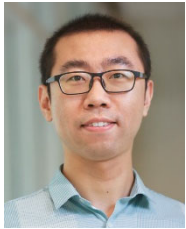# Weekly Newsletter October 15-18, 2024

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Research Methods Meetings have resumed and will continue through June 18, 2025 (with a summer break in July and August). Meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 10 AM.

- 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!

Wednesday, October 16th, 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Title: Goal-Oriented Data-Centric Learning
Presenter: Hongfu Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Brandeis University
Bio: Dr. Hongfu Liu is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Brandeis University. His research interests lie in core machine learning and AI-assisted applications. He has published over 100 papers (e.g., NeurIPS, ICLR, ICML, IJCAI, AAAI, KDD, ICDM, SDM, CIKM, CVPR, ICCV, TPAMI, and TKDE). These publications have received over 4,000 citations with an h-index of 37. He has also won several awards including the First Place Award in MS-Celel-1M Grand Challenge in ICCV 2017, the NVIDIA CCS Best Student Paper Award in FG 2021, the 2021 INNS Aharon Katzir Young Investigator Award, the top reviewer in UAI 2022, the highlighted/notable Area Chair in ICLR/NeurIPS 2022/2023, and the 2022 Global Top-25 Chinese Young Scholars in AI (Data Mining Area) by Baidu Scholar. He has served as an Associate Editor of IEEE CIM and as a (Senior) Area Chair of ICLR, ICML, and NeurIPS.
Brief Description: Data-centric learning focuses on enhancing algorithmic performance from the perspective of the training data. In contrast to model-centric learning, which designs novel algorithms or optimization techniques for performance improvement with fixed training data, data-centric learning operates with a fixed learning algorithm while modifying the training data through trimming, augmenting, or other methods aligned with improving utility. Data-centric learning holds significant potential in many areas such as model interpretation, subset training set selection, data generation, noisy label detection, active learning, and others. In this talk, I will introduce our recent advances in data-centric learning based on influence functions.
Click here to join or call 1 301 715 8592, Meeting ID: 948 2951 6040 password: 202286

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 for more information.

October 17-18, 2024 – UMass Amherst Conference Center
We cordially invite you to attend the UMass Chan 29th Annual Research Retreat, October 17-18, 2024. The retreat is scheduled for the UMass Amherst Conference Center and features talks from new UMass Chan faculty and students, a poster session, as well as opportunities for networking.
KEY INFO BEFORE YOU REGISTER
 POSTER ABSTRACTS: Submit on the SharePoint Site- UMass Chan Annual Research Retreat - Home (sharepoint.com)
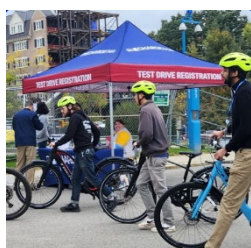**Poster Abstracts are due September 13th!**
Anyone participating in the poster session must **first** register for the event and **then upload their poster abstract by September 13th**. *Any abstracts received after the 9/13 WILL NOT be considered for judging.*

Poster abstracts will be reviewed by the judges. The top abstracts will be selected to speak at the Research Retreat.
All posters must be hung at the Retreat adjacent to the Campus Center Auditorium by 10:00 AM on October 17th.
Authors must be available to present their posters in the poster session.
We look forward to an exciting event and hope you will join us at UMass Amherst!
UMass Amherst Campus | Lincoln Campus Center & Hotel | 1 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003
CAMPUS MAP

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 10:00AM-2:00PM – Located in Front of the Medical School Building (Rain Location: Medical School Building Lobby)
UMass Chan Medical School: Office of Sustainability Presents – Bike Fair
A Free event, open to all experience and comfort levels.
- Learn about the benefits of biking and importance of shared roadway safety.
- Build the UMass Chan biking community
- Learn about transportation changes in the City and how to get involved.

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

Monday, October 28, 2024 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. via Zoom	**Hui (Cathy) Liu, PhD** Professor Department of Sociology Purdue University *Same-Sex Couples and Cognitive Function in Later Life*
Monday, November 4, 2024 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. via Zoom	**Huijing Wu, PhD** Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. *Living apart together (LAT) relationships and psychological well-being: Does partnership status matter for older adults?*

via Zoom: https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94175483404 - Password: Boston
For more information contact Charles Ruberto: charles.ruberto@umb.edu

LGBTQ+ History Month is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson and declared a national history month by President Barack Obama in 2009. October was chosen by Wilson as the month for the celebration because the first and second LGBT Marches on Washington, in 1979 and 1987, were in October and National Coming Out Day is on October 11. LGBTQ+ History Month provides role models, builds community, and represents a civil rights statement about the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. LGBTQ+ History Month is celebrated both nationally and internationally and has become a crucial tool in ensuring that queer history is shared, taught, and celebrated.

Global Diversity Awareness Month: October 2024
Ideas, science, language, food, technology, cultures, traditions, knowledge, problem solving….all these concepts and more require diversity to continue to reach for our human potential. DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) is a way to welcome diverse minds and beliefs.   Any individual or group cannot solve world problems alone. We need each other. By embracing our multicultural society, we can strengthen our understanding and evolution toward a better world.
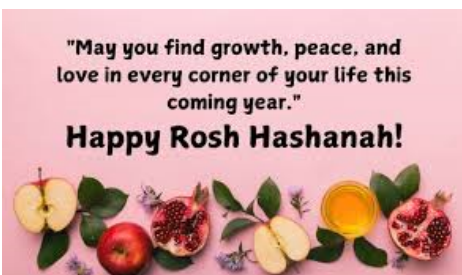
"Certainly, there are very real differences between us... But it is not those differences between us that are separating us. It is rather our refusal to recognize those differences, and to examine the distortions which result from our misnaming them and their effects upon human behavior and expectation." Audre Lorde--Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference

Every October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebrates the contributions and talents of workers with disabilities to America's workplaces and economy. NDEAM aims to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring disabled individuals have access to quality jobs year-round. This year's theme embodies that spirit: "Access to Good Jobs for All." NDEAM is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), but its essence is genuinely reflected in the numerous grassroots events held nationwide each year. The Campaign for Disability Employment invites organizations of all sizes and industries to get involved in NDEAM. NDEAM animated video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-_NPgJ4Nvs

Rosh Hashanah: Begins the evening of Wednesday, October 2, and ends at sundown on Friday, October 4, 2024. It is the first of the High Holy Days as specified by Leviticus 23:23–25, that occur in the late summer/early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere. Rosh Hashanah begins ten days of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur, as well as beginning the cycle of autumnal religious festivals running through Sukkot. Rosh Hashanah is a religious and festive time when family and friends gather together for meals and worship and grow closer to God. It's a time for looking forward to a new year with anticipation and reflecting on the past year to improve ourselves for the next. This two-day Jewish celebration of the New Year literally translates to "head of the year" in Hebrew.
Excerpted from Wikipedia, 2024 and the Farmers' Almanac, 2024

All Hallows' Eve (Halloween), a celebration observed in several countries on the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the three-day observance of All Hallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed. The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats. Last year Americans spent a record $12.2 billion on Halloween celebrations.

Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2024:

- Veterans Day – Monday, November 11th
- 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.