In this month’s newsletter, we are pleased to introduce the new chair for the Department of Neurology, Dr. A.M. Barrett, an internationally renowned clinician-scientist with expertise in spatial cognition and rehabilitation. She also has extensive Veterans Administration experience, having served as medical director of the Atlanta VA Medical System Cognitive Neurology Clinic, and will now bridge work in neurology with the new Worcester VA clinic as the inaugural chief of the Neurology Service at the VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System.

Also highlighted in the newsletters are the multiple grants from the Dan and Diane Riccio Fund for Neuroscience, which will help further promote cutting edge neuroscience research at UMass.

Finally, we highlight awards and publications from students, residents, and faculty in neurology.

Wishing everybody an enjoyable summer.

Thanks,

Brian

Dr. Brian Silver, MD
Interim Chair, Department of Neurology

IN THE NEWS

A.M. Barrett named chair of Department of Neurology at UMass Chan
We are delighted to announce that physician-scientist Anna A.M. Barrett, MD, is joining UMass Chan Medical School as chair and professor of neurology. Additionally, Dr. Barrett has been named chief of the Neurology Service at the VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System.

Dr. Barrett comes to UMass Chan from the Emory University School of Medicine, where she has served as director of the neurorehabilitation division of the Department of Neurology and professor of neurology and rehabilitation. She also brings her experience as executive director for the Atlanta VA Healthcare System, Center for Visual and Neurocognitive Neuroscience, and medical director of the Atlanta VA Medical System Cognitive Neurology Clinic, to veterans in Central Massachusetts. Previously, she was the director of stroke rehabilitation research at the Kessler Foundation and co-director of the stroke rehabilitation program at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in New Jersey, and a faculty member at the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and also at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine.

Dr. Barrett’s extensive experience brings together training in cognitive neurology and neuropsychology, neurology, medicine and brain injury. Her research program encompasses brain-behavior relationships relevant to spatial cognition and rehabilitation of spatial neglect; person-centered care and outcomes relevant to function and life participation; and identification and management of hidden disabilities and mechanisms of deficit unawareness.

Board-certified in neurology, behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry, and brain injury medicine, Dr. Barrett earned her medical degree at New York University School of Medicine. She completed an internship at Norwalk Hospital/ Yale University School of Medicine, neurology residency at Columbia University/the Neurological Institute of New York and fellowship in behavioral neurology and neuropsychology at the University of Florida. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Neurological Association and the American Society of Neurorehabilitation. She is also a fellow of the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women at the Drexel University College of Medicine. Throughout her career she has mentored and advised dozens of faculty, medical students, PhD candidates, undergraduates, residents and fellows.

Dr. Barrett assumes leadership of a department with a firm foundation and distinguished legacy. Research in the UMass Chan Department of Neurology is advancing knowledge in cognitive neuroscience, brain development, gene therapy in neurological disorders, shared decision making and neuro-prognostication, and is advancing care for people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, dementia, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson’s disease and movement disorders, and traumatic
brain injury. The residency program is developing the next generation of clinicians, neuroscientists and educators, with subspecialty fellowships in movement disorders, neuroimmunology, neurophysiology, vascular neurology and neurocritical care. The department houses specialty groups in epilepsy, general neurology, headache, multiple sclerosis/neuroimmunology, movement disorders, neuromuscular disorders/ALS, neurocritical care, neuro-oncology, neuropsychology and stroke.

Dr. Barrett succeeds Brian Silver, MD, the Endowed Chair in Neuroscience Research and professor of neurology. We are grateful to Dr. Silver for so enthusiastically and ably serving as interim chair following the leadership of Robert H. Brown Jr., DPhil, MD, the Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Chair in Neurosciences and professor of neurology.

Thanks also to Drs. Kimberly Yonkers and Michael Gustafson, who chaired the search committee, as well as search committee members for their commitment to bringing a colleague of Dr. Barrett’s stature to our faculty.

We congratulate Dr. Barrett and eagerly anticipate welcoming her to the UMass Chan Medical School community.

Four seed grants will be supported by the Dan and Diane Riccio Fund for Neuroscience in 2022

The Dan and Diane Riccio Fund for Neuroscience will support four seed grants this year at UMass Chan Medical School. The goal of the fund is to catalyze interdisciplinary collaborations, leading to innovative discoveries that deepen the understanding of brain function and the processes that can go awry in neurological diseases.

UMass alumni Dan and Diane M. Casey Riccio, PhD, with Chancellor Michael F. Collins in 2021

UMass alumni Dan and Diane M. Casey Riccio, PhD, are the Medical School’s most generous alumni supporters. In February, the couple made its largest commitment to date, pledging $15 million to UMass Chan; $10 million to support the new Riccio ALS Accelerator Initiative and $5 million to endow the Dan and Diane Riccio Fund for Neuroscience, which was established in 2017 with a $1 million gift
from the Riccios. In addition to the fund for neuroscience, the Riccios have also generously supported ALS research at UMass Chan, giving $1 million to the UMass ALS Cellucci Fund and a separate $1 million gift to support other ALS research at the Medical School.

“We are extremely grateful for the generous support of neuroscience research by the Riccio family,” said Vivian Budnik, PhD, the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research Chair I and chair and professor of neurobiology. “This fund has already been pivotal in fostering interdisciplinary collaborations among NeuroNexus Institute laboratories, which has served to expand our understanding of complex neuroscience problems, and ultimately reveal the mechanisms underlying disease conditions in the brain. The seed grants sponsored by the Riccio Fund are already leading to larger research projects to be submitted for federal support.”

Of the four seed grants selected for support by the Dan and Diane Riccio Fund for Neuroscience, one project is a renewal from last year, while the others are new. The Department of Neurobiology administers the fund.

The 2022 recipients and their projects are:

- **Mark J. Alkema, PhD**, professor of neurobiology, **Alexandra B. Byrne, PhD**, assistant professor of neurobiology, **Doyle V. Ward, PhD**, associate professor of microbiology & physiological systems, and **Beth A. McCormick, PhD**, the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research Chair II, professor and vice-chair of microbiology & physiological systems and director of the Program in Microbiome Dynamics. *How do human microbiota determine neuronal health?* (renewal)

- **Yingleong (Rigel) Chan, PhD**, assistant professor of neurology and **Christopher C. Hemond, MD**, assistant professor of neurology. *High-throughput antibody profiling of cerebrospinal fluid from multiple sclerosis patients.*


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Remillard Family Community Fund announces recipients of grants to improve local health
The Remillard Family Community Service Fund has announced the recipients of its 2022 funding cycle, awarding 10 grants to support innovative projects led by UMass Chan Medical School faculty and students that address local food insecurity, public health, bicycle safety, health care for vulnerable populations and diversity in the health care workforce.

Established at the Medical School in 2015 with a $3 million donation by the Remillard Family Foundation, the Remillard Family Community Service Fund is dedicated to providing ongoing support for community outreach programs.

“When discussing potential funding ideas with Chancellor Collins, we were immediately drawn to the concept of a community service fund that would make thoughtful and worthwhile investments in the Central Massachusetts community for many years to come,” said Arthur J. Remillard III.

A total of $136,760 in grants of up to $20,000 each has been awarded for this year’s projects:

- Nutrition Education for Young Mothers Experiencing Housing Insecurity in Worcester proposed by medical students Lydia Brainard, Samantha Lee and Sophia Antonioli, and Erin Barlow, MD, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology: A nutrition curriculum for teen mothers experiencing housing instability will be developed to educate them about disordered eating and introduce them to community resources for food access. This project will be done in conjunction with the student-run Mentors for Young Mothers, which works with You Inc.’s Teen Parent Supported Living Program.

- Co-Active Therapeutic Theatre Drama Therapy as an Adjunctive Treatment for Patients with Serious Mental Illness proposed by medical students Clara Cabot, Victor Agwu and Amy Cheung, PhD, and Xiaoduo Fan, MD, MPH, professor of psychiatry: Members of the UMass MIND Community Intervention Program will conduct co-active therapeutic theatre drama therapy to evaluate whether the model, proven effective for other behavioral health disorders, is effective for individuals with serious mental illness who do not respond to traditional therapies.

- Helmet Safety Program proposed by Fernando Catalina, MD, PhD, assistant professor of
The Community Education and Mentoring Program: A Workshop-Based Peer Support Model for College Students with Mental Illness proposed by psychiatry resident Maite A. Cintron Pastrana, MD, medical student Cameron Fattahi and Xiaoduo Fan, MD, MPH, professor of psychiatry: This project of the UMass MIND Community Intervention Program will train a team of college student volunteers passionate about mental health advocacy, some with their own lived experiences with mental illness, to lead a series of educational workshops to aid fellow students with mental health challenges.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Surgery Initiative proposed by vascular surgery resident Emily Fan, MD: In partnership with UMass Chan and the Worcester Public Schools Worcester Pipeline Collaborative, this program aims to diversify the surgical workforce to reflect the diversity of the population by engaging local students, starting in high school, to expose them to surgical careers and provide mentorship and guidance.

Sun Protection proposed by medical student Christopher Fay: Funding will support and expand Fay’s city-wide free sunscreen dispenser initiative. In addition to supporting more dispensers, funding will enable installation of sun protection sails at busy city parks and offer educational programming in partnership with Worcester youth organizations.

Addressing Food Insecurity in and Around Barre: One Farm at a Time proposed by Kristina Gracey, MD, assistant professor of family medicine & community health: In response to increased food insecurity in rural Central Massachusetts, medical student volunteers will develop a sustainable program that helps patients enroll in SNAP benefits and pick up locally grown farm produce at no cost at the Barre Family Health Center where they receive their primary care.

Creating a longitudinal case management program within the Worcester Free Care Collaborative proposed by MD/PhD student Hye In Sarah Lee, medical students Nikita Joshi and Madeline Schwartz, and James Ledwith, MD, assistant professor of family medicine & community health: The Worcester Free Care Collaborative, six free clinics providing free, essential health care services to those who are uninsured, underinsured or unable to find care elsewhere, will expand and improve its case management operations to be more comprehensive and ongoing and better connected to other social service organizations in Worcester.

Providing Thermometers for Newborn Families at the Family Health Center of Worcester proposed by Sara Casey, DO, assistant professor of family medicine & community health, family medicine & community health resident Katherine Price, MD, and medical students Joyce Tien and Sonal Sharda: This project will provide baby rectal thermometers for all families with newborns who receive care at the Family Health Center. It will also create and distribute informational cards and magnets, in languages most frequently spoken by patients, about infant fevers and how to measure temperature properly.

Food for Thought: A Nutrition Outreach Program for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness proposed by MD/PhD students Lauren T. Shumate and Hye In Sarah Lee, medical students Kai-Lou Yue, Pooja Dutta and Marko Stojcevski, psychiatry resident Yumi Kovic, MD, and Xiaoduo Fan, MD, MPH, professor of psychiatry: Expanded offerings of a UMass MIND Community Intervention Program initiative will help patients with severe mental illness improve their diets by providing food, healthy recipe cards, and cooking equipment and supplies at community locations including the Genesis Club and local group homes, and piloting vegetable gardens at several locations.

Click here to sign up for weekly emails from UMass Chan
The 1st neuro oncology clinical trial for patients with recurrent glioblastoma has been activated. This is now open to enrollment. Please share with any patients with this diagnosis.

In summary this is for glioblastoma patients (IDHwt) who have evidence of progression of disease (1st recurrence) and who are at least 3 months out from completion of chemoRT. Below is schema.

First recurrence of glioblastoma after frontline therapy  
Surgical resection NOT clinically indicated  
↓  
Tocilizumab*  
- or-  
Atezolizumab + Tocilizumab  
↓  
Fractionated Stereotactic Radiotherapy (FSRT)  
(3-7 days after dosing)  
↓  
(starting 4 weeks from first dose)*  
Tocilizumab every 4 weeks x 2 years  
- or-  
Atezolizumab + Tocilizumab every 4 weeks x 2 years

Click here for more information about the clinical trial

IN RECOGNITION

Medical student awarded "John N Whitaker Award" at Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) 2022 Conference
Kumar Saurabh, MS3 medical student at UMass Chan Medical School, was awarded the **John N Whitaker Award** for the best presentation in the "Whitaker Research Track" platform session at the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) 2022 conference last month.

By earning this award, Saurabh can now fund the following study, "Targeted CSF Proteomics as a Tool for Analyzing Immunophenotype Heterogeneity in Multiple Sclerosis."

The presentation authors include: Saurabh Kumar¹,², Khashayar Afshari¹, Alexandra Rabin², Farnaz Khalighinejad², Nimmy Francis², Fatima Qutab¹, Danny Kwong¹, Irina Radu³, Idanis Berrios-Morales², Christopher Hemon³, Dalia Abou Zeiki⁴, Jillian M Richmond¹* and Carolina Ionete²*

*co-correspondence

¹Department of Dermatology, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Worcester, MA, ²Department of Neurology, University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center, Worcester, MA, ³Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Worcester, MA ⁴Atrium Health Neurosciences Institute Neurology Kenilworth, Charlotte, NC

Dr. Susanne Muehlschlegel, MD, MPH, professor at UMass Chan Medical School, announced the shared decision making work out in print: 1st-ever share decision making trial in the NeuroICU for TBI and stroke: A Pilot Randomized Clinical Trial of a Goals-of-Care Decision Aid for Surrogates of Severe Acute Brain Injury Patients.

Click the links below to view the abstract and editorial article written about the publication.

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Dr. Susanne Muehlschlegel, MD, MPH, professor at UMass Chan Medical School, also invited a State-of-the-Art Review Article about Neuroprognostication published in BMJ, co-written with Kelsey Goostrey, who was a previous research coordinator in her group.
The Fen-Biao Gao Lab recently published the following papers:


Raymond Catton, MD, Vascular Neurology Fellow at UMass Chan, Zimbul Albo (former stroke fellow at UMass Chan, now at Tufts), Carol Mathew (former Hem/Onc physician at UMass, now at University of Florida), Dr. Silver, and Dr. Moonis published a case report in *Stroke*, journal of the American Heart Association. The details are below.

**Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ADAMTS13 [a Disintegrin and Metalloproteinase With a Thrombospondin Type 1 Motif, Member 13] Deficiency) as Cause of Recurrent Multiterritory Ischemic Strokes**

Discussion. TTP is a rare coagulation disorder with a fascinating pathophysiology clinically characterized by a state of hypercoagulability, acute hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, and end-organ damage- mostly to the kidneys and the brain, requiring therapeutic plasma exchange in the acute setting, with systemic immunosuppression for refractory cases.

www.ahajournals.org

Celia Gomes McGillivray, ACNPC-AG, MSN, MPH, MSCN, nurse practitioner Multiple Sclerosis, UMass Memorial, University Campus, earned the distinct credential achieved by passing the multiple sclerosis nursing international certification examination. This internationally recognized certification is an acknowledgement of her expertise in the nursing care of people with multiple sclerosis and their families.

Congratulations on the achievement!

**WELCOME TO THE NEUROLOGY DEPARTMENT**

The Neurology Department would like to welcome Camarlin Franco as a new research assistant.

Welcome to the team!
Save the Date

Upcoming Neurology Events

4th Annual UMass Chan Department of Neurology Clinical & Research Update Program

Friday, November 11th, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 12th, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

4th Annual UMass Multiple Sclerosis Center Clinical & Research Update Symposium

Friday, December 9th, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Details to follow

Faculty Search: Longitudinal Preceptor in Medicine

The Third Year Clerkship in Medicine is seeking faculty for a
Longitudinal Preceptor in Medicine. Descriptions of the position can be found below. If you have interest in a position or wish to nominate a colleague for consideration for the position, please submit a CV and a brief statement of interest to Ms. Sara Jacques. Please direct any specific questions about the role to Dr. Nancy Skehan.

The Longitudinal Preceptor in Medicine (LPM) is a faculty member who serves as mentor to a small cohort of students during their clerkship rotation. They are asked to do the following:
- Conduct at least ten 2-hour meetings per 15-week Care of Adult block with assigned LPM group, reviewing on-line modules, EKG interpretation, and case presentations
- Conduct a mid-clerkship review of each student’s performance
- Review student written histories and physicals and give timely feedback to students
- Conduct Physical Diagnosis rounds with students at least 3 of their 4 weeks on the inpatient service
- Precept OSCE
- Prepare grades for each student in assigned LPM group and attend Grading Committee meetings
- Provide academic support and mentoring to struggling students within the group

Updated Mask Guidance:

Per the UMass Chan email communication regarding immediate reinstatement of indoor masking policy; all school buildings will be requiring masks for all individuals who enter these buildings for common areas/spaces. Mask are located at the main entrance and signage will be placed in common areas.

If you are not feeling well, please do not come to campus and consult your health care provider as needed. Our campus guidelines regarding what to do if you have COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 can be found at this link.

New ID badges for everyone at UMass Chan Medical School:

UMass Chan is initiating the process of issuing new ID badges to all employees, residents and students. The new badges reflect our new name and will help improve campus security.

Employees in each department will be notified when it is their turn to schedule an appointment to visit the UMass Chan Parking Office, located in the Michaelson Conference Room on the first level of the Lazare Research Building. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Each appointment is expected to take 10 minutes or less, and will consist of four steps:

- A new ID photo will be taken;
- Employees will be asked to update their information (address, phone, and their vehicle’s make, model and license plate number);
- The old ID badge will be surrendered to the Parking Office, deactivated, and recycled; and
- A new ID badge will be issued.

Employees who are working remotely may wait until they return to campus to schedule an appointment for a new badge.

Employees located at South Street have the option of scheduling an appointment at the University campus Parking Office, as detailed above, or they may choose to send an email to
parking@umassmed.edu with a new photo and the requested information (address, phone and vehicle information). New badges will then be produced and delivered on a weekly basis to the South Street campus, where employees may turn in their old badges and obtain their new badges by visiting the security desk located in the main lobby. Employees based at South Street should not email the Parking Office until they receive an email prompting them to do so.

We anticipate this project will take several months and appreciate your patience and cooperation.

UMASS MEMORIAL HEALTH UPDATES

Free at-home Covid Tests Available

UMass Memorial Health would like to inform patients and caregivers about the opportunities to receive free at-home COVID-19 tests that will be mailed by the federal government. Learn more about how to receive yours at the link below.

Learn More

Please Submit Your COVID-19 Booster Status

To better understand the need for more booster clinics and to comply with a federal regulation that requires us to document and report on the booster status of all health care workers, we are asking all caregivers who received a booster shot outside of UMass Memorial Health to submit appropriate documentation. Please submit a picture of your vaccination card to the following inbox, depending on the entity where you work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:employee_health_covid-19_mailbox@umassmemorial.org">employee_health_covid-19_mailbox@umassmemorial.org</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:medworks@umassmemorial.org">medworks@umassmemorial.org</a></td>
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In the next few days, this message will be translated into Albanian, Portuguese, Spanish and Twi. You will be able to find those translations on the Hub soon.

NOW HIRING
The Neurology Department is hiring. We're offering a $2,000 sign on bonus for all positions. Click the links below to apply and share.

- **Research Scientist, Sr.**
- **Research Associate**
- **Research Associate I**

We are seeking a highly motivated and goal-oriented individual to join our gene therapy lab in learning and working with cutting edge vector research and development to treat neurodegenerative diseases affecting children and adults. The candidate, under the direction of Dr. Miguel Sena-Esteves, and working as part of the Li Weibo Institute for Rare Diseases Research and the Horae Gene Therapy Center, will be working to develop gene editing methods to inactivate or correct the disease-causing version of the genes at the DNA level. Our lab is currently researching Neurofibromatosis type I, GNAO1, TNNT1 nemaline myopathy, as well as Dravet Syndrome and Diffuse intrinsic pontine gliomas, among others. The Research Associate will work closely and interact with other lab members to design and execute in-vitro and in-vivo experiments testing the toxicity and biodistribution of new vectors. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in molecular biology, including PCR, Western Blots, and tissue culture, as well as have strong record keeping and organizational skills.

The Neurology Department is also hiring the following positions. To learn more and to apply, click the link below.

- **Neurologist specializing in Headache**
- **Neurologist specializing in Epilepsy**
- **Neurologist specializing in Movement Disorders**

**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWS**

**Pride Month discussion centers on LGBTQ+ perinatal and reproductive health disparities**

Kodiak Soled, PhD, vice president of the Lesbian Health Fund at GLMA: Health Professionals
Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality and a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute, presented, “Fighting for our families: A community-placed study of LGBTQ+ childbearing hardships, harms and hope for a brighter future,” on Tuesday, June 28. The event, sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion Office, was in celebration of Pride Month.

**Foundation workshops at UMass Chan**

UMass Chan Medical School is committed to creating an inclusive and equitable learning and work environment. The Diversity and Inclusion Office's training program conducts high-impact diversity, equity and inclusion workshops that utilize innovative instructional design to support DEI professional development and capacity-building efforts across UMass Chan Medical School. The foundations workshops are intended for staff, faculty and learners of all levels to provide a foundation in DEI to support building more advanced skills.

**CAMPUS LEARNING**

**Professional Staff Development Website & Calendar**

- Professional Staff Development website Calendar
- Professional Staff Development website Registration
- Professional Staff Development website homepage
- Email the UMass Chan Helpdesk for LMS SSO Support

**LET'S GET SOCIAL**

The UMass Chan Neurology Department is getting social. Take a moment and like our page on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram. Stay on top of the latest neurology news and click the links below.

**STAY CONNECTED**