

Fifth Annual Translational Research Symposium

“In Memory of David C. Seldin, MD, PhD (1957 – 2015)”

March 28, 2016

Speaker Biographies



Keynote Speaker: Jeffery W. Kelly, PhD



Jeffery W. Kelly, Ph.D., is the Lita Annenberg Hazen Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry and the Chairman of the Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine at the Scripps Research Institute. Kelly also served as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies at Scripps for nearly a decade. His research is focused on uncovering protein folding principles and on understanding the etiology of protein misfolding and/or aggregation diseases and using this information to develop novel therapeutic strategies. He has 300+ publications (*h-index* > 80) and has received several awards, including The American Chemical Society Ralph F. Hirschmann Award in Peptide Chemistry (2012), The Biopolymers Murray Goodman Memorial Prize (2012), The Protein Society Emil Thomas Kaiser Award (2011), The American Peptide Society Rao Makineni Lectureship (Award; 2011), The American Peptide Society Vincent du Vigneaud Award (2008), The American Chemical Society Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award (2001), State University of New York at Fredonia Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award (2000), The Protein Society–Dupont Young Investigator Award (1999) and The Biophysical Society National Lecturer (Award;1999). Kelly cofounded FoldRx Pharmaceuticals based on his discovery of Tafamidis—approved by several regulatory agencies to treat familial amyloid polyneuropathy, and now sold by Pfizer. Kelly also cofounded Proteostasis Therapeutics, a public company, developing drugs for Cystic Fibrosis and other proteinopathies.



Keynote Speaker: Ann C. McKee, MD



Dr. McKee completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and received her medical degree from the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. She completed residency training in neurology at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital and fellowship training in neuropathology at Massachusetts General Hospital. She was Assistant Professor of Neuropathology at Harvard Medical School from 1991-94, when she became Associate Professor of Neurology and Pathology at Boston University School of Medicine. In 2011, she was promoted to Professor of Neurology and Pathology. Dr. McKee directs the Neuropathology Service for the New England Veterans Administration Medical Centers (VISN-1) and the Brain Banks for the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Center, Framingham Heart Study, and Centenarian Study, which are all based at the Bedford VAMC. Dr. McKee is also the Chief Neuropathologist for the National VA ALS Brain Bank.

Dr. McKee's research interests center on the neuropathological alterations of neurodegenerative diseases, with a primary focus on the role of tau protein, axonal injury, trauma, vascular injury, and neurodegeneration. Much of her current work centers on the long-term consequences of repetitive head injury from contact sports and military service. As a board-certified neurologist and neuropathologist, she is particularly interested in the clinical, behavioral and psychological manifestations of pathological disease and the neuroanatomical localization of clinical symptoms.



Keynote Speaker: Robert A. Stern, PhD



Dr. Robert Stern is Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Anatomy and Neurobiology at Boston University School of Medicine, where he is also Director of the Clinical Core of the BU Alzheimer's Disease and CTE Center (one of only 27 Alzheimer's disease centers funded by the National Institutes of Health or NIH). A major focus of his research involves the long-term effects of repetitive head impacts in athletes, including the neurodegenerative disease, chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). He is the lead investigator of a recently awarded \$16 million NIH grant for a multi-center study to develop methods of diagnosing CTE during life, as well as examining potential risk factors of the disease (including genetic and head impact exposure). Dr. Stern's other major areas of funded research include the assessment and treatment of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and the cognitive effects of chemotherapy in the elderly. Dr. Stern has also published on various aspects of cognitive assessment and is the senior author of many widely used neuropsychological tests, including the *Neuropsychological Assessment Battery* (NAB). He has received several NIH and other national grants, has over 250 publications, and is a Fellow of both the American Neuropsychiatric Association and the National Academy of Neuropsychology. He is on several journal editorial boards and is the Chair of the Advisory Council to the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board of the MA/NH Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. He is a member of the Mackey-White Traumatic Brain Injury Committee of the NFL Players Association, as well as the medical advisory boards of biotech/pharma companies. Dr. Stern is a clinician, educator, and mentor. He has testified before the US Senate Special Committee on Aging and he appears frequently in national and international print and broadcast media for his work on CTE and AD.



Karen H. Antman, MD



Dr. Karen Antman became Provost of the Boston University Medical Campus and Dean of the School of Medicine in 2005. She is an National Academy of Medicine (Institute of Medicine) member and currently chairs the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) Council of Deans and serves on the AAMC board of directors. She also serves on the International Editorial Board of Lancet, the Composite Committee of the US Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) and the executive committee of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG).

She previously served as Deputy Director for Translational and Clinical Sciences at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health (2004-5), Wu Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology and Director of the Columbia University Cancer Center and co-director of the New York Presbyterian Hospital cancer care service line (1993-2003), and served on the faculty of Harvard Medical School at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital (1979 to 1993).

Dr. Antman's team developed now standard regimens for the treatment of sarcomas and mesotheliomas as well as regimens for breast cancer and supportive care for patients receiving chemotherapy including pharmacology, growth factors and mobilization of peripheral blood derived stem cells for marrow transplant. She has authored more than 300 journal papers, (including editorials on medical policy and impediments to clinical research), edited five textbooks, and was elected 1993 Senior Faculty Teacher-of-the-Year by medical residents.

She served as President of the:

- American Society of Clinical Oncology,
- American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplant
- American Association for Cancer Research (2003-4)

She also served on the Journal of the American Medical Association Oversight Committee, as an associate editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and on the Council of the National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center.



David M. Center, MD



Dr. Center is the Gordon and Ruth Snider Professor of Pulmonary Medicine, Associate Provost for Translational Research and Director of the BU Clinical and Translational Science Institute. For 25+ years, he has been the Chief of the Pulmonary, Allergy, Sleep and Critical Care Division having added Allergy and Sleep accreditation to the program during his tenure. In that position he supervises 50 MD and PhD clinical and research faculty and 18 post-doctoral fellows with in 9 major research areas (Bio-Informatics, Lung Cancer, Developmental Biology, Genetic Epidemiology and Regenerative Medicine, Immunology, epithelial biology, pulmonary vascular diseases and connective tissue biochemistry). Along with William Cruikshank, PhD, he is co-discoverer of Interleukin-16 which is the topic of BU owned intellectual property licensed by multiple bioscience companies. He has been the PI of R01, P50, P01, UL, U54, U19 and T32 grants and the mentor for 8 K08s. The T32 is the largest at BU responsible for training over 150 pulmonary, allergy and critical care fellows including 2 Chairs of Medicine, one Vice Dean, 4 Chiefs of Pulmonary in both medicine and pediatrics.

He is the Director of the Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute since its inception in 2008 and the PI of its NCATS sponsored Clinical and Translational Science Award. During this tenure he has instituted a number of innovative changes to the BU research environment, including development of novel informatics tools for drug discovery and modular education.



David L. Coleman, MD



Dr. Dr. Coleman, a board certified internist and infectious disease specialist, is the John Wade Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at Boston Medical Center. He has had a long-standing interest in basic mechanisms of macrophage function and the role of cytokines in regulating host defenses. His recent work has focused on medical professionalism in medical education and clinical practice.

Prior to assuming his current position, Dr. Coleman was Chief of Medical Service at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System and Interim Chair of the Department of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine.

He serves on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Internal Medicine, Council of the Association of Professors of Medicine, Board of Trustees of the Boston Medical Center, Board of Directors of the Faculty Practice Plan of Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine, and is a member of the Executive Committee at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Coleman is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. He is also a member of the American Clinical and Climatological Association and the Association of Professors of Medicine.

A graduate of Stanford University, Dr. Coleman completed his medical degree at the University of California at San Francisco. He did his residency and fellowship in the Department of Internal Medicine at Yale University, where he also served as Chief Resident.



Lawreen H. Connors, PhD



Dr. Connors is Director of the Alan and Sandra Gerry Amyloid Research Laboratory in the Boston University Amyloidosis Center, a facility where basic science investigations of the systemic amyloidoses have been ongoing since the early 1980s. She oversees all activities in the laboratory which also serves as a repository for thousands of de-identified amyloid blood and tissue specimens obtained with permission from the BUSM IRB and patient consent. In addition, Dr. Connors is Co-director of the Amyloid Pathology and Molecular Testing Laboratory at Boston Medical Center, a CLIA-approved and CAP-accredited amyloid diagnostic testing facility since 2009. She is an Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and Biochemistry with more than 20 years of experience studying amyloid diseases, particularly those forms that feature cardiac involvement. Her research activities have been funded by the AHA, NIH, Carpenter and Wildflower Foundations, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals and Shire Human Genetic Therapies, and have resulted in more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. Dr. Connors has an established track record in teaching, mentoring graduate and post-doctoral students, and academic service. She is well-recognized for her scholarly achievements in the amyloid world and currently serves in the elected position of Secretary for the International Amyloidosis Society.

Michelle A. Kelliher, PhD



Dr. Kelliher received her Bachelors degree in Biology from Smith College, followed by a Masters degree from Yale University. She completed her PhD training at Tufts University's Sackler School of Biomedical Sciences where she developed mouse models of BCR/ABL mediated leukemia. She then joined Phil Leder's laboratory in the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School for her postdoctoral training where she collaborated and was mentored by Dr. Seldin. She then joined the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA, where she is currently a Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cell and Cancer Biology. She has continued her work begun with Dr. Seldin on TAL1-mediated leukemogenesis and developed research program in cell death and inflammation.



Ronglih Liao, PhD, FAHA



Dr. Liao is a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She also directs the Cardiovascular Physiology and FACS Cores at Brigham and Women's Hospital, both of which aim to bring innovative technologies to the research community. Her research program has centered upon the interrogation of cardiovascular physiology, from the cellular level to the organismal level, to understand the molecular underpinnings of human heart disease. Her research program has focused on two areas of investigation, to define the mechanisms governing the development of amyloid cardiomyopathy and to understand endogenous cardiac regenerative capacity in the adult heart. Her work has been supported through continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health since 1997 from K award to R01 level awards as PI and through collaborative efforts on other research grants and program project grant awards. Her efforts have universally involved collaboration with local, national and international colleagues. Through this process, her research program contributed to the scientific knowledge base and education of the next generation of scientists. Moreover, her research efforts have universally involved collaboration with local, national and international colleagues. Collectively, her research program has contributed to the scientific knowledge base and education of the next generation of scientists.

George J. Murphy, PhD



George J. Murphy is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Boston University School of Medicine, and founding Co-Director of the Boston Medical Center and Boston University Center for Regenerative Medicine (CRoM). Dr. Murphy heads a laboratory composed of dynamic and passionate young researchers who utilize advances in stem cell biology and regenerative medicine to combat blood-borne disease.



Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD



Dr. Vaishali Sanchorawala is the Professor of Medicine and Director of the Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation Program at Boston Medical Center. She has been affiliated with the Amyloidosis Center of Boston University School of Medicine since 1994. She has been one of the pioneers in the field of clinical research in AL amyloidosis. Her work in the treatment of AL amyloidosis has been published in many peer-reviewed journals, which has resulted in the evolution of the standard of care for these patients. She is currently heading several clinical trials in the treatment of AL amyloidosis, one of which was conducted nationally through the Southwest Oncology Group. She serves on the executive steering committee of the Amyloidosis Research Consortium, the board of the International Society of Amyloidosis, and as a member of the editorial board of *Amyloid, Journal of Protein Folding Disorders*. She has helped to create and cultivate the next generation of physician-scientists in the area of clinical research in AL amyloidosis.

Martha M. Skinner, MD



Dr. Martha M. Skinner is a Professor Emerita with the Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Skinner is Interim Director and Director of Special Projects of the Boston University Amyloidosis Center. She received her BA Degree from Roberts Wesleyan College, and her MD from the Medical College of Pennsylvania. She was Director of the Amyloid Treatment & Research Program from 1988-2007. Her research interests include the treatment and research of Amyloid diseases. She also has an affiliation with the BU School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology.



Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, PhD



Vickery Trinkaus-Randall received her BS from Kenyon College, and her PhD from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Trinkaus-Randall then received a NIH postdoctoral award for her fellowship at the Schepens Eye Research Institute, the Department of Ophthalmology Harvard University. This was followed by a Whitaker Fellowship while at Boston University to work with Dr. Forbes Dewey from MIT. She has lectured internationally, and has published extensively on the molecular mechanisms of corneal wound healing. Dr. Trinkaus-Randall's has made major research contributions as a member of a national collaborative research team to develop synthetic corneas. Her research has been supported through R01 and SIBR funding by NIH for almost 30 years. It was by the invitation of Drs. Seldin and Skinner that Dr. Trinkaus-Randall began working with the team of amyloid investigators. She has contributed to amyloid research through her understanding of the interactions between matrix proteins and amyloid.

