

Department of Neurology

Department Highlights

Neurology Ranked Top 50 Nationally



We're proud to share that **BIDMC Neurology and Neurosurgery have been ranked among the Top 50** programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in its 2025–2026 Best Hospitals rankings.

The rankings have been debated over the years, but the recognition remains deeply meaningful to our patients and their families, who look to these rankings as a trusted guide when making important care decisions. It is a reflection of the expertise, innovation, and compassion that our teams bring to patient care every day.

HelpCureHD

Fenway Fundraiser Raises \$1M+ for Huntington's Disease

The Boston Red Sox and the D'Angelo family hosted a charity event at Fenway Park that raised over \$1 million for HelpCureHD.org, supporting families impacted by Huntington's disease. The evening brought together Boston sports leaders, athletes, and community members in a powerful show of unity. Our own, **Dr. Samuel Frank**, Director of our HDSA Center of Excellence, participated in the event, highlighting our department's role in advancing care and hope for families.

Department of Neurology

Department Highlights

Dr. Kumar Named Harvard Impact Labs Fellow

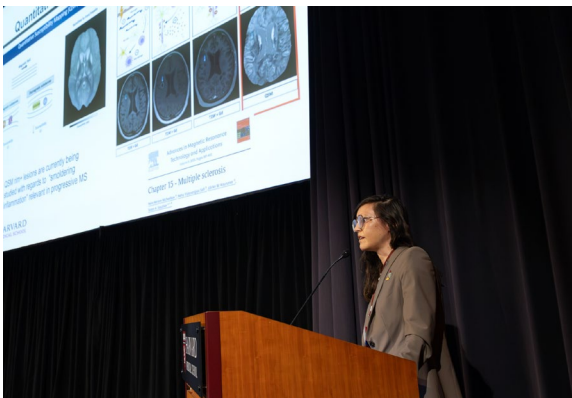


We are delighted to share that our colleague, **Dr. Sandeep Kumar** has been selected for the inaugural **Harvard Impact Labs Development Fellowship**.

Through this nine-month program, Dr. Kumar will collaborate with state leaders, providers, and policymakers to address delays in stroke care and develop scalable strategies to improve patient outcomes. His work highlights the vital role Neurology at BIDMC plays in driving innovation and advancing care at both the local and national level.



Congratulations to Dr. Kumar on this well-deserved recognition!



BIDMC Research Retreat was a success!

On September 9, 2025, BIDMC hosted its annual Research Retreat at the Rotunda of the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center. The day brought together investigators from across the institution to share innovative research, foster collaboration, and highlight emerging discoveries. Many members of the Neurology faculty were in attendance, contributing to the exchange of ideas and reinforcing the department's strong presence in BIDMC's research enterprise.

Department of Neurology

Department Highlights



Dr. Alexandra Hovaguimian Named Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Congratulations to Dr. Alexandra Hovaguimian on being named Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education at BIDMC. In addition to her leadership as Neurology Clerkship Director for Harvard Medical School, Dr. Hovaguimian will now oversee undergraduate medical education across BIDMC, guiding innovation and excellence in training for HMS students.



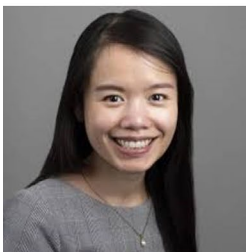
Dr. Jonah Zuflacht Named Associate Neurology Clerkship Director

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jonah Zuflacht has been named Associate Clerkship Director for Neurology at BIDMC. In this role, Dr. Zuflacht will support clerkship leadership and continue his commitment to advancing medical student education and curriculum development. He will work with recently appointed Clerkship Director, Dr. Bardia Abbasi.



Dr. Corey Fehnel Promoted to Associate Professor of Neurology

Congratulations to Dr. Corey Fehnel for his promotion to Associate Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. This promotion recognizes his outstanding contributions to clinical care, education, and research.



Dr. Stephanie Vu Named Core Faculty for the Principal Clinical Experience

Congratulations to Dr. Stephanie Vu on her recent appointment to Core Faculty for the Principal Clinical Experience. This prestigious mentorship role recognizes faculty who are shaping the hands-on clinical training of Harvard medical students.

Department of Neurology

Department Highlights

Coming Soon: 2nd Annual Front Line Neurology CME Course

We're excited to share that our Department will once again host Front Line Neurology: Advances & Innovations, a virtual CME course presented in collaboration with Harvard Medical School, taking place February 27–28, 2026.

Led once again by Course Directors **Dr. Alexandra Hovaguimian** and **Dr. Lexie Stillman**, the course will feature our faculty sharing the latest insights across stroke, headache, dementia, movement disorders, and more — including emerging topics like climate change neurology, neuromuscular therapies, and AI in neurology.

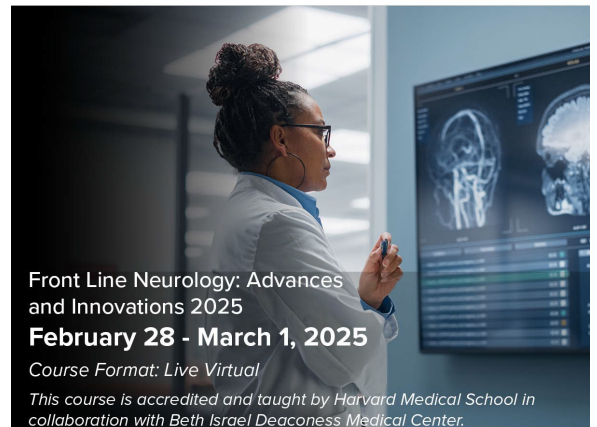
This event reflects our department's growing role in advancing neurological education and innovation across the field. Community neurologists, nurses, and anyone interested in neurology are welcome to register.

If you'd like more information please email [Courtney Nunley](#).



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Beth Israel Lahey Health
Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



Department of Neurology

Study Spotlight *Advancing Alzheimer's & Cognitive Health at BIDMC*

Treating Insomnia in Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)

Principal Investigators: Dr. Peter Fried & Dr. Alexandra Shafran

Affiliation: BIDMC Cognitive Neurology & Noninvasive Brain Stimulation Programs

Sleep disturbances are among the most common—and potentially modifiable—symptoms in Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI). This innovative study combines neuromodulation (Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation) with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) to improve sleep quality and cognitive outcomes.

By pairing a behavioral approach with targeted brain stimulation, investigators aim to enhance restorative sleep, reduce cognitive fatigue, and explore whether sleep improvement can slow cognitive decline. Participants complete structured therapy sessions and at-home cognitive assessments, contributing to a growing effort to identify effective, non-pharmacologic treatments for memory loss and sleep disruption in aging.

ClinicalTrials.gov ID: NCT06687161

Recruiting adults age 65+ with MCI and chronic insomnia.

The A² Study: At-Home, Real-Time Monitoring for Alzheimer's

Investigators: Drs. Chun Lim, Dan Press, and Meaghan McKenna

Affiliation: BIDMC Cognitive Neurology Unit

The A² study explores how digital, real-time assessments can detect early cognitive changes in Alzheimer's disease—well before symptoms are noticeable in the clinic. Using app-based memory tasks and passive monitoring tools, this project is developing a novel, at-home system for continuous cognitive tracking.

By analyzing daily patterns of performance and activity, the team hopes to identify subtle changes that may signal disease progression or treatment response. This work could lay the foundation for more adaptive, personalized interventions—and transform how clinicians monitor cognition outside the hospital.

Department of Neurology

Recent Publications

Fehnel CR, Cooper Z, Campbell M, Habtemariam D, Trivison TG, Forsman D, Schwartzstein RM, White DB, Mitchell SL, On behalf of the OBSERVE-WMV investigators, Withdrawal of Mechanical Ventilation in the Intensive Care Unit: A Prospective Observational Study, CHEST Critical Care (2025), (In Press) doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chstcc.2025.100204>.

Creutzfeldt CJ, Bogetz J, Candrian C, Colborn KL, Crooms RC, **Fehnel CR**, Fleisher JE, Hasnain-Wynia R, Hopfgarten M, Hwang DY, Kluger BM, Leeper HE, Lemmon ME, Muehlschlegel S, Ritchie CS, Saadi A, Sumrall M, Treat L, Vranceanu AM, Zahuranec DB. Proceedings of the First Neuropalliative Care Research Summit (NeuroCARES). J Pain Symptom Manage. 2025 Aug 26:S0885-3924(25)00800-0. doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2025.08.024. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40876664.

Fischer AG, Campbell ML, Hayes MM, Schwartzstein RM, White DB, Mitchell SL, **Fehnel CR**. Study protocol testing feasibility of the Comfort Measures Only Time out (CMOT) to reduce distress during palliative withdrawal of mechanical ventilation. Pilot Feasibility Stud. 2025 Aug 13;11(1):109. doi: 10.1186/s40814-025-01688-4. PMID: 40804432; PMCID: PMC12345127.

Department of Neurology

Recent Publications

Meurer KJ, Presciutti AM, Bannon SM, Kubota R, Baskaran N, Kim J, Zhang Q, Reichman M, Fishbein NS, Lichstein K, Motta M, Muehlschlegel S, Reznik ME, Jaffa MN, Creutzfeldt CJ, **Fehnel CR**, Tomlinson AD, Williamson CA, Vranceanu AM, Hwang DY; COMA-F Investigators. Characterizing Stressors and Coping Strategies Among Caregivers of Patients with Severe Acute Brain Injury by Level of Distress. *Neurocrit Care*. 2025 Jun 6. doi: 10.1007/s12028-025-02294-1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40481284.

Hwang DY, Reichman M, Bannon SM, Meurer K, Kubota R, Kim J, Baskaran N, Zhang Q, Fishbein NS, Lichstein K, Presciutti AM, Woodworth EC, Motta M, Muehlschlegel S, Reznik ME, Jaffa MN, Creutzfeldt CJ, **Fehnel CR**, Tomlinson AD, Williamson CA, Vranceanu AM; Coma Family Investigators. Psychosocial Support Needs and Preferences Among Family Caregivers of ICU Patients with Severe Acute Brain Injury: A Qualitative Thematic Analysis. *Neurocrit Care*. 2025 Aug;43(1):223-231. doi: 10.1007/s12028-024-02202-z. Epub 2025 Jan 16. PMID: 39821565.

Lau WK, **Fehnel CR**, Macchi ZA, Mehta AK, Auffret M, Bogetz JF, Fleisher JE, Graber JJ, Leeper HE, Manglani-Terranova HR, Muehlschlegel S, Mroz EL, Pedowitz EJ, Ramanathan U, Sarmet M, Shlobin NA, Sokol L, Weeks SA, Xu J, Bundy Medsger H, Creutzfeldt CJ, Vranceanu AM, Zahuranec DB, Hwang DY. Research Priorities in Neuropalliative Care: A Consensus Statement From the International Neuropalliative Care Society. *JAMA Neurol*. 2025 Mar 1;82(3):295-302. doi: 10.1001/jamaneurol.2024.4932. PMID: 39899319.

Department of Neurology

Recent Publications

[Choroid Plexus Enlargement in Multiple Sclerosis Correlates with Cortical and Phase Rim lesions on 7-T MRI and Predicts Progression Independent of Relapse Activity.](#)

Barbuti E, Conti A, Treaba CA, Miscioscia A, Barletta VT, Herranz E, Sloane JA, Klawiter EC, Toschi N, Mainero C.

AJNR Am J Neuroradiol. 2025 Aug 25:ajnr.A8983. doi: 10.3174/ajnr.A8983. Online ahead of print.

PMID: 40854683

[Choroid Plexus Enlargement in Multiple Sclerosis Correlates with Cortical and Phase Rim lesions on 7-T MRI and Predicts Progression Independent of Relapse Activity.](#)

Barbuti E, Conti A, Treaba CA, Miscioscia A, Barletta VT, Herranz E, Sloane JA, Klawiter EC, Toschi N, Mainero C.

AJNR Am J Neuroradiol. 2025 Aug 25:ajnr.A8983. doi: 10.3174/ajnr.A8983. Online ahead of print.

PMID: 40854683

Department of Neurology

Recent Publications

[Malignant melanoma and multiple sclerosis therapies: A disproportionality analysis of the FDA adverse event reporting system.](#)

Balshi A, Dempsey JP, Manning N, Leuenberger G, Baber U, Sloane JA.

Mult Scler. 2025 Jun 25:13524585251342725. doi: 10.1177/13524585251342725. Online ahead of print.

PMID: 40566642

[Clinical characteristics associated with multiple sclerosis fatigue severity.](#)

Balshi A, Dempsey JP, Manning N, Kriemler M, Kumbar S, Leuenberger G, Padilla L, Baber U, Sloane JA.

Mult Scler Relat Disord. 2025 Aug;100:106528. doi: 10.1016/j.msard.2025.106528. Epub 2025 May 22.

Zhang P. The most efficient way for prevention medications selection. Headache. 2025 Aug 22. doi: 10.1111/head.15048. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40847561.

<https://headachejournal.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/head.15048>