

Weekly Newsletter January 9 - 13, 2023

PQHS NEWS



**Welcome to the Team!** We are excited to announce an addition to the PQHS Administrative team who will fill the position of Executive Assistant to the Chair formerly held by Carolyn Kelly. **Kellie Armstrong** has over 15 years' experience as an Administrative Assistant with additional



years of experience in the mortgage and banking industry. Her office will be in the Executive Office suite with the finance team on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. Please feel free to introduce yourself to Kellie and make her feel welcome. I believe Kellie will be a valuable asset to our team!

*Welcome Kellie!*



**Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 2 PM – 4PM**

**Getting your Message Across** –The Investigator Career Advancement Program (iCAP) and the Office of Health Equity, along with our co-sponsors, the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing, and the T.H. Chan School of Medicine are *pleased to announce an upcoming event* with world-renown science communication expert **Jean-luc Doumont**. “Getting you Message Across” - Science communication expert Jean-luc Doumont’s engaging and practical lecture on how to organize messages into an effective story, regardless of medium.

Please share this information with your communities.

**Who:** Open to all students, postdocs, faculty, and staff.

**Location:** Medical School Building, Hiatt Auditorium, **S1-608** (in-person).

[Registration is required.](#)

**Workshop description:** No matter the medium—a presentation, a document, a graph, a poster, a curriculum vitae, or other still—communication boils down to one question: do you get your message across? True to Jean-luc’s quest for the essentials, this lecture takes a transversal view at the traditional forms of communication to discuss how to convey a message verbally and nonverbally, and how to organize messages into a story—in any medium.

**About Jean-luc Doumont:** An engineer (Louvain) and PhD in applied physics (Stanford), Jean-luc Doumont is acclaimed worldwide for his no-nonsense approach, his highly applicable, often life-changing recommendations on a wide range of topics, and *Trees, maps, and theorems*, his book about “effective communication for rational minds.” For additional information, visit [www.principiae.be](http://www.principiae.be).

**Course in Clinical Trials – Spring, 2023**

**Are you ready to take your molecule or intervention to the next phase of research?** The University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMCMS) Graduate School of Biomedical Science is offering a course in Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials (CTS 609) in the Spring Semester 2023 (January 17 - May 5). This course is open to all UMCMS research and clinical faculty, staff, students, as well as researchers external to UMCMS.



**Description:** The course is intended for the research scientist. The goal is to sharpen the methodological skills required in designing experimental studies for clinical investigators. The course will cover theoretical and practical methods in designing and implementing clinical trials, emphasizing design implications, developing individual study protocols, and addressing questions of importance in a feasible manner. The course emphasizes the design of intervention studies to achieve specific research objectives by selecting appropriate study samples, endpoints, and trial designs. It will cover not only the basics of clinical trials, including reviews/critiques of major clinical trials, but also new developments in trial design (e.g., stepped wedge designs, adaptive designs, integrated Phase I/II and II/III designs), randomization strategies (e.g., covariate-adjusted randomizations), and trial conduct (e.g., risk-based monitoring, consent processes, difficult environments).

**Dates:** January 18 through May 3, 2023, no class on March 15 – Spring Break

**Times:** Wednesdays, 8:00 – 10:00 AM for live lectures, article reviews, and discussions

**Location:** Zoom

**Lecturer:** [Dr. Bruce Barton](#), Professor in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, is a biostatistician with over 45 years of experience in randomized clinical trials and has served as the Principal Investigator / Director of Data Coordinating Centers for 38 major clinical trials across all phases. Interested researchers should contact Dr. Barton ([bruce.barton@umassmed.edu](mailto:bruce.barton@umassmed.edu)) for further information about the course content. Information on how to register for the course can be found at <https://www.umassmed.edu/gsbs/academic-student-affairs/registration/>.



**Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 10 AM**

**UMass Chan Center for Clinical & Translational Science Workshop: “Effective Communication of Risk and Uncertainty with Non-Experts”** presented by [Justin Gross, PhD](#), who is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as well as a core faculty member of the UMass Amherst Computational Social Science Institute (CSSI). Participants will learn about challenges and opportunities with respect to effective communication of risk and uncertainty, including conveyance of probabilistic information, distinguishing between absolute and related risk, and understanding how peoples’ perceptions of uncertainty may depend on what is at stake. The focus will be on how to communicate risk and uncertainty more effectively with non-experts,

including the use of visual techniques and analogies to improve understanding and uptake of information. [Registration is required](#). **Real-time captioning will be provided.**

**Monday, April 3, 2023, at 12 PM**

**Rigor and Reproducibility Seminar: “Sharing Confidential and Sensitive Data?”** presented by [George Alter, PhD](#), Research Professor Emeritus with the Institute for Social Research at the

**University of Michigan**. Dr. Alter’s research integrates theory and methods from demography, economics, and family history with historical sources to understand demographic behaviors in the past. From 2007 to 2016, Alter was Director of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, the world’s largest archive of social science data, and he is a past president of the Social Science History Association. He has been active in international efforts to promote research transparency, data sharing, and secure access to confidential research data. He is currently engaged

in projects to create FAIR vocabularies in population research, to automate the capture of metadata from statistical analysis software, and to compare fertility transitions in contemporary and historical populations. This seminar is given jointly by the UMass Chan Medical School Population & Quantitative Health Sciences, and UMass Boston Gerontology Department and Gerontology Institute. **Click this [link](#) to join the ZOOM presentation; password: 468880.**





Postdoctoral Training is starting now and in August 2023. The [PRACCTIS program \(Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change in Individuals and Systems\)](#) at UMass Chan Medical School is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars. Funding is available starting now and in August 2023 for fellowships in three specialty areas:

[Cancer Prevention and Control](#)

[Health Communication](#)

[Tobacco and Digital Health Research](#)

We train independent researchers to address critical prevention and control care delivery issues across the cancer continuum, including primary prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. Emphasis is on promoting change in individuals, providers and systems. Our faculty mentors are leaders in health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, health informatics, systems change and health policy, health communications, population health sciences, implementation science, and prevention and intervention research. Applicants must plan to pursue an independent research career focused on cancer prevention and control, have earned a doctoral degree (PhD, ScD, MD, DO, etc.), and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. PRACCTIS is a T32 training program funded by NCI. For more information contact [Barbara Estabrook](#).

## DIVERSITY DIGEST



### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Many cultures celebrate the event in some manner. In the Gregorian calendar, the most widely used calendar system today, New Year occurs on January 1. This was also the first day of the year in the original Julian and Roman calendars. Other cultures observe their traditional or religious New Year's Day according to their customs, typically because they use a lunar calendar or a lunisolar calendar. [Lunar New Year](#) (January 22, 2023), the Islamic New Year, Tamil New Year (Puthandu), and the Jewish New Year are well-known examples. India, Nepal, and other countries also celebrate New Year on dates according to their calendars that are movable in the Gregorian calendar.

#### [10 New Year's Traditions from Around the World:](#)

- United States: Watching the ball drop
- China: Cleaning and Decorating Houses with Red Things
- Brazil: Heading to the beach
- Spain: Eating 12 grapes
- India: Building a sculpture of an old adult and burning it down
- Haiti: Sharing soup joumou
- Denmark: Throwing old plates
- Mexico: Giving the gift of homemade tamales
- Greece: Hanging an onion outside the door
- France: Feasting with Champagne

## JANUARY 6, 2023, EPIPHANY, THREE KINGS DAY

On the twelfth day of Christmas, which falls on January 6, 2023, is [Three Kings Day](#)! This holiday is celebrated mostly in Europe, Spain, and Latin America, 'El Dia de los Reyes,' as it's called in Spanish, marks the glorification of baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men. In Mexico and many other Latin American countries, Santa Claus isn't as popular as he is in the United States. Rather, it is the Three Wise Men who are the bearers of gifts and leave presents in or near the shoes of small children. The holiday is also known by the name Epiphany and dates back to the 4th century. A grand feast would be held on this day to honor the occasion of Jesus' baptism and to pay homage to the Three Wise Men. Three Kings Day, or El Dia de Reyes, remains an important holiday for Catholics. In addition to gift-giving, there is also a culinary treat that is specific to the holiday. Known as Rosca de Reyes (King's Cake), this holiday dessert is a symbolic pastry. Shaped in a circle to signify a king's crown, this sweet bread holds a special surprise. Inside is a small plastic figurine representing the baby Jesus. Whoever finds this token is obligated to host an upcoming party for the occasion Dia de la Condelaria (Candlemas Day) which occurs each year on February 2.



## January 16, 2023, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY

[The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service](#) is a defining moment each year when Americans across the country step up to make communities more equitable and take action to create the Beloved Community of Dr. King's dream. While Dr. King believed the Beloved Community was possible, he acknowledged and fought for systemic change. His example is a call to action. Coretta Scott King reflected on the meaning of The King Holiday. "The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America." Legislation for a King Holiday was first introduced four days after Dr. King's assassination in 1968. Signed into law in January 1983 by President Ronald Reagan, the national Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is a celebration of Dr. King's immeasurable contribution to the United States, and to humankind. MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. During the last quarter-century, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact increased as more Americans embraced the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving communities.



## January 27, 2023, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION

January 27 marks the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust as well as Holocaust Remembrance Day. Both are intended to pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust as well as to reaffirm our commitment to antisemitism and education that will prevent future genocides. January 27<sup>th</sup> was chosen because it marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau on January 27, 1945. Awareness of antisemitism is becoming increasingly important as antisemitic incidents have been on the rise for the last 5 years with 2021 the highest on record (since 1979) and a full 34% increase year over

year. Although the complete yearly numbers for 2022 are not out yet, the rise in antisemitism among celebrities and politicians continues as do person-to-person antisemitic acts. The first ever 50 state Holocaust Awareness Survey among Millennials and Gen Z in 2020 revealed a startling lack of knowledge about how many Jews were murdered and who was responsible for the Holocaust. With antisemitism on the rise, it is more important than ever to educate ourselves and younger generations to ensure that the victims are remembered, and such a tragedy does not happen again. See the [Anti-Defamation League](#) and [Claims Conference](#) for further details.

## DIVERSITY ACTION COMMITTEE EVENTS SURVEY

The Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences created the Diversity Action Committee (DAC) in 2020 to advise the department leadership and provide programming on DEI-related issues. Since then, the committee has been working on several initiatives, including this monthly Diversity Digest and the university-required Departmental Equity Action Plan (DEAP). To better address your needs, we ask that you respond to a short survey inquiring about desired future programming. The survey can be found at:

<https://arcsapps.umassmed.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=WLJAANAL9F>

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey. If you haven't done so already, we ask that you complete the survey by January 13, 2023. Thank you for your cooperation.

## UMASS CHAN REMINDER



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.*