

Weekly Newsletter October 10-13, 2023

PQHS NEWS

PQHS SHOUT OUT



Congratulations to **Jessica Wijesundara** on her promotion to Research Program Manager II, which was in effect 8/20/2023. Please help me congratulate Jessica on this promotion.

Congratulations to **Ariana Kamberi** on her promotion to Research Program Manager I, which will start on 10/8/23. Please help me congratulate Ariana on this promotion.



Congratulations to [Feifan Liu, PhD](#) for being an awardee of the AIM-AHEAD Consortium Development Program! This grant will allow more research on responsible AI for risk prediction.

PQHS FAREWELL



Mandy O'Reilly has resigned from her position effective October 20th, 2023, and will be leaving the University. Mandy has been with PQHS for 10 years and has been consistent in delivering effective results. She contributed immensely to our current Administrative success and her departure leaves a big gap on our Administrative team. Please bear with us as we work on transition and future communication on her portfolio assignments. We wish Mandy every success in her future endeavors. She will be greatly missed. Please stop by Teatime on October 19th say goodbye to Mandy and wish her well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Monday, October 16, 2023
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
via [Zoom](#)

Joseph Saenz, PhD

Assistant Professor, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Center for Innovation in Healthy and Resilient Aging, Arizona State University
"Disparities in Cognitive Aging in Mexican Older Adults: Exploring the Role of the Physical and Social Environment"

Monday, October 23, 2023
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
via [Zoom](#)

Maira A. Castañeda-Avila, MS, PhD

Assistant Professor, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Population & Quantitative Health Sciences,
UMass Chan Medical School
"Career Journey in Cancer Epidemiology: Focusing on the Colorectal Cancer Care Continuum Among Older Hispanic Adults"

Monday, November 20, 2023
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
via [Zoom](#)

Jaqueline Contrera Avila, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Gerontology,
University of Massachusetts Boston
"Tobacco Use Among Older Adults: Health Impact and Opportunities for Interventions"

Monday, November 27, 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



Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 10:00-11:30AM in UMass Chan Medical School Faculty Conference Room
Equity in Caregiving Community Convening

Event Highlights

- Keynote address - AARP Massachusetts “AARP and The CARE Act”
- Caregiver Panel - “Real World Experiences and Stories of Caregiver Engagement in the Hospital”
- Clinician Panel - “Bearing Witness, Connecting and Caring for the Caregiver”
- Opportunity for Networking

For more information to register click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 10:00-11:30AM

Leveraging Community Engagement To Address Behavioral Health Disparities In The Deaf Community

Featured Speakers – [Melissa Anderson, PhD, MSCI](#) and [Alexander Wilkins, PhD](#)

Click [here](#) to register.



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE



Monday, October 23, 2023, 12:00-1:00PM

Realizing the Promise of HPV Vaccination: Using Implementation Science to Prevent Cancer

Featured Speakers – Heather Brandy, PhD from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
Director, HPV Cancer Prevention Program, Co-associate Director for Outreach, St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center, Member, Department of Epidemiology and Cancer Control

Click [here](#) to join.

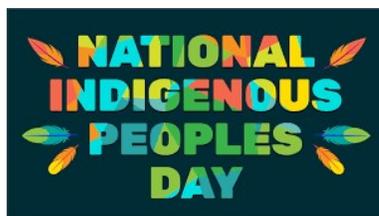


Friday, November 3, 2023, 12:00-1:00PM in Albert Sherman Building, AS9-2072

“Emulating the Chronic Hypertension and Pregnancy Trial: What Can We Really Learn from Real World Evidence?”

Presented by: Mollie Wood, PhD, MPH Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Click [here](#) to join via zoom. Password: 409560



On October 9, 2023, National Indigenous People's Day formally recognizes the Indigenous populations affected by colonization. This day is important to UMass Chan Medical School, as it is located on the ancestral land of the Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band. UMass Chan is partnering with the Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band to increase this recognition. UMass Chan's School Department of Diversity and Inclusion Office and the Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band collaborated to develop a meaningful, mutually beneficial relationship. The associated community advisory board identified four initiatives: 1) *UMass Chan will develop a land acknowledgement*, 2) *we will develop professional development opportunities to increase knowledge and awareness of Indigenous healing practices*, 3) *we will create an art installation highlighting indigenous healing practices in medicine*, and 4) *we will increase our pathway program efforts to increase Nipmuc representation*.

The team has made significant progress on each of these four initiatives. The following Land Acknowledgement statement was finalized in September 2022: *UMass Chan Medical School acknowledges that its campus is located on lands that were once part of the original homeland of the Nipmuc people. We denounce the violence that stripped these original stewards of lands that were their ancestral home and denied their descendants the opportunity for an authentic connection to it. In making this acknowledgement, we announce our intention to listen to and follow the lead of our Indigenous neighbors and work together to create new legacies of equity and respect.* In addition, a 3-part panel discussion on Indigenous and Native American health and healing has begun, a Nipmuc artist is creating a piece of art highlighting the importance of Indigenous healing practices for display in the Albert Sherman Building, and UMass Chan is increasing recruitment efforts into the pathway programs.



Mental Health Day, October 10th

World Mental Health Day 2023 is an opportunity for people and communities to unite behind the theme 'Mental health is a universal human right' to improve knowledge, raise awareness and drive actions that promote and protect everyone's mental health as a universal human right.

Mental health is a basic human right for all people. Everyone, whoever and wherever they are, has a right to the highest attainable standard of mental health. This includes the right to be protected from mental health risks, the right to available, accessible,

acceptable, and good quality care, and the right to liberty, independence and inclusion in the community. The World Mental Health Day 2023 campaign informs individuals about basic right to mental health as well as how to protect the rights of others.



National Coming Out Day (NCOD) is an annual LGBTQIA+ awareness day observed on October 11. It celebrates and supports "coming out of the closet," a metaphor for the process of recognizing, accepting, and outwardly sharing one's identity in order to live freely and openly as our true, authentic selves. First celebrated in the United States in 1988, NCOD is grounded in the belief that homophobia thrives in an atmosphere of silence and ignorance and that once people know that they have loved ones who are LGBTQIA+, they are far less likely to maintain homophobic or oppressive views. For more info visit <https://www.hrc.org/campaigns/national-coming-out-day>.

National Pronouns Day is observed each year on the third Wednesday in October (this year October 18). It seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace. Using someone's correct personal pronouns is a way to respect them and create an inclusive environment. A great way to do this is to share your own pronouns when introducing yourself, and to ask other people what pronouns they use. For more info visit <https://pronouns.org>.



October is Polish American Heritage month, which commemorates the first Polish settlers — as well as the deaths of General Kazimierz Pułaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko (military leaders who fought in the American Revolution). As with many cultural celebrations, food is a great way to be introduced to a new culture or share your culture with someone not familiar with the traditions. As someone who married into a Polish family, I've been introduced to many new foods over the years. My favorite has always been pierogi. Every year the week before Christmas, our family gathers to make pierogis. As with many cultures that have variations on dumplings like pierogi, there are many options for filling them. In our family, the three

most popular fillings are sauerkraut, potato and cheese, and prune.

Here is the recipe I use for a gluten-free version of pierogi: <https://www.celiacteen.com/2010/gluten-free-pierogi/>

And here is a more traditional gluten-filled version similar to the ones my family makes:

<https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/homemade-pierogi-recipe>

UMASS CHAN REMINDER



NIDDK has issued two RFAs seeking to solicit projects that will form a consortium aimed at using diverse data types to improve subclassification of T2D. These RFAs solicit projects that will make use of large and diverse U.S.-based cohorts with large number of individuals with T2D. More information can be found in the published RFAs here:

RFA-DK-23-019: Integration of Novel Measures for Improved Classification of Type 2 Diabetes

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-23-019.html>

RFA-DK-23-020: Integration of Novel Measures for Improved Classification of Type 2 Diabetes – Biostatistics Research Center

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-23-020.html>

The receipt date for these will be October 26, 2023.



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.