

**Weekly Newsletter December 18-21, 2023**

**PQHS NEWS**

**UPCOMING EVENT**



**Wednesday, December 20 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM**

**Research Meeting** – **Presenter:** Maira Castaneda-Avila, PhD, Assistant Professor, PQHS, UMass Chan

**Title:** Characterization and Outcomes of Multiple Myeloma in Puerto Rico

**Brief Description:** As we navigate the complexities of multiple myeloma, this presentation offers a comprehensive analysis of trends, survival rates, and the impact of Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS) in Puerto Rico. The study not only examines demographic factors but also provides a nuanced understanding of genetic markers and treatment patterns. This research utilized data from the Puerto Rico Central Cancer Registry and the US Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program databases.

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

**PQHS SOUTOUT**



Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Notice of Funding has refunded our PRC!!! This is a huge accomplishment for our team. I'm so thankful for everyone's contributions and that we'll be able to extend the wonderful work we've been doing in the Worcester area for the past 15 years as a PRC for at least another 5! We have survived the downsizing from 37 to 26 PRCs 2 cycles ago and from 26 down to 20 this cycle because of the amazing work we do and our team's standing in the community.

**PQHS HEADSHOTS FOR WEBSITE**



PQHS would like to encourage all staff and faculty to get their headshots taken in their best outfit during this season as this will be used to update our website. 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 \(office365.com\)](#)

**WELCOME TO PQHS**



**Welcome to PQHS!!** Excited to share that Sara Mazzola has accepted the Academic Administrator II position. She has over 16 years' experience, most recently as a Grants Manager at the Harvard Medical School. She will be joining us on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please help me welcome Sara to the PQHS Finance Team!

**PQHS HAPPENINGS**



**Check Out** the News article on this R01 study seeks to improve daily medication adherence for children with asthma which involves [Lori Pbert PhD](#), [Milagros Rosal PhD](#), [Stephenie Lemon PhD](#), Chris Frisard and [Grace Ryan PhD, MPH](#).  
Click [here](#) to view.



**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



**Monday, January 29, 2024, 2:00-4:00PM**

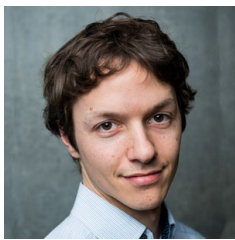
**“Striving for Impact: Designing the Community – Academic Research Dissemination Process to Foster Equity”**

Presented by: Kathleen Szegda, PhD, MPH, MS, Director of Community Research and

Evaluation at the Public Health Institute of Western MA (PHIWM) & Sarah Goff MD, PhD, Associate Professor and Program Head of Health Policy and Management at UMass Amherst



Click [here](#) to Register.



**Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 12:00-1:00PM**

**“Making Reproducibility Research More Systematic”**

Presented by: Abel Brodeur, PhD, Assistant Professor at University of Ottawa & Institute for Replication

Click [here](#) to join. Password: 602937

## DIVERSITY DIGEST



December is a month of religious and cultural celebrations commemorating victory, enlightenment, hope, and heritage.

7 – 15	Hanukkah
8	Bodhi Day
25	Christmas Day
26 – Jan 1	Kwanzaa

May everyone experience joy and peace as we end one year and hope as we embark on a new one.

## UMASS CHAN REMINDER



### **Deadline to Use Your Personal Time**

The last day for all employees to use their 2023 Personal Time will be on January 13, 2024. Employees will be awarded their 2024 Personal Time on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, which will be available in their timesheet. The 2024 personal time will be reflected on the January 19, 2024, Pay Advice.

To avoid the potential loss of any Personal Time, we suggest you check your Personal Time by using [HR Direct](#). If you have Personal Time that has not been used, work with your manager to plan for the use of the time. Your manager must approve your planned Personal Time in advance. Also, please review and update any home address information in [HR Direct](#) in anticipation for the tax season.

To view the UMass Chan Personal Time policy, click [here](#) or the policy image to the right. You will need to be logged into the intranet system to view the page.

If you have questions, please email [HRCommunications@umassmed.edu](mailto:HRCommunications@umassmed.edu).



**Holiday season is upon us.** Here is the [link](#) to the Holiday Calendars for UMass Chan Medical School.

**Following Holiday Schedule for the remainder of 2023:**

- Christmas Eve (observed) – Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Christmas Day – Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>



**Holiday season public health reminders:** With the holiday season upon us, many will be traveling and gathering with family, friends and colleagues, which, while festive, may increase the possibility of contracting COVID-19, the flu, RSV and other viruses or infectious diseases. Consider masking while on public transportation and in crowded areas. Please be reminded to follow good public health practices, including receiving annual vaccinations against influenza, COVID-19 and, if in a risk group, RSV ([How to Get Your Flu, COVID-19, and RSV Vaccines This Year | CDC](#)) and practicing good hygiene, including frequent hand washing. If you are experiencing symptoms of any illness, contact your health care providers, avoid coming to work or school, and contact Employee or Student Health for return-to-work guidance.

[Click here for instructions on what to do if you are experiencing symptoms or are exposed to COVID-19.](#) We continue to require that individuals who test positive for COVID-19 report the test result to Employee or Student Health so that we can prevent outbreaks.

Free, at-home COVID-19 tests are available to order at <https://www.covid.gov/tests>. To locate COVID-19 vaccines in your area, visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for helping to keep our campus community safe and healthy.



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.*