

# Department of Neurology

## Department Highlights



### Simon Lab Selected for SPARK-NS Parkinson's Translational Funding



Congratulations to David K. Simon, MD, PhD, and his team, whose research was selected by SPARK-NS as one of just eight projects nationwide to receive funding as part of a new \$16 million initiative to accelerate academic discoveries in Parkinson's disease. This competitive program supports promising translational research with the potential to move therapies from the lab to the clinic. Dr. Simon's lab continues to be a leader in neurodegeneration research, and this award highlights the strength and innovation of their work in advancing potential treatments for Parkinson's disease.

Read more [here](#).



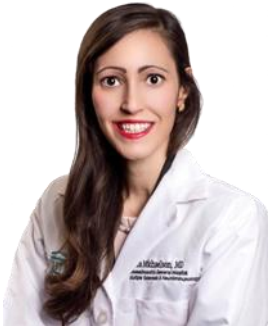
**Congratulations to Dr. Trudy Pang and her interdisciplinary team—Dr. Steven Schachter (Neurology) and Dr. Richard Verrier (Cardiology)—for winning the *Blue Sky Challenge* from the Epilepsy Foundation New England!** This competitive grant supports bold, forward-thinking ideas with the potential to transform epilepsy care. The award recognizes the team's innovative work at the intersection of neurology and cardiology, aimed at advancing research and improving outcomes for people living with epilepsy.

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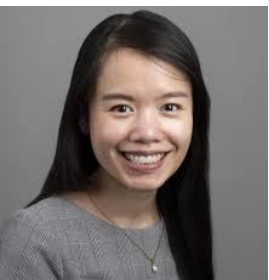
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**Aimee Boegle, MD, PhD** promoted to Assistant Professor



**Nara Michaelson, MD, and Rikka Azuma, MD**, have signed on to help support MS/Neuro-immunology and general neurology, joining faculty in summer.



Current Clinical Fellow and Resident Alumni, **Stephanie Vu, MD**, will be joining faculty officially in Neuro-hospital, tele-neurology and stroke in summer.

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## Department Highlights

**We found the right match!**  
**Introducing the Neurology Class of 2029**



Trey Baird, MD  
University of Cincinnati



Megan DeJong, MD, Ph.D.  
West Virginia University



Shannon Gu, MD  
Chicago Medical School



Carolyn Habiger, MD  
Hofstra



Michael Hebert, MD  
Louisiana State University



Katrina Munoz, MD  
Emory University



Rebecca Ripperton, MD  
University of Colorado



Yunting Mary Yu, MD  
Pennsylvania State



**Congratulations to Drs. Josh Cheng, Elaine Lu, and Karthik Jagganath, who have been selected to represent the residency program for the upcoming academic year!** The voting process reflected the strength and camaraderie of the PGY3 class, with many positive remarks shared about the entire group.

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## Department Highlights



### NEUROLOGY RESEARCH RETREAT APRIL 30, 2025

#### Call for Abstracts

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center's Neurology Department will be hosting our second Annual Neurology Research Retreat on April 30, 2025; 1-8pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the Klerman Building. We welcome all faculty and trainees to present their current research. We are currently accepting abstracts for poster and oral presentations. Please refer to QR code for abstract guidelines and submission. Deadline is **March 14, 2025**.

Please email [mhaack@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:mhaack@bidmc.harvard.edu) regarding any questions.

Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL

#### Call for Abstracts

#### Showcase Your Work

All Faculty and  
Trainees: Residents,  
Fellows, Post-Docs  
Are Welcome!

DEADLINE:  
MARCH 14,  
2025



BIDMC Neurology  
Research Retreat  
Abstract Submission



The Neurology Department is gearing up for an exciting day of discovery and collaboration at its annual **Research Retreat on April 30th**. This event brings together researchers, clinicians, and trainees to highlight the innovative work happening across the department. With engaging presentations, thought-provoking discussions, and plenty of opportunities to connect, the retreat celebrates the vibrant research culture driving BIDMC neurology forward.





# Department of Neurology

## Clinical Trial Highlights

*Spotlight on exciting trials currently in recruitment for ALS*

Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center



### Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Disease-Progression Biomarker

Researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center are conducting a research to investigate different muscle electrical parameters, using a small non-invasive device at-home. These parameters can be used to evaluate the progression of the weakness and response to treatment

#### ELIGIBILITY

- ALS diagnosis
- Have a study partner to assist with home measurements
- Have home Internet access

#### LOCATION

330 Brookline Avenue  
Boston MA 02215

#### CONTACT INFO

Contact a study coordinator at [gcenci@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:gcenci@bidmc.harvard.edu) or scan QR code to know more about this study



#### COMPENSATION

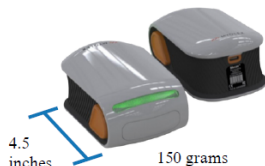
- An iPad will be provided by the end of participation
- Travel reimbursement up to \$25 per in-person visit

#### PROTOCOL

- Study duration 8 months
- Up to 5 in-person study visits
- Twice-a-week at-home muscle assessments using a small device

#### DEVICE

- The mScan device is a technology developed by MyoLex Inc.
- Non-invasive and painless
- Portable and lightweight
- Takes 6 seconds per measure



#### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Principal investigator:  
Dr. Seward Rutkove

### ElectricALS

This study is investigating the use of the MyoLex mScan® device. This device is painless and non-invasive, and it measures muscle health. The goal of the study is to learn more about how muscle health changes over time as ALS develops and progresses.

#### [Lab website](#)

#### [Clinical Trials link](#)

#### Contact:

Giulia Cenci, Postdoctoral Research Fellow | [gcenci@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:gcenci@bidmc.harvard.edu) | (617) 667-3056

### CALM Study

This study is evaluating the safety and tolerability of the MyoRegulator® device, a non-invasive electrical stimulation device. The treatments with this device are designed to decrease neuronal excitability, which is thought to contribute to the development of ALS.

Clinical Trials information can be found [here](#).

#### Contact:

Mia Hemme, Clinical Research Coordinator – [mhemme@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:mhemme@bidmc.harvard.edu) | (617) 667-3069

Beth Israel Deaconess  
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# Department of Neurology

## Recent Publications

[Pang TD, Verrier RL, Schachter SC. Management recommendations to reduce cardiac risk in chronic epilepsy. \*Epilepsy Behav Rep.\* 2024 Dec 25;29:100738. doi: 10.1016/j.ebr.2024.100738. PMID: 39975581; PMCID: PMC11835611.](#)

[Elam M, Moyal-Smith R, Canfora M, Cohen W, Eum K, \*\*Fischer C\*\*, Margo J, McCune M, Moin O, Selim M, Wendell L, Kumar S. A Checklist to Improve Acute Stroke Evaluation and Treatment in the Emergency Department. \*Am J Med Qual.\* 2025 Mar-Apr;40\(2\):53-63. doi: 10.1097/JMQ.0000000000000217. Epub 2025 Feb 3](#)

[Lo, I., Zhang, P. Quickest way to less headache days: an operational research model and its implementation for chronic migraine. \*BMC Neurol\* 25, 132 \(2025\). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12883-025-04124-5>](#)

[Dave, J., Hakkinen, I., & Zhang, P. \(2024\). Comprehensive list of preventative migraine headache medications without significant drug–drug interactions. \*Frontiers in Neurology\*, 15, 1527897. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fneur.2024.1527897>](#)

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## Recent Publications

Zhang, P., & Berk, T. (2025). Network analysis of headache diagnoses using international classification of headache disorders, 3rd edition. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 16, 1526037.  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fneur.2025.1526037>

Mackenzie, E., Cheng, R., & Zhang, P. (2025). GPT meets PubMed: A novel approach to literature review using a large language model to crowdsource migraine medication reviews. *BMC Neurology*, 25(1), 69.  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12883-025-04071-1>

*Multiple papers have been recently accepted by distinguished publications such as the New England Journal of Medicine and Nature. We are excited to share these pieces in the next edition!*