

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

OCTOBER 13 - 17, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

WELCOME



We are thrilled to announce that **Lori Ducharme, Ph.D.** is joining PQHS as a Senior Research Program Manager as part of Rosemarie Martin's Justice Community Overdose Innovation Network research team. Lori is a former NIH program official with deep expertise in NIH grants policy and process. She has more than 30 years' experience supporting scientists and policymakers as they address complex public health challenges with underserved populations. Lori starts on October 20th.



Suzanne Morrissey, Ph.D. is joining PQHS as an Associate Professor in the Division of Health Informatics and Implementation Science. Suzanne is a medical anthropologist (PhD Syracuse) and health services researcher. Before coming to UMMS, Suzanne was Department Chair of Anthropology, Director of Gender Studies and Associate Professor at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA, and Program Director of Evaluation of the VA enterprise-wide electronic health record transition. Suzanne's recent work has been at the intersection of social determinants of health, patient-clinician relationships, and health IT. Harm reduction, HIV/AIDS, MCH, diabetes, and integrative medicine are among her research experiences; she has published an ethnography on women's strategies to support their pregnancies in the face of poverty and structural violences as well as an ethnographic film on integrative maternal healthcare in Ecuador. Suzanne lives in southern NH with her husband — together they once ran an educational craft brewery tour business, "Walla Walla Brews Cruise. Suzanne starts on October 20th.

CONGRATULATIONS



Catherine Dube, EdD has been accepted as a Distinguished Educator member of HEALL (Health Education Academy for Leadership and Learning) at UMass. While their aim is to support the career development of clinician and scientist educators, their goal is to broadly support those who want to develop a range of educational skills. The Induction Ceremony for new HEALL members is on October 22, 2025. Congratulations, Cathy!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Feast

Hello everyone, We're thinking about bringing back a beloved PQHS tradition — a **Thanksgiving potluck lunch!** Before we start planning, we'd love your input on timing. We're considering holding the feast sometime **between November 12 and 19.** 🖱️ [Click here](#) to let us know which dates work best for you.

If there's interest but the timing doesn't work out, we'll shift gears and plan a **holiday potluck in December** instead. We hope to celebrate together soon — your feedback will help us decide!

Warmly, *The PQHS Admin Team*



Pictures from the 2019 Feast

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Research Methods Meeting



Presenter: [Arlene Ash](#), Professor in PQHS

Title: Comparing models for predicting an outcome: principles and practical advice

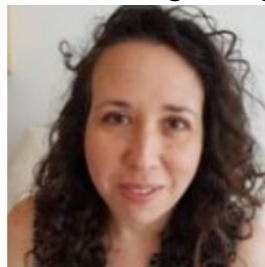
Abstract: One important use of statistical modeling is to create accurate predictions of a specified outcome, for example, a person's total cost of care next year or their chance of having a serious cardiovascular event within the next 10 years. The strength of each model is almost always summarized using single-measure summaries, such as the R^2 or C-statistic (also called the AUC or AUROC). Statistical methods are typically used to show that difference between an old model (A) and a new one (B) on R^2 or C is statistically significant. However, when N, the size of the dataset is large, even the most trivial difference will be statistically significant (and vice versa, if N is small). A much more important question is whether using the better model would have any practical significance. I will present ideas for how to examine this question – along with general thoughts about how to judge the comparative value of different models for specific purposes.

Click [here](#) to join.

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:

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Department of Gerontology and Gerontology Institute

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

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

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

October is the **Global Diversity Awareness Month!** During this month, we celebrate how our workplace benefits from people of different ethnicities, cultures, experiences, and abilities all working together. [Learn about different resources here!](#)

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/>

Current and Pending Other Support

- Using SciENcv to create your Common Form Current and Pending (Other) Support document(s) (abbreviated as CPOS) will be required for proposals beginning sometime in 2026.
- Creating the CPOS document using SciENcv is a change from how this document was created previously.
- Only the NIH Current and Pending (Other) Support PREVIEW Common Form document is available in the SciENcv platform. The NSF Current and Pending (Other) Support document is also available in SciENcv, as is the USDA version.
 - The final version of the NIH CPOS should be available in November 2025.
 - For now, the NIH PREVIEW CPOS or the NSF Current and Pending (Other) Support document in SciENcv can be used as a template to get a head start on populating your funding -- especially if you have many grants.

The Finance team will be sending the current master other support document for each PI to populate their funding into SciENcv. Going forward, they will be able to generate for other documents as needed.

On your SciENcv Page (NCBI. SciENcv)

To start a new Other Support document

- Under My Documents click the button + **NEW DOCUMENT**
- **Document title:** Give the document a unique name. If this is your first Other Support document, consider naming it your master. Following recommended naming tips is the same for the Other Support document as it is for your biosketch.
- **Format (Document type):** Click on the menu drop-down arrow.
 - As we already mentioned in the section on starting a new biosketch, the NIH expects to have the new NIH Other Support document available in SciENcv sometime in November 2025.
 - Until then, use the **NIH Current and Pending (Other) Support PREVIEW Common Form** or the NSF Current and Pending Other Support (referred to as C&P) document type.
 - Using the PREVIEW or the NSF form will allow you to get a head start on populating your funding in SciENcv before the new NIH forms are added. After they are added, use your PREVIEW or NSF version to **populate a new NIH master Current and Pending (Other) Support** document and work from that one for all subsequent proposals.
- **Choose Data source:**
 - For the CPOS, **there is no option for external data source** import. This is because funding information is highly structured and can be specific to your institution's Sponsored Research grants management system -- SciENcv cannot import data from institutional internal data sources.
 - Existing document: You can only choose from your current SciENcv C&P / CPOS documents, if you have any
 - Upload an XML file - this is an option only for CPOS or C&P forms
 - See the NIH's instructions on [structuring data for XML upload to a CPOS document](#).
 - Start with a blank document
- Click **Create** (or Cancel if you wish)

Here's the notice [NOT-OD-25-152: Preview of NIH Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending \(Other\) Support Coming Soon to SciENcv](#).

Regards,
Sarah

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:

- 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.