

Weekly Newsletter January 22-26, 2024

PQHS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS



Judy Ockene, PhD, MEd, MA was awarded the title of Emeritas Professor at UMass Chan Medical School in the Departments of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences and Medicine effective January 31, 2023.

Congratulations Dr. Ockene! We congratulate you and express our sincere appreciation for your support of the Medical School.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 24 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Research Meeting –

Title: Yale's Biostatistics Webinar: "Measures of Selection Bias for Proportions Estimated from Non-Probability Samples", by Rebecca Andridge of The Ohio State University.

Brief Description: We will watch a webinar offered from Yale Biostatistics department and discuss the issues raised. The talk begins with basics that many of you don't need, but progresses to advanced issues that we often don't know how to handle (If you want to focus on the part of the talk of most interest to you, you can download a handy time-stamped transcript). Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 937 1668 5400 password: 492717

Thursday, January 25 – 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Tea Time – hosted by the Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine. Please stop by for some tea and treats!

WELCOME TO PQHS

Lexis Asibey, new Administrative Assistant will be starting next Monday, January 29th. Her office will be on the 9th floor.



Michael R. Kauth, PhD was recently appointed Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences.

Dr. Kauth is a clinical psychologist and the first Executive Director of the LGBTQ+ Health Program in the Department of Veterans Affairs. He leads the development and implementation of health policy and best practices for Veterans who have lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and similar identities (LGBTQ+). He has led efforts to develop routine data collection processes for sexual orientation and gender identity in VHA and the use of these data to understand and address health inequities experienced by LGBTQ+ Veterans. Dr. Kauth has published over 80 peer-reviewed journal articles, 4 books, and 16 book chapters on LGBTQ Veteran health, sexual health, implementation of educational interventions, and the evolution of same-sex attraction. In August 2023, Dr. Kauth moved to Worcester with his husband, Matthew Horsfield, MD, and their dog, Ben.

PQHS SHOUT OUT – INSPIRING STORY



Adrian Zai's daughter **Amelia Zai** was honored by the Boston Celtics as a Hero Among Us during halftime of the Boston Celtics home game on December 29, 2023, for her extraordinary empathy and dedication to serving others.

In 2016, Amelia received a diagnosis of Ewing sarcoma. The development generated feelings of isolation and fear. But it also led to her motivation to support fellow pediatric cancer patients who may be experiencing the same emotions.

Using the wish that she was given from Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Amelia created a therapeutic activity book for pediatric cancer patients. Her goal in creating her book, [Amelia Takes on Cancer](#), was to alleviate the emotional burden that patients and their families experience during treatment. Book sale proceeds are donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. So far, thousands of dollars have been donated.

Copied from the Westwood Minute, click [here](#) for the full article.

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 \(office365.com\)](#)

PQHS HAPPENINGS



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



Thursday, January 25, 2024, 12:00-1:00PM

Department of Medicine Grand Rounds: "Food Insecurity and Food is Medicine"

Presented by: Kurt Hager, PhD, MS, UMass Chan and Elizabeth Eagleson, MD, Baystate Health
PQHS faculty member, Kurt Hager, will present at the quarterly Grand Rounds next week. The course objectives are to learn how food insecurity impacts clinical care, how emerging partnerships in Massachusetts are connecting patients to free, healthy foods, how these programs impact health outcomes, and what resources are available to physicians. Click [here](#) to Register.



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.





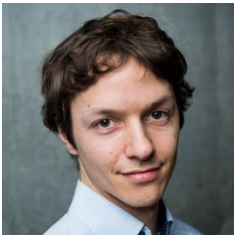
Wednesday, February 14 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM (Hybrid: AS8.2072 or zoom, link below)

Research Meeting –

Title: Integrating Wearable Devices into Lifestyle Interventions and Healthcare System Workflows: Closing the Feedback Loop

Speaker: Garrett Ash, PhD; Assistant Professor of Medicine, Biomedical Informatics, and Data Science; Yale School of Medicine

Description: Learning to exercise with type 1 diabetes requires that standard guidelines be followed up by trial-and-error lived experience. Our Type 1 Diabetes Digital Exercise Support platform provides exercise guidance, motivation, and multimodal biometric feedback in a closed loop where the feedback supports the guidance and motivation. The study is also capturing real-time surveys of affective motivation states for activity and rest to study their relationship with glycemic variation and fear of dysglycemia. Finally, we have several quality improvement (QI) projects integrating this model into the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System to treat other chronic diseases. Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 937 1668 5400 password: 492717



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

UMASS CHAN REMINDER



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.

Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2024:

- Presidents Day – Monday, February 19th
- Patriots’ Day – Monday, April 15th
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 27th
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19th
- Independence Day – Thursday, July 4th

- Labor Day – Monday, September 2nd
- Indigenous Peoples’ Day – Monday, October 14th
- Veterans Day – Monday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28th
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 29th
- Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th
- Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25th

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) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.