

Neuro News

The latest news from the Department of Neurology

December 2021

Message from the Chair



As we approach the end of 2021, I am grateful to the many people with whom I work who make days brighter for others during extraordinarily challenging times. I am grateful for the many people throughout the department of neurology who go above and beyond every day to provide the best possible care to patients and support to caregivers.

From the CSRs/administrative assistants/and department managers who make sure everything runs smoothly, to the technologists who perform testing, to the residents/fellows/APPS/physicians/neuropsychologist/MAs who provide outpatient and inpatient

services, to the nurses and social worker who make sure the inpatient and outpatient care is continuous, to the data collection specialists who help us monitor the care we deliver, to the researchers who are developing novel treatments for previously untreatable conditions, to the people who keep our spaces clean and safe, to the people who us improve our communications to each other and the outside world, and to our partners in other departments and leadership, it becomes clear how many people we rely on every day to do what we do. The job is hard, very hard, perhaps harder than it has ever been, yet we all share a common purpose of working to help others.

To everyone this holiday season, may you and your families share safety, peace and happiness.

Dr. Brian Silver, MD

Interim Chair, Department of Neurology

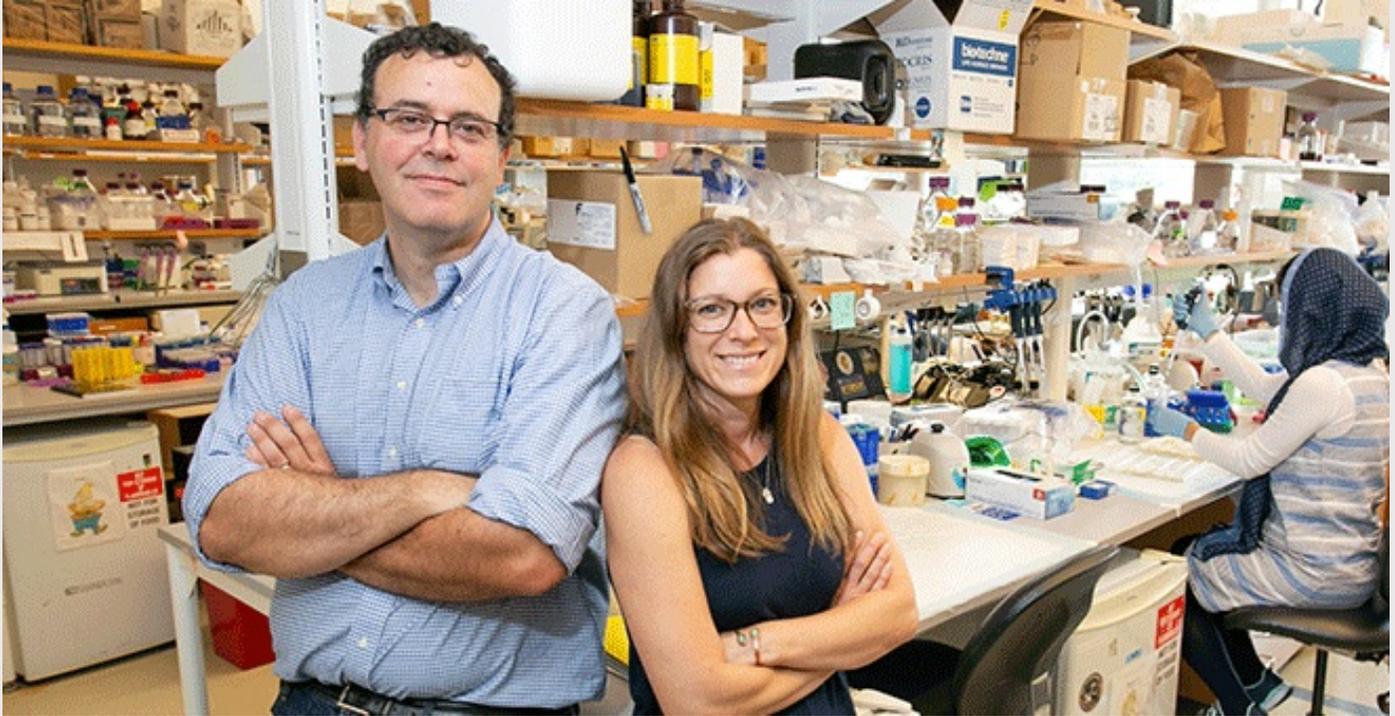
IN THE NEWS

Video: 2021 a banner year at UMass Chan Medical School



From a drive-in Match Day to new buildings on campus and a transformational gift, 2021 was a year to remember at UMass Chan Medical School. See highlights from the year in this video.

Sio Gene Therapies reports positive interim data for gene therapy trial



Sio Gene Therapies, a clinical-stage company focused on developing gene therapies for neurodegenerative diseases, presented positive interim data from its ongoing Phase I/II study of AXO-AAV-GM1, an adeno-associated viral vector-based gene therapy candidate for the treatment of GM1 gangliosidosis.

[Read More](#)

CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Anindita Deb Promoted

On December 15, 2021, Dr. Anindita Deb, MD, was promoted to Associate Professor, non-tenure track, in the Department of Neurology.

Dr. Deb has provided outstanding service to the department, the TH Chan School of Medicine, and the community. Furthermore, Dr. Deb has contributed considerably to the Medical School's education mission.

Congratulations Dr. Deb!

Marilyn Leeds Announces Retirement

Marilyn Leeds, MPH, administrative director in the Office of Graduate Medical Education, announced her retirement. She will be retiring on Dec. 31, 2021, after serving UMass Chan Medical School admirably for more than 40 years.

Marilyn is highly regarded as an outstanding leader who has made enormous contributions to our

trainees, program directors and coordinators. Having earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology at Brandeis University and Master of Public Health with a concentration in population planning and health education at the University of Michigan, she has brought deep and diverse expertise to her many roles in the GME office.

Fulfilling administrative responsibilities while serving as a fierce advocate for residents and fellows, Marilyn has made balancing the needs of the learners, Medical School and clinical system look easy. She is an effective administrative leader with a deep institutional memory.

The positive impact she has had on the learners is perhaps the most important among the many ways Marilyn has contributed to graduate medical education at UMass Chan.

Marilyn will continue to work on special projects for GME on a per diem basis. She will remain on faculty as instructor in family medicine & community health and continue teaching practice management and providing direct support to residents and fellows as they transition into practice following training.

Please wish Marilyn well on her retirement. Melissa McLaughlin, MS, has been promoted to administrative director effective Jan. 1.

RECENT EVENTS

Annual UMass Chan MS Center Clinical and Research Updates Virtual Symposium CME Program

The Neurology Department hosted the Annual UMass Chan MS Center Clinical and Research Updates Virtual Symposium on Friday, December 10th.

The virtual event featured 14 presentations from within the department and former department members. The symposium highlighted the latest research and treatments of multiple sclerosis.

[Click here to view the presentations](#)

In Memoriam of Dr. Jane Sargent

The Neurology Department held a memorial service in person and online through Zoom on November 23rd. Many former colleagues and friends shared tributes to Dr. Sargent during the event and family were able to attend the service as well.

Dr. Sargent passed away on October 26th surrounded by family.

Jane was one of the original faculty in the Department of Neurology and left an indelible mark on the history of UMass Neurology and all the trainees in the program. In fact, she was precepting in clinic the week before her passing. She loved caring for patients and teaching and was the person to go to for opinions on the most complex cases.



Her knowledge base of rare neurological disorders exceeded that of any of other clinician Dr. Brian Silver had ever met. Besides her love of taking care of patients and teaching, she was also an accomplished beekeeper and traveler, having spent many summers in Iceland and then in Mexico. As many of you know, she was also a caring grandmother who had primary responsibility for her grandson.

To read Dr. Sargent's obituary, please [click here](#).

Grief counseling is available through [Employee Assistance Program at UMass Medical School](#).

Third Annual Department of Neurology *Virtual Clinical & Research Updates CME Program*

The Neurology Department hosted the Third Annual UMass Department of Neurology Clinical & Research Updates CME Program on Friday, November 12th and Saturday November 13th.

The virtual event featured 23 presentations from within the department and former department members. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Robert H. Brown, Jr., MD DPhil, who is the vice-chair for research and a professor in Neurology.

[Click here to view the presentations](#)

Dr. Susanne Muehlschlegel's American Heart Association Scientific Presentation



Dr. Muehlschlegel, MD, MPH, proudly represented the UMass Chan Neurology Department as an invited plenary speaker on November 14th at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions during the RESS (Resuscitation Science) Plenary Session about **Survivorship: Current Needs and Knowledge Gaps**, where she spoke about her research during her talk ***"The Forgotten Stakeholders in Brain Injury: Family and Providers."*** AHA Scientific Sessions is the world's largest professional conference about cardiovascular and stroke science and includes sessions about neurological recovery and prognostication after cardiac arrest.

The session is available on demand for those who were registered at the AHA Scientific Sessions.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications are Open for Pre- and Post-Doctoral Trainees

The Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 (2T32HL120823-06A1) has recently received NHLBI funding through 2026. The Program Directors Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD and Kevin Donahue, MD, and Dr. Susanne Muehlschlegel, MD, MPH, is one of the Faculty Mentors. They are currently accepting applications for pre- and post-doctoral trainees. Trainees, please consider applying.

To learn more, call 508-856-8999 or email rebecca.gigliello@umassmed.edu.

CVT32Flyer

Pre-Doctoral
Fellowship

Post-Doctoral
Fellowship

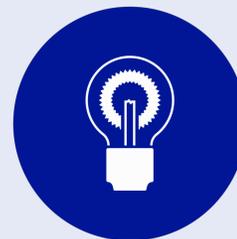
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UMass Medical School - Department of Neurology
55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655

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