Department of Surgery
Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Standing Strong
Message from the Chair

The year 2020 has been an exceptionally challenging and sobering one for all of us, but for many, the wounds are even more horrific. The pandemic robbed families of loved ones and jobs, while exposing longstanding inequities in health care. With the killing of George Floyd—one in a sequence of Black lives ended and upended—injustice, racism, and deep-rooted flaws in our society were laid bare. Pain and anger are ongoing. This tumult, as uncomfortable as it feels, shows us how far we need to go. To quote a non-surgeon (the actor Will Smith), "Racism isn’t getting worse, it’s getting filmed." This is an inflection point, for us as individuals and in our chosen field of surgery. Who will we choose to be at this moment in history?

Structural racism has been the lived experience of members of our own department, and many of our patients. Massachusetts experienced one of the earliest and most severe Covid-19 outbreaks in the country, and as a safety-net hospital treating patients from underserved communities, at Boston Medical Center (BMC) we quickly saw that communities of color were hit hard by the pandemic. As an institution and a department that places a high priority on health equity, social justice, and promoting the dignity of all, at BMC we must continue to challenge the status quo on behalf of our patients. But we need to go further, continually challenging and rechallenging our own implicit biases, in our everyday lives, at work, and even in our research. What was previously deemed acceptable may not be now.

It has been beyond inspiring to see the dedication and resolve of all of the frontline care givers. Backed up by many, many others at BMC, who have faced down this ruthless virus. Our ICU intensivists, residents, advanced practice providers, and critical care nurses went above and beyond in any way they could. A Covid-19 Procedure Team was quickly formed to lighten the load for their BMC colleagues, stretched thin by an inpatient Covid-positive census that topped 230 at the height of the crisis. Lives were saved.

Like all hospitals, BMC was in a constant search to acquire PPE. Friends of the department and of the hospital were extremely generous, and in addition to philanthropy, came through with masks, N95 respirators, and many donated meals. We are immensely grateful. The pandemic also launched us on a learning curve as we implemented telehealth appointments, allowing us to conserve PPE and shield patients and providers from unnecessary exposure to the virus.

I believe that this change in the way we have always delivered care will ultimately be beneficial for all.

If 2020 sets us on the Boston University School of Medicine/BMC Department of Surgery on a path to tackle inequities in patient care and in academic surgery, then we will have achieved something significant in this life-altering and very difficult year. The stress we feel today will build the strength we wield tomorrow. If 2020, set us on a path to tackle inequities in patient care and in academic surgery, then we will have achieved something significant in this life-altering and very difficult year. The stress we feel today will build the strength we wield tomorrow.

The Department of Surgery

B oston Medical Center

BMC is a private, not-for-profit, 514-bed, academic medical center. BMC is the largest safety-net hospital and busiest trauma and emergency services center in New England. Located in Boston’s historic South End, BMC is the primary teaching hospital of the Boston University School of Medicine and was created by the 1996 merger of Boston City Hospital (founded in 1855) and Boston University Medical Center Hospital (founded in 1864). BMC operates 66 residency training programs, with 711 resident and fellowship positions.

BMC, a recognized leader in groundbreaking medical research, is the 13th largest recipient of funding from the National Institutes of Health among independent hospitals. The hospital currently oversees 617 research and service projects separate from research activities at Boston University School of Medicine.

The Department of Surgery

Boston Children’s Hospital

The Department of Surgery has a long, proud history, with roots that extend back more than 150 years. In 1873, Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) opened its doors, combining the New England Female Medical College with the medical staff of the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital.

The modern history of the Department of Surgery at Boston University dates to 1946, when Dr. Reginald H. Smithwick was recruited from Massachusetts General Hospital to serve as Surgeon-in-Chief and Chair of Surgery at BUSM. Dr. Smithwick served in those positions for nearly 20 years.

Among the surgeons who have led and contributed to the international stature of the Department of Surgery throughout the ensuing decades are Drs. Richard Egdahl, John Mannick, Lester Williams, Peter Mozdzen, Robert Hobson, Edward Spatz, James Becker, and Gerard Doherty. In July 2017, Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH, was recruited as Chair and James Utley Professor of Surgery at BUSM and Surgeon-in-Chief at Boston Medical Center (BMC).

The Department of Surgery comprises 14 divisions, or sections, and includes 62 faculty members. A well-established relationship with Boston Children’s Hospital provides shared faculty in pediatric critical care and pediatric general surgery, as well as pediatric training for residents. The department also has affiliated faculty members from Roger Williams Medical Center, the Veterans Administration (VA) Boston Healthcare System, and Cape Cod Hospital (Cape Cod Healthcare). These institutions are valued partners in teaching and training medical students and residents. Three other hospitals also actively participate in the third-year surgery clerkship: MetroWest Medical Center, Berkshire Medical Center, and Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara.

This annual report provides an overview of some of the clinical programs, research, and educational initiatives of the previous academic year (July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020), and highlights a few of the many accomplishments and activities of our faculty, trainees, and alumni. We invite you to visit our website (bmc.bu.edu/surgery) and follow us on Twitter and Instagram (@BMCSurgery) to keep abreast of our activities throughout the year.

Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH
James Utley Professor and Chair of Surgery
Boston University School of Medicine
Surgeon-in-Chief, Boston Medical Center

ON THE COVER: Residents Dr. Megan Janeway (left) and Dr. Andrea Medico after a late night on the Covid-19 Procedure Team.

BUMC/BMC Department of Surgery Annual Report 2020

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**Department Leadership**

Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH  
James Utley Professor and Chair of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine  
Surgeon-in-Chief, Boston Medical Center

David McAneny, MD  
Vice Chair of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine  
Chief Surgical Officer, Boston Medical Center

Alik Farber, MD, MBA  
Associate Chair, Clinical Operations

Jason F. Hall, MD, MPH  
Associate Chair, Academic Affairs and Faculty Development

Donald Hess, MD  
Associate Chair, Education  
Program Director, Surgery Residency

Joanne Favuzza, DO  
Director, Surgery Clerkship

Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD  
Associate Director, Surgery Clerkship

**Division and Section Leadership**

Peter Burke, MD  
Chief, Section of Acute Care and Trauma Surgery

Catherine Chen, MD, MPH  
Chief, Section of Pediatric Surgery

Tracey Dechert, MD  
Chief, Section of Surgical Critical Care

Alik Farber, MD, MBA  
Chief, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Hau Pham, DPM  
Chief, Division of Podiatry Surgery

Jason F. Hall, MD, MPH  
Chief, Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery

**Faculty**

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY FACULTY

Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH  
James Utley Professor and Chair of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine  
Surgeon-in-Chief

Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care

Peter Burke, MD  
Section Chief  
Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Virginia R. Litle, MD  
Chief, Section of Thoracic Surgery

Niloo Edwards, MD  
Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

David McAneny, MD  
Chief, Division of General Surgery  
Chief, Section of Surgical Endocrinology  
Chief, Section of Surgical Oncology

Jaromir Slama, MD  
Chief, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Sabrina E. Sanchez, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Kathryn Twomey, MD  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Niloo Edwards, MD  
Division Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Professor of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine

Cardiac Surgery

Karl Karlson, MD  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Thoracic Surgery

Virginia R. Litle, MD  
Section Chief  
Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Keith Suzuki, MD  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Colon and Rectal Surgery

Jason F. Hall, MD, MPH  
Section Chief  
Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Olga Beresneva, MD  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Joanne Favuzza, DO  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine
Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery

Donald Hess, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Brian Carmine, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Cullen Carter, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Luise I. Pernar, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Pediatric Surgery

Catherine Chen, MD, MPH
Section Chief
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Thomas Hamilton, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Konstantinos Papadakis, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Jason Smithers, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Jaromir Slama, MD
Division Chief
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Nilton Medina, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Jasen N. Tabbar
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Transplant Surgery

Jay Wilson, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Harvard Medical School

Lisa A. Andrews, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Microsurgery

Daniel Roh, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Ponnandai Somasundar, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Jaromir Slama, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Konstantinos Papadakis, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

N. Joseph Espar, MD, MS
Chairman, Department of Surgery, Roger Williams Medical Center

Surgical Oncology

Dr. Woodson is director of the Boston University-wide Institute for Health System Innovation and Policy; Larz Anderson Professor in Management and Professor of the Practice, Boston University Quaxton School of Business; and Professor of Health Law, Policy, and Management, Boston University School of Public Health.

Weiss Tallorin, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Jeffrey Siracuse, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Juliette F. Tseng, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Vascular Surgery

Benedict Daly, MD
Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Vuong Tran, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Amitabh Gautam, MD
Assistant Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Geoffrey Habershaw, DPM
Assistant Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Venu Kavnav, MD
Assistant Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Sarah Meade, DO
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Tony Godfrey, PhD
Professor of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering, Boston University School of Medicine

Ali Farber, MD, MSc
Division Chief
Professor of Surgery and Radiology, Boston University School of Medicine

Total Hip and Knee

Kelly Kenzik, PhD, MS
Cancer Vascular and Surgery Specialist

Gregory Habershaw, DPM
Assistant Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

CEPH COD HOSPITAL

Benedict Daly, MD
Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Emeritus

Robert Beazley, MD
Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Jonathan Woodson, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Distribution Director, Transplant Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Maureen Kavanah, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Surgical Research and Education

Mary Katharine Smith, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Stefan Tullius, MD, PhD
Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Vascular Surgery

Lawrence Novak, MD
Surgery Residency Program Director

Stephen Brooks, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Boston University School of Medicine

NERI WILLIAMS

N. Joseph Espar, MD, MS
Chairman, Department of Surgery, Roger Williams Medical Center

General Surgery

Abdul Saeed Calvino, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Other Tissue Transplantation

Jason S. Gold, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Sing Chau Ng, MS
BSN, MEd
Anesthesia/Surgery Internship

Jonathan Woodson, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Ting Zhao, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Cardiac Surgery

Cardiac Surgery

Miguel Haimie, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Boston University School of Medicine

Vascular Surgery

Sarah Carlson, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

James McPhee, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Research

Gregory Habershaw, DPM
Assistant Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Amy Rosen, PhD
Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

*Recommended for

Clinical Assistant Professor, Boston University School of Medicine

Elizabeth King, MD
Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine

Weiss Tallorin, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Stefan Tullius, MD, PhD
Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Sayeed Malek, MD
Interim Director of Transplant Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Faculty
Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery, received the Enwin F. Hirsch Resident Teaching Award for the second year in a row in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the education of the surgical chief residents. Dr. Brahmbhatt shared the Hirsch award this year with Dr. Kei Suzuki. Dr. Brahmbhatt was recognized by Boston University School of Medicine for the Faculty Honor Roll in 2019, and recognized in 2020 as Distinguished Faculty of the Month. In addition, Dr. Brahmbhatt made oral presentations at the 2020 Conference of the Eastern Association of the Surgery of Trauma, the 2019 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, and the Radiological Society of North America Annual Scientific Assembly and Meeting, and was a session moderator for the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS) Annual Meeting. Dr. Brahmbhatt also chaired the local arrangements committee for the SAAS Annual Meeting and was selected as Treasurer-elect. Over the last year, Dr. Brahmbhatt had papers published in the Journal of Surgical Education, Journal of Surgical Research, Surgical Infections, and Biomedical Journal of Scientific & Technical Research.

Tracey Dechert, MD, Chief of Surgical Critical Care, published or has had papers accepted for publication in the American Journal of Surgery, Journal of Surgery Research and Journal of the National Medical Association. Co-authors included a number of surgery residents, who are also leaders of the Socially Responsible Surgery organization that Dr. Dechert founded.

F. Thurston Drake, MD, MPH, Surgical Endocrinology, developed and led Boston Medical Center’s (BMC) Covid-19 Procedure Team, which performed 380 procedures during the surge in cases at BMC. Dr. Drake co-authored a paper published in Surgery that quantified these procedures and reviewed outcomes. He is a co-PI for the CODA trial, a 25-center, randomized trial of antibiotics versus surgery for treatment of uncomplicated appendicitis, and was a member of the writing group for a related paper accepted for publication in The New England Journal of Medicine.

Alik Farber, MD, MBA, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, had numerous papers published over the course of the year. Collectively, under his guidance, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery faculty authored and published 35 papers in the following journals: Journal of Vascular Surgery, European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Annals of Vascular Surgery, JAMA Surgery, and Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. Dr. Farber co-authored “Vascular-creating and Intervention,” a two-volume expanded edition published in 2020. Dr. Farber is a visiting professor in the Departments of Surgery at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in 2019 and at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine in 2020. Also in 2020, Dr. Farber was an invited lecturer at the European Society for Vascular Surgery Masterclass in Peripheral Arterial Disease, held in Hamburg, Germany.

Jason F. Hall, MD, MPH, Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery, was appointed Associate Program Chair for the 2022 American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery Annual Scientific Meeting.

Pei-Wen Lim, MD, MS, General and Acute Care Surgery, received a master’s degree in Health Professions Education from the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

Virginia R. Little, MD, Thoracic Surgery, was appointed Consulting Editor for Thoracic Surgery Clinics of North America.

Sayeed K. Malek, MD, Transplant Surgery, was appointed to the Clinical Advisory Board of New England Donor Services and as a member of the Call Committee of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. Dr. Malek was invited to moderate the Transplant Poster Session at the American College of Surgeons Meeting in October 2019. In addition, Dr. Malek has run a highly successful Surgical Leadership Program at Harvard Medical School for the past two years. Dr. Malek was named one of Boston’s Top Doctors by Boston magazine and was also listed in America’s Most Honored Doctors, Top 1%, 2020 by the American Registry.

Marina Malikova, PhD, MSc, MA, Executive Director of Surgical Translational Research, gave oral and poster presentations at conferences in the U.S. and Europe, including the Second Annual Summit for Clinical Operations Executives (SCOPE) in Barcelona, where she was an invited speaker. Dr. Malikova authored or co-authored articles in several peer-reviewed journals, including European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Surgical Case Reports and Reviews, Pharmaceutical Outsourcing, Therapeutic Innovation and Regulatory Science, and Therapeutic Advances in Drug Safety. In addition, Dr. Malikova authored a chapter in Current Issues in Medicine: Fundamentals and Basic Medical Sciences, and joined the editorial board of Biomedical Journal. Over the course of the year, Dr. Malikova continued to serve as a panel reviewer for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chaired a panel assessing proposals for an RFP issued by the Clinical Research Coordinating Center for the National Institute on Drug Abuse’s Clinical Trials Network. Dr. Malikova also served as chair for the Clinical Operations, Pharmacovigilance, and Data Content Session during the Europe 2020 Drug Information Association Conference and moderated a panel discussion during the annual SCOPE Conference in Orlando, Florida.

David McAneny, MD, Division Chief, General Surgery and Section Chief, Surgical Endocrinology and Surgical Oncology and Vice Chair of Surgery, presented virtual grand rounds in the Department of Surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Over the last year, Dr. McAneny was the author or co-author of 15 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, including Thyroid, Journal of American College of Surgeons, Surgery, American Journal of Surgery, and World Journal of Surgery. Dr. McAneny also co-authored a chapter on preoperative preparation in Current Diagnosis and Treatment: Surgery. In addition, Dr. McAneny was among those chosen for Boston’s Top Doctors 2020 in Boston magazine.

Hillary Mull, PhD, MIPP, Research Assistant Professor and Investigator in the Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research (CHOIR) at the VA Boston Healthcare System, has received a VA Health Services Research & Development grant, the equivalent of an NIH RO1 award. Dr. Mull’s study, “How Can We Make Invasive Non-Surgical Procedures Safer Using Big Data?” has been funded for three years.

Luise Pernar, MD, minimally invasive and weight loss surgery, authored or co-authored seven peer-reviewed papers in journals including American Journal of Surgery, Journal of Surgical Education, Surgery, Hernia, and Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Pamela Rosenkranz, RN, BSN, Med, Instructor of Surgery, received and is the PI of a HealthTrust Innovation Grant to support creation of high-performance OR teams at Boston Medical Center. Alik Farber, MD, MBA, is a co-PI. Ms. Rosenkranz also received three Patient Safety Grants from Boston Medical Center to study: ways to improve communication surrounding care of acute care and trauma surgery patients in the emergency department; better prevention of VTEs; and outcomes analysis for frail patients in the geriatric surgical population. In addition, Ms. Rosenkranz was co-author of papers published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals that included American Journal of Surgery, Journal of General Internal Medicine, World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, and Journal of the Joint Commission on Quality and Patient Safety.

Lisa Allie, MSW, LCSW, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery Promoted to Assistant Professor of Surgery

Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH, Surgical Oncology Promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery

Vivian Sanchez, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) Attending Surgeon, VA Boston Healthcare System Appointed as Assistant Dean for Student Programs, BUSM
Top Docs

Congratulations to the following Department of Surgery faculty members cited as “tops” in their specialties in *Boston magazine’s 2020 “Docs” issue*. 

Peter Burke, MD  
Acute Care and Trauma Surgery  
Alik Farber, MD, MBA  
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery  
Jason F. Hall, MD, MPH  
Colorectal Surgery  
Donald Hess, MD  
Minimally Invasive and Weight Loss Surgery  
Jeffrey Kalish, MD  
Thoracic Surgery  
Virginia Little, MD  
Thoracic Surgery  
David McNeny, MD  
General Surgery, Surgical Endocrinology, Surgical Oncology  
Jarahim Slama, MD  
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  

New Faculty

Jeffrey Siracus, MD, MBA, was an invited visiting lecturer in the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Dr. Siracus became a member of the New England Surgical Society, and was appointed Chair of the New England Society for Vascular Surgery (NESVS) Membership Development Committee and as a member of the NESVS executive council. In 2020, two students mentored by Dr. Siracus were the recipients of awards: the Society for Vascular Surgery Student Research Fellowship Award and the Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Award. In addition, Dr. Siracus became a reviewer for Circulation Research. Dr. Siracus received, and serves as PI of, an education grant from W.L. Gore & Associates and is also site PI for a grant from the American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology. In 2020, Dr. Siracus received his MBA from Boston University Questrom School of Business.

Stefan G. Tullius, MD, PhD, Transplant Surgery, had numerous papers published in the past year and was the author or co-author of publications in Transplantation, The New England Journal of Medicine, American Journal of Transplantation, JAMA Internal Medicine, Trends in Immunology and Nature Communications. Dr. Tullius was also senior author on an abstract entitled “Older Organs Transfer Senescence to Transplant Recipients,” which was voted “The People’s Choice Award” at the 2020 American Transplant Congress. In addition, Dr. Tullius received the Excellence in Transplantation Award from the National Kidney Foundation, as well as the Outstanding Achievement Transplantation Science (Basic) Award from The Transplantation Society (TTS). Dr. Tullius was appointed Vice President of the International Society of Uterus Transplantation (ISUTX) and was elected as a member of the UNOS/OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft Committee. Dr. Tullius presented at national and international conferences, including the XV Latin American and Caribbean Transplant Congress in Mexico; the TTS Regional Meeting in Istanbul; the Turkish Transplantation Society Conference in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; and the ISUTX World Congress in Cleveland.

Kathryn Twomey, MD, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery/Critical Care, received the Emir F. Hirsh Researcher Teaching Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the education of the surgical chief residents. Dr. Suzuki shared the award with Dr. Tojal Brahmbhatt. In addition, Dr. Suzuki received a grant from the Elsa U. Pardee Foundation that will support a study investigating the immune microenvironment in both the tumor and the lymph nodes of stage I lung cancer patients. Over the course of the year, Dr. Suzuki had papers published in several peer-reviewed journals, including *Annals of Thoracic Surgery* and *Thoracic Surgery Clinics*.

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Mark Craig was a superstar cardiac surgeon on St. Elsewhere, the 1980s TV show loosely based on Boston City Hospital. Among the show's many fans was a young law student named Hilton M. Hudson. II. It quickly became clear to the future Dr. Hudson that law school was not for him. But St. Elsewhere planted the seed that medicine and cardiac surgery in particular just might be.

Dr. Hudson graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1987, and did his general surgery residency at Boston Medical Center (BMC) from 1987 to 1992. Looking back 30 years on, Dr. Hudson says, “It was an insanely good teaching environment. I loved to operate, and I had a lot of opportunity to do that.”

He left BMC well prepared and in hindsight appreciates the amount of trust that was placed in him, estimating that over the course of his residency, he performed 1,500 surgeries.

Following residency, Dr. Hudson completed a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at Ohio State University (OSU) and service in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. It was during his fellowship that the subtleties of surgery started to become clearer. “It’s not just about how you hold the knife. It’s about judgment and timing, and when you take a patient to surgery and when you don’t, and talking to patients’ families.” Dr. Hudson credits P. David Myerowitz, MD, then Chief of Thoracic Surgery at OSU, with creating an environment that enabled him to thrive as a heart surgeon.

Entrepreneurial Spirit

Nowadays, a typical week consists of three days in the operating room and two spent leading his company, HPC International, Inc. (HPC). Based in Chicago, the privately held company provides a portfolio of services primarily for hospitals and the healthcare industry, including supply chain management and procurement support, library and media management services, and publishing. While Dr. Hudson has had one foot in the business world since the late ‘80s, he has always been a surgeon first. “I truly love being a surgeon, and I’ve given my absolute best to all of my patients.”

For the last 15 years, he has been in private practice, more recently as part of a three-surgeon practice that serves hospitals in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Earlier in his career, he was the Clinical Director and then Vice Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Rockford Memorial Hospital in Rockford, Ill., where he introduced stentless valve surgery for patients there in 1998 and performed the first beating heart surgery at the hospital in 2000. Dr. Hudson also served as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. He went on to become Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Franciscan Physicians Hospital in Munster, Ind., after establishing the department at the hospital, and eventually became the chairman of the hospital’s board. Along the way, he became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

One of the things that drew Dr. Hudson to BMC was the fact that there were Black surgeons on the faculty. It seems likely that he was the second African American categorical intern to complete the BMC general surgery residency program, the first being Dr. Mildred Jefferson, in 1955, a trailblazer who was the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School. While characterizing his years in training at BMC as good ones, he says that it is important to be clear. “Racism is everywhere, and I experienced it during my residency in Boston.” In response, he says he became fiercely focused and even more resilient.

But he would never have become a surgeon at all if it weren’t for another Black surgeon, whom he first met in medical school. “I am a surgeon because of Dr. George Rawls,” says Dr. Hudson. “He took me under his wing and was a lifelong mentor.” Dr. Rawls, who passed away earlier this year, broke numerous barriers during a long and distinguished career as a surgeon and educator.

Education and Advocacy

In 2014, Dr. Hudson was appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to a two-year term on the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities, part of the NIH’s National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). Dr. Hudson credits Nathan Stinson, Jr., MD, PhD, MPH, Director of the NIMHD Division of Scientific Programs and a longtime mentor, with being an energizing force behind the establishment of the Health Literacy Foundation and many of the other efforts he has undertaken on behalf of underserved communities. He has teamed up with celebrities, politicians, and sports figures to make headway in empowering and educating minority populations. Dr. Hudson has received numerous awards for his advocacy, including two from governors of his home state of Indiana.

Everyone needs a cheerleader, and Hilton Hudson had several during his residency. “There were a lot of good people in Boston, a lot of people who had my back. You can ‘train’ anyone, but it takes more to get someone past self-doubt.”

Then-Residency Director James Mazaoin, MD, now retired, quickly comes to mind because of his encouragement and steadfast defense of his residents when required. Frederick Milham, MD, who was a senior resident (and later critical care fellow) was also very supportive. So too David Mckenney, MD, a chief resident and then a junior faculty member during Dr. Hudson’s time at BMC. Dr. Millham is now Chair of Surgery at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Mass., while Dr. Mckenney is Vice Chair of Surgery at BMC. Young faculty members Jonathan Woodson, MD, MSS, who today leads Boston University’s Institute for Health System Innovation and Policy, and Richard Shemin, MD, now the Robert and Kelly Day Professor and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at UCLA Medical Center, also provided encouragement.

Like many surgeons who have trained at BMC, Dr. Hudson has vivid memories of Friday morning “guerilla rounds,” conducted in the ICU by BMC’s legendary head of Trauma Surgery Erwin Hirsch, MD. “BMC had a superb ICU, and they were instrumental in teaching me how to provide good ICU care.”

BMC may have set the stage for Dr. Hilton’s successful career as a cardiothoracic surgeon, providing a foundation that has enabled him to save thousands of lives, but the institution can take no credit for the unquestioned abilities and drive he has parlayed into a thriving business. However, one thing both share is a longstanding commitment to equity in health care. Dr. Hilton’s efforts to address disparities in care have undoubtedly benefitted untold numbers of people.

In the end, if he were to have a second take on surgical residency, Dr. Hudson says, “I would do it at BMC in a heartbeat.”

Alumni Profile:
Hilton Hudson, II, MD

“...It was an insanely good teaching environment. I loved to operate, and I had a lot of opportunity to do that.”
— Hilton Hudson, II, MD
Anesthesiology residents and critical care nurses reviewed the status of Covid-19 patients. SICU team huddle on Saturday, April 25, 10:30 pm. Led by surgical intensivist Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD, a team of Surgery and Anesthesiology residents and critical care nurses reviewed the status of Covid-19 patients.

Unprecedented Need
With the number of patients extremely ill with Covid rising, Department of Surgery Critical Care faculty were sequestered to provide 24/7 coverage for the primary surgical intensive care unit (SICU) service, as well as coverage for two additional intensive care teams. Major changes were instituted on the service, with the Departments of Surgery and Anesthesiology coming together to meet the truly urgent and unprecedented need. Reflecting on what had become the new normal, attending surgical intensivist Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD, said, “Our team never stopped. They worked tirelessly and with conviction day in and day out to support our patients.” For 9 weeks, surgery residents rearranged their schedules (while staying within duty-hour limits), to provide tremendous support in the SICU alongside the Department of Surgery’s dedicated and skilled advanced practice providers and critical care nursing staff. Data clearly show that Covid-19 disproportionately affects minority communities, as well as those whose surgeries could not be postponed, received the care they needed. By the end of March, with the census of Covid-positive patients growing ever larger and elective surgeries canceled, it became clear that the department could play a role in relieving some of the burden for their BMC colleagues. A Covid-19 Procedure Team, led by F. Thurston Drake, MD, MPH, was quickly formed.

Extending a Hand
The Department of Surgery responded to the crisis with resolve and ingenuity to ensure that Covid-19 patients, as well as those whose surgeries could not be postponed, received the care they needed. By the end of March, with the census of patients admitted during the previous year were Black or Hispanic.

Extending a Hand

Covid Warriors
In a sign of things to come, on March 9, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh canceled the city’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade. When March 17 arrived, Massachusetts hospitals were under orders from Governor Charlie Baker to stop performing elective procedures. A much broader order quickly followed, directing all non-essential businesses to close their doors at noon on March 24. But by then, the novel coronavirus had already spread widely throughout the city and the state. Preparations to accommodate the anticipated influx of Covid-positive patients were orchestrated across Boston Medical Center (BMC), which transformed spaces to create additional ICU and medical care capacity. The rate of admissions for Covid-19 swelled throughout March, until hitting full stride around the third week of April—the surge. On one Sunday night that month, BMC’s ICUs were 57 percent full, ambulances were instructed to bring their doors at noon on March 17. Preparations to accommodate the anticipated influx of Covid-positive patients were orchestrated across Boston Medical Center (BMC), which transformed spaces to create additional ICU and medical care capacity. The rate of admissions for Covid-19 swelled throughout March, until hitting full stride around the third week of April—the surge. On one Sunday night that month, BMC’s ICUs were 57 percent full, ambulances were instructed to bring their doors at noon on March 17. Preparations to accommodate the anticipated influx of Covid-positive patients were orchestrated across Boston Medical Center (BMC), which transformed spaces to create additional ICU and medical care capacity. The rate of admissions for Covid-19 swelled throughout March, until hitting full stride around the third week of April—the surge. On one Sunday night that month, BMC’s ICUs were 57 percent full, ambulances were instructed to bring their doors at noon on March 17.
**Tauber Professorship**

Dr. Daniel Roh, PhD, MD, is the newest Laszlo N. Tauber Assistant Professor in Surgery. "The Tauber professorship is an honor for me," says Dr. Roh. "As I'm building my research career, it will provide much-needed financial support to start my lab and build the infrastructure necessary to perform basic and translational research."

Dr. Roh joined the Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) faculty and the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Boston Medical Center (BMC) in November 2019. He received his MD and PhD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (UP SOM) Medical Scientist Training Program and completed the Harvard Combined Plastic Surgery Residency Training Program before coming to BUSM/BMC.

"I am captivated by the field of senescence, the stress-response mechanism by which cells in our body undergo permanent growth arrest without dying, and its contribution to aging and disease," says Dr. Roh, whose research focuses on examining the role of senescence in wound healing and scarring. Two projects being planned for the new Roh lab will test hypotheses related to senescence modification. The first will examine whether senescent cell burden in aged skin impacts wound healing, while the second will test whether senescent cells contribute to wound-induced skin fibrosis and the formation of hypertrophic scars and keloids. Dr. Roh hopes to translate his work into novel therapies targeting impaired wound healing of aging, chronic wounds, and pathologic scarring.

**Changing Course**

With his father, sister, and brother all physicians, medicine may have been Daniel Roh’s destiny, but specializing in plastic surgery was not part of the original plan. While working on his PhD, he joined a corneal cell biology lab and received a prestigious Kirschstein Award from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) to study cellular mechanisms associated with age-related degeneration of the cornea. He was on a path to becoming an ophthalmologist and researcher. "It was fortunate to have an amazing mentor at UPSOM, the late Dr. James Funderburgh, who discovered a new population of corneal stem cells and demonstrated that they could reverse corneal scarring. In ophthalmology, I found the surgeries to be incredibly high-impact with respect to improving patient lives." But in a story that is certain to have a familiar plot twist, Dr. Roh says, "After my medical school rotations in plastic surgery, I knew that plastics was the field I was meant to be in." While still at UPSOM, his interest in wound healing and aging research blossomed, growing exponentially during residency training. He had the opportunity to work with Indrani Sinha, MD, and Dennis Orgill, MD, PhD, both plastic surgeons and mentors affiliated with Brigham and Women’s Hospital. As the U.S. population ages, the relevance of Dr. Roh’s research is clear, and he recently received two NIH awards to support his work on senescence; he is the principal investigator (PI) of a Boston Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center Research Education Core Award and the PI of an NIA RO3 GEMSSTAR Award.

**Defying Nature**

In addition to financial support, Dr. Roh says that a supportive environment and committed mentors were major factors in his decision to join BUSM/BMC. There were also numerous senior researchers who helped him to work with, and now has the opportunity to do just that. He will begin a collaboration with Vladimir Botchkarev, MD, PhD, BUSM Research Associate Professor of Dermatology and world renowned for his expertise in the epigenetics of skin development, differentiation, and tumorigenesis. But it’s Dr. Botchkarev’s expertise in aging and wound healing that will form the basis for their collaboration to study scar-free wound healing in aging-resistant naked mole rats. In addition to being cancer-resistant, this species of rat’s unique characteristics includes a lifespan of up to 30 years, senescence resistance, and defiance of the biological laws of aging. The hope is that they will be a unique model for studying mechanisms preventing scar formation in humans. Prior to Dr. Roh, the Tauber Professorship was held by F. Thurston Drake, MD, MPH, an attending surgeon in the BMC sections of Surgical Endocrinology and Surgical Oncology. Dr. Drake, who joined the BUSM faculty in 2016, says, "It’s very rare for a foundation to focus on a junior faculty member, but I believe it’s truly visionary and can lead to early innovations that might otherwise be missed." During his tenure as Tauber Professor, he took full advantage of the support he received, initiating two major research programs. The first focused on examining whether limited English proficiency impacts surgical outcomes, while the second centered on system-wide approaches for improving management of incidental radiographic findings.

**Maximum Impact**

After adjusting for confounding factors, the first study found no meaningful differences in short-term outcomes in patients whose primary language was not English. In conducting the second, Dr. Drake maximized Tauber Foundation support, which covered the majority of costs, by combining it with a BMC Patient Safety Grant. He developed a two-year pilot program to identify and track patients with incidental adrenal masses and report findings to patients’ primary care physicians, along with simple instructions on how to perform the appropriate evaluation. Final results from the project are pending, but an analysis of one particular component showed a doubling in the rate of incidental masses that were appropriately evaluated.

"I now have the opportunity to make scientific discoveries on my own, and the Tauber Professorship will be so beneficial in truly launching my research career."

— Daniel Roh, MD, PhD

**Changing Course**

In graduate school, when thinking about the challenges that lie ahead in becoming a successful surgeon-scientist, Dr. Roh continues to draw inspiration from the time he spent with his UPSOM mentor Jim Funderburgh. "He did science with such joy and passion. He truly enjoyed the process of scientific discovery and felt immense satisfaction with every incremental result. I have always wanted to emulate his approach. I now have the opportunity to make scientific discoveries on my own, and the Tauber Professorship will be so beneficial in truly launching my research career."

"Based on the success of this pilot project, we are currently working with the hospital to develop this protocol into a permanent aspect of our management strategy and expand it to other organ systems," says Dr. Drake, whose primary research interests also include appendicitis.

Both initiatives engaged trainees in research and served as a jumping-off point for additional research. "Mentoring further extends the legacy of the Tauber Family Foundation’s generosity," says Dr. Drake.
Greening the OR

For nearly a decade, Boston Medical Center (BMC) has been making strides in reducing its carbon footprint and can now lay claim to the title of greenest hospital in Boston. Changes range from small—energy-saving LED bulbs in the operating rooms (ORs) and across the hospital—to large, building a cogeneration plant.

Since launching a renovation and sustainability initiative in 2011, BMC has invested heavily in its infrastructure to improve energy efficiency and sustainability, with impressive results. The most substantial undertaking, and one that will pay dividends well into the future, was installing a natural gas-fired cogeneration plant on the roof of the Yawkey Ambulatory Center. Operational since 2017, this “cogen” facility traps most of the waste heat produced and uses it to warm the BMC campus, saving both emissions and money.

Hybrid OR on Display

As the hospital’s master plan evolved, it was clear that the operating rooms, by definition a significant source of energy consumption and waste production, needed to be part of it. New or renovated ORs that opened in 2017 are “green” and have garnered interest from various sources. On the morning of December 4, a reporter and photographer from local radio station WBUR, an NPR affiliate, came by to see one in action. Members of the anesthesiology and vascular surgery teams provided details during a two-hour TCAR (transcarotid artery revascularization) procedure in the hybrid OR. They watched as the team cleared a blockage in the left carotid artery of 83-year-old Reverend Ralph Kee.

Regardless of which type of anesthesia is used, studies show that patients metabolize only about 5 percent, with the rest eventually released into the atmosphere. At BMC, using sevoflurane over desflurane is a boon for the environment, desflurane being a significantly more potent greenhouse gas. At BMC, using sevoflurane over desflurane is a boon for the environment, desflurane being a significantly more potent greenhouse gas.

Energy Efficiency

“The cogeneration unit supplies approximately 40 percent of the hospital’s energy needs and operates at 70 percent efficiency, compared with 35 percent for a traditional power plant,” says Bob Biggio, BMC’s Senior Vice President for Facilities and Support Services. Inside the Yawkey building, a retrofit of the ductwork reduced the amount of energy required to push air through the system. Together, these changes are saving BMC close to $1.5 million in heating and energy costs annually.

“At BMC, using sevoflurane over desflurane is a boon for the environment, desflurane being a significantly more potent greenhouse gas.”

Environmental Stewardship

In addition, BMC has found a way to put the city, which has set a goal of being carbon neutral by 2050. Since 2011, the hospital works collaboratively with local hospitals to reduce the healthcare industry’s not inconsiderable environmental impact on the city, which has set a goal of being carbon neutral by 2050. Since 2011, the leaders of Boston's hospitals believe they have collectively reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent.

At BMC, using sevoflurane over desflurane is a boon for the environment, desflurane being a significantly more potent greenhouse gas.
The Kindness of Friends and Strangers

As the coronavirus pandemic took hold, the demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) skyrocketed. Boston Medical Center (BMC), like other institutions, was left scrambling to meet the demand. In addition to donations of much-needed PPE, the philanthropic support from friends of BMC and of the Department of Surgery, as well as complete strangers, has been absolutely remarkable. In our own department, we were happy to receive 200 slightly expired N95 masks (readily deemed safe by the CDC), which one of our team coordinators had rescued from disposal with an eye toward home project use. In-kind donations included scores of meals for our surgery residents and other frontline workers. We also received wonderful messages of encouragement and support from friends of BMC and of the Department of Surgery, as well as complete strangers, has been absolutely remarkable.

Tremendous Generosity

Hau Le, MD, a pediatric surgeon at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and a graduate of Boston University School of Medicine, reached out to Chief of Surgery Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH, and then very kindly donated 1,000 masks for personal protective use by surgical trainees and advanced practice providers. And a special thank you goes out to an anonymous donor and friend of the department, introduced through the Morningside Foundation, who exhibited tremendous generosity by donating 10,000 surgical masks to BMC.

Before the pandemic, the department was the beneficiary of another much-appreciated donation from the Morningside Foundation. Their support is enabling research fellow Alaina Geary, MD, to stay the course for an additional year and to keep the momentum going on her research. We are also very fortunate to have Marshall and Missy Carter in our corner. Longtime donors to BMC, it is because of their generosity that we were able to announce and welcome Kelly Kenzik, PhD, MS, as the Perlman Scholar in Cancer Disparities. The Perlman Scholar Program (NSQIP), which one of our team coordinators had rescued from disposal with an eye toward home project use. In-kind donations included scores of meals for our surgery residents and other frontline workers. We also received wonderful messages of encouragement via email from patients past and present.

Ongoing Support

We are grateful to the Morningside Foundation and the Carters for providing support that promotes and amplifies departmental research focused on improving care and reducing disparities. This commitment to BMC and its mission, and to underwriting research, is shared by longtime donors Marc and Claire Perlman. Together with colleagues from Ocean State Job Lot, they launched a point-of-sale program that raised $450,000. In addition, the Perlmans donated PPE and truckloads of clothing for homeless patients with Covid-19 who were recuperating at a nearby hospital-run facility. Further, their generosity extends to continued sponsorship of surgeon Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH, as the Perlman Scholar for Pancreatic Cancer Research. We are so grateful to the Perlmans, the Carters, the Morningside Foundation, and to everyone who has stood with BMC during this unprecedented time and in the past. Our patients were the beneficiaries of your donations, large and small, to the BMC Covid-19 Relief Fund. Thank you!

In Solidarity

On Friday, June 5, Department of Surgery faculty, staff, and residents joined their Boston Medical Center colleagues in the nationwide White Coats for Black Lives protest to honor the memory of George Floyd and other Black men and women who have died as a result of excessive force and violence by police. They knelt for 8 minutes and 46 seconds in a symbolic show of solidarity to acknowledge ongoing racial injustice, including in medicine, and the role that the healthcare system and its leaders have in helping to dismantle the structural racism that pervades society. With a gray yet beautiful sky and the Boston skyline as a backdrop, a sense of sadness, collective unity, and commitment to racial justice and improving the state of our nation and the health care of its denizens was tangible.

The Kindness of Friends and Strangers
Department Hosts SAAS Meeting

In late September, the Department of Medicine hosted the 2019 annual meeting of the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS) on the Boston Medical Center campus. Two-hundred-fifty attendees from around the country gathered for the two-day meeting. Highlights included a lecture by transplant pioneer John Fung, MD, PhD, Chief of Transplantation at UChicago Medicine, and a keynote address by chef and entrepreneur Joanne Chang, Founder of Flour Bakery + Cafe. Chang, an applied mathematician major and former management consultant turned chef, opened her first Flour location a few blocks from BMC in 2000. Since then, the enterprise has grown to eight bakery locations and a successful restaurant. In her address, the James Beard Award winner touched on themes of leadership applicable to both business and medicine.

Clerkship Satisfaction on the Rise

Over the last five years, Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) students have reported steadily increasing satisfaction with the quality of the educational experience during the third-year surgery clerkship. The graph at right is from the AAMC Graduation Questionnaire, a nationwide survey that compares the BUSM surgery clerkship to other surgery clerkships around the country. The Department of Surgery has forged close partnerships and worked with extremely dedicated teaching faculty across multiple sites to improve the student experience. In addition to Boston Medical Center (BMC), Roger Williams Medical Center, the VA Boston Healthcare System, Berkshire Medical Center, MetroWest Medical Center, and Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara all participate in the surgery clerkship. With a score at the 83rd percentile, it came out on top in student satisfaction among clerkships at BMC.

Dr. Tseng Receives Pinnacle Award

At a ceremony in late January, Surgeon-in-Chief Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH, received a 2020 Pinnacle Award from the Boston Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Tseng was one of eight inspiring local women selected for this annual award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the workplace, demonstrated leadership that has made a difference, and a commitment to enhance the quality of life in the region. The 2020 Pinnacle Award honorees are leaders in government, business, and healthcare, game-changers all in their chosen fields.

Surgery Education Office

SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Donald Hess, MD
Associate Chair for Education, Program Director
Luis Pernar, MD
Associate Program Director
Teviah Sachs, MD, MPH
Associate Program Director
Lana Katliere, Program Coordinator

SURGERY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Tracey Dechert, MD, Program Director
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Fellowship
Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, MBA, Program Director

SURGERY CLERKSHIP

Joanne Favauzza, DO, Director
Tejal Brahmbhatt, MD, Associate Director
Abdul Saied Calvino, MD, Assistant Director, Roger Williams Medical Center
Patrick B. O’Neal, MD, Assistant Director, Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System
Melanie Gainsbury, MD, Assistant Director, Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara
Michael DiSiena, DO, Assistant Director, Berkshire Medical Center
Yagnik Pandya, MD, Assistant Director, MetroWest Medical Center

PODIATRY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Hau Pham, DPM, Program Director
Ewald Mendezasoon, Jr., DPM, Associate Program Director

2020 Surgery Residency Graduates

Maunil Bhatt, MD
Vascular Surgery Fellowship
University of California, San Francisco
Joshua Davies, MD
Academic Practice
Boston Medical Center
Matthew Egyud, MD
Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
Baylor College of Medicine
Krista Hachey, MD
Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital
Jian Zheng, MD
Surgical Oncology Fellowship
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

2020 Surgery Residency Program

The Boston University Surgery Residency Program provides residents with the range and depth of surgical experience and academic exposure required to develop superior surgical skills and an ability to make informed, independent judgments. Our five-year program, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), is committed to preparing future generations of highly skilled surgeons.

The Surgery Residency Program is based at Boston University Medical Center, a modern medical complex located in the heart of Boston’s South End. The medical center includes Boston University School of Medicine, the Boston University School of Public Health, the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories, as well as Boston Medical Center.

The principal goal of our program is clinical excellence. We provide exposure to a large, diverse patient population and broad experience in complex open and minimally invasive surgery, which are the essential elements in the training of outstanding surgeons. With very few fellowship programs, the focus of our program is the education of the general surgery resident.

Residents interested in careers in academic surgery develop the necessary skills in surgical research through a broad range of training opportunities designed to maximize academic development. Residents who choose to spend dedicated academic time on research complete course work in statistics and other methodologies to become independent researchers.

For questions, contact Ron Espiritu or Hershel Alexander, PhD, at mmt@aamc.org.
CURRENT RESIDENTS (2020–2021 Academic Year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PGY1</th>
<th>Categorical</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Alonso, MD</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maia Nofal, MD</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louis Kester, MD</td>
<td>Drexel University College of Medicine</td>
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<td>Olivia Sacks, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ansh Johri, MD</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
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<td>Isabel Sauljord, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keerthivasan Vengatesan, MD</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Levin, MD</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
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<td>Priyanka Chugh, MD</td>
<td>Cooper Medical School of Rowan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maha Haqqani, MD</td>
<td>Albert Einstein College of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda Lin, MD</td>
<td>Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordana Rasic, MD</td>
<td>Eastern Virginia Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brendin Bealleau-Jones, MD</td>
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<td>Cooper Medical School of Rowan University</td>
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<td>Maha Haqqani, MD</td>
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<td>Emily A. Holcomb, MD</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Megan Janeway, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Cimbak, MD</td>
<td>Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lenee Plauche, MD</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandra B. O’Dwyer, MD</td>
<td>Indiana University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Janeway, MD</td>
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<td>Na Eun Kim, MD</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lenee Plauche, MD</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherif Aly, MD</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nikiruka Arinze, MD</td>
<td>Vanderbilt University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oliva Duhaime, MD</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aldana Blanco, MD</td>
<td>University of Buenos Aires Faculty of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Nudel, MD</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Zapata, MD</td>
<td>Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lya Basha, DPM</td>
<td>Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Reubens, DPM</td>
<td>Western University of Health Sciences College of Podiatric Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<th>Current Residents (2020–2021 Academic Year)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Alonso, Olivia Sacks, Maia Nofal, and Louis Kester</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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Residents on Research

Residents have the option to spend two years conducting laboratory or translational research, typically after their second year, to pursue their academic development. Often this research is done in collaboration with other departments at Boston Medical Center and other schools at Boston University, as well as other institutions, providing residents with a wealth of opportunities to pursue their interests, develop as academic surgeons, and make significant contributions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residents on Research</th>
<th>Area of Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaina Geary, MD</td>
<td>Examining firearm policy and the health and social ramifications of violent trauma.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracey Dechert, MD</td>
<td>Investigating mechanisms of improved survival and organ function with HAT therapy in septic shock.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Poulsom, MD</td>
<td>Investigating mechanisms of improved survival and organ function with HAT therapy in septic shock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan Stolarzski, MD</td>
<td>Investigating mechanisms of improved survival and organ function with HAT therapy in septic shock.</td>
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Named Visiting Professors

In addition to multiple eminent grand rounds speakers, the Department of Surgery was honored to welcome these surgical leaders as named visiting professors during the 2019–2020 academic year.

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<tr>
<th>Named Visiting Professors</th>
<th>Site: Boston University School of Medicine</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grasberger Research Symposium Lecture and Visiting Professorship (virtual)</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Higgins, MD</td>
<td>Director, Department of Surgery</td>
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<td>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<th>Named Visiting Professors</th>
<th>Site: Boston University School of Medicine</th>
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<tr>
<td>Smithwick Visiting Professorship in Vascular Surgery</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Professor Andrew W. Bradbury</td>
<td>Sampson Gamgee Professor of Vascular Surgery</td>
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<td>University of Birmingham, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Peter J. Mozden Visiting Professorship in Surgical Oncology</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Steven K. Libutti, MD</td>
<td>Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School</td>
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<td>Director, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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Resident News

Sherif Aly, MD, co-authored three papers over the past year, including as first author of a paper published in Surgery, which presented data and analysis related to procedures performed by the Boston Medical Center Covid-19 Procedure Team. Dr. Aly also co-authored a chapter on “Fluid, Electrolyte, & Acid-Base Disorders” in Comorbidity & Treatment. In addition, Dr. Aly was selected by third-year medical students to receive the 2020 Senior Resident Teaching Award. One student said of him, “Dr. Aly goes above and beyond to teach. He always makes sure you understand the why behind every decision and challenges you to take charge of every aspect of your patient’s care.”

Brendin Beaulieu-Jones, MD, was a co-author of four papers, including three as first author, which were published in The Breast Journal, Journal of Pediatric Surgery, Journal of Thoracic Disease, and Pediatric Emergency Care.

Aldana Blanco, MD, matched to the Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship in the Department of Surgery at Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Matthew Egyud, MD, received the Senior Mentorship Award. Based on nominations by general surgery first-year residents, this award is presented to the senior resident who has contributed to resident education and development by combining leadership, empathy, and integrity within his or her practice.

ALAINA GEARY, MD, was the recipient of the AASASF Trainee Research Fellowship Award in Education. This is the first year that the Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) and its foundation (AASF) have offered an education category. Related to the award, Dr. Geary is mentored by attending surgeon Luisa Pernar, MD, Surgery. Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH. In addition, Dr. Pernar’s paper, “Analysis of Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) Data Can Improve House Staff Diversity,” was selected by the AAS Publications Committee as the Best AAS Overall Manuscript Submission by an AAS resident or fellow member and was published in the Journal of Surgical Research. Dr. Geary co-authored four additional papers published in peer-reviewed journals. As a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Dr. Geary also participated in developing the Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS) “Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit,” published online in 2020.

Krista Hachey, MD, received the Lester F. Williams, Jr. Teaching Award, established in honor of Dr. Williams, a former chair of the Department of Medicine at Boston University Medical Center and a pre-eminent teacher of medical students. This comment is representative of the many positive comments from students about Dr. Hachey: “Dr. Hachey would always go the extra mile, taking the time to see if you had any questions and making sure that you really understood what was going on during an operation, explaining key indications to maximize learning.”

Megan Janeway, MD, was nominated by the Boston University School of Medicine Class of 2022 and inducted into the Robert Russell, M.D. Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, a national society recognizing and supporting humanistic exemplars in medicine. Dr. Janeway was also one of six Boston Medical Center residents to receive the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism & Excellence in Teaching Award, based on her commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients, families, students, and colleagues.

Scott Levin, MD, received an NIH LRP award and will use econometrics to evaluate the impact of the USPSTF AAA screening guidelines on aneurysm screening, rupture, and repair rates. Dr. Levin also won the 9th Annual MCACS (Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons) Resident Essay Competition and an ACS 2020 Leadership & Advocacy Summit Resident Scholarship. Dr. Levin’s essay addressed the role of surgeons in advocating for value-based payment models more favorable to safety-net hospitals. Over the course of the year, Dr. Levin co-authored 17 papers that were published or are in press, including eight as first author. In addition, Dr. Levin earned a master’s degree in health services research from the Boston University School of Public Health, and was inducted into the school’s Delta Omega Honorary Society in recognition of graduating in the top 10 percent of the class and dedication to the field of public health. Dr. Levin’s thesis was an evaluation of the impact of state tobacco policies on smoking prevalence among vascular surgery patients.

Residency Associate Program Director, and co-mentored by Chief of Surgery Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH. In addition, Dr. Pernar’s paper, “Analysis of Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) Data Can Improve House Staff Diversity,” was selected by the AAS Publications Committee as the Best AAS Overall Manuscript Submission by an AAS resident or fellow member and was published in the Journal of Surgical Research. Dr. Geary co-authored four additional papers published in peer-reviewed journals. As a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Dr. Geary also participated in developing the Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS) “Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit,” published online in 2020.

Kathryn Rosenthal, MD, was selected by third-year medical students to receive the junior teaching award. One student said, “Dr. Rosenthal is exactly the type of doctor and person I aspire to be. Engaging, kind, funny, smart, and always willing to teach. Working with her made my surgery clerkship so much fun.”

Praveen Sridhar, MD, matched to the Vascular Fellowship in the Department of Surgery at Utah Health.

Allan Stolarski, MD, authored eight publications in peer-reviewed journals (six as first author) including a first-author research letter (Retired surgeons’ reflections on their careers) published in JAMA Surgery, which garnered significant attention. In addition, Dr. Stolarski made an e-poster presentation at the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons Annual Meeting.


Spencer Wilson, MD, co-authored a SCORE chapter on “Anocelect abscess and fistulae” and made a poster presentation, “Implementation of a quality improvement project for frail surgical geriatric patients in an urban safety-net hospital,” at the American College of Surgeons Quality and Safety Conference.

Mark Zapata, MD, received the Surgical Critical Care Award, which is presented to he junior resident who has excelled in the management of critically ill patients.

Jian Zheng, MD, who recently began surgical oncology fellowship at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, was first author of a paper, “General surgery chief residents’ perspective on surgical education during the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic,” published in Surgery.
Selected Grants

NEW
Contribution of Cellular Senescence to Delayed Wound Healing
Principal Investigator: Daniel Roh, MD, PhD
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health: National Institute on Aging
Grant amount: $1,494,880

Selected Clinical Research Projects

There are 142 open clinical research protocols in the Department of Surgery managed by dedicated teams of researchers in state-of-the-art facilities within Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center. The chart at right indicates the range of research conducted in the department.

Selected Clinical Trials Currently Open for Enrollment

DIVISION OF TRAUMA SURGERY AND CRITICAL CARE
Early and Adequate Protein Feeding Post-Traumatic Injury
Principal Investigator: Peter Burke, MD
Sponsor: NIH/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Grant amount: $2,456,723

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY, SECTIONS OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY AND ENDOCRINE SURGERY
Comparison of Outcomes of Antibiotic Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) Trial
BMC Site Co-Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Siracuse, MD, MBA
BMC Site Principal Investigator: Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH
Grant amount: $759,836

DIVISION OF VASCULAR AND ENDOVASCULAR SURGERY
Percutaneous Deep Vein Arterialization for the Treatment of Late-Stage Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia (PROMISE II Trial)
Principal Investigator: Allik Farber, MD, MBA
Grant amount: $50,000

ONGOING
Prognostic Immune Score for Stage I Lung Adenocarcinoma
Principal Investigator: Kei Suzuki, MD
Sponsor: CHEST Foundation
Grant amount: $60,000

Utilization of Nasal Biomarkers as Screening Tools for Lung Cancer
Principal Investigator: Kei Suzuki, MD
Sponsor: The Thoracic Surgery Foundation
Grant amount: $80,000

Development of Diagnostic and Prognostic Tests for Esophageal Adenocarcinoma
Principal Investigator: Tony Godfrey, PhD
Sponsor: Virginia R. Little, MD
National Institutes of Health: National Cancer Institute
Grant amount: $2,456,723

Custom Assays for Personalized, Longitudinal Monitoring of Circulating Tumor DNA Using PiPSenSeq
Principal Investigator: Tony Godfrey, PhD
Sponsor: Virginia R. Little, MD
National Institutes of Health: National Cancer Institute
Grant amount: $759,836

High-Performance Operating Room Team (HPT) Pilot with Planned Adoption of HPT Construct Across all Surgery Specialties at Boston Medical Center
Principal Investigator: Pamela Rosenkrantz, RN, BSN, MEd
Sponsor: HealthTrust Innovation
Grant amount: $25,000

Evaluation of Intraoperative Decision-Making Communication
Principal Investigator: Alaina Geary, MD
Sponsor: AAS/AAPA Trainee Research Fellowship Award
Grant amount: $30,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: BUMC.BU.EDU/SURGERY (SURGICAL RESEARCH).
Selected Papers


Publications

Research conducted by faculty and trainees of the Department of Surgery is published widely in leading journals and textbooks. During the previous academic year, the department had 168 articles published in peer-reviewed journals and 14 published books or book chapters.


Stronger Together — Your Support Is Invaluable

In these unprecedented times, we are more grateful than ever for your support. The pandemic-related cessation of elective surgeries, which started in March and stretched for three months, had an immediate financial impact on our department and across Boston Medical Center, even as colleagues and resources were stretched to the limit.

We rose to the challenge, just as we have for more than 150 years, and carried out our mission of caring for our community’s most vulnerable residents with compassion and conviction. The road ahead may be tough, but we are resilient and driven by an unshakable commitment to be here for those in need.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have already given to support the department and Boston Medical Center.

Please consider making a gift to the Department of Surgery.

Use the enclosed postage-paid envelope to mail your gift, or give online at: development.bmc.org. When giving online, please select the “Department of Surgery” to ensure your gift is directed to us.

For more information about supporting the Department of Surgery, contact the Boston Medical Center Development Office at 617-383-8990 or development.bmc.org.
Alumni and other friends:
Please keep in touch!

Please send us your current/preferred contact information (e-mail and mailing address, please) so we can keep you informed about your fellow alumni and other news, and invite you to alumni events. We will use this information only for items of interest, such as newsletters and invitations, and will not share it. In addition, please send us news and contact information about your current or former colleagues with a BU/BMC surgery connection, whether from medical school, residency, fellowship, or faculty years.

Reach us at: surgery@bu.edu.
And be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram @BMCSurgery.