

**Weekly Newsletter January 6-10, 2025****PQHS NEWS**

**Personal Time**

Volume 95, Human Resources  
Policy Number: 06-21-08  
Effective Date: Wednesday, September 01, 1999  
Last Reviewed: Wednesday, June 28, 2017  
Last Reviewed: Tuesday, September 21, 2021

**Responsible Office:**

- Policy Administrator Deputy Executive Vice Chancellor, People Strategy
- Human Resources
- Contact: (508) 848-0200

**Policy Statement**

Personal time is paid time off for personal reasons to be used during the calendar year.

If an employee is scheduled to work during a religious holiday that is not an observed University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School holiday, preference will be given for requests for personal time.

**Reason for Policy**

To provide guidelines for the accrual, use and reporting of personal time during the calendar year.

**Entities Affected by this Policy**

All nonstudent employees with the exception of Residents. To clarify if portions of this policy are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, contact your Human Resources Employee Relations Consultant.

**Related Documents**

Leaving the University Policy	06.04.10
Transfer of Service to/from UMass Medical School Policy	06.01.12
Residents Personnel Policies	

**Deadline to Use Your Personal Time**

The last day for all employees to use their 2024 Personal Time will be on January 11, 2025.

Employees will be awarded their 2025 Personal Time on Wednesday, January 14, 2025, which will be available in their timesheet. The 2025 personal time will be reflected on January 17th, 2025 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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS****Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:00AM – Lamar Soutter Library****Welcoming the Robert Hinkley painting, “The First Operation Under Ether” to UMass Chan Medical School**

The scene depicted in this historically significant painting is Hinkley’s interpretation of the first successful public demonstration of anesthesia using ether on October 16, 1846, at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Through the generosity of the Boston Medical Library, this original work of art will be on permanent display in the Lamar Soutter Library.

Click [here](#) or Scan QR Code to RSVP:

**Research Methods Meeting****Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:00 AM**

**Title:** Transforming Medicine and Healthcare through Artificial Intelligence

**Presenter:** Yonghui Wu, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics, University of Florida, College of Medicine, Director of Natural Language Processing

**Description:** Recent progress in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has enabled a new “general” form of AI to transform the practice of medicine and healthcare, which is not observed in previous generations of AI, approaching human-level language processing. This talk focuses on the recent progress of developing AI in the medical domain as an important infrastructure to facilitate medical research, enhance clinical data warehouse, and transform intelligent medicine and healthcare.

**Bio:** Dr. Wu is an Associate Professor with Tenure in the Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics at the University of Florida (UF) College of Medicine. He also serves as the Director of Natural Language Processing (NLP) at UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and OneFlorida+ Clinical Research Consortium. Dr. Wu’s primary research interests include clinical NLP, machine learning, and Electronic Health Record (EHR) based drug repurposing. His work was supported by funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

To join the meeting click [here](#).

## PQHS SHOUTOUT



### Fitness tracker intervention among studies funded by inaugural Mel Cutler population health award

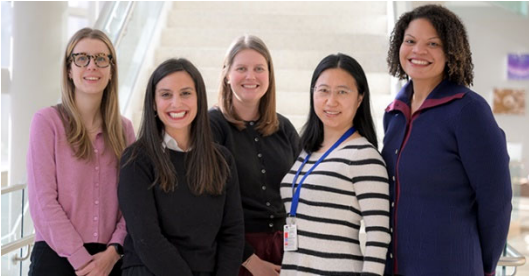
A program focused on health coaching and using technology to increase physical activity and address obesity is among the inaugural winners of the Mel Cutler Population Health Pilot Research Award.

Health Informatics and Implementation Science FIT-COACH, led by Jamie Faro, PhD, assistant professor of population & quantitative health sciences, and Varun

Ayyaswami, MD, assistant professor of medicine, is one of four projects addressing critical public health challenges to receive a \$50,000 Mel Cutler award.

Click [here](#) for complete article.

*The recipients of the Mel Cutler Population Health Pilot Research Award also include:*



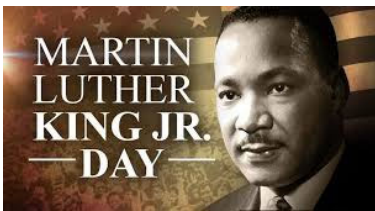
- **Sarah Forrester, PhD**, assistant professor of population & quantitative health sciences: Dr. Forrester's project examines how maternal stress affects epigenetic age acceleration in Black mother-infant pairs, a vital study for improving maternal and infant health outcomes.

- **Grace Ryan, PhD, MPH**, assistant professor of population & quantitative health sciences; **Melissa Goulding, PhD'23**, assistant professor of population & quantitative health sciences; and **Elise Stevens, PhD**, assistant professor of population & quantitative health sciences: An

innovative mixed-methods project that aims to combat social media misinformation and promote cancer prevention behaviors, such as HPV vaccination and sunscreen use, among adolescents.


- **Chan Zhou, PhD**, assistant professor of population & quantitative health sciences: Dr. Zhou's research aims to identify long noncoding RNAs as new biomarkers that can better predict cardiovascular disease risk, particularly in diverse populations, advancing health equity.


## PQHS HAPPENINGS



### Join Us for a Day of Service in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.!

The PQHS Diversity Action Committee (DAC) invites all department members to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of service by volunteering together at the [Yes We Care Food Pantry](#).

 **Date:** Friday, January 31st

 **Time:** 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

 **Location:** Belmont A.M.E. Zion Church, 55 Illinois Street, Worcester, MA

As part of the UMass Chan Volunteer Initiative, your service hours will be counted as **Paid Time Off (PTO)**. To participate, please:

1 **Register** using this form [here](#).

2 **On the volunteer date, open the email and confirm that you volunteered or did not volunteer.** The email will come from Microsoft Power Automate on behalf of the UMass Chan Government Relations.

2 **Record your time** as "VSL" in PeopleSoft after the event. OR, if you report your time with PQHS, let the administrative staff know that you used 4 hours of PTO on that date.

If you have any questions, please contact [Amy Borg](#) for assistance. Let's come together to make a difference in our community and embody Dr. King's spirit of service.

We look forward to serving with you!

— **The PQHS Diversity Action Committee (DAC)**

## UMASS CHAN REMINDER

### Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

#### Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>
- Presidents Day – Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>
- Patriots' Day – Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>
- Independence Day – Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Day – Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>



*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.*