

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

AUGUST 18 - 22, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS

Reinstated Terminated Grant!

R21/R33 grant was terminated in Year 4 but was reinstated this July.



PI: Bo Wang

Source of support and # of award: NIH; 5R33HD107988-04

Primary Place of Performance: UMass Chan Medical School, Worcester MA

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 8/13/2021 – 7/31/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$562,627

Project Title: Optimizing an mHealth intervention to improve uptake and adherence of the HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in vulnerable adolescents and emerging adults.

Non-Competing Continuation

PI: Bo Wang

Source of support and # of award: NIH; 5R21HD114519-02

Primary Place of Performance: UMass Chan Medical School, Worcester MA

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 8/1/2025 – 7/31/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$137,149

Title: Exploring sustained implementation and fidelity of an evidence-based HIV prevention program.

NIH and **University of Massachusetts** have renegotiated the award structure of the research activities performed by **Bahamian Ministry of Health and Wellness**. Therefore, funds to support the subaward to **Bahamian Ministry of Health and Wellness** have not been included in this award and instead has been awarded under **3R21HD114519-02S1**.

PI: Bo Wang

Source of support and # of award: NIH; 3R21HD114519-02S1

Primary Place of Performance: UMass Chan Medical School, Worcester MA

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 8/1/2025-7/31/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$50,620

Title: Exploring sustained implementation and fidelity of an evidence-based HIV prevention program.

This award includes foreign component(s) at the following site(s): **Bahamian Ministry of Health and Wellness** in **BAHAMAS**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

THE NEW ENGLAND ATTC TEAM WEBINARS

We invite you to join us for a two-part webinar series on Adolescent Substance Misuse. Over the course of two sessions, we will discuss adolescent substance use as a pediatric public health issue and explore the legal and ethical considerations of consent and confidentiality in adolescent behavioral health care.

August 20th | 12 – 1 ET – Session 1 - Medication Misuse and Substance Misuse Disorders Among Adolescents

August 27th | 12-1 ET –Session 2 - Consent and Confidentiality Issues for Adolescents

[Register Now!](#)

We welcome you to check out our upcoming events! Mark your calendars and register now!

[Building Recovery Ecosystems in Rural Communities](#)

Date: 8/21/25

Time: 12-1:15 PM

Address the unique challenges of rural recovery—from limited resources to stigma—with evidence-based strategies and community-driven solutions. Explore real-world success stories and practical approaches to strengthen support networks in underserved areas.

[Spirituality in Behavioral Health for Wellness and Well-Being](#)

Date: 8/25/25

Time: 10-11:30 AM

Explore how spirituality and mindfulness enhance behavioral health and well-being. Learn to integrate SAMHSA's 8 Dimensions of Wellness and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs into holistic self-care. Gain practical strategies for mindful living and personal growth through evidence-based approaches.

[Harm Reduction: Safer Use Saves Lives](#)

Date: 8/27/25

Time: 12-1:00 PM

Discover harm reduction principles to support safety and empowerment through evidence-based, patient-centered care. Explore trauma-informed approaches, non-stigmatizing language, and practical strategies—with case-based learning to apply key concepts.

Please feel free to share this with anyone who may be interested. Also keep an eye out for our September events, where we will be discussing topics such as cannabis use and maternal and perinatal health, contingency management, and others. We hope to see you there!

The New England ATTC Team

New England ATTC

Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

UMass Chan Medical School

[New England ATTC - Addiction Technology Transfer Center \(ATTC\) Network](#)

UMass Cancer Walk, Sunday, September 28th

Started in 1999, the UMass Cancer Walk has become the largest one-day, single-location fundraising event in Central Massachusetts, bringing together thousands of individuals to celebrate their fundraising success. The event supports adult and pediatric cancer research and care, and clinical trials of new, potentially lifesaving therapies taking place at UMass Chan Medical School.



Mara Epstein and Raj Sadasivam are leading the “Cancer Population Health Sciences” team. Click [here](#) to register and join the walk, or to donate.

UMASS CHAN REMINDERS

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

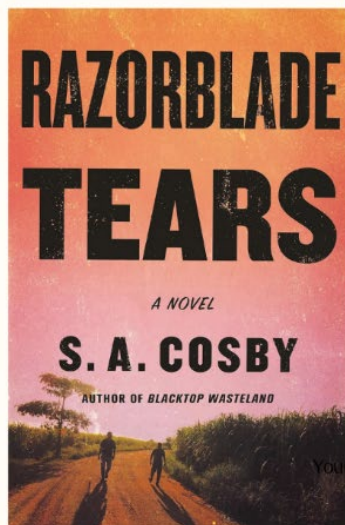
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1st
- Indigenous Peoples’ Day – Monday, October 13th
- Veterans Day – Tuesday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27th
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 28th
- Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24th
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25th

DIVERSITY DIGEST CALENDAR

	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Marcus Garvey Day			Paryushana Parvarambha (20-30 Aug.)	Ninoy Aquino Day		International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Women's Equality Day	Ganesh Chaturthi		Beheading of St. John the Baptist	



Book Corner



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Everybody's got a box they're supposed to live in. But some people's boxes got more barbed wire than others

Razorblade Tears by S.A. Cosby is a powerful novel that explores themes of grief, masculinity, race, class, and homophobia in the rural American South.

The story follows two fathers—one Black, one white—both former convicts, who set out to avenge the murder of their married sons. As they confront their own prejudices and past failures, the novel probes the limits of redemption, the complexities of identity, and the societal forces that shape violence and intolerance.

Content warnings: violence, homophobia, racism, grief & trauma, incarceration, profanity

Brought to you by the PQHS
Diversity Action Committee

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.