



Weekly Newsletter May 13-17, 2024

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 6:30PM-7:30PM

Science Café hosted by UMass Chan Postdoctoral Association Presents: “Visualizing Viral Infection by Cryo-Electron Microscopy”

Presented by: Ximena Zottig (HHMI Postdoc) & Judy Huang (PhD Student)

Please click [here](#) to RSVP. Zoom [link](#)



Wednesday, May 15 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Research Meeting –Title: Hybrid Designs, what they look like, and how we use them in RCTs

Presenter: Bruce Barton, PhD, Professor, Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School

Bio: Dr. Barton was named Research Professor in UMass Medical School’s Department of Quantitative Health Sciences (Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research) in 2010 and, subsequently, the

Director of the Quantitative Methods Core. He has also served as the Team Leader of the Research Methods Team (Biostatistics) in the Center for Health Policy Research at UMMS and as an Adjunct Professor at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Barton is a biostatistician with over 40 years of experience in medical research studies, especially randomized clinical trials, starting with the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast Project breast cancer clinical trials at the University of Pittsburgh in 1975. He has been the PI/Director of 31 Data Coordinating Centers during that time-frame, funded both by NIH and by industry. His experience in clinical trials includes multi-center/multi-national trials with patient-level and higher-level (cluster) randomizations.

Brief Description: I will be discussing hybrid study designs in RCT and show several bad and good examples. The current discussion will be informal and touch on the study design aspects.

Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 937 1668 5400 password: 492717



Thursday, May 16, 2024, 2:00PM-3:00PM

Tea Time will be hosted by the BIO. Please stop by, say hello and have a cup of tea.

Weather permitting, following BIO teatime (2-3 pm on the 9th floor), Arlene is inviting members of the department to join her for on her deck overlooking Lake Quinsigamond, between 4:30pm and 6:30pm for socializing. Kayaks will be available. 369 Bridle Path – about 2 miles south of campus, just off Lake Ave.



Friday, May 17, 2024, 9:30-11:00am – AS9.2072 & Zoom

Presentation: “Adverse Health Outcomes in Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM): The Role of Poorly Resourced Neighborhoods, Health-setting Discrimination and Depression”

Presented by: Emmanuella Asantewaa Asiedu, MPH

Click [here](#) to join.

PQHS SHOUT OUT



Congratulations to [Elise Stevens PhD](#) on being selected this year to receive the Early Career Achievement in Science and Health Award. The Awards Luncheon is on Thursday, May 23, 2024 from 11:00AM – 1:00PM in the ASC Cube or via Zoom (in person attendance preferred).

Please click [here](#) to register for the event.



Congratulations to Princilla Minkah who has been promoted to Clinical Research Coordinator III in Preventive and Behavioral Medicine

Congratulations to MD/PhD student Claire Branely who received the GSBS Student Community Service Leadership Award. Claire is in the Population Health Science program and being mentored by Stephenie Lemon. The awards ceremony will be on May 30th.

PQHS HAPPENINGS



Sign up to have lunch with the Chair & Vice Chair! There are still slots available to pick from. Lunch with the Chair and Vice Chair sign ups are first come first serve for 3 Faculty Members and 3 Staff Members each month to have to have a nice catered meal and to talk about anything, but *NO WORK TALK*. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up for the date that works for you. Thank you!
Click [here](#) to sign up!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 9:30-11:00am – AS9.2072 & Zoom

Presentation: “COVID-19 Related Telehealth Use Among Older Adults in the Post-Pandemic Era.”

Presented by: Gretchen Weaver

Click [here](#) to join.



Friday, June 7, 2024, 3:00-4:30pm – AS9.2072 & Zoom

Presentation: “Use and Effectiveness of Antidepressants on Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia among U.S. Nursing Home Residents with ADRD”

Presented by: Shiwei (Echo) Liang

Click [here](#) to join.

DIVERSITY DIGEST



May: Mental Health Month

May is a time to raise awareness of and reduce the stigma surrounding behavioral health issues, as well as highlighting the ways that mental illness and addiction can affect all of us, its prevalence in today's society, and its impacts on people of all ages and backgrounds.

Here are some Mental Health Awareness activities from withconfetti.com to use in the month of May:

1. Try some mindful meditation
2. Take a virtual yoga class
3. Go green with a terrarium workshop
4. Cook together in a healthy cooking class
5. Relieve stress with an aromatherapy workshop
6. Learn new stress management techniques
7. Have an open dialogue about mental health
8. Share gratitude



May: Military Appreciation Month (Military.com)

This is a special time for those in and out of the military. It is a time designated to honor and recognize the contributions, sacrifices, and service of the members of the armed forces, past and present. Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the chance to publicly show their appreciation for troops past and present. It serves as a reminder of the profound contributions made by service members.



What is Jewish American Heritage Month?

Jewish American Heritage Month is a national month of recognition of nearly four centuries of American Jewish experience. Recognized each year in May by Presidential proclamation, JAHM provides an opportunity for people to learn about and appreciate Jewish heritage and reflect on the specific history and experiences of the American Jewish community. JAHM serves as an invitation to remember, celebrate, and honor the enduring contributions of the Jewish community to American culture, history, and progress.

Where can I learn more about Jewish American Heritage Month?

JewishAmericanHeritage.org is the centralized portal for JAHM, providing access to American Jewish culture, stories, and experience—and home to resources from some of the 200 partner organizations around the country. The Library of Congress also hosts jewishheritagemonth.gov to pay tribute to the generations of Jewish Americans who helped form the fabric of American history, culture, and society.

Did You Know?

Jewish immigrant Irving Berlin wrote the iconic anthem “God Bless America” in 1918 while serving in the U.S. Army during World War I.



Older American’s Month May 2024

Established in 1963, this observance is meant to honor and recognize Americans who are 65 years of age and older. Meant to encourage flexible thinking about aging as not necessarily only associated with retirement (which has changed to 67 years anyway) but with continued valuable engagement with our country. “What is older?” has become a common question in this election year, the answer is intrinsic to *how we age*, and is quite varied and unique to each individual.

Neuroplasticity is the brains’ ability to change and adapt due to experiences and is key in maintaining quality of life as we age. With a lifetime of diverse experiences, the wisdom gained by including the contributions of

older Americans to our society is priceless. The 2024 theme promoted by the Administration for Community Living is **Powered by Connection**, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being.

UMASS CHAN REMINDER



UMass Chan Medical School encourages employees to “Take a Break” – Use Your Excess Vacation Leave **by June 29th**. As we get closer to fiscal year end, we want to remind you of the [UMass Chan Vacation Policy](#) and maximum accruals so you can plan accordingly.

As of the last full pay period of the fiscal year, the maximum number of vacation hours employees may carry over into the next fiscal year is 240. During the fiscal year, employees are allowed to accrue hours over 240; hours over this accrual limit are automatically re-set in the payroll system to the accrual maximum. **This year, the relevant pay period ends June 29, 2024. Accordingly, we encourage**

you to use any vacation balances over 240 that exceed the 240-hour maximum before that date.

Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2024:

- Memorial Day – Monday, May 27th
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19th
- Independence Day – Thursday, July 4th
- Labor Day – Monday, September 2nd
- Indigenous Peoples’ Day – Monday, October 14th
- Veterans Day – Monday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28th
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 29th
- Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th
- Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25th





UMass Chan Medical School's [Office of Communications](#) is initiating regularly scheduled opportunities where faculty, staff, and students can have a professional headshot taken. Photos are taken every other Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM on the fifth floor of the Sherman Center by the elevators. Each session caps at 50 people. Anyone at UMass Chan can sign up using this document found on the SharePoint site. See updated link for new options: [Photo Sign-Ups \(office365.com\)](#)

PQHS Weekly will be sent to all members of PQHS on Monday mornings. The intent is to provide a snapshot of what is going on that week in PQHS and to share our faculty and staff activities with the department. We depend on you to provide the items we need to share. Please send suggestions of events, faculty invited seminars & talks, honors, student thesis presentations, and news – new babies born! – to Kellie (kellie.armstrong@umassmed.edu) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.