

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 15 - 19, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

WELCOME

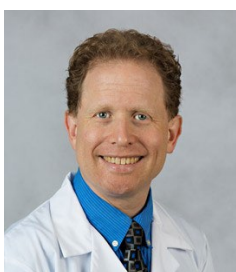


We are thrilled to announce that Rachel Brase, MPH is joining PQHS as part of the New England Addiction Technology Transfer Center and the Opioid Response Network. Rachel will work with Dr. Martin's team to bridge the gap between science and practice through locally driven, evidence-based training and education for the addiction and behavioral health workforce across New England.

Rachel holds a BPH from the University of Kentucky and an MPH from Yale University. Rachel has worked at the local and national (with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and international (with the Thai Ministry of Health) levels to promote community-based behavioral health interventions. She enjoys watching musical theatre, traveling, and snuggling up with one of her five dogs.

CONGRATULATIONS

New Supplement to Award



PI: [Ben Gerber, MD, MPH](#)

Source of support: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Award Number: 3R01DK133265-03S1

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 9/11/2025 – 3/31/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$162,548

Title: TEAM CGM Administrative Supplement to Broaden Clinical Research Workforce



We're excited to share that Claire Branley successfully defended her dissertation.

—Congratulations, Clare!

Claire with her mentor Dr. Stephenie Lemon

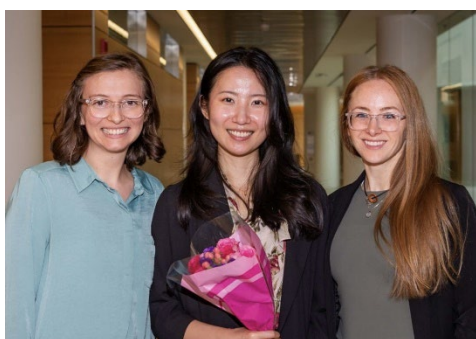
PhD Candidacy Ceremony

On September 10, Natalia Nielsen, Melissa Jung, Mary Lee, and Nathaniel Glassy were among 74 PhD candidates and MD/PhD students who celebrated having passed their qualifying exam, which is required to begin thesis work and transition from students to candidates for doctoral degrees.

Click [here](#) to read the UMass Chan article titled Chancellor Collins to UMass Chan PhD candidates: 'We need your science' Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences ceremony recognizes students.



Left to right: Dr. Kate Lapane, Dr. Maira Castañeda-Avila, Natalia Nielsen, Melissa Jung, Mary Lee, and Nathaniel Glassy



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, September 29, 2025, 1:00-2:15 PM

Gerontology Speaker Series - *Innovations in Nursing Home Care*

Location: In-person Gerontology Classroom, Wheatley Peters Hall 3rd Floor, Room 125) and via Zoom: via Zoom: <https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94175483404> Password: Boston



Presented by: Deke Cateau, Chief Executive Officer, A.G. Rhodes Health & Rehab

Our nation's nursing homes are drastically unprepared to meet the needs - and expectations - of today's elder population. Are we at a watershed moment? How can we imagine a new type of nursing home and model of care for our rapidly growing aging society? And what is the lasting impact from the public scrutiny and vilification of nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Brush Fire: COVID 19 and Our Nursing Homes, by Deke Cateau, CEO of A.G. Rhodes, explores the reality of care and life in our nursing homes. In this session, you will get an open and honest look into skilled nursing facilities during the most difficult time in our sector's history. You will learn how we go here, but more importantly, you will learn how we are leading a path to change and innovation and improving the quality of life for those most entrusted to our care.

Sponsored by: UMass Boston, Department of Gerontology and Gerontology Institute Donna M. and Robert J. Manning College of Nursing & Health Sciences and UMass Chan Medical School, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

For more information contact Qian Song: Qian.Song@umb.edu

Every Tuesday thru November 4, 10 AM – 2 PM

(No market or food trucks on Sept 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 welcome you to check out our upcoming events! Mark your calendars and register now!

[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](#)

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.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

14 Elevation of the Life-Giving Cross	15 *Guatemala Independence Day *Respect for the Aged Day	16 Mexican Independence Day	17	18 *Chilean Independence Day * International Equal Pay Day	19 Army Day	20
21 Mabon	22 *Rosh Hashanah (sundown through sundown 9/24) *Sharad Navratri (through Oct. 1)	23 *Autumnal Equinox Day *International Day of Sign Languages *Saudi National Day	24	25	26 Native American Day	27 *Meskel * The Day of the Walloon Region *French Community Holiday
28	29 Michaelmas	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	1	2	3	4

September 23: International Day of Sign Languages

International Day of Sign Languages is a way to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all Deaf people and other sign language users. Our colleague Melissa L. Anderson, PhD, MSCI is leading the first evidence-based therapy clinical trial of its size to test evidence-based therapy for Deaf people with trauma symptoms and alcohol use disorder, called Signs of Safety. Two community-based organizations supporting this study are National Deaf Therapy (<https://nationaldeaftherapy.com/about/>), which houses all of the study therapists, and DeafHealth (<https://deafhealthaccess.org/>), which will be supporting the recruitment efforts in the coming grant year.

UMASS CHAN REMINDERS

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- 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.