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Medical language curriculum development	Michael Chin	Family Medicine & Community Health	Community Health	The goal of this project is to improve the structure, curriculum and course resources for the FC460 Medical Language course, which is a 1-month elective available to UMMS medical student in their Advance Studies year. Students may take this elective while focusing on any non-English language other than Spanish. Over the past 7 years, over 60 medical students have completed the course.	How can the curriculum and course materials for the one-month Medical Language elective be improved? How can the course's impact be expanded (e.g., via outreach to students to increase enrollment, publishing, or providing learning resources that are used after completion of the course)?	Curriculum improvements made during summer 2025 ideally will be used in the subsequent one to nine months. The course is typically offered during at least four blocks during the academic year, and curriculum improvements have been incorporated in each of the past 7 years that the course has been run.
Ophthalmic Data Science	Nazlee Zebardast	Ophthalmology	Research	Multiple projects are available for highly motivated student in the field of ophthalmic epidemiology and data science. Background in statistics and knowledge of statistical and computer programming is helpful. 1. Genomics and disease risk prediction. Using two large biobanks and results from a large ophthalmic clinical trial, these projects aim to understand the influence of polygenic risk on glaucoma disease risk, phenotype, and progression. 2. Machine learning. Using large existing datasets these projects aim to use machine learning for better disease prognostication. Unsupervised and semi supervised deep learning models will be used on large repositories of ophthalmic imaging to understand subtypes of disease and characterize progression. The goal is to define structural and longitudinal endophenotypes that are closely aligned with disease type, severity, and progression. 3. Outcomes and health equity research. Multiple datasets are available for use including a large ophthalmic registry, large EHR database and Medicare datasets. We have previously used these datasets to understand the effectiveness of new surgical procedures in the US and racial healthcare inequities among glaucoma patients. Student role: The primary goal of these projects is for the students to learn how to handle large amounts of healthcare data and perform appropriate statistical analysis. The student will formulate the research question and use existing data to answer these questions. The goal is that the student will take ownership of a project and bring it to fruition by planning and completing at least one manuscript. The student can decide on the question most interesting to them or work with the mentor to join an existing project. Student and mentor will meet at least weekly (and more often as needed) to ensure adequate progress.	NA	Cross sectional and longitudinal
Translational research in autoimmune conditions and cancers	Jillian Richmond	Dermatology, Neurology	Research	How can we manipulate T cell migration and function to treat chronic diseases?	Project dependent, student interest dependent	Human bioinformatics/dataset analyses; model systems including mice and pet dogs
Robot Thoracic Surgery Videos	Mark Maxfield, MD	Surgery	Research	Creation of edited robot thoracic surgery videos	Can a robot thoracic surgery video be created and edited to augment learner education?	surgical shadowing; clinical exposure; video editing
Empower Study	Tiffany Moore Simas	Ob/Gyn	Research	Under Represented Community in Health Care - Via Remote Medical Monitoring Initiatives	Medical Record indicators, Patient facing with follow up procedures	Clinical Trial - Hypertension Disorder of Pregnancy (HTN) postpartum mothers, medical extractions, patient recruitment
Experiences with isolation and loneliness among post partum women in India	Alison Karasz	Family Medicine and Community Health	Research	What are causes of post partum isolation/loneliness in Indian mothers of different SES groups? What are mothers' experiences of lonelienss and isolation? What role do gender roles play in this experience?	See above	Qualitative interviews (translated/transcribed) will be analyzed. Hindi/Urdu speaker an advantage.
ELM--Experiences with Long term antidepressant Medication	Alison Karasz	Family Medicine and Community Health	Research	Long term antidepressant use is very common in the United States. Yet the benefits of antidepressant medications are slim and controversial, while some evidence suggests growing health risks from long term use. This study is interviewing doctors and patients regarding their experiences and decision making with long term use.	What are doctor and patient experiences iwht long term use? How can doctor and patient experiences help to understand the factors underlying long term use? Are there different pathways to long term use, varying by culture, ethnicity, and SES? What are potential targets for de-prescribing?	qualitative study

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Engaging Community-Based Organizations in Co-design of SDOH Curriculum	Susan Hogan	Family Medicine and Community Health	Research	Understanding and addressing the social determinants of health is crucial for reducing health disparities and ensuring equitable healthcare delivery. The student will work on revising the Medicine and the Human Experience (MHE) curriculum to better address the gap between knowledge of social determinants of health and its practical application in patient care. This involves engaging in co-design sessions, qualitative data analysis, and creating surveys to evaluate and improve the curriculum	The specific question the student will address during their rotation is: "How can the Medicine and the Human Experience (MHE) curriculum be revised to ensure students effectively apply knowledge of social determinants of health (SDOH) in patient care?" Yes, this question can be completed during the rotation by focusing on co-designing curriculum prototypes, analyzing qualitative data from student and community feedback, and developing and evaluating pre- and post- curriculum surveys to measure the impact of these changes	The student will be working on a curriculum development study that incorporates elements of qualitative research and cross-sectional survey analysis. The focus of the study will be on the design, implementation, and evaluation of the revised Medicine and the Human Experience (MHE) curriculum. The implementation plan for the curriculum begins with a co-design phase, during which the student will participate in five 2-hour co-design sessions with community partners. These sessions aim to refine curriculum prototypes based on stakeholder input, with qualitative data analysis playing a key role in integrating feedback from these discussions. The Community Advisory Panel (CAP) will also play a significant role in the process. The student will collaborate with the CAP to align the curriculum with community needs and priorities, ensuring its sustainability through ongoing guidance and input. Pre- and post-curriculum surveys will be designed and implemented to measure medical students' understanding of social determinants of health (SDOH) and their ability to apply this knowledge in patient care. The data gathered from these surveys will be analyzed to identify areas for improvement and to validate the effectiveness of the revised curriculum. The final rollout of the curriculum will incorporate findings from the co-design phase and survey analyses, and it will be piloted with the next cohort of medical students. The success of the curriculum will be evaluated through survey results and qualitative feedback from participants. Additionally, the student will contribute to scholarly outputs by preparing abstracts or manuscripts detailing the process and findings, which can be submitted for publication or presented at academic conferences
MPACT Clinical Trial about Mindfulness and Chronic Low Back Pain	Paula Gardiner	Family Medicine and Community Health	Research	How does mindfulness help reduce chronic low back pain?	How can mindfulness help people who have chronic low back pain	Randomized Control Trial
Summer produce distribution at a community health center	Melanie Gnazzo, MD	Family Medicine and Community Health	Community Health	Food insecurity is widely recognized as a social determinant of health that has significant impact on overall health and well being, and can be addressed with existing resources. The Family Health Center of Worcester is a federally qualified health center in an urban neighborhood, at which the patients are more likely to experience food insecurity than the general population of Worcester. The Community Harvest Project of Grafton, MA, is a farm that provides 100% of its harvest to hunger relief. Since 2013 the Family Health Center of Worcester and the Community Harvest Project and UMass Chan Medical students have collaborated to give free produce to patients during the summer season.	Students engaged with the collaboration will have two primary roles. 1) coordinate and implement the produce distribution. This will involve part-time work over 6-8 weeks during the summer. It can involve hands-on work at the farm, bagging produce, transporting produce to the FHCW, and working with staff at the FHCW to distribute to patients. 2) Quality improvement project. This can be tailored to the program's needs and the student's interests. In 2024, the student surveyed staff to assess the impact of produce distribution on staff workflow and staff retention. Prior QI projects assessed patient satisfaction with the produce, patient engagement with the produce, self-reported health outcomes, and screening processes for SDOH at the FHCW.	This is a direct community service project with a Quality Improvement process.
Improving Participation in Pulmonary Rehabilitation through Peer-Support and Storytelling	Peter Lindenauer	DHDPS, Baystate Health	Research	What are best ways to encourage patients to attend pulmonary rehabilitation?	Patients will gain experience in recruitment, intervention delivery, reviewing patient data and conduct qualitative interviews.	Clinical trial
Linkages between addiction treatment providers and recovery courts	Ekaterina Pivovarova	Family Medicine and Community Health	Research	what is the impact of a linkage facilitation intervention on access to care for individuals involved in recovery courts	evaluate findings from qualitative interviews and support manuscript development	qualitative data from three site pilot
Evaluating the Use of Naloxone Prearrival Instructions in 911 Dispatch	Laurel O'Connor	Emergency Medicine	Research	Naloxone is increasingly being distributed into the community through public health initiatives, however it is unclear how effective 911 dispatchers are at providing accurate prearrival instructions to facilitate bystander naloxone administration.	What percentage of 911 calls for opiate intoxication receive bystander naloxone instructions, and of the calls where naloxone is available, in what percentage of calls can bystanders follow dispatcher-supplied pre-arrival instructions to administer the naloxone prior to EMS arrival?	This will be a retrospective cross sectional Study
Trends in the Treatment of Youth in Foster Care	Heather Forkey, MD	Pediatrics	Research	Analysis of foster care clinic patient data for diagnostic and clinical management trends	What does the Foster Children Evaluation Service (FaCES) clinic QI data for the past 5 years demonstrate?	Quality Improvement clinic descriptive analysis
Supporting Foster Parents Understanding of and Response to Trauma in Foster Youth	Heather Forkey, MD	Pediatrics	Community Health	Creation of learning modules and resources for birth parents and foster parents	How does a foster parent and birth parent understand and respond to trauma in foster youth?	Literature and resource scan and distillation for lay foster and birth parent population

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Improving the Quality of Care for Asthma Patients at Risk of Exacerbations (iCARE)	Jennifer Carrol MD, MPH	Family Medicine and Community Health	Research	This study compares two strategies to examine their effectiveness on improving asthma outcomes (exacerbations, asthma control, quality of life). The two strategies are MART (Maintenance And Reliever Therapy) and PARTICS (Patient-Activated Reliever Triggered Inhaled Corticosteroids).	The student will be assisting with analysis and interpretation of data to assess the current stage of the study (the feasibility stage). The student will assist in addressing questions such as "What were patients' experiences in the study?" "What were experiences of the study staff and site PIs?" "What opportunities exist for improving the protocol for the full study?"	This is a feasibility clinical trial with a qualitative component to the feasibility analysis.
Preventive Cardiology - Exercise, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Smoking Cessation, and Hospital Ambulation	Quinn R Pack MD, MSc	Baystate Cardiology	Research	There are four ongoing projects - The first is promoting cardiac rehabilitation enrollment for patients after a heart attack. The second is helping hospitalized patients with heart and lung disease quit smoking. The 3rd project is helping older patients maintain mobility by walking them frequently. The 4th project is comparing two different exercise programs in cardiac rehab.	We usually chose the sub-project based on student interest and experiences. The project is usually nearly completed by end of the summer, but writing and analysis typically take longer	These are all clinical trials or prospective studies.
Have a few ideas that we are working on coming to fruition: -Case series and/or quality improvement project on improving comfort with IUD insertion -Study on demographics and severity of presentation for patients with eating disorders over time (have IRB approval)	Sydney Hartman-Munick	Adolescent Medicine	Research	Depends on the study we decide on, could be related to helping improve discomfort with IUD procedures versus looking at associations between demographics and severity of initial presentation for patients with EDs	Depends on the study as above, but if quality improvement as with IUDs can make it so that we complete within time frame	Likely QI, otherwise would be a cross sectional study
AI assurance lab	Nate Hafer	CCTS/PMM	Research	Validation/assurance of health AI tools in clinical settings	What is the long term business model for the AI assurance lab at the completion of this state-funded grant?	Customer discovery related to the optimal business model for the new AI assurance lab. How do we interact with potential customers to meet their needs and validate AI tools are accurate and used properly in clinical settings?
FORCE-TJR- Function and Outcomes Research for Comparative Effectiveness in Total Joint Replacement	Hua Zheng	Department of Orthopedics	Research	We would like to better understand the clinical and surgical factors, specifically varying total hip replacement (THR) and total knee replacement (TKR) approaches and peri-operative care that may impact patients' functional outcomes.	The student will assist in this national research study. Daily work will include: understanding the emerging importance of collecting PROs including data entry of patient surveys; training in appropriate data collection and abstraction of operative notes from FORCE-TJR registry participants due to adverse events. Students will also be exposed patient retention calling.	Longitudinal cohort study.

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Comprehensive Lifestyle Program for People with Serious Mental Illness	Xiaoduo Fan	Psychiatry	Research	Does a comprehensive lifestyle program (nutrition, gardening, and exercise) affect cardiometabolic and psychiatric symptoms of people with serious mental illness?	The project itself will be longer than 4 weeks, but the student will be able to assist in implementing the program with participants, assist with assessments, and/or conduct literature reviews related to the topic of lifestyle and serious mental illness (specifically: how does a comprehensive lifestyle program affect psychosocial and cardiometabolic functioning in patients with SMI)?	This study will be a community-based mixed-methods experimental study, which is part of our larger Community Intervention Program, which conducts psychosocial and biological research in community-based settings. This project will be a pilot study that will inform future interventions and studies in our Lifestyle as Medicine module; students will learn about the challenges people with serious mental illness face, the importance of lifestyle, develop the study design, and implement the study in the community. Students are welcome to stay involved during the school year as well, as we have multiple students who design and conduct studies throughout their medical school career, and we have multiple programs that utilize both psychosocial and biological research.
Improving Environmental Sustainability Across a Tertiary Care Medical System	Riley McLean-Mandell	Medical Director of Green Initiatives, UMMH	Research	How to address unmet needs within a health system for addressing medical waste, improving sustainable ordering, addressing environmental cost in providing patient care	How can we make medicine more sustainable? Students will design a project in their field of interest with guidance, research current literature on the subject, and develop a plan of action that could be pursued by the hospital to achieve the aim of being more green	variable; could be a prospective blinded study, a quality improvement effort, a review of literature, or a retrospective chart review depending on the topic of interest
Effect of Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations on Behavioral Health Care Quality and Outcomes for Children	Kimberly Geissler	Department of Healthcare Delivery and Population Sciences	Research	Fundamental changes in healthcare are needed to address socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities in behavioral health (BH) care quality and outcomes for children in vulnerable populations. Our innovative approach to examining the association between exposure to a new heterogeneous group of Medicaid ACOs and BH care and outcomes will begin to address this large gap in knowledge.	The student may assist with any of the three aims: 1) Determine the impact of ACOs on behavioral health quality indicators and health outcomes for Medicaid-insured children, including disparities between commercially and privately insured children; 2) Examine the association between organizational features and change in behavioral health quality indicators and health outcomes over time; 3) Determine the relationship between parent reported experience with their child's Behavioral Health care and organizational features of the Medicaid ACOs.	This is a mixed methods study consisting of both qualitative and quantitative data collection/analysis.
EMPOWER Study	Dr Tiffany Moore Simas	Ob/Gyn	Research	Postpartum Blood Pressure Monitoring with APC Telehealth intervention	Does postpartum follow up healthcare enhance patient outcomes	Longitudinal cohort study
Use of gabapentin and Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy to target social difficulties in autism	David Cochran	Eunice Kennedy Shirver Center/ Dept of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences	Research	Analysis of data from clinical trial of gabapentin in adolescents with autism	Does an increase in cortical GABA predict positive response to gabapentin in adolescents with autism	Open-label clinical trial of gabapentin in adolescents with autism
Access to a Patient Portal is Associated with a Higher Rate of Diabetic Eye Examination Completion	David J. Ramsey	Ophthalmology	Community Health	The use of digital communication tools to enhance diabetes care	Access to a Patient Portal is Associated with a Higher Rate of Diabetic Eye Examination Completion	Assist with assessing the impact of eye exam adherence reminders on eye exam completion
Anti-inflammatory synthetic bone grafts	Jie Song	Orthopedics	Community Health	Many patients with glaucoma fail to take their medications regularly and are at risk of irreversible vision loss.	Do reminders sent by a Patient Portal increase adherence to glaucoma medication use	Longitudinal short study

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Latent Tuberculosis Tracking and Treatment at the Family Health Center of Worcester	Amber Sarkar MD	Family Medicine	Community Health	The FHCW refugee clinic diagnoses many patients with LTBI. The facility has transitioned to the Epic EMR and would like to optimize the systems utilized for documenting, treating and tracking patients diagnosed with LTBI.	Can the Epic EMR be used to create an LTBI registry that clinical staff can utilize to track and report treatment of LTBI? Can Epic tools be utilized to enhance, standardize and improve the efficiency of LTBI documentation? Can the FHCW refugee team collaborate more effectively with DPH LTBI community health workers to improve the rates of completion of LTBI treatment?	Quality Improvement
Population-level Approaches to Increase Access to Perinatal Mental Health Care	Nancy Byatt, DO, MS, MBA, DFAPA, FACLP and Martha Zimmermann, PhD	Psychiatry	Research	Examine the effectiveness of intervention approaches to improve perinatal mental health	What is the effectiveness of state-wide and digital intervention approaches to prevent and treat perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and improve perinatal mental health equity?	Clinical trial
Examining disparities in pediatric concussion diagnosis	Erin Meyer	Pediatrics	Research	Examine inequities in pediatric concussion diagnosis	How do rates of pediatric concussion diagnosis vary by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status in a large nationwide survey?	Cross-sectional large database study
A Qualitative Analysis of MassAHEC Rural Health Scholar Impact on Alumni Careers	Suzanne Cashman	Family Medicine and Community Health	Community Health	Participants in MassAHEC's Rural Health Scholars Program are more likely to specialize in primary care than their peers. Following a quantitative survey study, this project will explore how the rural health scholar program impacted graduates' careers, including specialty choice and practice location.	What are the main career-related themes that Rural Health Scholars report via 60-90 minute interviews?	Qualitative
Comparative Analysis of Venous Thromboembolism Risk Calculators in a Single-Center Bariatric Surgery Population	Richard Perugini	General Surgery	Research	Investigating trends in post-operative venous thromboembolism over time in bariatric patients	Which venous thromboembolism risk calculators are most suitable for UMass patients undergoing vertical sleeve gastrectomy for prevention of VTE?	Retrospective cohort
Investigating the role of deprivation on post-surgical outcomes	Richard Perugini	General Surgery	Research	How does area deprivation index (ADI) effect post-operative outcomes?	Retrospective cohort study	Cumulative sum (CUSUM) analysis of post-operative outcomes
Cumulative sum (CUSUM) analysis of post-operative outcomes	Richard Perugini	General Surgery	Research	What can CUSUM tell us about post-operative outcome trends over time, particularly with respect to the adoption of robotic surgery for various procedures?	Does the adoption of the robotic platform for a procedure compromise outcomes of the traditional minimally invasive approach in various surgical fields?	Retrospective cohort study
The quantification of B-Lines before and after diuresis. An automated quantification point-of-care Ultrasound tool	Andrew Goldsmith	Emergency Department	Research	Measuring and objective measure of diuresis for heart failure	It will not be completed but advanced. Poster presentations will be available.	Prospective
Lung Cancer diagnostic and treatment in Brazil: leveraging big data to increase health equity	Isabel Emmerick	Surgery - Division of	Research	Disparities on the Lung Cancer Diagnosis in Brazil	Data analysis and statistics	Retrospective study cohort

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Analysis of pelvic anatomy utilizing computer modeling in relation to percutaneous fixation techniques	Scott Pascal	Orthopedic Surgery	Research	Determine if there are certain populations for which percutaneous fixation of pelvic ring injuries is not possible due to anatomic variation.	Can computer modeling be used to analyze CT scans and determine types of pelvic morphology	Cohort type study. Will use database if CT to build computer model
Evaluating the Prevalence and Treatment Modalities of Patients with Isolated Perianal Crohn's Disease	Karim Alavi, MD	Colon and Rectal Surgery	Research			
The Mothering from the Inside Out Effectiveness-Implementation Trial	Lili Peacock-Chambers	DHDPS, Pediatrics	Research			
Evaluating the Incidence and Management of Isolated Perianal Crohn's	Karim Alavi, MD	Colon and Rectal Surgery	Research	What is the incidence of isolated perianal Crohn's Disease at our institution? For those patients with perianal Crohn's disease who do not go on to develop luminal disease, what is the management they undergo and operation rates (i.e. diverting colostomy placement)?	Yes, it can be completed. What is the incidence and overall management strategy for patients with isolated perianal Crohn's Disease at our institution? Is there an ideal treatment algorithm that avoids surgery more than others for this cohort of patients?	This is a retrospective observational study. The implementation plan for the curriculum is that this project will include both Departments of Gastroenterology and Colon and Rectal Surgery. The project will focus on the prevalence and management of patients with IPD who suffer from anorectal manifestations
Worcester earn a bike	Melanie Gnazzo, MD	Family medicine and community health	Research	Access to bicycles, bicycle skills and safe transportation routes is one answer to addressing transportation needs, physical activity and social connectivity needs in the local community. This summer project broadly explores these themes while applying a community health lens.	Needs assessment for earn a bike for future collaboration between students and organization - specifically an immersive exploration for pathways project. A deliverable outcome goal will be developed during the first week of the project which may include community assessment of outreach strategies, assessment of educational needs for summer high school students working with the project, or understanding community needs for safety and bike advocacy education	Immersive experience in the earn a bike workshop; literature review of best practices for bike safety and roadway safety; design and implementation of a workshop for summer high school students
Plastic Surgery Research (multiple projects: animal studies, clinical studies, dry lab studies, educational studies)	Giorgio Giatsidis, MD, PhD	Plastic Surgery / Surgery	Community Health	Our lab focuses on plastic surgery research. Numerous research questions and topics are covered depending on the type of research. These can range from regenerative surgery and tissue engineering, to medical device development, use of AI to assist patient diagnosis, large data analysis for surgical quality improvement, and educational initiatives in the field.	Most research will extend beyond a short summer experience. Yet, this experience can be critical for students to understand whether they have an interest in plastic surgery (research) and learn basics of preclinical vs clinical research, to be then eventually expanded and pursued during their second year.	Our lab has multiple projects, covering all aspects of research from preclinical animal work to device development, clinical research, survey studies, database analysis, and educational initiatives.
Creating a Complimentary Medicine Elective	Susan Hogan	Family Medicine and Community Health	Community Health	Allopathic medicine offers patients incredible tools for prevention and cure, but has its limitations. Many patients benefit from complimentary medicine, yet medical learners have little exposure in the current curriculum to acupuncture, chiropractic, massage therapy and more. The Department of Family Medicine and Community Health has some funding to support resources for an elective. The summer student will work with faculty to explore local complimentary clinical sites and educational resources to create a new 4th year elective.	The goal of this project is to help create a complimentary medicine elective for UMass Chan students to do in their 4th year. The project will include exploring what other medical schools do for this type of elective, contacting local complimentary medicine clinicians, contacting local primary care doctors who incorporate complimentary medicine into their practice, and write up the elective in the UMass Chan format. The project will also include assembling a list of readings and listening materials for students to use during the elective. The Department of Family Medicine and Community Health has some funding to support resources for an elective as part of honoring a colleague who died this past year. This can be completed in 4 weeks.	Not a study. Curriculum will be implemented by our department as a 4th year elective. Parts of the project will also be shared with our residency program for residents to benefit as well from the resources.
Engagement for hospitalized adults at memorial hospital	Erin Cathcart	Family Medicine	Community Health	The patients at Memorial Hospital have little to do while hospitalized, and this can often lead to decrease in mental status, delirium, and poor mood. We are hoping to develop a library of engaging activities/reading materials/games for patients on our service at Memorial.	How can we engage our patients to help decrease low mood and delirium on the inpatient medicine service at Memorial hospital?	It is not a study- it is a project to increase engagement of hospitalized adults.