mota L, Bakhtiari M, Thomas BE, Tomeo J, Pilcher W, Contreras M, Ferran C, Bhasin S, Pradhan-Nabzdyk L, LoGerfo FW, Liang P, Bhasin MK. Early injury landscape in vein harvest by single-cell and spatial transcriptomics. *Circ Res* 2024;135(1):110-34.

Mota L, Zhu M, Li J, Contreras M, Aridi T, Tomeo JN, Stafford A, Mooney DJ, Pradhan-Nabzdyk L, Ferran C, LoGerfo FW, Liang P. Perivascular CLICK-gelatin delivery of thrombospondin-2 small interfering RNA decreases development of intimal hyperplasia after arterial injury. *FASEB J* 2024;38(1):23321.

Romary DJ, Darling JD, Patel PB, Dash SP, Schermerhorn ML, Lee AM. Systemic immunosuppression does not affect revascularization outcomes in patients with chronic limb-threatening ischemia. *J Vasc Surg* 2024;79(1):111-9.

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Welcome New Trainees

We welcome our 2024 trainees to the Department of Surgery and to BIDMC.

RESIDENTS

GENERAL SURGERY: Categorical Interns



Tsion Andine, MD, MPH
Howard University College of Medicine



Bryce England, MD
New York University Grossman
School of Medicine



Ariana Ginsberg, MD
Tufts University School of Medicine



Athriya Kumar, MD
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School-Piscataway



Adriana Montalvan, MD, MPH
Universidad de Ciencias Médicas
Andrés Vesalio Guzmán Calleja (UCIMED)
Escuela de Medicina



Vanitha Raguveer, MD
University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Medicine



Martina Rama, MD
Sidney Kimmel Medical College
at Thomas Jefferson University



Gabriela Rangel Brandão, MD
Universidade Federal de Ciências da
Saúde de Porto Alegre



Kyra Watson, MD
Howard University College of Medicine

GENERAL SURGERY: Preliminary Interns

Camilo Arenas Gallo, MD
Universidad Industrial de Santander

Vasundhara Mathur, MD
Vardhman Mahavir Medical College

Kaveh Momenzadeh, MD
Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Estefania Roldan, MD, MPH
Universidad San Francisco de Quito

Sai Divya Yadavalli, MD
Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medicine
and Research

INTEGRATED VASCULAR SURGERY



Ye Rim Park, MD
Albany Medical College

NEUROSURGERY

Vishal Venkatraman, MD
Duke University School of Medicine

OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

Nirvikalpa Natarajan, MD, MDS
Stanford University School of Medicine

Kavita Prasad, MD, MPH
Tufts University School of Medicine

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Myan Bhoopalam, MD
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Sarah Nathaniel, MD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

PODIATRIC SURGERY

Stacy Peralta, DPM
Samuel Merritt University College of Podiatric Medicine

John Speight, DPM
Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine

UROLOGIC SURGERY

Ra'ad Al-Faouri, MD, MMSc
University of Jordan
Harvard Medical School Masters Program

Liam Nugent, MD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

FELLOWS

ADVANCED GI AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY

Madeline Rasmussen, MD
Baylor University Medical Center

BREAST SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

Jessica Means, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Sarah Louise Miter, MD
Inova Fairfax Hospital
Cardiac Track

Mujtaba Mubashir, MD
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Thoracic Track

COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

Alexander Xu, MD
Lahey Hospital & Medical Center

ENDOVASCULAR AND OPERATIVE NEUROVASCULAR SURGERY

Syed Sarmad Bukhari, MD
Aga Khan University and Hospital, Pakistan

HAND/UPPER EXTREMITY SURGERY

Aslan Baradaran, MD
Montreal General Hospital

Kimberly Khouri, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital/Brigham and Women's Hospital

Shawn Loder, MD
University of Pittsburgh

INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY

Diana Espinoza-Barrera, MD
Tulane University

Catherine Fiore, MD
UMass Memorial Medical Center

Ilana Krumm, MD
University of California San Francisco

Ray Parrish, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Massachusetts General Hospital

Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy
Divya Kal, MD
West Virginia University/Charleston Medical Center

MINIMALLY INVASIVE UROLOGIC SURGERY

Adam Nolte, MD
Mount Sinai Medical Center, Miami

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Darren Abbas, MD
Mayo Clinic
Independent Plastic Surgery Fellow

Sarah Karinja, MD
Mass General Brigham
Microsurgery

Ying-Sheng Lin, MD
National Taiwan University Hospital, Yunlin Branch
Lymphatics

Leela Mundra, MD
University of Colorado
Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery

Joshua Underhill, MD
Rush University Medical Center
Independent Plastic Surgery Fellow

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

Niel Page, MD
Surgical Critical Care
Rush University Medical Center

Sarah Stokes, MD
Acute Care Surgery/Surgical Critical Care
UC Davis Health

VASCULAR SURGERY

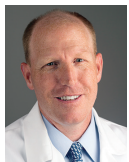
Jacqueline Wade, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

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

Beth Israel Lahey Health 

Surgery Awards Recognize Excellence

Department of Surgery awards are announced each June at the White Coat Ceremony, during which rising chief residents in General Surgery and Integrated Vascular Surgery receive their white coats from graduating chiefs. Our warmest congratulations to the following 2024 award recipients.



HAROLD BENGLOFF AWARD

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

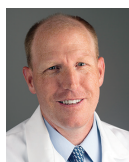
Charles Parsons, MD



EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH MENTORSHIP AWARD

To the faculty member whose sustained commitment to and investment in the research development of students, trainees, and faculty demonstrate excellence in mentoring.

Boris Gershman, MD



KHALID KHWAJA FACULTY AWARD

To the faculty member who best fosters a culture of collaboration, respectfulness, compassion, and shared sense of purpose in their interactions with trainees, employees, and patients.

Charles Parsons, MD



JOHN L. ROWBOTHAM AWARD

To the faculty member who, as chosen by residents, best exemplifies excellence in clinical surgical teaching.

Evangelos Messaris, MD, PhD



GEORGE W. B. STARKEY AWARD

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

Patric Liang, MD



RESIDENT TEACHER AWARD

To the senior resident, as voted by residents, who best exemplifies teaching to other residents.

Tied: **Ana Sofia Ore, MD, MSc, MPH** (left), and **Jacqueline Wade, MD**



RUSSELL J. NAUTA AWARD

To the resident who best exemplifies the compassion and commitment that Dr. Nauta shared with each of his patients.

Donna Alvino, MD



ISAAC O. MEHREZ AWARD

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

Betty Liu, MD



PRIMARY CLINICAL EXPERIENCE OUTSTANDING RESIDENT TEACHING AWARD

Selected by all Harvard Medical School students who rotated at BIDMC Surgery as the resident who best exemplifies dedication to teaching.

Anusha Jayaram, MD



INTERN OF THE YEAR AWARD

To the intern who demonstrates exceptional dedication, clinical excellence, compassionate care, commitment to continuous learning, and leadership.

Paige Holden, MD