Weekly Newsletter October 28-November 1, 2024

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

UMass Chan Medical School's annual employee giving campaign kicks off on Monday, October 28th! 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.

Monday, October 28, 2024, 1:00PM-2:15PM – Zoom
UMass Boston Department of Gerontology & Gerontology Institute Present Proseminar Speaker Series Fall 2024
Presenter: Hui (Cathy) Liu, PhD Professor Department of Sociology Purdue University
Topic: "*Same-Sex Couples and Cognitive Function in Later Life*"
Click here to join. Password: Boston

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
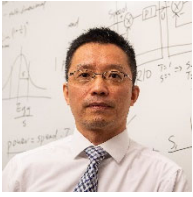A Free event, open to all experience and comfort levels.
• Learn about the benefits of biking and importance of shared roadway safety.
• Build the UMass Chan biking community
• Learn about transportation changes in the City and how to get involved.

Wednesday, November 6th, 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Title: How AI Makes At-home COVID-19 Tests Easier and More Reliable
Presenters: Dr. Xian Du and Meysam Safarzadeh
Description: This talk will explore the development and application of an AI-powered image analysis pipeline designed to classify at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen test results. By employing machine learning techniques, including image matching and transfer learning, this method aims to address common issues with human interpretation, such as faint test lines and people suffering from visual impairments. We will discuss the system's architecture, its performance across various test brands, and how it improves diagnostic accuracy in real-world, non-laboratory settings. The potential of AI to standardize rapid test interpretations and enhance public health outcomes will also be highlighted.

Bio: Dr. Xian Du is an Associate Professor at UMass Amherst, with research focusing on high-resolution, large-area, and fast-speed sensing, machine vision, and pattern recognition technologies for flexible and wearable electronics printing, as well as personalized health monitoring. He earned his Ph.D. in Innovation of Manufacturing Systems and Technology from the Singapore-MIT Alliance. Before joining UMass, Dr. Du was a research scientist at MIT, where he invented concentric circular trajectory scanning and super-resolution techniques for large area imaging. He is the recipient of NSF CAREER Award and a senior member of IEEE, ASME, and OSA.

Bio: Meysam Safarzadeh is a PhD candidate at the Intelligent Sensing Lab, specializing in deep learning and smart health monitoring technologies. At the University of Massachusetts Amherst, he has played a key role in developing AI-driven health diagnostics. His work spans multiple projects focused on integrating advanced computational techniques with healthcare innovations to enhance medical diagnostics and patient care.

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 SHOUT OUT

Congratulations to the 2024 Mel Cutler Population Health Pilot Awardees!

We are excited to announce the recipients of the prestigious 2024 Mel Cutler Population Health Pilot Awards. These awards, totaling $50,000 each, recognize groundbreaking research projects that address critical public health challenges. Congratulations to the following awardees:

- Jamie Faro, PhD - Assistant Professor, Health Informatics and Implementation Science
  FIT-COACH: Fitbit Intervention with Coordinated Health Coaching and PCP Support
  Dr. Faro's project focuses on using health coaching and technology to increase physical activity in sedentary populations, addressing the major public health issues of obesity and physical inactivity.
- Sarah Forrester, PhD - Assistant Professor, Epidemiology
  Investigating the Impact of Maternal Stress and Epigenetic Age Acceleration in Black Mother-Infant Dyads
  Dr. Forrester's project investigates the effects of maternal stress on aging at the genetic level in Black mother-infant pairs, a vital study for improving maternal and infant health outcomes.
- Grace Ryan, PhD, MPH - Assistant Professor, Preventive and Behavioral Medicine
  Developing a Youth-Focused Social Media Intervention to Combat Misinformation and Promote Cancer Prevention Behaviors Using Mixed Methods
  Dr. Ryan's innovative project addresses misinformation on social media that affects cancer prevention behaviors in adolescents, focusing on the HPV vaccine and sunscreen use.
- Chan Zhou, PhD - Assistant Professor, Biostatistics and Health Services Research
  Identifying Long Non-Coding RNA Biomarkers for Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease Risk Prediction Across Diverse Populations to Advance Health Equity
  Dr. Zhou's research aims to identify new biomarkers to better predict cardiovascular disease risk, particularly in diverse populations, advancing the field of health equity.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these awardees for their dedication to advancing population health. We look forward to the impactful contributions their research will bring to the field.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

UMASS CHAN REMINDER

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.