

Weekly Newsletter November 12-15, 2024

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS



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.



Wednesday, November 20th, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Title: Cost-effectiveness analysis of a mobile health intervention for type 2 diabetes management delivered by clinical pharmacists and community health workers

Presenter: Mrinmayee Joshi

Bio: Mrinmayee Joshi is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes and Policy at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) College of Pharmacy. She has completed fellowships at AbbVie Inc, in their Health Economics and Outcomes Research - Oncology team, and at the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research – Office of New Drugs. Her primary research interests include evaluating the safety, effectiveness and value of health care interventions, including pharmaceuticals and clinical pharmacy services.

Description: Type 2 diabetes imposes a significant economic burden on healthcare systems. Interdisciplinary healthcare teams can offer patient-centered care by integrating medical, behavioral, and social support services. This research evaluated the cost-effectiveness of a clinical pharmacist and community health worker team-based mobile health intervention for diabetes adherence support (mDAS) among African American and Latinx individuals with elevated hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c). Cost-effectiveness was assessed in terms of cost per quality-adjusted life year gained, compared to usual care, using a cohort transition Markov model from a health system perspective.

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 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 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



Leadership transition in the Division of Epidemiology and the Doctoral Program in Population Health Research. Dr. [Kate Lapane](#), who is currently on a leave of absence, has served as an extraordinary leader, not only advancing the field of pharmacoepidemiology and long-term care through her impactful research but also as an exceptional educator and visionary. Her leadership in creating our doctoral program has set a standard of excellence, establishing it as one of the finest programs at UMass. Her contributions have inspired her colleagues and students alike, and we are profoundly grateful for her dedication and achievements.



During her absence, Dr. [Jennifer Tjia](#) will serve as Interim Division Director. Dr. Tjia brings to this role an impressive academic career, marked by her dedication, extensive experience, and an exceptional reputation as a mentor. Her passion and vision for the field make her ideally suited to continue the division's momentum and uphold our commitment to excellence in population health research.



Additionally, Dr. [Shao-Hsien Liu](#) will be assuming the position of Interim Director of the Doctoral Program in Population Health Research. Dr. Liu is a respected health services researcher with significant credibility as an educator and mentor. He has been deeply involved with the doctoral program, and the students hold him in high regard. He is exceptionally well-suited to serve as Interim Director.

Please join me in welcoming Drs. Tjia and Liu to their new leadership roles, and in extending our deepest appreciation to Dr. Lapane for her outstanding service and dedication to our department.

DIVERSITY DIGEST



Join the Diversity Action Committee!

Our Diversity Action Committee (DAC) continues to work to ensure that PQHS is an environment where all are welcomed, feel a sense of belonging and inclusion across our workplace/community.

We are looking for passionate individuals who are eager to make a positive impact, share their perspectives, and contribute to shaping our initiatives. Whether you're interested in policy advocacy, organizing events, or supporting related programs, your voice matters!

Why Get Involved?

- Help drive change and ensure diverse voices are heard.
- Collaborate with like-minded individuals who are passionate about inclusion.
- Make a tangible difference in creating a more welcoming and equitable environment for all.

Interested? Reach out to Sharina Person for more information on how to join.

Together, we can foster a more inclusive future!



National Native American Heritage Month

The month of November is National Native American Heritage month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. It is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and, in the present,

and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges. In addition, Native American Heritage Day, held annually on the Friday after Thanksgiving, encourages Americans of all backgrounds to observe and honor Native Americans through appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The Nipmuc or Nipmuck people are an Indigenous people of the Northeastern Woodlands, who historically spoke an Eastern Algonquian language, probably the Loup language.[6] Their historic territory Nippenet, meaning 'the freshwater pond place', is in central Massachusetts and nearby parts of Connecticut and Rhode Island. Nipmuc history in what is now Worcester County predates any written records. During the 1600's, the original inhabitants of Worcester dwelled principally in three locations, Pakachoag, Tataeset (Tatnuck), and Wigwam Hill (N. Lake Ave.). Nipmuc history does not end in the 17th century though. Nipmucs continued to live in Worcester and still do. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Samuel Bowman and his granddaughter, Hepsibeth Bowman Hemenway were well known in Worcester. Hepsibeth was known particularly as a baker of wedding cakes for the wealthy. Her portrait now hangs in the Worcester Historical Museum and a giant banner with her likeness can be seen while driving up Chestnut Street. Nipmucs fought in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. As industry boomed in Worcester, more and more Nipmucs came to the city in search of work and settling in the African-American enclaves of Beaver Brook on the west side and Laurel-Clayton on the east-side of the city.



National Family Caregivers Month

November is also National Family Caregivers Month, proclaimed in 2012 by former President Barack Obama. It honors the more than forty million caregivers across the country who support aging parents, ill spouses, or other loved ones with disabilities who remain at home.



Diwali (also called Divali or Deepavali) is the Hindu festival of lights with variations also celebrated in other Indian religions (by Sikhs, Jains, and some Buddhists). It celebrates the triumph of light over dark, good over evil, and the blessings of victory, freedom, and enlightenment. The name comes from the Sanskrit word dipavali, meaning "row of lights." On the main night of Diwali, celebrants light dozens of candles and clay lamps (called diyas), placing them throughout their homes and in the streets to light up the dark night. Diwali is a

five-day celebration observed during the Hindu month of Kartik which begins in mid-October and ends in mid-November. The central date, and the most important, falls on the new moon, this year on November 1st.



Veterans Day – November 11th

Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Legally, two minutes of silence is recommended to be observed at 2:11pm Eastern Standard Time.



Transgender Awareness Week: People and organizations participate to help raise the visibility of transgender people and address issues members of the community face. Ways to be supportive of all transgender people:

- Always use a transgender person's chosen name.
- Ask for the pronoun a person uses and use it. If you are not certain which pronoun to use, you might say to a person, "My pronouns are she/her. What pronouns do you use?"
- Don't make assumptions about a transgender person's sexual orientation.
- Challenge anti-transgender remarks or jokes in public spaces.



Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR): November 20th is a day to memorialize those who have been murdered because of transphobia and to draw attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community. TDOR was inspired by Rita Hester, a black trans woman who was brutally murdered in her Boston apartment in 1998 and whose death inspired a movement. TDOR was established by trans activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith on November 20, 1999. Rita Hester’s legacy has is honored on this day; however, the case of her murder was never solved, and her name has largely been overlooked by mainstream media and literature. Rita Hester’s memory inspired a day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia; and a day to draw attention to the continued violence on transgender communities.

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:

- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28th
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 29th
- Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th
- Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25th



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