



## Neuro News

The latest news from the Department of Neurology

September 2022

Fall has arrived in New England and, with the change in season, the leaves are taking on a variety of bright and vibrant colors. At the medical school level, the white coat ceremony welcomed the 175 students from the class of 2026. In neurology, there have also been many notable events including: three projects which were finalists for the PACE award, described below; Dr. Bosco being honored with Radala Foundation grant to support her cutting edge research in ALS; and Kelsey Donahue who was honored with the Josie King Hero award for her outstanding contributions as the stroke nurse navigator. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy fall season.

Thanks,

Brian

**Dr. Brian Silver, MD**

*Interim Chair, Department of Neurology*

## IN THE NEWS

**T.H. Chan School of Medicine Class of 2026 students don white coats at first-year ceremony**



The White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2026 took place at the Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts in Worcester on Friday, Sept. 16. The 175 students who received their coats represent UMass Chan's largest entering medical school class.

[Read More](#)

## Anne Larkin selected for Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women



Anne Larkin, MD

Anne Larkin, MD, associate professor of surgery and vice provost and senior associate dean for

educational affairs at UMass Chan Medical School, is one of 72 women selected for the 2022 Hedwig van Ameringen **Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM)** program at Drexel University College of Medicine. The 2022-'23 class is the largest in program history.

The ELAM fellowship aims to expand the number of qualified women candidates for leadership positions at the academic level in medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy.

“I think for all of us who are women in academic medicine, we know ELAM is something that most of us really aspire to, to have the privilege to do in our careers. I’ve had this on my list of things that I wanted to accomplish for several years now,” Dr. Larkin said. “The people that I’m interacting with may have a job similar to mine. They may have a job that’s wildly different from mine. And yet all of us can come together, learn from one another and come out on the other end with the ability to be a better leader within the culture of our institution.”

[Read More](#)

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## UMass well represented in the PACE Projects



### **Dr. Schaal: Growing Gratitude and Picking Up the PACE**

Last week, 3,000 caregivers from UMass Memorial Medical Group and UMass Memorial Medical Center and their loved ones gathered at Polar Park to celebrate! After two-and-a-half trying years, we joined together to show our gratitude to one another and your families for the tremendous work that all of you do each and every day! This event was certainly one for the books.

Families enjoyed live music performed by an absolutely phenomenal band, Hot Mess, tons of activities such as batting practice, bounce houses, face painting, and caricatures, a petting zoo and pony rides, a very special catch on the field, great food, and most important of all, the best company possible! I am still hearing wonderful feedback from so many of you and I’m still feeling the joy that was present at Polar Park myself. Take a peek at our fun photos from the day. We look forward to expanding the event next year and seeing you there!

During our Family Fun Day festivities, Dr. Max Rosen and I had the pleasure of publicly announcing our 2022 Prize for Academic Excellence (PACE) Award winners. This program definitely “picked up the PACE” this year, with 15 outstanding submissions. Year after year, the competition for this award become greater as our entrants submit more innovative and transformational ideas!

Dr. Rosen and I were so grateful for the opportunity to present our two winning teams with checks in the amount of \$170,000 each. This generous grant is made possible through a collaboration of \$300,000 in funding from UMass Memorial Health and UMass Chan Medical School. Additionally, with the help and guidance of Katherine Lazuriaga, PI and Director UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science, Vice Provost, Clinical and Translational Research, UMass Memorial Health Care Endowed Chair in Biomedical Research, and Professor, Program in Molecular Medicine, Pediatrics and Medicine, this year our teams earned another \$20,000 each, thanks to a surprise, bonus offering from the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Small Pilot and Research Knowledge (SPARK) Program. This sizeable prize is an excellent base for our teams to get their important work underway.



The 1<sup>st</sup> neuro oncology clinical trial for patients with recurrent glioblastoma has been activated. This is now open to enrollment. Please share with any patients with this diagnosis.

In summary this is for glioblastoma patients (IDHwt) who have evidence of progression of disease (1<sup>st</sup> recurrence) and who are at least 3 months out from completion of chemoRT. Below is schema.

First recurrence of glioblastoma after frontline therapy  
Surgical resection NOT clinically indicated

↓

Tocilizumab\*

-or-

Atezolizumab + Tocilizumab

↓

Fractionated Stereotactic Radiotherapy (FSRT)

(3-7 days after dosing)

↓

(starting 4 weeks from first dose)\*

Tocilizumab every 4 weeks x 2 years

-or-

Atezolizumab + Tocilizumab every 4 weeks x 2 years

Click here for more information about the clinical trial

## IN RECOGNITION

### Dr. Daryl A. Bosco earns Radala award

Dr. Daryl A. Bosco, Professor of Neurology, UMass Chan Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. Investigating mechanisms underlying microglial dysfunction in ALS

Dr. Bosco's scientific career began with a Ph.D. in bio-organic chemistry from Brandeis University in Massachusetts (USA) and a post-doctoral fellowship at the Scripps Research Institute in California (USA), where she studied protein structure and misfolding in the context of neurodegeneration. Dr. Bosco was then an

Instructor at Harvard Medical School in Massachusetts (USA), where she worked in the lab of Professor Robert H. Brown, Jr., MD, DPhil on sporadic amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). In 2008, Dr. Bosco established her independent research laboratory at UMass Chan Medical School. The Bosco laboratory is investigating the mechanisms underlying ALS and related disorders such as frontotemporal dementia. In particular, members of the Bosco laboratory are investigating how stress, traumatic brain injury and neuroinflammation contribute to these neurological disorders. Dr. Bosco has been awarded a [Radala Foundation grant](#) to investigate mechanisms underlying microglial dysfunction in ALS. The Bosco team is using human induced pluripotent stem cells to generate human microglia cells harboring disease-linked mutations in ALS genes, such as PFN1. Parallel studies will also be carried out in knock-in mouse models of ALS. The goal is to understand how ALS genes alter the properties of microglia, including phagocytic function and reactivity, under homeostatic and stress conditions.



Congratulations Dr. Bosco!



### Kelsey Donahue receives Josie King Hero Award

Kelsey Donahue has been selected to receive this quarter's Josie King Hero Award. This award was created by the Josie King Foundation to be given to those whose efforts make a significant impact on creating a culture of safety. This quarterly award is for those who set an example for others every day and who inspire positive change at our Medical Center.

The details of your nomination are as follows:

*Kelsey is a crucial member to the comprehensive stroke program at UMass working as our stroke nurse navigator. Every day, Kelsey goes over and beyond to make sure that our patients are safe by calling and following up with them after discharge, answering questions or concerns, reviewing medication lists, ensuring they are receiving appropriate outpatient rehab services and scheduling these patients for follow-up appointments.*

Kelsey was honored at the Leadership Town Hall on September 14th.

## PUBLICATIONS



### Neurology Articles published:

- **Dr. Susanne Muehlschlegel**, [\*Predicting mortality in moderate-severe TBI patients without early withdrawal of life-sustaining treatments including ICU complications: The MYSTIC-score\*](#) (Medical Student Michelle HanYang Chan together with Neurology Resident Abigale Bose also published this).
- **Dr. Mehdi Ghasemi**, [\*Impact of COVID-19 on Neuropsychiatric Disorders\*](#)
- **Dr. Carolina Ionete, in collaboration with the MS Team**, [\*Multi-Omics Analysis of Magnetically Levitated Plasma Biomolecules\*](#)
- **Dr. Nils Henninger**, [\*Cumulative effect of simvastatin, L-arginine, and tetrahydrobiopterin on cerebral blood flow and cognitive function in Alzheimer's disease.\*](#)
- **Dr. Nils Henninger in collaboration with his group**, [\*Using a canine stroke model, our collaborative group showed efficacy of a novel oxygen carrier to slow ischemic stroke progression.\*](#)
- **Dr. Yuyao Sun, former resident**, [\*Association of Atrial Fibrillation Detected after Stroke with Cardiac Dysfunction and Features of Neurogenic Cardiac Injury\*](#)
- **Dr. Aydan Kahriman (former Post Doc), Dr. Nils Henninger, Dr. Daryl A. Bosco**, [\*Differential association of baseline body weight and body-weight loss with neurological deficits, histology, and death after repetitive closed head traumatic brain injury\*](#)

## WELCOME TO THE NEUROLOGY DEPARTMENT

We'd like to welcome new members to the Neurology Department.



They include: Sanjay Kumar who joins the Bosco Lab as a postdoctoral research associate, Tatiana Thompson as a clinical research coordinator I and Andrei Dudau as an undergraduate intern

Welcome to the team!

## UMASS CHAN UPDATES



# Save the Date

## *Upcoming Neurology Events*

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual UMass Chan Department of Neurology Clinical & Research Update Program**

Friday, November 18, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual UMass Multiple Sclerosis Center Clinical & Research Update Symposium**

Friday, December 9, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

*Details to follow*

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**Inaugural Parkinson's Disease and therapeutic horticulture program successful**



The program uses the principles of therapeutic horticulture to help people with Parkinson's disease continue with their gardening and landscaping work/hobby while improving their cognitive, psychological, and physical health. The participants were excited about the opportunity, asking for a continuation of the program.

Each of the participants left with a Fall-inspired pot that they assembled.



**Music Therapy for Hospitalized Patients with Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia: A randomized controlled pilot trial to prevent delirium**

Hospital-acquired delirium is a common complication in older patients, and specific patients such as those with Parkinson's disease (PD) and Lewy Body Dementia (DLB) have an even higher risk of developing delirium during hospitalization. Delirium is associated with increased length of stay, greater chance of long-term nursing facility placement, increased health care costs and risk of dying. Current methods used in hospitals to prevent delirium are often ineffective, such as ensuring patients sleep at night and remain awake during the day.

**[Could Music Therapy be the answer? Read more to find out!](#)**

**Faculty Search: Longitudinal Preceptor in Medicine**

The Third Year Clerkship in Medicine is seeking faculty for a **Longitudinal Preceptor in Medicine**. Descriptions of the





position can be found below. If you have interest in a position or wish to nominate a colleague for consideration for the position, please submit a CV and a brief statement of interest to **Ms. Sara Jacques**. Please direct any specific questions about the role to **Dr. Nancy Skehan**.

The **Longitudinal Preceptor in Medicine (LPM)** is a faculty member who serves as mentor to a small cohort of students during their clerkship rotation. They are asked to do the following:

- Conduct at least ten 2-hour meetings per 15-week Care of Adult block with assigned LPM group, reviewing on-line modules, EKG interpretation, and case presentations
- Conduct a mid-clerkship review of each student's performance
- Review student written histories and physicals and give timely feedback to students
- Conduct Physical Diagnosis rounds with students at least 3 of their 4 weeks on the inpatient service
- Precept OSCE
- Prepare grades for each student in assigned LPM group and attend Grading Committee meetings
- Provide academic support and mentoring to struggling students within the group

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## **Grand Rounds Department of Medicine**

**Monday, October 3, 2022  
Time: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.**

Department of Medicine Town Hall

**Terry Flotte, MD**  
Dean, T.H. Chan School of Medicine

### [Agenda](#)

Please register for this event [here](#).

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## **Department of Medicine Research Faculty Meeting**

**Friday, October 7, 2022  
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Zoom link and agenda will be posted closer to the date of the meeting.

[DOM Calendar](#)

[Grand Rounds  
Archives](#)

# **UMASS MEMORIAL HEALTH UPDATES**

## **Please Submit Your COVID-19 Booster Status**

To better understand the need for more booster clinics and to comply with a federal regulation that requires us to document and report on the booster status of all health care workers, we are asking all

caregivers who received a booster shot outside of UMass Memorial Health to submit appropriate documentation. Please submit a picture of your vaccination card to the following inbox, depending on the entity where you work:

Entity	Email
Medical Center, Medical Group, Division 40	<a href="mailto:employee_health_covid-19_mailbox@umassmemorial.org">employee_health_covid-19_mailbox@umassmemorial.org</a>
Community Healthlink	<a href="mailto:chlemployeehealth@communityhealthlink.org">chlemployeehealth@communityhealthlink.org</a>
HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital	<a href="mailto:HA-C_EmployeeHealthServices@umassmemorial.org">HA-C_EmployeeHealthServices@umassmemorial.org</a>
Marlborough Hospital	<a href="mailto:medworks@umassmemorial.org">medworks@umassmemorial.org</a>

In the next few days, this message will be translated into Albanian, Portuguese, Spanish and Twi. You will be able to find those translations on [the Hub](#) soon.

## NOW HIRING

The Brown Lab is hiring multiple positions. They include:

- [Research Associate \(2022-41592\)](#)
- [Research Associate \(2022-41594\)](#)
- [Research Associate \(2022-41532\)](#)

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The Neurology Department is hiring. We're offering a \$2,000 sign on bonus for all positions. Click the links below to apply and share.

- [Research Scientist, Sr.](#)
- [Research Associate](#)
- [Research Associate I](#)

We are seeking a highly motivated and goal-oriented individual to join our gene therapy lab in learning and working with cutting edge vector research and development to treat neurodegenerative diseases affecting children and adults. The candidate, under the direction of Dr. Miguel Sena-Esteves, and working as part of the Li Weibo Institute for Rare Diseases Research and the Horae Gene Therapy Center, will be working to develop gene editing methods to inactivate or correct the disease-causing version of the genes at the DNA level. Our lab is currently researching Neurofibromatosis type I, GNAO1, TNNT1 nemaline myopathy, as well as Dravet Syndrome and Diffuse intrinsic pontine gliomas, among others. The Research Associate will work closely and interact with other lab members to design and execute in-vitro and in-vivo experiments testing the toxicity and biodistribution of new vectors. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in molecular biology, including PCR, Western Blots, and tissue culture, as well as have strong record keeping and organizational skills.

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The Neurology Department is also hiring the following positions. To learn more and to apply, click the link below.

- Neurologist specializing in Headache
- Neurologist specializing in Epilepsy
- Neurologist specializing in Movement Disorders

## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWS



### Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success, runs Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. It began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. It was expanded to 30 days in 1988. The theme for 2022 is "**Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation.**" The Diversity and Inclusion Office celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month and will continue to work for the full inclusivity for all members of our UMass Chan community of Hispanic descent. We encourage you to join both **national** and local celebrations this month.

Here are two ways to experience Hispanic Heritage Month all month on campus:

- 1.) [Visit the Lamar Soutter Library 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month book display.](#)
- 2.) Enjoy Hispanic food for breakfast and/or lunch on Wednesdays in the Albert Sherman Café.

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### Putterman Lecture examines building alliances and sharing power for health equity

The annual Steven L. Putterman Memorial Lecture was presented by Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH, chief health equity officer and senior vice president for the American Medical Association (AMA), on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Dr. Maybank spoke about the importance of building alliances and sharing power for health equity and racial justice.



Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH

## Hispanic Heritage Profile



**Maria Isaacs, MBA, MS**, strategic marketing manager for Commonwealth Medicine, is a native of Colombia. She collaborates with business units in the organization to conceptualize and implement innovative marketing initiatives that drive impact and expand Commonwealth Medicine's work. Isaacs is a member of the Commonwealth Medicine Cultural Diversity Committee as well as the Women of the Association of Latino Professionals for America, through which she has participated in several initiatives to expand Latino leadership in the global workforce. For the past two years, Isaacs has been a speaker and mentor for Inspiring Girls Colombia, a nonprofit whose objective is to increase girls' self-esteem and professional ambition.

## Upcoming Diversity events at UMass Chan

### Diversity Interest Group kickoff meeting

The Diversity Interest Group (DIG) is a group of students and post-doctoral scholars committed to developing a community at UMass Chan, advocating for diversity and inclusion on campus. DIG meets every second Tuesday of the month. The first meeting of the year will be hybrid.

Oct. 11, 5:30 p.m.

Hybrid: ASC6.2072 and [Zoom](#)

Password: 735581

### Signature Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration Event: Mujeres Luchadoras: Labor and its impact on immigrant Latina health

Ashley Gomez, PhD, MPH, assistant professor of entrepreneurship at the University of Pittsburgh, is the speaker for the Diversity and Inclusion Office's virtual event. Dr. Gomez's talk will examine the relationship between work, migration, gender and health among the Latine population in the United States.

Oct. 13, noon

### Centering the Margins Series: Reproductive rights and justice for queer and gender non-conforming people of color

This panel discussion about intersectional identities of Black, Indigenous, People of Color and queer individuals and health care systems will address how individuals encounter the health care system differently than others, what that looks like and means for the individual and the health system and how we keep this in mind when looking to dismantle oppression in the system.

Panelists:

Tara Kumaraswami, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Residency Program Director

Gina Sullivan, MD

Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Assistant Residency Program Director

Cailin Duram, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC

Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts

Oct. 26, 4 p.m.

[Zoom](#)

[Zoom](#)

## Commonwealth Medicine Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration culminating event

The UMass Chan community is invited to join the Commonwealth Medicine Cultural Diversity Committee in its culminating Hispanic Heritage Month event and expand, explore, engage and exchange experiences reflective of Hispanic and Latinx cultures. At this event, you'll get to hear personal stories, share experiences and unique perspectives.

Oct. 13, 1 p.m.

[Register](#)

## Foundation workshops at UMass Chan

UMass Chan Medical School is committed to creating an inclusive and equitable learning and work environment. The Diversity and Inclusion Office's training program conducts high-impact diversity, equity and inclusion workshops that utilize innovative instructional design to support DEI professional development and capacity-building efforts across UMass Chan Medical School. The foundations workshops are intended for staff, faculty and learners of all levels to provide a foundation in DEI to support building more advanced skills.

### **Inclusive Communication: The Language of Belonging**

In this interactive virtual workshop, we will review common terminology and concepts used in diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and examine how we can promote inclusion and belonging through intentional language and communication.

Oct. 4, noon

[Register](#)

### **Addressing Unconscious Bias at UMass Chan**

In this interactive virtual workshop, we will explore how unconscious bias impacts our relationships, decision making and experiences. By the end of the workshop, you will identify strategies to mitigate biases in your interactions, increase self-awareness and foster inclusive practices at UMass Chan Medical School.

Oct. 11, noon

[Register](#)

[Register for any of our 2022 workshops](#)

## CAMPUS LEARNING

### **Professional Staff Development Website & Calendar**

Professional Staff  
Development website  
Calendar

Professional Staff  
Development website  
Registration

Professional Staff  
Development website  
homepage

Email the UMass Chan  
Helpdesk for LMS SSO  
Support

# LET'S GET SOCIAL

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## UMass Medical School - Department of Neurology

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