

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 22 - 26, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

QMC Talent Share

Did you know?

The **Quantitative Methods Core (QMC)**, housed right here in PQHS, has been helping investigators turn great ideas into funded, high-impact studies for over 15 years! Our team brings together expert biostatistical faculty, seasoned analysts, and skilled data management staff to support projects of all sizes and across a wide range of content areas. We offer:

- **Study Design & Analysis** – support for clinical trials, cohort studies, case-control designs, and health services research (including claims and EHR data).
- **Grant Development** – guidance in shaping specific aims, analytic plans, and power/sample size justifications.
- **Data & Project Support** – robust data management systems, project coordination, and project management.

Flexible engagement options: You can involve QMC faculty/staff at the level you need—hourly support or percent effort on grants.

QMC Skillsets Available Through the Talent Share Marketplace

- Power/sample size calculations
- Advanced statistical modeling (longitudinal, survival, hierarchical, SEM, etc.)
- Data cleaning, wrangling, and harmonization
- Creation of study databases and REDCap builds
- Statistical programming (SAS, R, Stata, SQL)
- Data visualization and reporting
- Manuscript tables/figures and publication support
- Project and study coordination

Let's connect!

The QMC Directors, Bruce Barton and Sharina Person, are happy to talk with you about your project needs and how we can partner with you.

CONGRATULATIONS

New Supplement to Award



PIs: [Rajani Sadasivam, PhD](#) and [Hoa Nguyen, MD, MS, PhD](#)

Source of support: National Cancer Institute

Award Number: 3U01CA261604-05S1

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 9/1/2025 – 8/31/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$171,791

Title: mHealth Messaging to Motivate Quitline use and Quitting among Persons Living With HIV in Vietnam (M2Q2-HIV)

Notice of Award for the Continuation of Funding



PIs: [Hoa Nguyen, MD, MS, PhD](#) and [Bo Wang, PhD](#)

Source of support: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

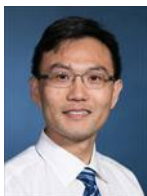
Award Number: 4R33HL172269-02

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 3/1/2025 – 3/28/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$461,699

Title: Conquering Hypertension in Urban Vietnam



[Feifan Liu, PhD](#) – Dr. Liu’s lab renewed the contract into 2026 FY with MassHealth to continue the project of non-traumatic dental ED visit prediction using machine learning on claims data. The model will be implemented and used by a dental care management vendor for proactive prevention.



The Massachusetts 2024–2029 State Cancer Plan has officially been released! We’re proud to share that [Jamie Faro, PhD](#) and [Rajani Sadasivam, PhD](#) played key roles on the strategic planning committee over the past several years, helping to shape this important roadmap for cancer prevention, treatment, and care across the Commonwealth. [StateCancerPlan_Final.pdf](#)



[Adrian Zai, MD, PhD, MPH](#) was featured in the UMass Chan Medical School Advancing Together News, on September 4th. [UMass Chan, City of Worcester extend data exchange agreement to focus on maternal health equity](#)

Dr. Zai has been appointed co-chair of the newly established CTSA PATH Workgroup. He will serve alongside Mohammad Adibuzzaman of Oregon Health & Science University and Manisha Desai of Stanford University. More info here: [Principles for AI Translation in Healthcare | Working Groups | CTSA CCOS](#)

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

Wednesday, October 1, 10 – 11 AM

Research Methods Meeting

Title: Innovative Study Designs for Clinical Trials with a Recent Application in Behavioral Research

Presenter: Bruce Barton, Ph.D., Professor of Biostatistics



Abstract: Beyond the traditional clinical trials paradigm of intervention versus control, a new family of Bayesian study designs enables the more efficient testing of multiple interventions for a single or multiple conditions. These designs include basket trials, platform trials, and umbrella trials. In a recent NIH application, we proposed a platform trial with five embedded studies to be conducted over three years using a common control group and single-arm intervention studies to test a variety of mechanisms to achieve “success” in a project to help participants, recently released from incarceration, to maintain abstinence from drugs/alcohol while developing workplace skills. In addition to the platform design, we incorporated several innovative features to enhance the design's efficiency. We will discuss the overall family of master protocol designs and the details of this recent application. Click [here](#) to join.

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](#)

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.

Every Tuesday thru November 4, 10 AM – 2 PM

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.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Mabon	*Rosh Hashanah (sundown through sundown 9/24) *Sharad Navratri (through Oct. 1)	*Autumnal Equinox Day *International Day of Sign Languages *Saudi National Day			Native American Day	*Meskel * The Day of the Walloon Region *French Community Holiday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	Michaelmas	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation				

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.