

Weekly Newsletter March 31 – April 4, 2025

PQHS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to **Jeffrey B. Driban, PhD, ATC, CSCS** for receiving a new NIH R24 award titled “The OAI Collaborative Osteoarthritis Research Enterprise (OAI CORE) Knowledgebase”.

We received funding from NIAMS to create an OAI knowledgebase to promote and facilitate the use of the Osteoarthritis Initiative, a multicenter cohort study for people with or at risk for knee osteoarthritis. The OAI CORE Knowledgebase will create two broad platforms with the first being the Online OAI Resource Library, primarily a stand-alone online resource with 1) foundational documents (OAI Archive; e.g., approved consent forms), 2) presentations and educational opportunities (OAI.Edu), 3) annual State of the OAI Reports, 4) an online calculator for descriptive analyses (OAI Explorer), 5) a database of available OAI biospecimen, and 6) datasets that instructors can use in classes (OAI Learning Lab). Our second will be the OAI Engagement Services, where the OAI CORE will directly engage with interested investigators to assist with an array of activities, including 1) discussing available data and limitations, 2) creating parsimonious data or imaging sets, 3) preparing new datasets to link to the publicly available data, and 4) connecting new OAI investigators with experienced OAI investigators during one-on-one and group sessions – a catalyst to facilitate collaboration and new research.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Research Methods Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 10:00-11:00 AM



Presenter: Sarah Forrester, PhD, Associate Professor, UMass Chan Medical School

Title: Social Inequity and Health: Measuring Weathering to Understand and Improve Black Health

Description: Social inequities are an increasingly common feature of American society. But these inequities have existed for decades, particularly among marginalized groups. These social inequities lead to very real biological consequences. In this talk I will discuss social inequities and racism and how they can “get under the skin” and change our biology using the Weathering Hypothesis. I provide the theoretical basis for the weathering hypothesis, discuss different methods for measuring weathering, quantitative approaches to measuring weathering, and types of data for measuring weathering. I will also provide examples of

weathering findings both from my own research as well as from other’s research.

Bio: Sarah Forrester is a Tenure Track Associate Professor in the Division of Epidemiology, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences. She received her PhD in Public Mental Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where she focused on cognitive disorders of aging. Her research is in two primary focus areas – 1. understanding and preventing health inequities to improve the health of Black populations; and 2. how stress and biology interact to create health inequities in aging. Dr. Forrester is particularly interested in inequitable social determinants of health due to structural inequalities and structural racism’s effect on cardiovascular disease outcomes, cognitive function, and aging.

To join the meeting click [here](#).



Discover the Sixth Floor Lending Library!

Looking for your next great read? Dr. Kate Lapane has sparked something wonderful—a little Lending Library on the sixth floor, near the elevators and stairs!

Whether you’re in the mood for a quick escape, an inspiring memoir, or a gripping mystery, swing by and see what treasures are waiting for you. The best part? It’s totally free and community-driven.

🌟 Take a book, share a book, and spread the joy of reading.

Have a favorite book that changed your life or made you laugh out loud? Drop it off and give someone else the chance to love it too!

NHLBI-funded Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research Program (T32)



Directed by Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD (PQHS) and Kevin Donahue, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), the **NHLBI-funded Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research Program (T32)** is currently accepting applications for **post-doctoral trainees**. Please visit [PQHS - Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 Training Program](#) for more information on this opportunity.” Questions? Contact Rebecca Gigliello (Rebecca.gigliello@umassmed.edu)

MESSAGES FROM IT

Dropbox Town Hall

Tuesday, April 1, 3:00 - 3:45 PM

IT is hosting Town Halls with Dropbox technical experts for users who have specific questions about how to manage the upcoming file structure changes in their department, lab, or individual Dropbox accounts.

Please join us for our second Dropbox Town Hall regarding the upcoming File System Update.

<https://dropbox.zoom.us/j/92170346260?pwd=IUbyh1qV7mgGokMqh5cf42gkpJHHbv.1>

A recording of the first Dropbox Town Hall (from March 11) can be found here: [Gong | Call Viewer](#)

As you prepare for the File System Update, which will take place on , please check that the Dropbox desktop app is running version 197 or later. [Learn how to update to the latest version.](#)

If you have questions, please contact the UMass Chan Help Desk at UMassChanHelpDesk@umassmed.edu, who will connect you with the appropriate support team. You also may email me directly at Scott.Dziewietin@umassmed.edu.

Thank you in advance for working with us as we move through this required change. ~Scott Dziewietin

Upgrade to Windows 11

We are looking to schedule an upgrade to Windows 11 for your department's Windows devices; Apple devices **are not** included in this effort. Personal computing devices and lab devices **are** included.

At this point, you can:

- [schedule an upgrade, here](#)
- [schedule a discussion, here](#)

The upgrade installation process is listed below:

1. We make the upgrade available (via a remote push) to the devices
2. Prior to any major operating system installation, it's always a good practice to back up your important data to prevent data loss.
3. once the device connects to the internet, it will receive an upgrade installation package
 - After installation, **check for and install** any updates through the Windows Update settings
 - we recommend installing at the end of the day, and allow for a few hours
 - Folks have five days to upgrade; after five days the installation will happen automatically
4. Test Hardware Compatibility: Check if all your hardware components are functioning correctly. Verify that peripherals, such as printers, scanners, and external drives, are recognized and work as expected.

5. Explore the Interface: Familiarize yourself with the Windows 11 interface. Test the new Start menu, Taskbar, and other UI elements.
6. Performance Testing: Evaluate the overall performance of Windows 11 by opening and using various applications, multitasking, and observing system responsiveness
7. App Compatibility: Test your essential applications to ensure they are compatible with Windows 11. Some older applications may require updates or compatibility modes

UMASS CHAN REMINDER

Benefits Open Enrollment is Coming Soon! Wednesday, April 2 - Thursday, May 1

Open enrollment happens just once a year, so it's important to review your current plan enrollments and make changes that best meet your needs. For more information on the open enrollment process, GIC benefits guide and more, [visit the Open Enrollment page](#).

Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- Patriots' Day – Monday, April 21st
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 26th
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19th
- Independence Day – Friday, July 4th
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1st
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 13th
- Veterans Day – Tuesday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27th
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 28th
- Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24th
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25th



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.