

Neurology Community News

November 2024

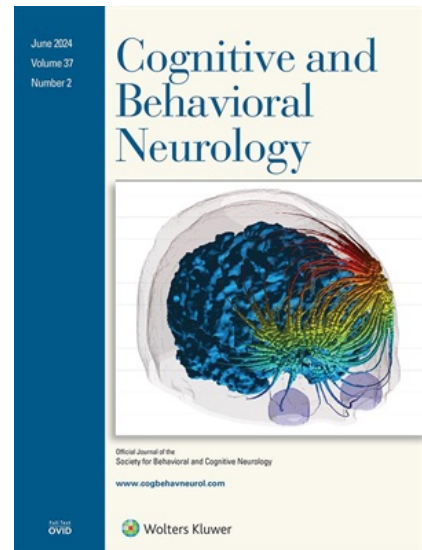
As we immerse ourselves in a new school year, we are reminded of the strengths and resources available within our community. Thank you for your dedication to research, education, and patient care.

Our department is celebrating many accomplishments that are not possible without each of you. As we continue to spotlight the unique characteristics that make our division successful, we are excited to highlight our current events and achievements.

A Path Forward, in behavioral neurology

In 2024 Drs. AM Barrett and Sheldon Benjamin, of the Department of Neurology, collaborated as a co-author of 'A Path Forward', in *Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology* journal, a commentary regarding recommended pathways to address the challenges physicians face treating patients with neurocognitive disorders.

Learn more about the importance of BNNP in clinical care



Dr. Barrett's history behind the behavior of neurology

Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology Clinic has exceeded expectations

In 2023, the department opened the Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology Clinic. Dr. Barrett's focus on the discipline of behavioral neurology drives her to develop better care transitions, to aid the imminent needs of patients with cognitive impairments and neurological degenerative disease.

Learn more about the cognitive and behavior clinic here.



Neurology Education Programs

Dr. Carandang is proud of our strong recruitment process for our education programs, and ability to attract diverse trainees, develop national and international professional relationships, and create opportunities for medical students and trainees to participate in global health education.

Dr. Carandang shares,

“We want to protect and continue our innate core as an educational program while establishing a workplace culture that supports and assists our team in obtaining their professional goals while enjoying the work they do.”



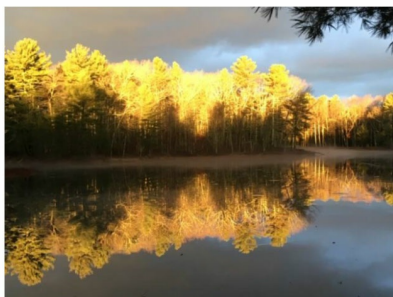
Raphael Carandang, MD,
professor and vice chair of
academic affairs

Learn more about Neurology's education programs

Spotlight

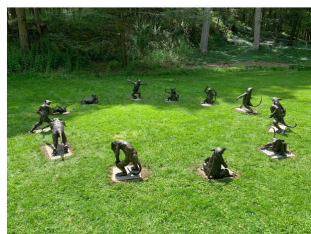
Joan Swearer, PhD, ABPP-ABCN, professor of neurology and psychiatry is a clinical neuropsychologist providing comprehensive evaluations of cognitive functions, mood and behavior, and functional status. [Learn more about her contributions to our department here.](#)

Dr. Swearer holds shared interests in psychology, visual perception, and the visual arts.



Currently, Dr. Swearer and her husband, Nick Swearer, sculptor, are creating an art and nature preserve on their property in Connecticut, this photo is '*winter sunrise on the pond*'.

See images of Nick Swearer's sculptures below.



"The Rat Race"



"Gossip"



"Scapegoat"

Nick Swearer, sculptor

Save the
Date!



Annual Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Clinical and Research Hybrid Program

Agenda: Multiple Sclerosis: New Diagnostic Criteria and Biomarkers

[Learn more here](#)

Friday, December 20, 2024

In-person at the Beechwood Conference Center, Worcester MA (12-6 pm), or virtually over Zoom (1-6 pm)

[Register Now](#)



Neurology Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Lazare Research Building (LRB)

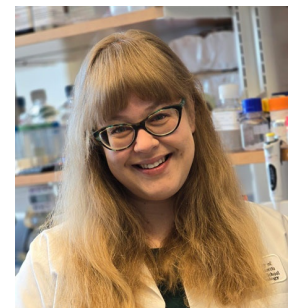


Recent Grant Awards

Learn about our [Neurology Grant Awards](#)

K99/R00 Pathway to Independence grant

Karin Meijboom, PhD, of Brown Lab was awarded the K99/R00 Pathway to Independence, a one-million-dollar grant. [Learn more about her recent grant award here.](#)



Lim Chan Lab, NIH opportunity

Rigel Chan, PhD, and Elaine Lim, PhD, of Chan Lim Lab, have

received an NIH grant award to fund a five-year research program designed to evaluate the interactions between environmental toxicant exposures (such as heavy metals, specifically cadmium) and Alzheimer's disease-associated genetics, by using donor-derived cerebral organoid models.



Team Successes

Celebrating Our Team

Our department shares the successes and accomplishments of our team members. We appreciate the contributions and commitments keeping our department moving forward.

We are also introducing team members in our various specialty centers, research teams and administrative supports.

Celebrating Our Team Successes



AM Barrett, MD, was appointed Endowed *UMass Memorial chair in neurology*

UMass Memorial Chair in Neurology



Daryl Bosco, MD, was named a new endowed chair by Chancellor, Michael F. Collins.

Paul J. DiMare Chair in Neurodegenerative Disease

HEALL Distinguished Educators

recognized at the 2024 HEALL Academy Induction Ceremony on November 21, 2024.

- Susan Billings Gagliardi, PhD, professor
- Anindita Deb, MD, associate professor, co-director of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center

Congratulations!



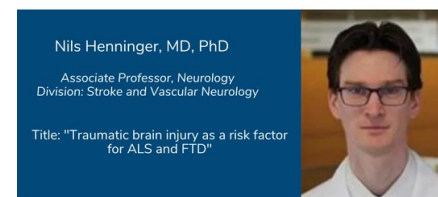
AM Barrett, MD

- offered a special tribute during the 'Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Professor Kenneth Heilman', virtual meeting on November 20, 2024.
- delivered an oral presentation in collaboration with UMass Memorial Health and Encompass Health to over 850 clinicians on Spatial Neglect.



Nils Henninger, MD, PHD, Dr. med

Dr. Henninger, associate professor of neurology, associate vice chair of research in neurology, shared a presentation at the Neurosurgery Grand Rounds on *Traumatic Brain Injury as a risk factor for ALS and FTD*.



Dr. Henninger is a cerebrovascular neurologist and clinician scientist. He serves as Associate Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry, Associate Vice Chair for Research, and Co-Director of the Cognitive Clinic in Neurology. His research has been funded by the NIH, DoD, and foundations and bridges the intersection of traumatic brain injury and neurodegeneration. Using animal models, his group's ongoing research seeks to determine how TBI triggers pathology in carriers of ALS/FTD risk genotypes.

November 20, 2024
7am to 8am EST
Scan to register!

Zoom Link



7 - 8 AM
Room ASS. 2072

ACCREDITATION BY FORTNIGHT: THE COLLEGE OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAN MEDICAL SCHOOL IS ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES. THIS APPROVEMENT IS FOR THE ACTIVITY FOR MANAGEMENT OF ALS AND IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD CLAIM ONLY CREDIT CORRESPONDING TO THE EXTENT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY.

Steve Chrzanowski, MD, PhD Dr. Chrzanowski, assistant professor of neurology and pediatrics, recently attended the Child Neurology Society meeting and it was an overall great success. He was able to connect with old peers and colleagues, while giving a talk on some of his newborn screening work. He was fortunate to receive an award at the event.



Kara Smith, MD, associate professor,

presented at the International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders®, in Philadelphia, PA, USA from September 27 – October 1, 2024.

- Speaking Out for Speech Therapy: Referral Patterns and Disparities in PD
- Detecting Mild Cognitive Impairment in Parkinson's Disease using Speech Markers

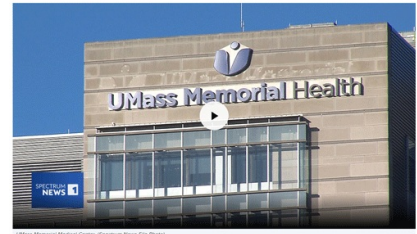


- Impact of Cognitive Impairment on Mobility and Linguistic Metrics During a Dual-task in PD

Worcester expert calls Parkinson's disease a 'scary' condition following Brett Favre announcement

Wissam Deeb, MD, met with Spectrum One News to discuss the significance of Parkinson's disease.

[Wissam Deeb, MD, conversation with Spectrum News](#)



Worcester expert calls Parkinson's disease a 'scary' condition following Brett Favre announcement



Lawrence Hayward, MD, PhD, hosted the FSHD

360 on Saturday, November 2nd.



Annie Ferris, MD, assistant professor,

Dr. Ferris is the associate director of the Vascular Neurology Fellowship Program.

"It is my pleasure to announce Dr. Ferris new role as the new associate director of the UMass Chan Medical School and affiliated UMass Memorial Medical Center ACGME accredited Vascular Neurology Program," shares Majaz Moonis, MD, director of the Vascular Neurology Fellowship Program.

Dr. Ferris shares, "I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to recruit and mentor stroke fellows in our program. Being an alumna of our vascular neurology fellowship myself, I know what great training and exposure they will get here and am proud to carry on that tradition."

Thank you for your continued support!



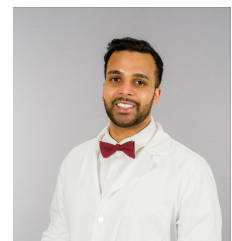
Christopher Hemond, MD

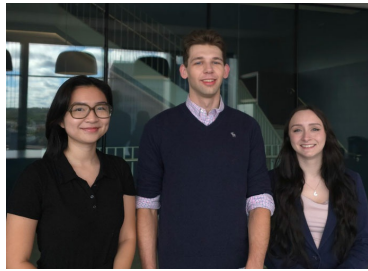
Dr Hemond delivered an oral presentation at ECTRIMS Copenhagen on 9/19. [For more information, click here](#)



Danison Emmerson, MD, MBA

If you run into Dr. Emmerson, congratulate him on earning his MBA!





PhD students in Chan-Lim Lab from L to R: Khanh Tran, Adrian Orszulak, Samantha Chigas

Neurology – MGSBS students who passed their qualifying exam.

The PhD students in the Chan Lim Lab are among the six students in neurology participating in the MGSBS program, who passed their qualifying exam.

The 2024 Angel Fund for ALS Research Gala

was held onsite at UMass Chan Medical School. This year's award winner was Anastasia Khvorova, PhD, professor of RNA therapeutics. Pictured in the photo: Rich Kennedy (left), President of The Angel Fund, and Dr. Anastasia Khvorova.



[Learn more about the event here.](#)

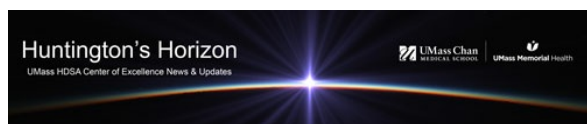
ALS Clinic and Research Center website is live!

The ALS Clinic and research center is committed to finding

treatments and therapies to help the symptoms of ALS and stop disease progression. They provide neurological diagnostic evaluations, treatment care services, through team collaboration with neurologists, pulmonologists, palliative care providers, and specialists and experts through consultation services for areas such as genetic testing, nutrition, rehabilitation therapies, neuropsychology, and neuropsychiatry.



[ALS Clinic and Research Center \(umassmed.edu\)](http://umassmed.edu)



Movement Disorders Division launches the Huntington's Horizon newsletter for patients and families with HD.

The newsletter provides patient and family resources, updates on research, treatment care support, and contact information for physician referrals and consultation services.

[Huntington's Horizon Newsletter](#)

Our community members participating in the six-month program which kicked off in October 2024 are:

- Sandra Almeida, PhD
- Mugdha Deshpande
- Sharon Velazquez



Welcome to our Community!!

Jon Beachesne,

Chief Administrative Officer

Jonathan (Jon) Beauchesne has joined the Department as Chief Administrative Officer. He is working with faculty and staff assuming administrative and executive responsibility for the Department. These responsibilities include management and oversight of non-provider staff; budgeting, finance, operations, compensation, and benchmarking; strategic planning; and growth of our department.

WELCOME to our community

Jon Beauchesne
Chief Administrative Officer

He is working with faculty and staff assuming administrative and executive responsibility for our team success.

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Learn about our new team members by clicking on their welcome images.

WELCOME to our community

Asmita Ghosh, PhD
senior research scientist
Landers Lab

a cellular and molecular biologist exploring cellular quality control mechanisms impacting protein stability.

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Asmita Ghosh, PhD

WELCOME to our community

Carolyn Griffin, MSN, RN
nurse navigator

Movement Disorders
Neuromuscular
Medicine

She enjoys integrating community support and education into her nursing practice.

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Carolyn Griffin, MSN, RN

WELCOME to our community

Thoma Pano
neurodiagnostic tech

Thoma's inspiration is to help patients with better knowledge and empathy.

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Thoma Pano, neurodiagnostic tech

Get to know some of our trainees

Sherif Mahmoud Elsayed, MD

Vascular Neurology Fellow

Learn more about Dr. Elsayed



How the Boston area's rookie doctors are navigating medicine's big challenges

Mina Botros, MD, was featured as a first-year resident student in the UMass Chan Neuro-Psych Residency Program.

[Mina Botros, MD, featured in the Boston Globe](#)



Get to know your administrative team members

Learn more about our administrative team members, who help keep our department running smoothly.



David DeMarzio, Neurology's Residency program coordinator

[Click here to learn more about David](#)



Meg Barbosa, Administrative Assistant, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) Program

[Click here to learn more about Meg](#)



Rachelle Bookman is a senior research grant and clinical trial administrator for the Department of Neurology and Administrative Services Group (ASG).

[Click here to learn more about Rachelle](#)

Celebrating Recent Retirees

Janice Lagace, OPS, Neurology Project Administrator

Janice Lagace, neurology research program manager, retired on October 1, 2024, after serving UMass Chan Medical School for over 28 years. Over the years she supported many UMass divisions, however her career began and concluded supporting our faculty in neurology.

Janice shares, "I have enjoyed my final run at UMass Chan working with the faculty of both Neurology, Wellstone and the Division of Rheumatology. It has been a different view from the OSP side of the house. Many of the faculty have shown gratitude for my contributions to their proposal submissions, processing of continuations, handling no cost extensions and following up with their closeouts. I am leaving with a very satisfying feeling of having provided my best services to all."

Thank you, Janice, for your contributions to neurology, including our UMass Wellstone Program, and your continual support to our faculty. We wish you well in your retirement.



Celia Gomes McGillivray, ACNPC-AG, MSN, MPH, MSCN,

Celia Gomes McGillivray, a neurology nurse practitioner who supported both epilepsy and neuroimmunology was celebrated as she prepared to enter retirement at the end of September 2024. We wish Celia well as she begins her retirement.



Neurology open house in the NERB



Dr. Brown kicking off the NERB open house and lab tour.



Dr. Bosco leading team members through our new lab space.



The open house offered team members an opportunity to engage in social networking.

Newly Published Research Updates



Find the 100 most recently published articles from our UMass Chan Department of Neurology, as listed on Pub Med. on our website at <https://www.umassmed.edu/neurology/research/recent-publications/>.

Congratulations to our community for spreading awareness of neurology-related research.

Sheldon Benjamin, MD
Lisa Hall, PhD
Christopher Hemond, MD
Nils Henninger, MD, PhD
Kevin Houston, OD
Carolina Ionete, MD, PhD
Rakhee Lalla, DO

Jeanne Lawrence, PhD
Marcey Osgood, MD
Andzej W. Przbyszewski
Brian Silver, MD
Kara Smith, MD
Bahadar Srichawla, DO, MS
Alexandria Weiss
Brenda Wong, MD

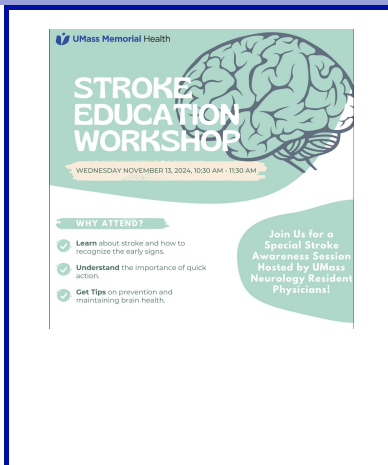
We are Growing - see our open positions

- [Bioinformatician - Open Rank \(2024-47175\)](#)
- [Clinical Research Coordinator \(2024-46880\)](#)
- [Research Associate - Open Rank \(2024-45697\)](#)
- [Research Associate - Open Rank \(2024-47177\)](#)

View our open positions
here

Diversity and Inclusion Office

Stroke Education Workshop sponsored by the Collaborative in Healthy Equity



Review the LinkedIn post online

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7251571647176916994>

Wednesday, November 13th, 2024, from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
for a Stroke Education Workshop hosted by **UMass Chan Department of Neurology** Resident Physicians.

They provided essential information on recognizing early stroke signs, understanding the importance of quick action, and tips on maintaining brain health.

Brain Health Equity Awareness and Resource Fair sponsored by the Collaborative in Health Equity



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22
11 AM - 2PM
MAIN LIBRARY
SAXE & BANX ROOMS



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Collaborative in
Health Equity

BRAIN HEALTH EQUITY AWARENESS & RESOURCE FAIR

Explore a variety of resources aimed at promoting
cognitive wellness and mental health.

All are welcome!
Win a Free 2-Month Family Membership to YWCA

Free youth helmets provided by Injury Free Coalition for Kids

Free Blood Pressure Checks

Informational Talks
Nutrition & Stroke prevention [11:30 to 12:00 pm]
Brain health in aging [12:00 to 12:30 pm]
Stress & Dementia [12:30 to 1:00 pm]

Drop-in Movement sessions
All Skill Levels are Welcome!
Dress comfortably

Yoga [11:15 to 12:00 pm]
Movement and Stretching [12:30 to 12:50 pm] [1:30 to 1:50 pm]

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WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

YWCA eliminating racism. empowering women. Central Massachusetts

Excited for our first Brain Health
Equity Fair today!

Collaborative in Health Equity (CHE) partners with the Department of Neurology regarding brain health.

Presenters: Kara Smith, MD, associate professor of neurology, and Nidhi Patel, MD, neurology resident.

Learn more about the Brain Health CHE
event



Anindita Deb, MD, associate professor of neurology and director of the Global Health arm of the UMass Chan Collaborative in Health Equity (CHE) is requesting your collaboration to build a comprehensive database of global health activities occurring across our UMass institutions.

Could you (faculty, staff, and trainees) complete this [brief survey](#) which will take you 2-3 minutes?

Thank you very much!

To learn more about
DIO

Update your headshot photo!



Schedule your faculty headshot with the [Sign Up Link](#)
Photo Sessions (**FREE** headshots!)

Date: Monthly

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Sherman Center - 5th floor

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Office of Faculty Affairs

Center for Clinical &

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- Quick link to the [Professional Staff Development Registration page](#)
- Quick link for [LMS SSO Helpdesk Support](#)

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