

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

JUNE 16 - 20, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity and vision of Arlene Ash, we now have two newly endowed chairs in our department at UMass Chan Medical School:

- The Arlene Ash Chair in Biostatistics, which will support a faculty member whose work advances the field of biostatistics, including the development of new methodology.
- The Arlene Ash Chair in Health Services Research, which will be awarded to a leader in health services research and policy, driving innovations that improve population health.

Arlene has been a defining force in this department — as an internationally respected expert in health care policy and financing, as a scientist and mentor par excellence, and as the long-serving chief of our Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research. Her commitment to rigorous, policy-relevant research has shaped our work and elevated our mission.

Although this announcement was shared by the central administration last week, we wanted to ensure you heard it directly from us. Arlene's decision to endow these chairs reflects her enduring investment in the strength and future of our academic community.

Please join us in celebrating Arlene, not only for this remarkable gift, but for the heart and vision that have always guided her.

Jeroan and Sharina

Arlene Ash's Enduring Legacy



UPCOMING EVENTS

Research Methods Meeting

Wednesday, June 18, 10:00-11:00 AM



Presenter: Bruce Barton, PhD, Professor, PQHS, UMass Chan

Title: Study Designs for First-in-Humans Early Phase Clinical Trials with a Recent Example

Abstract: In developing new treatments (e.g., drugs and biologics) for humans, early development typically employs in vitro and in vivo animal models before advancing to human testing. The transition from non-clinical to clinical testing presents various issues related to doses, safety, and toxicities. Early phase clinical trials, such as Phase Ib (also known as “First-in-Humans”) studies, mark the shift to human subjects and require study designs that test a sequence of doses to identify the maximum tolerated dose, which can then support efficacy testing in subsequent phases. Several study designs are commonly utilized; however, these can fail when new classes of drugs/biologics are being tested. We will review these designs and the complications encountered in the design of a First-in-Humans study for a new regenerative engineered cell therapy to treat emphysema.

Bio: Dr. Barton also the Director of the U Mass Chan Quantitative Methods Core. He has substantial experience in statistical methods in clinical trials and has been awarded 80+ federal grants and pharma industry contracts to support biomedical research studies. He has over 49 years of experience in medical research, including study designs from observational data to randomized clinical trials. He has also designed pre-clinical (animal) studies, Phase I-III clinical trials for pharmaceutical and behavioral projects, and pragmatic trials for NIH-funded projects. He has been involved in studies covering many areas of medical investigation ranging from pain control in pre-term neonates to hip fracture prevention in nursing home residents, with substantial experience in cardiology, oncology, neurology, dermatology, anesthesiology, sickle cell disease, cardiovascular disease risk factors, infectious disease, and alcoholic hepatitis.

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

AI Presentation – IN-PERSON ONLY

Wednesday, June 25, 1:00-2:30 PM



Presenter: Jeroan Allison, MD, MS, Professor and Chair

Title: Writing Scientific Manuscripts: Exploring AI, Embracing Personalized Approaches, and Learning from *Experience – Insights from Lumina AI and Me*

Location: Hiatt Auditorium, Room S1-608, First Floor, UMass Chan Medical School

Students and Faculty are warmly invited to an engaging and informative in-person presentation by Dr. Jeroan Allison. Join us for a session that blends technology, personal insight, and practical strategies for enhancing scientific writing.

Event Details: For this presentation, please bring your laptop and work alongside. It would be best if you could familiarize yourself with ChatGPT, [Consensus: AI](#), and [Grammarly](#). The free versions of Chat and Census are adequate, although the paid versions are inexpensive and worthwhile. We will use Grammarly for plagiarism checking, and the paid version is required for that functionality. These are the three main AI programs I use in working for scientific writing. I am excited about our upcoming time together.

Addiction Implementation Science Webinar Series –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 2 – Wednesday, July 9 - 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 – Wednesday, 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](#)

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

Thursday, June 19th – Juneteenth Holiday, officially the [Juneteenth National Independence Day](#), is a holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, specifically the emancipation of enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865. It is celebrated annually on June 19th and recognized as a federal holiday.

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|--|----------------------------------|------------------|----|----|--|-------|--|
| Monthly observances: * Caribbean American Heritage Month * Immigrant Heritage Month * Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Month *National Indigenous History Month | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| | Trinity Sunday | | | | * Juneteenth * Corpus Christi * New Church Day | Litha | * National Day of Indigenous Peoples in Chile * First Nations Day |
| | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | | Islamic New Year/ Muharram 1 | | LGBTQ+ Pride Day |
| | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Feast Day of Saints Peter & Paul | Armed Forces Day | | | | | |

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITY

Request for Help: Identifying Members of a Research Community Advisory Committee

We received NIH/NIAMS funding to create a knowledgebase to promote the use of the [Osteoarthritis Initiative \(OAI\)](#) — a multi-site, longitudinal cohort study of adults with or at risk for knee osteoarthritis. As part of this effort, we are forming a Community Advisory Committee of investigators interested in leveraging publicly available cohort data for musculoskeletal or aging-related research. We are especially looking to engage researchers based in Asia, Africa, and South America to ensure diverse global perspectives. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please **contact Jeff Driban** (jeffrey.driban@umassmed.edu).

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Hiba Abu Ghazaleh on the birth of her baby girl!

Baby Nayla was born on May 28th, weighing 6 lbs. Her brothers are holding her in this picture.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION (FYI)

Farmers' Market, CSA, and Food Trucks at UMass Chan

Sponsored by Office of Well-Being and Office of Sustainability



Weekly on Tuesdays

June 3 - Nov. 4 at 10-2 p.m.

(No market or food trucks on Sept. 2 and 9)

Location: Outdoors, Medical School Building Terrace (Rain location: Old School Lobby or Albert Sherman Cafeteria)

In an effort to enhance campus sustainability, foster **engagement**, and promote well-being, we are proud to provide fresh, locally sourced food and products to our UMass Chan community and support small, local businesses in the region.

A variety of food trucks will be available each week offering food for purchase.

Questions? Email OWB@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!

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 SCHEDULE

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- 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.