

Weekly Newsletter November 13-17, 2023

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENT

Wednesday, November 15 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM

**Research Meeting** – Evaluation of the Pediatric Palliative Care Network (PPCN) Program

**Description:** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Pediatric Palliative Care Network (PPCN) provides unique, community-based, and integrated services to children with life-limiting conditions and their families. Our MDPH-funded evaluation objective was to identify important aspects of quality of life (QOL) for the whole family and confirm whether and how PPCN supports them. Also, the evaluation explored whether the program was cost-effective.

PQHS HAPPENINGS



UMass Chan Medical School's annual employee giving campaign is in full swing! Week 2 currently **\$70,000** has been donated. We are hoping to surpass last year's total of more than \$220,000 and are well on our way! **ONLY 18% of PQHS has donated so far, let's see how close to 100% we can get!!**

Please won't you consider donating, there are only **10 days** left to give!

You may donate by payroll deduction, by check, or credit card and direct your donation to a variety of worthy organizations and causes such as those listed below.

**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**

- **Diversity and Inclusion Fund** supports institution-wide efforts to educate our community about the importance of diversity and inclusion and address bias.
- **Medical School Research Fund** supports UMass Chan research that advances treatments and cures for a range of diseases, creating a better future for all of us.
- **Student Financial Aid Fund** provides students who are financially disadvantaged with opportunities to pursue education here at UMass Chan – opportunities that otherwise may have been inaccessible.
- **Max Baker Resource Center** new food pantry and resource center for UMass Medical School students facing food insecurity.
- Area of Greatest Need

**United Way of Central Ma and Independent Non-Profit Organizations**

Click [here](#) for the Giving Page.



**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!

## PQHS FAREWELL



Donna Raymond has unfortunately resigned from PQHS. She will be joining the Research Administration Services as an Administrative Coordinator. As you all know Donna gives her 110% to all she does and it will be difficult to replace her. Her last day will be November 22, 2023. Thank you to Donna for your services to PQHS!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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](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.



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND  
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

## DIVERSITY DIGEST



**Veterans Day** (originally known as **Armistice Day**) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces (who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable). It coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are commemorated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day, a U.S. public holiday in May. Veterans Day commemorates the service of all U.S. veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who have *died* while in military service. Another military holiday that also occurs in May, Armed Forces Day, honors those *currently serving* in the U.S. military. Additionally, Women Veterans Day is recognized by a growing number of U.S. states that specifically honor women who have served in the U.S. military.



**Diwali** (also called Divali or Deepavali) is the Hindu festival of lights with variations also celebrated in other Indian religions (by Sikhs, Jains, and some Buddhists). It celebrates the triumph of light over dark, good over evil, and the blessings of victory, freedom, and enlightenment. The name comes from the Sanskrit word dipavali, meaning “row of lights.” On the main night of Diwali, celebrants light dozens of candles and clay lamps (called diyas), placing them throughout their homes and in the streets to light up the dark night. Diwali is a five-day celebration observed during the Hindu month of Kartik which begins in mid-October and ends in mid-November. The central date, and the most important, falls on the new moon, this year on November 12.



November is **National Native American Heritage Month**. This month is dedicated to celebrating the rich history, culture, and traditions of Native Americans. The month-long observance began in 1990 and is an opportunity to learn more about the history and contributions of Native Americans to the United States. It is also a time to reflect on the challenges that Native Americans have faced and continue to face. Notably, National Native American Heritage Day is observed on November 26, a day after Thanksgiving. American Indians are accorded special honor on this day, and their rich cultures, accomplishments, contributions, and heritage are celebrated.



**Transgender Awareness Week:** People and organizations participate to help raise the visibility of transgender people and address issues members of the community face. Ways to be supportive of all transgender people:

- Always use a transgender person’s chosen name.
  - Ask for the pronoun a person uses and use it. If you are not certain which pronoun to use, you might say to a person, “My pronouns are she/her. What pronouns do you use?”
- Don’t make assumptions about a transgender person’s sexual orientation.
  - Challenge anti-transgender remarks or jokes in public spaces.

**Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR):** November 20th is a day to memorialize those who have been murdered because of transphobia and to draw attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community. TDOR was inspired by Rita Hester, a black trans woman who was brutally murdered in her Boston apartment in 1998 and whose death inspired a movement. TDOR was established by trans activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith on November 20, 1999. Rita Hester’s legacy has is honored on this day; however, the case of her murder was never solved, and her name has largely been overlooked by mainstream media and literature. Rita Hester’s memory inspired a day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia; and a day to draw attention to the continued violence on transgender communities.

#### UMASS CHAN REMINDER



#### **Annual Privacy and Information Security Training**

Cybersecurity threats targeted against UMass Chan networks and data have become commonplace and the tactics that criminals employ are increasingly more sophisticated. UMass Chan’s annual Privacy and Information Security Training is a proven and effective deterrent against social engineering, phishing schemes and malware such as ransomware. The online training is informative and focuses on important steps that you can take to ensure you are safe from cybercriminals.

This year’s training begins Monday, Oct. 16, with an email from [UMassChanInformationSecurity@umassmed.edu](mailto:UMassChanInformationSecurity@umassmed.edu).

The training consists of six short interactive modules:

- You Are the Shield
- Email and Phishing
- Targeted Attacks
- Data Security
- Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

You will have 60 days to complete the training, but we strongly recommend that you prioritize this critical tool for protecting your data both at work and at home.



**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:**

- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Day After Thanksgiving - Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Eve (observed) – Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Christmas Day – Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>



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.*