



## Weekly Newsletter November 4-8, 2024

### PQHS NEWS

#### UPCOMING EVENTS



**Monday, October 21, 2024 – November 7, 2024**

**Vietnam Delegation:** PQHS is excited to host our second annual Vietnam Delegation from Hanoi Medical University this week as a part of an NIH-funded D43 Training Grant. We are pleased to welcome two Dignitaries: Dr. Tu Nguyen (Rector) and Dr. Kim Giang (Vice Rector), along with faculty, staff, and our Trainees from our developed Masters in Epidemiology Program. If you'd like to participate in any of the collaborative activities or presentations planned, please e-mail Brooke Staples

at [Brooke.Staples@umassmed.edu](mailto:Brooke.Staples@umassmed.edu) for more information.

**Monday, November 4, 2024, 1:00PM-2:15PM – Zoom**

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

**Presenter:** [Huijing Wu, PhD](#) Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

**Topic:** *“Living apart together (LAT) relationships and psychological well-being: Does partnership status matter for older adults?”*

Click [here](#) to join. Password: Boston



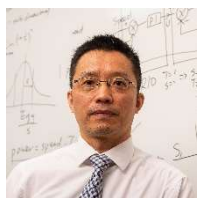
**Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 2:00-3:00PM** - Albert Sherman Center 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Open Space  
Tea Time will be hosted by the HIIS. Please stop by, say hello and have a cup of tea.

**Wednesday, November 6th, 10:00 – 11:00 AM**

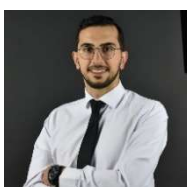
**Title:** How AI Makes At-home COVID-19 Tests Easier and More Reliable

**Presenters:** Dr. Xian Du and Meysam Safarzadeh

**Description:** This talk will explore the development and application of an AI-powered image analysis pipeline designed to classify at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen test results. By employing machine learning techniques, including image matching and transfer learning, this method aims to address common issues with human interpretation, such as faint test lines and people suffering from visual impairments. We will discuss the system's architecture, its performance across various test brands, and how it improves diagnostic accuracy in real-world, non-laboratory settings. The potential of AI to standardize rapid test interpretations and enhance public health outcomes will also be highlighted.



**Bio:** Dr. Xian Du is an Associate Professor at UMass Amherst, with research focusing on high-resolution, large-area, and fast-speed sensing, machine vision, and pattern recognition technologies for flexible and wearable electronics printing, as well as personalized health monitoring. He earned his Ph.D. in Innovation of Manufacturing Systems and Technology from the Singapore-MIT Alliance. Before joining UMass, Dr. Du was a research scientist at MIT, where he invented concentric circular trajectory scanning and super-resolution techniques for large area imaging. He is the recipient of NSF CAREER Award and a senior member of IEEE, ASME, and OSA.



**Bio:** Meysam Safarzadeh is a PhD candidate at the Intelligent Sensing Lab, specializing in deep learning and smart health monitoring technologies. At the University of Massachusetts Amherst, he has played a key role in developing AI-driven health diagnostics. His work spans multiple projects focused on integrating advanced computational techniques with healthcare innovations to enhance medical diagnostics and patient care.

## Research Methods Meetings - 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10 AM until June 18, 2025

- The goal is to share innovative research methods, explore current challenges like reducing inequities, highlight method-focused publications, seek feedback on research problems for grants, and identify collaborators for new or ongoing projects.
- If you would like to receive a reminder prior to each seminar, please email [judi.saber@umassmed.edu](mailto:judi.saber@umassmed.edu) to be added to the distribution list. If you are on this list, you will also receive an Outlook invitation to your calendar.
- We also invite you to consider presenting your work at one of our meetings. Please contact [arlene.ash@umassmed.edu](mailto:arlene.ash@umassmed.edu) if you'd like to learn more.
- We look forward to seeing you there and engaging in valuable discussions!



## PQHS HAPPENINGS

### UMass Chan Medical School's annual employee giving campaign kicks off! Over \$220,000+ was raised last year!

You may donate by payroll deduction, credit card, check or cash using the online donation form or the printable PDF donation form.

**North Quadrant Support Services (NQSS)** initiative, which is our partnership with the Worcester Public Schools providing support to address socioeconomic barriers to academic success faced by students in our community.

**UMass Chan Medical School Foundation** support important strides being made in training future physicians and advanced nurse practitioners, developing and nurturing nurse educators, assisting students in need, and maximizing biomedical research to find treatments, and ideally cures, for chronic and rare diseases.

**United Way of Central Ma and Independent Non-Profit Organizations** work to improve the community and break the cycle of poverty. Donors and supporters contribute millions of dollars each year, which gets invested into programs and initiatives with a proven track record of results.

Click [here](#) for the Giving Page.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 11:45AM-1:00PM – via Zoom**

### UMass CHE Global Health Speaker Series

**Presenter:** Dr. Aduragbemi Banke-Thomas - Associate Professor of Maternal and Newborn Health, Co-Director, Maternal Adolescent Reproductive Child Health (March), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

**Topic:** "Urban Inequalities in Accessing Emergency Obstetric Care in the Global South: State of Play and What is Needed for the Future"

Click [here](#) to Register.

## UMASS CHAN REMINDER

### 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 the January 17, 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.

## Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

### Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2024:

- Veterans Day – Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>



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.*