

POPULATION AND QUANTITATIVE HEALTH SCIENCES



Special Seminar Host: Health Policy Research Lab

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

12:00-1:00pm

Albert Sherman Center, AS9.2072

“Generating Evidence Using Population-Based Methods: Shedding New Light on the Age-Old Problem of Chronic Pain in Older Adults”

Presented by: Suzanne G. Leveille, PhD, RN, UMass Boston

Chronic musculoskeletal pain is so highly prevalent in old age that in some ways it has been taken for granted, attributed to the inevitable arthritis that accompanies aging. In recent years, studies have begun to examine the functional burden of arthritis and pain symptoms in older populations, often focused on selected common sites of pain. However, research now shows that, in general, chronic pain in older adults is a multisite pain condition, and difficult to distinguish between effects of pain at one site over another because of the overall impact on physical function. I will present findings from a series of studies on the prevalence and impact of chronic pain on risk for falls and mobility decline in older populations. I will discuss a proposed cognitively mediated pathway from pain to mobility loss. And looking ahead, I will discuss recent and planned intervention research to reduce risk for falls and mobility decline among older adults living with chronic multisite pain.

Lunch will be provided please RSVP to Sandra Manning at sandra.manning@umassmed.edu

