

Department of Pathology

Welcome New Hires!



Sunati Sahoo, MD, joins the Department as Attending Pathologist, as well as our **Director of Surgical Pathology, Co-Director of Breast Pathology, and Director, Specimen Biobank**. Dr. Sahoo comes to BIDMC from UT Southwestern Medical Center where she was a Professor of Pathology. She led the breast pathology service and previously served as Director of Surgical Pathology at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital. She earned her medical degree in India and completed postgraduate pathology training at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, followed by residency training at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Sahoo's research has focused on neoadjuvant systemic therapy in breast cancer, prognostic and predictive biomarkers, and quality and outcomes research in breast disease management. Her arrival further strengthens BIDMC/HMFP Pathology's commitment to excellence in breast pathology, academic medicine, and multidisciplinary oncology care.

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Maxwell L. Harsha, PhD, DABCC, joins the Department and the Division of Clinical Laboratory Medicine as **Assistant Director of Clinical Chemistry and Director of Diagnostic Endocrinology**. Dr. Harsha comes to BIDMC from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he completed fellowship training in Clinical Chemistry and gained extensive experience in laboratory operations, clinical consultation, quality improvement, assay validation, and translational research. He earned his PhD in Environmental Analytical Chemistry from the University of New Orleans and his BS in Biochemistry from Loyola University Chicago. His research has spanned both analytical and clinical chemistry, with interests including diagnostic endocrinology, toxicology, therapeutic drug monitoring, and laboratory utilization. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and presentations and has received several national trainee awards and recognitions.

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Mai Elzienny, MD, joins the Department as Staff Pathologist in the Department of Pathology at Mount Auburn Hospital. Dr. Elzienny completed her General Surgical Pathology fellowship at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital in Michigan. Dr. Elzienny earned her medical degree and Master's degree in Clinical and Chemical Pathology from Ain Shams University Faculty of Medicine in Cairo, Egypt, where she also served as an Assistant Lecturer in Clinical Pathology. Her interests span surgical pathology, pathology education, quality improvement, and diagnostic innovation. She has contributed to a growing body of publications in areas including pathology informatics, artificial intelligence applications in pathology, laboratory medicine, and renal and liver pathology. Dr. Elzienny has also demonstrated a strong commitment to mentorship, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and trainee education throughout her career.

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Aishatu I. Ladu, MD, MPH, FCAP joins the Department as a Staff Pathologist in the Department of Pathology at **BID Hospital – Needham**. Dr. Ladu comes to BIDMC from Boston Medical Center and Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, where she has served as an attending pathologist and Assistant Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine since 2022. She completed her Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency at Tufts Medical Center, followed by fellowship training in Breast & Gynecologic Pathology at UMass Medical Center and Cytopathology at Boston Medical Center. Earlier in her career, Dr. Ladu also spent several years at BIDMC as a clinical research coordinator and co-investigator, making this a wonderful return to the BIDMC community. Dr. Ladu brings expertise in **breast and gynecologic pathology and cytopathology**, in addition to her broad experience in surgical pathology. She is also a committed educator with extensive involvement in resident and medical student teaching. We are thrilled to welcome her back to BIDMC and look forward to the clinical, educational, and collaborative contributions she will bring to our team at BID Hospital-Needham.

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Welcome New Hires!



Kristine Wong, MD, joins the Department as Attending Pathologist in Anatomic Pathology with subspecialty expertise in **Head and Neck Pathology and Cytopathology**. Widely recognized for her research, peer-reviewed publications, and lectures in thyroid pathology, endocrine pathology, head and neck pathology, and cytopathology, she joins us from Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) and is an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School. She attended Washington University School of Medicine and completed her AP/CP residency and Cytopathology fellowship at BWH. She is the co-author of the "Oncocytic Follicular Neoplasm" chapter of the *Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology*, 3rd edition.

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Marina Vivero, MD, joins the department as Attending Pathologist in **Anatomic Pathology**, with subspecialty expertise in **Thoracic Pathology and Cytopathology**. Dr. Vivero comes to BIDMC from Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she served as an Associate Pathologist since 2015 and as an Assistant Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School since 2019. An internationally recognized expert in thoracic disease pathology and cytopathology, Dr. Vivero has made significant contributions to the diagnosis and classification of lung tumors, pulmonary neuroendocrine neoplasms, mesothelioma, and interstitial lung disease. Her research has helped advance the use of cytology specimens for molecular testing in lung cancer and has contributed to national and international diagnostic guidelines, including World Health Organization reporting systems and American Thoracic Society clinical guidance. In addition to her clinical and research accomplishments, Dr. Vivero has a longstanding commitment to education and mentorship.

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Dominick R. Guerrero, MD, joins the Department as Attending Pathologist, Anatomic Pathology with subspecialty expertise in **Head & Neck and Cardiothoracic Pathology**. Dr. Guerrero comes to BIDMC from Northwell Health - Lenox Hill Hospital, where he served as Chief of Head and Neck Pathology, System Team Lead for Interstitial Lung Disease, Chest Pathologist for the Western Region of the Northwell Health Lung Institute, and Program Director of the Surgical Pathology Fellowship with a Head and Neck/Endocrine focus. He also was an Assistant Professor at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. He completed his pathology residency at Mount Sinai St. Luke's-Roosevelt, where he served as Chief Resident, followed by fellowships in Cytopathology at Montefiore Medical Center and Head and Neck/Endocrine Pathology at Moffitt Cancer Center. Dr. Guerrero brings a strong combination of head and neck/endocrine pathology, thoracic pathology, cytopathology, academic leadership, teaching, and research.

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Award, Honors, and New Roles



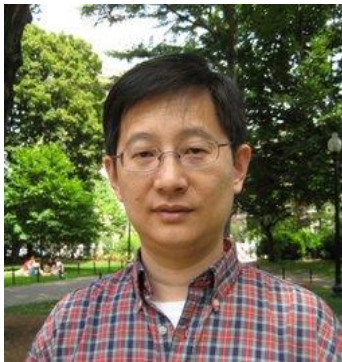
Elena Brachtel, MD, PhD, (left) has been named the department's **Director of Quality and Safety**, with **Yael Heher, MD**, (below, left) serving as **Senior Advisor**. Together, they will provide the leadership and expertise needed to strengthen and advance this essential departmental mission. Thank you to **Michiya Nishino, MD**, (below, right) who has provided leadership in this area, and to Dr. Heher who has helped navigate this transition.



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Congratulations to the following faculty members who recently received awards from the Cancer Research Institute, part of the BIDMC Cancer Center. They were honored at a ceremony on Sept. 16. All of the Cancer Center's best papers for 2025 involved labs from the Department of Pathology, a remarkable achievement.



Wenyi Wei, PhD, received **Best Translational Science Paper** for “*Dual membrane receptor degradation via folate receptor targeting chimera.*” It was published in [Nature Communications](#). Learn more about his research: [Harvard Catalyst](#)



Peter Tsvetkov, PhD, received **Best Basic Science Paper**, for “*Deep Mutational Scanning of FDX1 Identifies Key Structural Determinants of Lipoylation and Cuproptosis.*” It was published in [Nature Communications](#). Learn more about his research: [Tsvetkov Lab](#)

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Cancer Research Institute Awards, cont.



Cristiana Pineda, MD, PhD, and Paul VanderLaan, MD, PhD, received **Best Clinical Science Paper** for "*A Comprehensive Mutational and Histopathological Analysis of STK11-Mutant Non-Small Cell Lung Carcinomas.*" It was published in [*Modern Pathology*](#). Learn more about Dr. Pineda's research: [Harvard Catalyst](#); Learn more about Dr. VanderLaan's research: [Harvard Catalyst](#)



Frank Slack, PhD, and Taru Muranen, PhD, (Medicine) received **Best Collaborative Paper** for "*EGFR-induced lncRNA TRIDENT promotes drug resistance in non-small cell lung cancer via phospho-TRIM28-mediated DNA damage repair.*" It was published in [PNAS Journal](#). Learn more about Dr. Slack's research: [Slack Lab](#)

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Award, Honors, and New Roles

Congratulations to Jan Heng, PhD, and James Kirby, MD: Frontiers Award

We are very proud to announce that **Jan Heng, PhD**, and **James Kirby, MD**, have both received Frontiers Program awards from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC). The MLSC is investing more than \$1.1 million through the Frontiers Program to support six bold, early-stage translational research projects addressing diseases and conditions that have historically received insufficient investment relative to their burden on patients.

- **James Kirby, MD**, received the award for "Advancing Combination Therapies for Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Lung Infection."
- **Jan Heng, PhD**, received the award for "Feminizing Hormone Therapy and BRCA2-Related Cancer Risks."

In a statement of support, **Gyongyi Szabo, MD, PhD**, Chief Academic Officer, BILH and BIDMC said, "We are grateful for the support of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to advance important research efforts across Beth Israel Lahey Health. Together, we will continue to drive innovation, deliver cutting-edge science, and accelerate treatments for patients."

Learn more about the MLSC and all supported projects [here](#).

Beth Israel Lahey Health 

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