

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 3, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

THANK YOU



The Cancer Population Health Sciences Team
Jamie Faro, Raj Sadasivam, Elise Stevens and Mara Epstein
walked 3 miles for a great cause.

CONGRATULATIONS

Notice of Award



PI: [Rosemarie Martin, PhD](#)

Source of support: SAMHSA

Award Number: 5H79T1088149-02

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 9/30/2025 – 9/29/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$777,850

Title: Addiction Technology Transfer Center of New England



PI: [Adrian Zai, MD, PhD, MPH](#)

Source of support: National Cancer Institute

Award Number: 1OT2OD032581

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 10/1/2025 – 7/31/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$99,987

Title: AI-CARDIO: Artificial Intelligence for Cardiovascular Risk Detection in GLP-1 Therapy 1



PI: [Stephenie Lemon, PhD](#)

Source of support: CDC

Award Number: 5 U48DP006885-02-00

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 9/30/2025 – 9/29/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$300,000

Title: RFA-DP-24-062, Physical Activity Policy Research and Evaluation Network



PI: [Stephenie Lemon, PhD](#)

Source of support: CDC

Award Number: 5 U48DP006808-02-00

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 9/30/2025 – 9/29/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$1,000,000

Title: DP24-004, PRC, Core: Prevention Research Center at UMass Chan



PI: [Grace Ryan, PhD, MPH](#)

Source of support: CDC

Award Number: 5 U48DP006883-02-00

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 9/30/2025 – 9/29/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$350,000

Title: ARISe Center for Rural Vaccination at University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School



PIs: [Jamie Faro, PhD](#) and: [Stephenie Lemon, PhD](#)

Source of support: CDC

Award Number: 1 U48DP006955-01-00

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 9/30/2025 – 9/29/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$499,993

Title: Lifestyle Change Implementation Research Network at PRC at UMass Chan

New Supplement to Award



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

Source of support: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Award Number: 3R33HL172269-02S1

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 3/15/2024 – 2/28/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$241,760

Title: Conquering Hypertension in Urban Vietnam

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.

Monday, October 6, 2025, 1:00-2:15 PM

Gerontology Speaker Series

Title: ADVANCED-Comfort: New Paradigm for Advance Care Planning in Dementia Care



Speaker: Ruth Palan Lopez, PhD, GNP-BC, FGSA, FAAN, Jacques Mohr Professor of Nursing, MGH Institute of Health Professions

Yet in the context of advanced dementia, this traditional approach often fails to capture the lived experience of residents and families or to guide care in a meaningful way. Drawing on over a decade of research in nursing homes, I will introduce ADVANCED-Comfort, a novel framework and care planning tool that reimagines advance care planning as an ongoing, dynamic process centered on comfort, dignity, and family engagement. The model integrates the 6Ms—What Matters, Meaningful Activities, Mealtime, Medications & Treatments, Mobility, and Making Personal Care Comfortable—to ensure that plans reflect both medical needs and personal values. I will share findings from pilot studies, lessons learned from national and international implementation, and implications for improving care for people with advanced dementia.

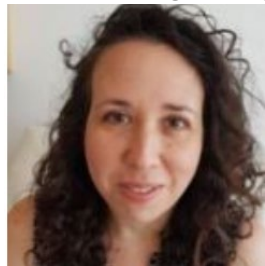
In-person (Gerontology Classroom, Wheatley Hall 3rd Floor, Room 125) and via Zoom: via

Zoom: <https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94175483404> Password: Boston

Monday, November 10, 2025, 1:00-2:15 PM

Gerontology Speaker Series

Title: Growing old together: Connections and perceptions



Speaker: Dikla Segel-Karpas, PhD, Chair, Department of Gerontology, University of Haifa

Abstract: Aging is not only a biological process but also a deeply social one. Our relationships across the life course shape how we age, affecting physical and mental health as well as the ways we think about and experience aging itself. This presentation will review evidence on the role of social connections in later life, highlighting their impact on cognitive functioning, physical health, emotional well-being, and subjective views of aging. I will then turn to the couple as a central context of aging, examining how older romantic partners influence each other's aging process. Beyond the couple, I will consider intergenerational relationships with adult children and their significance for both parents and children. The talk will conclude with discussion of ongoing and future research aimed at advancing theoretical and empirical tools to better understand how our closest relationships, including spousal and intergenerational relationships, shape the process of growing old.

In-person (Gerontology Classroom, Wheatley Hall 3rd Floor, Room 125) and via Zoom: via

Zoom: <https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94175483404> Password: Boston

Sponsored by:

University of Massachusetts Boston

Department of Gerontology and Gerontology Institute

Donna M. and Robert J. Manning College of Nursing & Health Sciences &

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Department of Population Health and Quantitative Health Sciences

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

THE NEW ENGLAND ATTC TEAM WEBINARS

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

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

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

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

Monday, September 29th | 12-1 PM – 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.

Wednesday, October 8th | 12-1 PM

Adolescent Substance Use: A Deeper Dive – Synthetics, Club Drugs, and New Fads in Substance Misuse.

We are excited to be bringing back **Dr. Laura Grubb** for a focused follow-up training on synthetic drugs, club drugs, and emerging substances. In this one-hour training designed for pediatric and adolescent providers, Dr. Grubb will provide a targeted overview of how to recognize acute signs of intoxication from synthetic drugs, club drugs, and newer substances such as xylazine. Participants will review practical, evidence-based approaches for managing overdose, walk through case-based examples, and explore how to guide adolescents and families toward appropriate resources and support. Click [here](#) to register.

The New England ATTC Team

New England ATTC

Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

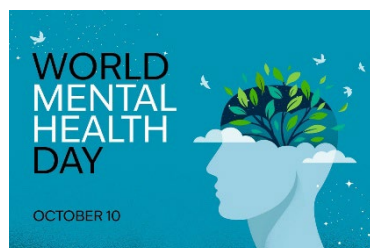
UMass Chan Medical School

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

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

2025 OCTOBER Monthly observances: * Filipino American History Month * Global Diversity Awareness Month * LGBTQ+ History Month * National Disability Employment Awareness Month * Polish American Heritage Month	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	28	29	30	1 * National Day of the People's Republic of China * Yom Kippur begins	2 * Dasara * Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday	3 * Gaecheonjeol * Day of German Unity	4 St. Francis Day
	5 * Chuseok (10/5-7) * Portuguese Republic Day	6 * Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival * Sukkot (10/6-13)	7	8 Latina Equal Pay Day	9 Hangul Day	10 * Guayaquil Independence Day * World Mental Health Day	11 National Coming Out Day
	12 * National Day of Spain * National Day of Spain	13 * Canadian Thanksgiving * Dia de la Raza * Nat'l Indigenous Peoples Day	14 * Shemini Atzeret (10/13-15) * Sports Day	15 * Simchat Torah * International Pronouns Day	16	17	18
	19	20 * Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib * Revolution Day	21 Diwali (10/21-25)	22 Birth of Báb	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31 * Halloween * Reformation Day * Samhain	1

Friday, October 10, 2025 – World Mental Health Day



Observed annually since 1992, this day shines a light on mental health challenges and the collective action needed to address them. The overall objective is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.

Each year highlights a theme, and this year's theme is "Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies." This reminds us of the urgent need to ensure mental health care is available, especially in times of crisis.

World Mental Health Day provides an opportunity for all of us to share our work, reflect progress, and commit to making mental health care a reality for everyone. Let's start conversations, reduce stigma, and help improve mental health.

LGBTQ History Month

LGBTQ History Month is an annual observance that provides role models, builds community, and represents a civil rights statement about the invaluable contributions of the LGBTQ community. In 1994, Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, and other community leaders decided the month of October should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of gay and lesbian history. Check out the 31 people being honored for 2025 here: <https://lgbthistorymonth.com/>

FYI

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.

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.