

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

JULY 21-25, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS



[Adrian Zai, MD, PhD, MPH](#) is delighted to announce that a two-year contract with the City of Worcester, valued at approximately \$700k, has been signed. Phase 2 for Worcester Integrated Health Data Exchange (WIHDE)

Phase 2 of the collaborative work under WIHDE focuses on expanding the platform to support high-priority public health populations and issues, as determined by the Worcester Equity Task Force in coordination with the City. This work will leverage integrated data systems and community engagement to drive equitable, data-informed public health interventions across the city.

Congratulations to the MSCI Graduating Class

Inbar Sarah Yamin Plaut
Courtney Leigh Rose Birchall
Joseph J.B. Tejan
Zachary Christopher Ballinger
Harris Taft Feldman
Daniyah Elagi



Emmanuella Demosthenes was accepted to the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health and will begin a PhD in Health Services Research and Policy this Fall. My last day at UMass is Friday 7/25.

SHOUT OUT

[Feifan Liu, PhD](#) – Dr. Liu's nomination as a standing member of the NIH Clinical Informatics and Digital Health (CIDH) Study Section has been officially approved by the NIH Office of the Director. His four-year term will run from September 2025 through June 2029.

[Julie Volkman, PhD](#) – Dr. Volkman's edited book has been published and is now available for sale. "Multi-Perspective Approach to Narratives in Health Communication" Click [here](#) to purchase from Amazon

[Adrian Zai, MD, PhD, MPH](#) was featured in the UMass Chan Medical School News on June 18, 2025. "UMass Chan teams up with Red Cell Partners to test AI health care products" [Click here for article](#)

[Adrian Zai, MD, PhD, MPH](#) was featured in the Healthcare IT News on June 19, 2025. "UMass inks deal to begin evaluating health AI products" [Click here for article](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

PHS Comprehensive Project Presentations

Thursday, July 31, 10:00-10:30 AM at AS7-2072

PHS Comprehensive Project Presentation: "Exploring Peer and Family Influences on E-Cigarette and Substance Co-Use in Non-College-Attending Young Adults."

Presented by – Narayani Ballambat, MPH
Click [here](#) to join.



Thursday, August 4, 11:00-11:30 AM at AS9-2072

PHS Comprehensive Project Presentation: "Identifying Prognostic Factors in Children with Relapsed Wilms Tumor."
Presented by – Anahita Saeedi, MS

Click [here](#) to join.



Thursday, August 5, 1:00-1:30 PM at AS9-2072

PHS Comprehensive Project Presentation: “Improving surveillance of suicide-related emergency department visits: quantifying the added value of screening data to ICD-10 codes.”

Presented by – Alan Ardelean, MS

Click [here](#) to join.



Thursday, August 7, 2025, 3:30-4:00 PM at AS9-2072

PHS Comprehensive Project Presentation: “Perceived barriers to healthcare access and prevalence of hypertension and elevated blood glucose among women in India: findings from NFHS-5 data.”

Presented by – Binoy Shay, MPH, MBBS

Click [here](#) to join.



Thursday, August 8, 9:00-9:30 AM at AS9-2072

PHS Comprehensive Project Presentation: “Associations of food insufficiency with disordered eating behaviors among US adolescents.”

Presented by – Jessica Caouette, MS, RDN, LDN

Click [here](#) to join.



(July 22 canceled) Every Tuesday thru August 26, 12-1 PM, Conference Room AS7-1073, in-person only
Drop-in PQHS Faculty/Staff Meetings

All faculty and staff are invited to attend a weekly in-person “drop-in” meeting throughout the summer months. These informal gatherings are intended to provide a welcoming and inclusive space where participants can freely ask questions, voice concerns, or simply engage in open conversation and connect with one another in a relaxed setting. This is an informal, open discussion. Feel free to bring your lunch!

We hope you’ll take advantage of this opportunity to stay connected over the summer!

Every Tuesday thru November 4, 10 AM – 2 PM

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

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

Sponsored by Office of Well-Being and Office of Sustainability

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.



Free Chair Massage, July 22 and August 12

Albert Sherman Center Café during Farmers' Market, 10 AM- 2 PM

Free chair massage by Bancroft School of Massage Therapy. First come, first served.



Addiction Implementation Science Webinar Series –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 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](#)

UMASS CHAN REMINDERS

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- 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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION (FYI)



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 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.