



**Weekly Newsletter June 3 - 7, 2024**

**PQHS NEWS**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**Wednesday, June 5 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM**

**Research Meeting –Title:** Reducing algorithmic bias in AI

**Presenter:** Kumba Sennaar, MS, MA, Brandeis University

**Bio:** Kumba Sennaar is a PhD candidate in Social Policy at Brandeis University and founder of William Kelly Consulting. Her research focuses on reducing health inequities by centering the end-user voice and perspective as a conduit to disrupting algorithmic bias. Sennaar earned an M.A. in Social Policy from Brandeis, M.S. in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University and a B.S. with honors from

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Science, Technology & Society (STS). Her articles on applications of AI have been cited by consulting firms and by journals including the Boston University Law Review, Fordham Urban Law Journal and the Harvard Data Science Review.. **Brief Description:** I will present my recent TEDx talk which discusses practical ways non-technologists can participate in AI research and engage in Q&A on the discussion topic

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



**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – 2:00-3:00PM**

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



**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.

**WELCOME TO PQHS**



**Welcome Dr. Huong Phan as the newest PQHS adjunct faculty member!** Associate Professor Huong Thi Thu Phan, MD, PhD, currently serves as the Director General of the Vietnam Administration of HIV/AIDS Control. Joining UMass Chan Medical School as an Adjunct Associate Professor, Dr. Huong brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in public health, epidemiology, and primary healthcare, reinforced by her parallel role at Hanoi Medical University. Her research & training career focuses on enhancing prevention & treatment of HIV, hepatitis, STIs and other non-communicable diseases among key populations. Harm reduction and treatment for drug users has also been a focus of her work. Dr. Huong is experienced and highly committed to translating healthcare innovations into practice & national policies. She looks forward to advancing global

public health through impactful research and teaching with the PQHS!

## 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!

## UMASS CHAN REMINDER



**UMass Chan Medical School** encourages employees to “Take a Break” – Use Your Excess Vacation Leave **by June 29<sup>th</sup>**. 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:

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



**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](mailto:kellie.armstrong@umassmed.edu)) & Sarah ([sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu)) by Friday each week.*