



Weekly Newsletter March 17-21, 2025

PQHS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Rosemarie Martin, PhD** for receiving her Addiction Technology Transfer Center of New England (ATTC) award. The purpose of this program is to develop and strengthen the specialized behavioral healthcare and primary healthcare workforce that provides substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support services. Contract transferred from Brown University.

Congratulations to **Hua (Julia) Fang, PhD** (Computer & Information Science) has been selected for the 2025-2026 Distinguished Lecturers by the IEEE Communications Society. Dr. Fang joins an elite group of 67 experts from around the world named Distinguished Lecturers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Research Methods Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 10:00-11:00 AM

Title: Bayesian Models for Longitudinal Clinical Trials with Zero-Inflated Data



Presenter: Benjamin Rogers, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics at UMass Amherst

Description: We develop Bayesian two-part regression models for estimating treatment effect in longitudinal randomized clinical trials with zero-inflated data. We model data coming from two randomized controlled trials, one measuring the effect of an intervention to reduce levels of substance abuse and the other measuring the effect of an intervention to improve linkage and engagement in medical care among previously incarcerated people with HIV. To estimate the effect of a screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) intervention on days of substance we develop a longitudinal zero-inflated binomial model. We also develop a longitudinal zero-inflated Poisson model for modeling counts of medical visits with unbalanced observation times. Time varying random effects with a parameterized covariance matrix are used to model within-individual correlation over time and are shown to improve fit over standard models. Unbalanced observation times are accounted for using partially observed latent time effects and regression equation offsets.

Bio: Benjamin Rogers is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics at UMass Amherst and a member of the Reich Lab. He received his Ph.D. in biostatistics from UCLA in 2022 for work on Bayesian longitudinal models. As a member of the Reich lab, he has worked on disease forecasting models, forecast scoring approaches and helped launch the United States SARS-CoV-2 Variant Nowcast Hub. To join the meeting click [here](#).



Thursday, March 20, 2:00-3:00 PM

Tea Time - The Executive Office invites you to tea time! Take this opportunity to connect with colleagues. We look forward to seeing you!



NHLBI-funded Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research Program (T32)

Directed by Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD (PQHS) and Kevin Donahue, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), the **NHLBI-funded Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research Program (T32)** is currently accepting applications for **post-doctoral trainees**. Please visit [PQHS - Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 Training Program](#) for more information on this opportunity." Questions? Contact Rebecca Gigliello (Rebecca.gigliello@umassmed.edu)

Upgrade to Windows 11

We are looking to schedule an upgrade to Windows 11 for your department's Windows devices; Apple devices **are not** included in this effort. Personal computing devices and lab devices **are** included.

At this point, you can:

- [schedule an upgrade, here](#)
- [schedule a discussion, here](#)

The upgrade installation process is listed below:

1. We make the upgrade available (via a remote push) to the devices
2. Prior to any major operating system installation, it's always a good practice to back up your important data to prevent data loss.
3. once the device connects to the internet, it will receive an upgrade installation package
 1. After installation, **check for and install** any updates through the Windows Update settings
 2. we recommend installing at the end of the day, and allow for a few hours
 3. Folks have five days to upgrade; after five days the installation will happen automatically
4. Test Hardware Compatibility: Check if all your hardware components are functioning correctly. Verify that peripherals, such as printers, scanners, and external drives, are recognized and work as expected.
5. Explore the Interface: Familiarize yourself with the Windows 11 interface. Test the new Start menu, Taskbar, and other UI elements.
6. Performance Testing: Evaluate the overall performance of Windows 11 by opening and using various applications, multitasking, and observing system responsiveness
7. App Compatibility: Test your essential applications to ensure they are compatible with Windows 11. Some older applications may require updates or compatibility modes

Scott Dziewietin, Senior Director, Information Technology

DIVERSITY DIGEST



The Diversity Action Committee recognizes and celebrates the diversity of all in the PQHS community. Please see below the link to the Seamount 2025 Diversity Calendar; scroll down to see the observances and celebrations for March.
<https://seramount.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Seramount-Diversity-Holiday-Calendar-2025.pdf>

UMASS CHAN REMINDER

Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- Patriots' Day – Monday, April 21st
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 26th
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19th
- Independence Day – Friday, July 4th
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1st
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 13th
- Veterans Day – Tuesday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27th
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 28th
- Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24th
- Christmas Day – Thursday, 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 Judi (judi.saber@umassmed.edu) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.