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## The Babak Mehrara Lab

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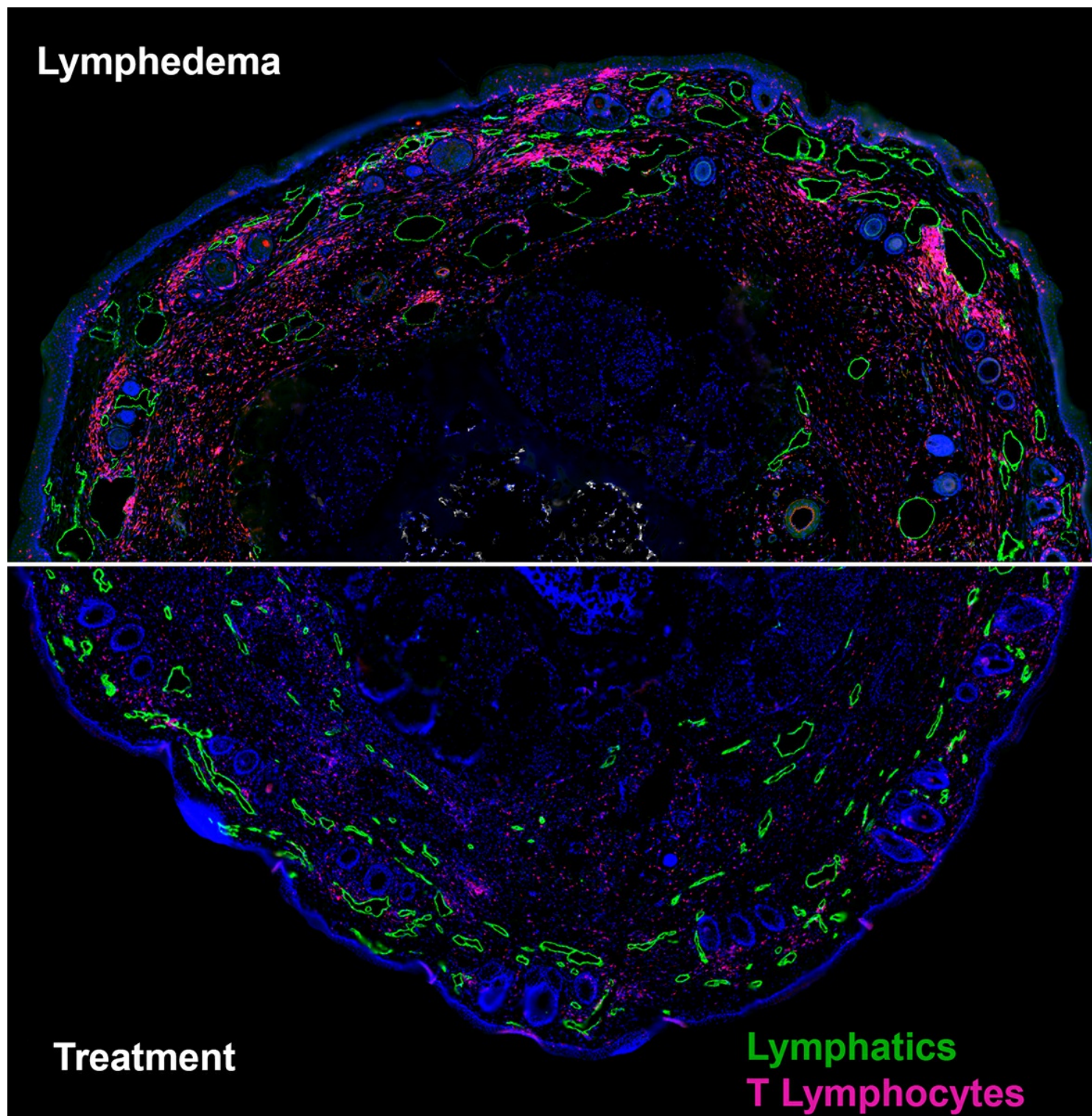
Babak J. Mehrara, MD

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Our research group focuses on the lymphatic system in three different pathological settings: lymphedema, obesity, and cancer. Chronic lymphedema is a morbid disease condition without any cure. Our first goal is to uncover the pathology behind development and progression of cancer-related secondary lymphedema using mouse models and human biopsy samples. Briefly, we are interested in interaction of inflammatory cells (CD4+ T cells) with lymphatic vessels during lymphedema. Our ultimate aim is to come out with a therapeutic intervention to cure and prevent lymphedema by modulating CD4+ T cell inflammation and its negative effect on lymphatic vessels. Our second area of research is obesity, a state of systemic low-grade inflammation that also causes severe lymphatic damage and dysfunction. Our research is aimed at modulating lymphatic structure and function in obesity to reduce the systemic inflammation and obesity-related metabolic syndrome. Last but not the least, we are also interested in understanding the role of tumor lymphatic vessels and lymphatic function in modulating immune tolerance or antitumor immunity.

## Research Projects

[Projects Overview](#)



## Featured News



## [Could a Topical Cream Prevent Lymphedema? Study in Mice Suggests Yes](#)

By blocking a source of inflammation in the skin, it may be possible to prevent or treat lymphedema, a common and debilitating cancer complication.

## Publications Highlights

[Avraham T, Zampell JC, Yan A, Elhadad S, Weitman ES, Rockson SG, Bromberg J, Mehrara BJ. Th2 differentiation is necessary for soft tissue fibrosis and lymphatic dysfunction resulting from lymphedema. FASEB journal : official publication of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. 2013;27\(3\):1114-26. Epub 2012/11/30. doi: 10.1096/fj.12-222695. PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3574290.](#)

[Savetsky IL, Albano NJ, Cuzzzone DA, Gardenier JC, Torrisi JS, Garcia Nores GD, Nitti MD, Hespe GE, Nelson TS, Kataru RP, Dixon JB, Mehrara BJ. Lymphatic Function Regulates Contact Hypersensitivity Dermatitis in Obesity. The Journal of investigative dermatology. 2015;135\(11\):2742-52. Epub 2015/07/16. doi: 10.1038/jid.2015.283. PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4641050.](#)

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## People



## Babak J. Mehrara, MD

Physician-scientist Babak Mehrara studies the regulation of lymphatic regeneration after surgery and development of lymphedema.

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Physician profile

## Members

Lab Affiliations

+

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