

Weekly Newsletter February 5-9, 2024

PQHS NEWS

PQHS SHOUTOUT

*Chancellor's Award for Advancing Institutional
Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion*



Congratulations,
Sharina Person, PhD



Chancellor's 2024 Award Winner for advancing institutional excellence in diversity and inclusion

Chancellor Michael Collins announced on Wednesday and had these kind words to share about Dr. Person: Shining example of a medical school community member who honor's Dr. King's legacy and encapsulates what our advancing together, brand looks like in practice. This award is bestowed annually upon an individual or group exemplifying the medical school's DEI values, which includes building an inclusive culture, increasing access and equity, improving cultural competence and advancing health equity. Dr. Person is clearly a tour de force who contributes profoundly to diversity, equity and inclusion at the institutional community and national levels. Her national impact

is pervasive. Given her position as president of biometric section of the American Statistical Association, as well as her development of the Diversity Engagement Survey in partnership with the American Association of Medical Colleges. This survey, thanks to Dr. Person tireless work has become an incredibly important resource for academic medicine, and to date the survey has been administered to 170,000 respondents at more than a hundred institutions across the country. The results of the DES are helping medical schools and academic medical centers to improve and indeed transform a variety of areas from institutional wide and DEI specific mission and vision statements to admissions hiring and promotion processes and practices. The DES not only enhances UMass Chan, national stature and our leadership profile, but it also makes our institution better, stronger and more welcoming. Here at UMass Chan Dr. Person has become synonymous with the DES and she has played an instrumental role in disseminating the most recent findings from our 2023 survey at high profile venues, including virtual Town Halls and our Diversity Summit. Through her determined, detailed and diligent efforts to collate, summarize and communicate our results. Dr. Person has provided us with a framework of consistently measuring and improving our culture and climate, and directing our efforts toward those areas that require attending. She undoubtedly is used as a trusted resource, passionate advocate and a content expert by our academic community. Schools, departments and offices call on Dr. Person frequently to help them understand the granular details of the survey as well as implement improvement plans. Her home department PQHS is among them and the chair of the department's diversity action committee. Dr. Person is positioning PQHS as a leader in adopting and promoting DEI related best practices. Should come to no surprise that Dr. Person is also sought after mentor for students and faculty. She generously shares whatever little free time she has to support, advocate on behalf of and serves as a role model for our learners and colleagues alike. She's further committed to supporting the goals and aspirations of younger generations of students who hope to enter the Health Science professors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 7 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Research Meeting – **Title:** Discussion of "Sensitivity Analysis in Observational Research: Introducing the E-Value" by Vanderweele and Ding (2017).

Presenters: Arlene Ash, PhD, Professor and Jonggyu Baek, PhD, Associate Professor, PQHS, UMass Chan Medical School

Description: We will consider the potential value of using the E-value, which is the minimum strength of association (on a risk ratio scale) that an unmeasured confounder would need to have with both the treatment and outcome, conditional on the measured covariates, to explain away a treatment–outcome association. Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 937 1668 5400 password: 492717



Thursday, February 8th – 2:00-3:00PM

Tea Time will be hosted by the RIC. Please stop by, say hello and have a cup of tea.

BABY NEWS IN PQHS



Josh Rumbut and his wife Callie are excited to announce the birth of their daughter Rachel Louise. Everyone is doing great!

PQHS FAREWELL



Kelley Barron has unfortunately resigned from PQHS effective February 9th, 2024. She will be joining the Department of Medicine as a Project Coordinator. Kelley has been with PQHS for 15 years and we're glad we've had her for this long. Kelley supported Kate Lapane and the division of Epidemiology, and she will leave a huge gap for us to fill. That said, this is a new position for Kelley, and we truly wish her all the best. Thank you to Kelley for your services to PQHS!

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 \(office365.com\)](https://office365.com)

PQHS HOT TOPICS



Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 4:00PM (Hybrid: AS7.2072 and zoom link below)

Black Excellence at UMass Chan - Atinuke G. Oyinbo, PhD candidate in Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, will present the talk "Acculturation Research Methodology Applied in the Study of African Diaspora Health: A Brief Review," in which she will discuss how acculturation research is conducted in the African diaspora and can be applied to Black migrant populations at large.

[Register](#) - In person
[Register-Zoom](#)



Friday, February 9, 2024, at 2:00PM (Hybrid: AS9.2072 and zoom link below)

Carly Herbert, BA will defend her PhD Thesis Defense titled "***Home Diagnostics, Viral Dynamics and Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-COV-2***". Carly is mentored by [Apurv Soni, MD, PhD](#)

Click [here](#) to log into zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UMass Boston Department of Gerontology & Gerontology Institute Present Proseminar Speaker Series Spring 2024

Monday, February 5, 2024
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
via [Zoom](#)

Emma Zang, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Yale University
A Novel Time Use Approach to Successful Aging: Examining Racial and Gender Disparities in Daily Productive Engagement

Monday, March 11, 2024
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
via [Zoom](#)

Sarah Forrester, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School
Stress, Depression, and Age Acceleration: Why Time Matters in Black Health

Monday, April 1, 2024
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
via [Zoom](#)

Manu Thakral, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, University of Massachusetts Boston
Chronic Geriatric Pain and Its Impacts on Health and Quality of Life

Monday, May 2, 2024
11:30 – 12:45 p.m.
via [Zoom](#)

Chantel Pheiffer, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Public Health, University of Massachusetts Boston
Migration and Population Health: Insights from South Africa

via Zoom: <https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94175483404> Password: Boston
For more information contact Jaqueline Contrera Avila: Jaqueline.Avila@umb.edu



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



Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 12:30-1:30PM – Hybrid: Location AS9.2072 or [Zoom](#)

“Overlooked and Underserved: Translating Addiction Research into Practice in the Criminal Legal System”

Presented by: Rosemarie Martin, PhD, Associate Professor at Brown University School of Public Health

Lunch will be provided. Click [here](#) to join.



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

DIVERSITY DIGEST



BLACK HISTORY MONTH: FEBRUARY (awarenessdays.com)

Black History Month is celebrated every year in the United States during the month of February. This specific month was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of two prominent figures in African American history: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Abraham Lincoln's birthday is on February 12th, and Frederick Douglass's birthday is on February 14th. Black History Month, also known as African American

History Month, is an annual observance that highlights the accomplishments and struggles of African Americans throughout history. It serves as a platform to educate, reflect upon, and celebrate the rich heritage and diverse experiences of Black Americans.



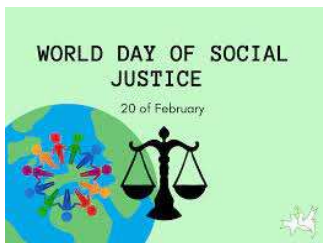
NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY: FEBRUARY 1ST (nationaldaycalendar.com)

National Freedom Day celebrates freedom from slavery and recognizes that America is a symbol of liberty. The day honors the signing by Abraham Lincoln of a joint House and Senate resolution that later became the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. President Lincoln signed the Amendment outlawing slavery on February 1, 1865. It was not ratified by the states, however, until later on December 18, 1865.



LUNAR NEW YEAR: FEBRUARY 10TH (chinesenewyear.net)

Happy Lunar New Year! Chinese **Chunjie**, Vietnamese **Tet**, Korean **Solnal**, Tibetan **Losar**, also called **Spring Festival**, are all typically celebrated in China and other Asian countries that begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and ends on the first full moon of the lunar calendar, 15 days later. The lunar calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, so the dates of the holiday vary slightly from year to year, beginning February 10 and ending on February 20. Chinese New Year marks the transition between zodiac signs: 2024 is the Year of the Dragon.



WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE: FEBRUARY 20TH (Wikipedia)

World Day of Social Justice (Social Justice Equality Day) is an international day recognizing the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections. Many organizations, including the UN, American Library Association (ALA), and the International Labour Organization, make statements on the importance of social and present plans for greater social justice by tackling poverty, social and economic exclusion and unemployment. The United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe 20 February^[2] annually, approved on 26 November 2007 and starting in 2009, as the World Day of Social Justice. The Declaration focuses on guaranteeing fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights.

UMASS CHAN REMINDER

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.