

Weekly Newsletter April 14 - 18, 2025

PQHS NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Research Methods Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 10:00-11:00 AM

Presenters: JungAe Lee, PhD Assistant Professor in the Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research and Eric Mick, ScD, Associate Professor in the Division of Epidemiology in PQHS at UMass Chan Medical School

Title: Pragmatic Trials: From theory to practice Health

Description: This presentation explores the role and design of pragmatic trials, which are clinical studies conducted in real-world settings to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. Unlike explanatory trials, pragmatic trials emphasize broad eligibility criteria, flexible intervention delivery, and patient-centered outcomes, enhancing their generalizability and applicability to routine clinical practice. We will discuss key advantages and challenges, including cost-effectiveness and managing heterogeneity. Among the various designs, we will particularly delve into stepped wedge designs, including sample size/power calculation, and analysis issues. Future directions focus on leveraging electronic health records, incorporating patient-reported outcomes, and improving analytical methods. Overall, pragmatic trials offer valuable insights to bridge research and real-world practice, complementing traditional explanatory trials.



Bio: Dr. JungAe Lee holds a PhD in Statistics, specializing in high-dimensional, small-sample data, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in obesity and cancer prevention at an NIH-funded TREC center. Dr. Lee's current research primarily focuses on cancer survivorship and medications, investigating the long-term effects of cancer treatments and the role of medications in improving survivorship outcomes. Additionally, she explores clinical trials extension topics, including pragmatic trials and the analysis of electronic health records to enhance the applicability of clinical research to real-world settings. Her expertise spans nonparametric statistics, experimental design/clinical trials, survival analysis, mixed effect models, and omics data.



Bio: Dr. Eric Mick is a psychiatric and genetic epidemiologist. His methodological areas of interest are epidemiology (descriptive and clinical), analysis of “big-data” (genomic research and administrative databases), and multivariate methods for longitudinal data. He is currently working with colleagues in PQHS pursuing research and clinical interventions aimed at addressing and reducing health care disparities in patients served by the UMMS system. I hope to build upon these collaborations to identify opportunities for addressing health care disparities associated with severe mental illnesses.

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

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)



Discover the Sixth Floor Lending Library!

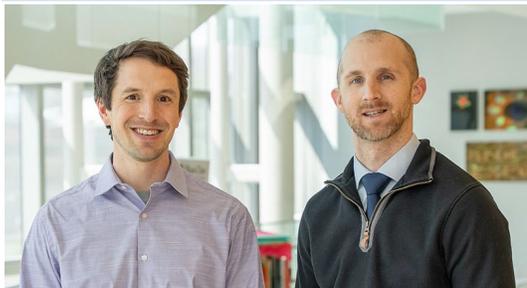
Looking for your next great read? Dr. Kate Lapane has sparked something wonderful—a little Lending Library on the sixth floor, near the elevators and stairs!

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!

PQHS FACULTY IN UMASS CHAN NEWS



Kurt Hager, PhD, and Matthew J. Alcusky, PhD, PharmD, MS were highlighted in a recent UMass Chan News article titled **Nutrition program for MassHealth patients with high needs shown to reduce health care utilization and costs**. Nutritious food provided to people who have complex health problems and are experiencing food insecurity can provide significant health benefits, including reduced hospitalization and use of emergency room services as well as lower health care costs, according to a study led by UMass Chan Medical School researchers. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

INTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Request for Proposals: VCORT Pilot Grants

Submission Deadline: April 18, 2025

Overview and Eligibility: The Vitiligo Center of Research Translation (VCORT) at UMass Chan welcomes applicants for pilot grants that explore innovative ideas that will initiate new research directions in vitiligo. These grants are available to any faculty member, but early-stage investigators at the instructor or assistant professor level are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications can focus on any area of basic or translational investigation related to vitiligo, but clinical trials will not be supported. Applicants must meet federal and National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal, and Skin Diseases funding requirements.

Award Details: Up to two (2) awards of \$50,000 each will be funded. The duration of award is one (1) year.

Awardees may seek a renewal for a second year of funding through a competitive process with new applicants. Funds may be used for supplies and/or investigator effort. No indirect costs are allowed.

Application Process: Applicants will submit an up to 2-page proposal, exclusive of references (0.5" margins, single-spaced, 11 point Arial or Times New Roman font) and NIH Biosketch to the VCORT Pilot Grant Coordinator, Todd Pearson at Todd.Pearson@umassmed.edu on or before 11:59PM EDT on April 18, 2025. Review of application and funding recommendations will be made by the VCORT External Advisory Committee. Funding recommendations from the VCORT EAC require approval from the NIH NIAMS, therefore the earliest start date for successful awardees is September 1, 2025.

Please direct any questions about the VCORT Pilot Grant program to the VCORT Pilot Grant Coordinator, Todd Pearson (Todd.Pearson@umassmed.edu).

MESSAGES FROM IT

Dropbox Town Hall

IT hosted 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.

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

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](#).

Don't Forget! Next Monday is a holiday



Patriots' Day is a civic holiday primarily observed in Massachusetts and Maine, commemorating the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which marked the beginning of the American Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775. Originally celebrated on April 19, it is now observed on the third Monday in April to create a long weekend.

Key Facts About Patriots' Day

- **Historical Significance:** The Battles of Lexington and Concord were the first military engagements between the British Empire and the Thirteen Colonies. The famous "Shot heard 'round the world" was fired during these battles, symbolizing the start of the American Revolution.
- **Celebrations:** Patriots' Day is marked with re-enactments of the battles at Lexington Green and the Old North Bridge in Concord. Other events include parades, flag raisings, and historical tours.
- **Boston Marathon:** The Boston Marathon, the world's oldest annual marathon, is held every Patriots' Day, attracting thousands of runners and spectators.
- **State Holiday:** In Massachusetts and Maine, Patriots' Day is a state holiday, closing government offices and schools.

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.