# UMass Chan MEDICAL SCHOOL Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

## Weekly Newsletter January 3 - 6, 2023

## **PQHS NEWS**

#### Tuesday, January 3 – 9:00 – 10:00 AM



**Research Meeting** – A Model for Estimating the Financial Impact of "Medicare for All" on Healthcare Systems presented by Eric Mick, ScD, Associate Professor, PQHS, UMass Chan Medical School. **Description**: Here we present the results from the collaboration between the Medical School (PQHS) and UMass Memorial Medical Center (Finance). Through interviews with key leaders from the health care system we estimated the potential impact of a "Medicare for All" (M4A) transition on the financial well being of the UMass Health System. Our model focuses on the potential financial impact on revenue, administrative costs, operational costs, and employee insurance costs. This model was then applied to data made available from CHIA

to other acute care hospitals across Massachusetts to place the results from UMass Memorial into greater context. Our models suggest that transitioning to M4A would have variable effects on different hospital systems and characterizes the systems that would be hurt by such a transition. Click <u>here</u> to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 851 294 7151 **password: smm2020** 

#### Course in Clinical Trials – Spring, 2023

Are you ready to take your molecule or intervention to the next phase of research? The University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMCMS) Graduate School of Biomedical Science is offering a course in Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials (CTS 609) in the Spring Semester 2023 (January 17 - May 5). This course is open to all UMCMS research and clinical faculty, staff, students, as well as researchers external to UMCMS.



**Description:** The course is intended for the research scientist. The goal is to sharpen the methodological skills required in designing experimental studies for clinical investigators. The course will cover theoretical and practical methods in designing and implementing clinical trials, emphasizing design implications, developing individual study protocols, and addressing questions of importance in a feasible manner. The course emphasizes the design of intervention studies to achieve specific research objectives by selecting appropriate study samples, endpoints, and trial designs. It will cover not only the basics of clinical trials, including reviews/critiques of major clinical trials, but also new developments in trial design (e.g., stepped wedge designs, adaptive designs, integrated Phase I/II and II/III designs), randomization strategies (e.g., covariate-adjusted randomizations), and trial conduct (e.g., risk-based monitoring, consent processes, difficult environments).

### <u>Dates</u>: January 18 through May 3, 2023, no class on March 15 – Spring Break <u>Times</u>: Wednesdays, 8:00 – 10:00 AM for live lectures, article reviews, and discussions <u>Location</u>: Zoom

Lecturer: Dr. Bruce Barton, Professor in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, is a biostatistician with over 45 years of experience in randomized clinical trials and has served as the Principal Investigator / Director of Data Coordinating Centers for 38 major clinical trials across all phases. Interested researchers should contact Dr. Barton (bruce.barton@umassmed.edu) for further information about the course content. Information on how to register for the course can be found at <a href="https://www.umassmed.edu/gsbs/academic-student-affairs/registration/">https://www.umassmed.edu/gsbs/academic-student-affairs/registration/</a>.



#### Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 10 AM

UMass Chan Center for Clinical & Translational Science Workshop: "Effective Communication of Risk and Uncertainty with Non-Experts" presented by Justin Gross, PhD, who is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as well as a core faculty member of the UMass Amherst Computational Social Science Institute (CSSI). Participants will learn about challenges and opportunities with respect to effective communication of risk and uncertainly, including conveyance of probabilistic information, distinguishing between absolute and related risk, and understanding how peoples' perceptions of uncertainty may depend on what is at stake. The focus will be on how to communicate risk and uncertainty more effectively with non-experts,

including the use of visual techniques and analogies to improve understanding and uptake of information. <u>Registration is</u> <u>required</u>. Real-time captioning will be provided.

#### Monday, April 3, 2023, at 12 PM

**Rigor and Reproducibility Seminar:** *"Sharing Confidential and Sensitive Data?"* presented by <u>George Alter, PhD</u>, Research Professor Emeritus with the Institute for Social Research at the **University of Michigan.** Dr. Alter's research integrates theory and methods from demography, economics, and family history with historical sources to understand demographic behaviors in the past. From 2007 to 2016, Alter was Director of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, the world's largest archive of social science data, and he is a past president of the Social Science History Association. He has been active in international efforts to promote research transparency, data sharing, and secure access to confidential research data. He is currently engaged



in projects to create FAIR vocabularies in population research, to automate the capture of metadata from statistical analysis software, and to compare fertility transitions in contemporary and historical populations. This seminar is given jointly by the UMass Chan Medical School Population & Quantitative Health Sciences, and UMass Boston Gerontology Department and Gerontology Institute. **Click this** <u>link</u> to join the ZOOM presentation; password: 468880.



Postdoctoral Training is starting now and in August 2023. The <u>PRACCTIS</u> program (Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change in Individuals and <u>Systems</u>) at UMass Chan Medical School is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars. Funding is available starting now and in August 2023 for fellowships in three specialty areas:

Cancer Prevention and Control Health Communication Tobacco and Digital Health Research

We train independent researchers to address critical prevention and control care delivery issues across the cancer continuum, including primary prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. Emphasis is on promoting change in individuals, providers and systems. Our faculty mentors are leaders in health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, health informatics, systems change and health policy, health communications, population health sciences, implementation science, and prevention and intervention research. Applicants must plan to pursue an independent research career focused on cancer prevention and control, have earned a doctoral degree (PhD, ScD, MD, DO, etc.), and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. PRACCTIS is a T32 training program funded by NCI. For more information contact <u>Barbara Estabrook</u>.

## **UMASS CHAN REMINDER**



UMass Chan Medical School's <u>Office of Communications</u> 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: <u>Photo</u> 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 Judi (judi.saber@umassmed.edu) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.