

**Weekly Newsletter May 27-30, 2025**

**PQHS NEWS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dissertation Proposal Presentation and Oral QE**

**Thursday, May 29, 9 AM - 10 AM**

**Location:** AS9-2072 and Zoom, click [here](#)



**Presenter:** Mary R. Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD student. Mentored by Sarah Forrester, PhD

**Title:** Structural Inequities and Cardiovascular Health: Examining the Effects of Residential Segregation and Social Vulnerability among Black Adults of the CARDIA Study

**Description:** Cardiovascular disease (CVD) has been the leading cause of death in the U.S. for over a century, but its burden is not equitably distributed. Non-Hispanic Black adults experience significantly higher rates of CVD-related mortality, including 4–5 times higher hypertension-related deaths and greater stroke risk, compared to non-Hispanic White adults. These disparities are not solely due to individual behaviors, but stem from structural inequities—such as residential segregation and social vulnerability—that shape

cardiovascular risk across the life course. This dissertation research proposal investigates how key upstream structural determinants, specifically, neighborhood residential segregation (a result of historically discriminatory housing policies) and social vulnerability, contribute to CVD outcomes and cardiovascular health risk factors among non-Hispanic Black adults in the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) Study.

**Qualifying Exam Committee:**

ShaoHsien Liu, MPH, PhD (Chair), Rob Goldberg, PhD (General Examiner), JungAe Lee, PhD, Bill Jesdale, PhD (Committee Members)

**Dissertation Proposal Presentation and Oral QE**

**Thursday, May 29, 12:30 – 1:30 PM**

**Location:** AS9-2072 and Zoom, click [here](#).



**Presenter:** Nathaniel Glassy, ALM is a second year Ph.D student in the Population Health Sciences Program and a TL1 Predoctoral Fellow at the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science at UMass Chan Medical School. He is mentored by Bo Wang, PhD and Jeroan Allison, MD, MS.

**Title:** Modeling Developmental Trajectories of Multiple Adolescent Risk Behaviors: Impact of Social and Motivational Factors

**Description:** This study leverages longitudinal data from over 2,500 Bahamian adolescents to model how risk behaviors evolve in tandem over time. Using group-based multi-trajectory

modeling, the project examines how distinct patterns of risk behavior are shaped by early social-contextual influences (e.g., parental monitoring, peer norms, neighborhood risk) and cognitive-motivational factors rooted in Protection Motivation Theory. Findings aim to inform targeted, culturally relevant HIV prevention strategies for high-risk youth populations.

**Qualifying Exam Committee:** Stephenie Lemon, PhD (Chair), Robert Goldberg, PhD (General Examiner), Anthony Nunes, PhD (Committee Member), William Jesdale, PhD (Committee Member)

**Dissertation Proposal Presentation and Oral QE**

**Friday, May 30, 11 AM - 12 PM**

**Location:** AS9-2072 and Zoom, click [here](#)

**Presenter:** Natalia Nielsen, 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD student. Mentored by Kate Lapane, PhD and Maira Castañeda-Avila, PhD.

**Title:** Investigating the relationship between language barrier and depression among older Latino adults in US nursing homes

**Description:** Leveraging individual-level data from the nationally representative MDS 3.0 and publicly available data from Nursing Home Compare and Provider of Service datasets (facility level) and the American Community Survey (regional level) we seek to better understand the mental health of Latino nursing home residents with limited English proficiency.

**Qualifying Exam Committee:** ShaoHsien Liu, MPH, PhD (Chair), Rob Goldberg, PhD (General Examiner), David Dosa, MD, MPH and Jonggyu Baek, PhD (Committee Members)

### **Dissertation Proposal Presentation and Oral QE**

**Friday, May 30, 1 PM - 2:30 PM**

**Location:** AS9-2072 and Zoom, click [here](#)



**Presenter:** Heeyoon (Melissa) Jung, 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD student. Mentored by Dr. Kate Lapane  
**Title:** Gabapentinoids Use for Pain and Associated Safety Risks Among Older Adults in Nursing Home

**Description:** The proposal will present research aims on the use and comparative safety of gabapentinoids co-prescribed with opioids in nursing homes, using the Minimum Data Set 3.0 and Medicare claims data.

**Qualifying Exam Committee:** Shao-Hsien Liu, MPH, PhD (Chair), Robert Goldberg, PhD (General Examiner), David Dosa, MD, MPH and Jonggyu Baek, PhD (Committee Members)



### **Save the date(s): Addiction Implementation Science Webinar Series – June 11, July 9, & Aug 13; 12-1 PM**

**Presented by:** New England Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network, Northwestern Medicine, Center for Dissemination and Implementation Science, and UMass Chan Medical School. We invite you to join us in a 3-part *Addiction Implementation Science* webinar series introducing essential Implementation Science (IS) concepts and

tools to integrate evidence-based practices (EBPs) in real-world settings to improve the quality of addiction treatment and recovery services. This series is designed for anyone interested in applying evidence-based solutions for better addiction treatment and recovery outcomes.

#### **Session 1 – June 11 - WHY IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE? FOUNDATIONS AND FRAMEWORKS**

- Discover the core principles of IS and how IS bridges addiction research and practice.
- Learn how to identify meaningful research questions and select appropriate EBPs.
- Explore foundational frameworks that guide successful implementation.

#### **Session 2 - July 19 - THE "HOW" OF IMPLEMENTATION: STRATEGIES AND CONTEXT**

- Assess real-world factors that influence the implementation of addiction services.
- Identify and tailor implementation strategies to your setting.
- Apply the Implementation Research Logic Model through an interactive case study.

#### **Session 3 - Aug 13 – SUSTAIN SUCCESS: MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ADAPTATION**

- Learn practical tools for evaluating both addiction and implementation outcomes.
- Discuss principles of how to adapt EBPs to changing contexts.
- Explore strategies for sustaining impact over time.
- Engage in hands-on activities and leave with actionable tools

**To Register,** click [here](#)

### **SHOUT OUT**

**[Maira Castañeda Avila, PhD](#)** - Assistant Professor in Epidemiology, was accepted into *The Advanced Course on Cancer-Related Health Disparities Research, Mentoring, and Leadership*, an intensive program focused on fostering leadership and professional development for researchers dedicated to reducing cancer disparities.



## UMASS CHAN REMINDERS

### Use Your Excess Vacation Leave by **June 28**

As we get closer to fiscal year end, we want to remind you of the [UMass Chan Holiday, and Personal and Vacation Time Policy](#) and maximum accruals so you can plan accordingly. The maximum number of vacation hours employees may carry over into the next fiscal year is 240. During the fiscal year, employees are allowed to accrue hours over 240. Hours over this accrual limit are automatically re-set in the payroll system to the accrual maximum.

### Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

#### Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>
- Independence Day – Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Day – Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>



*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](mailto:judi.saber@umassmed.edu)) & Sarah ([sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu)) by Friday each week.*