

CardioVascular Institute

New Staff

Welcome



Lauren Balkan, MD

Dr. Balkan joins the Interventional Cardiology team for a transitional year after completing an advanced fellowship at BIDMC. Dr. Balkan is the recipient of the 2026–2027 Society for Cardiovascular Angiography Women in Innovations Complex and High-Risk Interventional Procedures SCAI-WIN CHIP Fellowship. She will be seeing patients in Boston to help them manage complex coronary artery disease.



Jingyi Gong, MD

Dr. Gong joins the General Cardiology team after completing Cardiovascular Disease, Advanced Echocardiography, Cardio-Oncology, and Nuclear Cardiology training at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Gong will have a clinic in Boston focused on seeing patients with cancer. Her research focuses on cardiovascular population health and innovative models of care delivery, with the goal of improving access, quality, and outcomes.



Katherine Kearney, MD

Dr. Kearney joins the Interventional Cardiology team as the Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab. Dr. Kearney comes to BIDMC from the University of Washington Medical Center, where she served as Medical Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab. She is a recognized international leader in complex coronary and chronic total occlusion intervention and is the National Principal Investigator on several coronary device clinical trials. Using minimally invasive, catheter-based techniques, Dr. Kearney specializes in treating patients with advanced heart disease. For consults or referrals, please email ctopci@bidmc.harvard.edu.



Nicholas Spetko, MD, MSc

Dr. Spetko joins the section of General Cardiology after completing a Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship at BIDMC, a T32 postdoctoral research fellowship at the Smith Center for Outcomes Research, and a Master of Science in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health. His clinical interests include general cardiology and echocardiography, and his research focuses on how cardiovascular imaging shapes care delivery and patient outcomes.

Call 617-667-8800 to schedule an appointment.

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Awards & Honors

E. Wilson Grandin, MD, MPH, MEd

Presented with the BIDMC Department of Medicine Center for Education 2026 Simulation Educator of the Year Award. The award recipients are selected by current BIDMC Principal Clinical Experience students.

Camila Guetter, MD, MPH

Received the 2025–2026 Jack L. Cronenwett Scholarship from the Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Quality Initiative (SVS VQI). Dr. Guetter is mentored by Marc Schermerhorn, MD, and was selected as one of five scholarship recipients.



Nicholas Spetko, MD, MSc

Received the American Society of Echocardiography's [2026 Pamela S. Douglas Research Scholar Award](#).

Jordan Strom, MD, MSc

Gave the American Society of Echocardiography's Annual Feigenbaum Lecturer at the 2026 ASE Annual Sessions.



Connie Tsao, MD, MPH

Accepted into the 2026-27 BILH Physician Leadership Program (PLP), which kicks off in October. This year's 15th cohort reflects a wide range of specialties, practice settings, and leadership experiences across BILH.

Jenica Upshaw, MD

Promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School.

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Service Line Updates

100 Heart Transplants

The BILH Heart Transplant team recently completed its 100th heart transplant, a remarkable milestone since launching in August 2023.

Within the three years since its initiation, the program has experienced tremendous growth and earned national recognition for its outstanding patient outcomes. This achievement reflects the team's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional care and life-saving treatment to patients and their families.

Heart Transplant Program
[617-632-8628](tel:617-632-8628)



Robotic Vascular Surgery Update

The robotic vascular surgery program continues to grow. Lars Stangenberg, MD, PhD, has completed more than 50 major robotic vascular surgery cases for various indications, including median arcuate ligament release and renal vein transpositions. The program is unique in New England and the East Coast and one of only a handful in the entire country.

Vascular & Endovascular Surgery
[617-632-9959](tel:617-632-9959)

