

**Weekly Newsletter December 11-15, 2023**

**PQHS NEWS**

**UPCOMING EVENT**



**Wednesday, December 13 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM**

**Research Meeting – Presenter:** John Gilvar, MA, Gilvar Consulting

**Presenter's bio:** John Gilvar of Gilvar Consulting developed and managed Health Care for the Homeless programs for 20 years. His consulting work leverages his experience creating cross-agency teams that integrate clinical and social services on the streets and in homeless services facilities. He supports programs and policy initiatives targeting barriers to effective management of complex care challenges for people with chronic behavioral health conditions, cognitive impairment, a variety of common physical health problems, and housing instability.

**Title:** Can Risk Modeling Research Help Sustain Care Delivery Innovations for People Living Homeless with Chronic Behavioral Health Conditions and Other Barriers to Stability?

**Brief Description:** Driving and sustaining innovation in patient-centered, integrated clinical and social service delivery models for people struggling with homelessness and debilitating health conditions entails reckoning with significant barriers within state Medicaid reimbursement structures. Projects enabling transdisciplinary teams to bring much-needed care to the streets or into shelters and supportive housing buildings, for example, tend to recoup from Medicaid billing a far smaller share of total program costs than what Federally Qualified Health Centers or other project sponsors deem sustainable. How can research into the higher total cost of care for the Medicaid populations targeted by such community-based projects help states better support efforts to bring successful innovations to scale and sustain them? Examples of integrated care projects effectively serving populations with high rates of unmanaged behavioral health, cognitive, and chronic conditions will help inform this discussion.

Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 937 1668 5400 password: 492717



**Wednesday, December 13 – 12:00-4:00PM, Main Entrance lobbies**

**Pie Day Celebration** - In honor of UMass Chan Medical School again being named one of [The Boston Globe's top employers in Massachusetts](#), the Office of Human Resources is sponsoring Pie Day.

**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 \(office365.com\)](#)

**WELCOME TO PQHS**



**Welcome to PQHS!!** Excited to share that Sara Mazzola has accepted the Academic Administrator II position. She has over 16 years' experience, most recently as a Grants Manager at the Harvard Medical School. She will be joining us on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please help me welcome Sara to the PQHS Finance Team!

## 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

### UMass Boston Department of Gerontology & Gerontology Institute Present Proseminar Speaker Series Fall 2023

Monday, December 11, 2023

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

via [Zoom](#)

**Debby Dodds, MS**

Gerontologist and Head of Caregiver Engagement,  
Generation Connect

*“From Capstone to Commercialization: A Journey in Gerontology, Dementia, and Tech Innovation”*

via Zoom: <https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94175483404> Password: Boston

For more information contact Jaqueline Contrera Avila: [Jaqueline.Avila@umb.edu](mailto:Jaqueline.Avila@umb.edu)



**Thursday, December 7, 2023, 11:00-1:00PM**

***“Thinking about Information Disorder in the Context of Health and Science: How Bad is the Problem and What Can We Do About It?”***

Presented by: Ezra Markowitz, PhD, Professor at UMass Amherst

Click [here](#) to Register. Registration is required.



**Monday, January 29, 2024, 2:00-4:00PM**

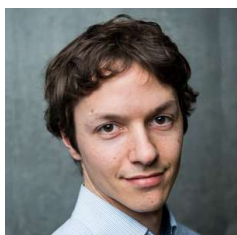
***“Striving for Impact: Designing the Community – Academic Research Dissemination Process to Foster Equity”***

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.



**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



**December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.** It was proclaimed in 1992 by the UN (United Nations) to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities and to increase awareness of their situation. Persons with disabilities include every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life, for example, discrimination in our societies, inequitable policies, the determinants of health, lack of access or quality of care, and negative attitudes of health workers.

More than 1.3 billion people experience significant disability today, which represents 16% of the global population. Many persons with disabilities die earlier, are at increased risk of developing a range of health conditions, and experience more limitations in everyday functioning than the rest of the population.



**December 10, 2023** marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets out a broad range of fundamental rights and freedoms to which all of us are entitled. It guarantees the rights of every individual everywhere, without distinction based on nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, language, or any other status. On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the UDHR, which was the first global enunciation of human

rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations. Read the declaration here:

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>



#### **WINTER SOLSTICE – December 21, 2023**

The first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere is marked by the winter solstice, which occurs on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 10:27 P.M. EST. For the northern half of Earth (the Northern Hemisphere), the winter solstice occurs annually on December 21 or 22. (The Southern Hemisphere's winter solstice occurs in June.) The winter solstice is the day with the fewest hours of sunlight throughout the year, making it the "shortest day" of the year. Thankfully, after we reach the winter solstice, the days begin to grow longer and longer again until we reach the summer solstice—the first day of summer and the longest day of the year.

On the day of the winter solstice, we are tilted as far away from the Sun as possible, which means that the Sun's path across the sky is as low in the sky as it can be. Think about the daily path of the Sun: It rises in the east and sets in the west, arcing across the sky overhead. During the summer, the Sun arcs high in the sky, but during the winter, it arcs lower, closer to the horizon.

Excerpted from: The Almanac, by Catherine Boeckmann, November 2023

#### **UMASS CHAN REMINDER**



#### **Deadline to Use Your Personal Time**

The last day for all employees to use their 2023 Personal Time will be on January 13, 2024. Employees will be awarded their 2024 Personal Time on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, which will be available in their timesheet. The 2024 personal time will be reflected on the January 19, 2024, 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.

If you have questions, please email [HRCommunications@umassmed.edu](mailto:HRCommunications@umassmed.edu).



**Holiday season is upon us.** Here is the [link](#) to the Holiday Calendars for UMass Chan Medical School.

**Following Holiday Schedule for the remainder of 2023:**

- Christmas Eve (observed) – Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Christmas Day – Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>



**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.



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.*