

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

AUGUST 25 - 29, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS

Non-Competing Continuation of Grants



PI: [Sarah N. Forrester, PhD](#)

Source of support: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Award Number: 5R01HL175599-02

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$671,600

Title: Residential Segregation and Physiological Dysregulation among Black CARDIA participants: A Longitudinal Study



PI: [Bo Wang, PhD](#)

Source of support: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development

Award Number: 5R33HD107988-05

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): \$273,994

Title: Optimizing an mHealth intervention to improve uptake and adherence of the HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in vulnerable adolescents and emerging adults

PI: [Bo Wang, PhD](#)

Source of support: National Institute on Drug Abuse,

Award number: 5R34DA059935-03

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): \$158,831

Title: Adapting mHealth interventions to improve self-management of HIV and substance use among emerging adults in Zambia

PI: [Bo Wang, PhD](#)

Source of support: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Award Number: 3R34DA059935-03S1 (supplement)

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): \$58,000

Title: Adapting mHealth interventions to improve self-management of HIV and substance use among emerging adults in Zambia

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, August 26, 12-1 PM, [last session](#) - 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.



Friday, September 5, 10 AM, AS9-2072 or on Zoom ([click here](#))
Claire Branley's Thesis Defense (Public)

Title: Barriers to Participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

Background: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal nutrition program that provides a tailored healthy food package, nutrition and breastfeeding support, and referrals to healthcare or other services for women and children up to age five. Participating in WIC is associated with a myriad of positive health benefits. However, approximately half of individuals eligible for WIC are not enrolled. In particular, enrollment among mothers who identify as Hispanic and Black fell from 2016-2021 relative to mothers who identify as White. This dissertation examines associations between (1) national policy change in 2018, (2) neighborhood socioeconomic status, and (3) experiences of racial discrimination on WIC participation.

Mentor: Stephenie Lemon, PhD - Dissertation Exam Committee: Drs. Kate Lapane, Jonggyu Baek, Melissa Goulding, Rajani Sadasivam, and Kim Gans

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!

[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.

[Compassion Fatigue: Workforce Well-Being for Providers and Individuals with Lived Experience](#)

Date: 9/4/25

Time: 12-1:30 PM EST

Explore the broad relevance of work-force wellbeing: How is this defined and experienced uniquely among professionals and peer workers? What are the warning signs for burnout and vicarious trauma?

[Understanding Emerging Evidence on Cannabis Use and Cannabis use Disorder \(CUD\) among Perinatal Populations: What Clinicians Need to Know](#) – 3-part series

September 11th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 1 – Current Trends and New Insights

September 18th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 2 – They Why and What Happens

September 25th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 3 – From Awareness to Action: Understanding Your Role

This three-part training series explores the latest evidence on cannabis use and CUD among pregnant and prenatal individuals, covering prevalence, health impacts, and clinical considerations. Participants will gain insight into patient motives, maternal and child health outcomes, mandated reporting requirements, and emerging intervention strategies to better support perinatal populations

[Contingency Management in Practice: Evidence, Ethics, and Implementation](#) – 3-part series

September 19th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 1 – Foundations of Contingency Management: What It Is and Why It Works - An introduction to CM

September 24th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 2 – Ethical, Policy, and Funding Considerations for CM: Applying It Responsibly

September 29th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 3 – Data-Driven CM: Research, Outcomes, and Lessons from the Field

This three-part virtual series introduces Contingency Management (CM), an evidence-based approach proven to enhance outcomes in substance use treatment. Participants will progress from foundational concepts and research to exploring ethical considerations and practical strategies for real-world implementation.

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](#)

FYI

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

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.