

## Neuro News

The latest news from the Department of Neurology

May 2022

As we close out May, a number of celebrations are happening including graduation ceremonies for students at the school, and residents and fellows in training programs. Nine students at UMass Chan Medical school will be starting their journey in neurology training programs across the country including two at UMass. We are also looking forward to the neurology resident and fellow graduation this week, which will celebrate the accomplishments of the many dedicated and caring trainees in the program. This new generation of neurologists will continue to serve the entire community, advance treatments for common and uncommon disorders, and be the teachers of future generations of neurologists. It has been a privilege to be a part of their professional development.

In this issue of news from the Department of Neurology, we also highlight the Neurology Research celebration on June 2nd, the recognition of outstanding contributions by female faculty at the Women's Faculty Awards, accomplishments of medical students of color, and celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a profile of Dr. Fan.

Wishing everyone good health and happiness.

Thanks,

Brian

**Dr. Brian Silver, MD**

*Interim Chair, Department of Neurology*

**IN THE NEWS**

# You're Invited

## 7th Annual Department of Neurology Virtual Resident and Fellow Research Celebration

Thursday, June 2nd at 4 p.m.  
(Zoom link to follow)

### Keynote Speaker

[Dr. Sudha Seshadri](#), Professor of Psychiatry and Cellular and Integrative Physiology at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio, Texas, Adjunct Professor of Neurology, Boston University School of Medicine and Senior Investigator and Director of Neurology at Framingham Heart Study in Framingham, MA.

In addition to the keynote speaker, we will also have 12 research presentations on various interesting topics that will be presented by our residents, fellows and medical students including 3 platform presentations!

- The platforms will be presented live via zoom during the celebration with time for brief Q&A following. The posters will be viewable at this link with uploaded videos of the presenter discussing their posters and pdfs uploaded for further viewing. We will be awarding the best platform and best poster presentations at the end of the celebration.
- We will provide the Zoom Link and links to access the virtual posters and program in a follow-up email next week.
- Please join us for this celebration and support all the scholarship endeavors of our students, residents and fellows!
- Feel free to invite anyone who may be interested in attending!!

## IN RECOGNITION

**Women's Faculty Awards spotlight excellence at UMass Chan Medical School**

The 22nd annual Women's Faculty Awards honoring women in science and health care for achievements in early career development, clinical service, mentoring, science and health, education, and community service at UMass Chan Medical School, were presented on Tuesday, May 24.



**Christine K. Cassel MD'76**  
**Faculty Scholar Award**  
Payal Modi, MD, MPH



**Early Career Achievement in Science and Health Award**  
Anna Luisa Kuhn, MD, PhD



**Excellence in Clinical Service Award**  
Elizabeth (Beth) Keating, MS, APRN-BC



**Outstanding Mentoring to Women Faculty Award**  
Vivian Budnik, PhD



**Sarah Stone Excellence in Education Award**  
Eustathia Lela Giannaris, PhD



**Women in Science and Health Achievements Award**  
Ann Marshak-Rothstein, PhD





Outstanding Community  
Service Award  
Melanie Gnazzo, MD

## UMASS CHAN UPDATES

### **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](#).

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### **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](mailto: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.

## **Supporting Ukraine and Our Caregivers**

As Russian forces continue their brutal attack on Ukraine – forcing millions of Ukrainian refugees to flee their homes for safety in neighboring nations – our UMass Memorial Health caregivers are doing what caregivers do: find ways to help.

At UMass Memorial Medical Center, an effort led by John Broach, MD, MPH, MBA, FACEP, Director, Emergency Medicine, with UMass Chan Medical Student Paramesh Karandikar and the Medical School's chapter of Stop the Bleed and its Crisis and Emergency Preparedness Committee, is underway. Needed medical supplies are being gathered to be shipped next week to Ukraine through Razom for Ukraine, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the people of Ukraine. Supplies include personal protective equipment; wound dressings and suture materials; infusion, hemostatic and anesthetic materials; operating room supplies and medications; lab and diagnostic equipment; generators and more. Similar efforts are being organized at UMass Memorial Health – Harrington with its medical supply company, Claflin, to gather and provide thousands of emergency medical and surgical supplies including bandages and other wound care materials, IV catheters, masks, tourniquets and more. Additionally, last week Gwyn Gable, a Harrington caregiver with Ukrainian family, arranged for two dozen cases of maximum barrier kits to be flown to Poland and driven to the border. That's just the start. We will continue to bring you information about more efforts as they mobilize.

### **How to Help: Trusted Relief Organizations to Support Ukraine**

When there's a need, our caregivers are compelled to step up to help. For the many UMass Memorial Health caregivers who have expressed interest in supporting the people of Ukraine, we have identified the following trusted relief funds and organizations.

- **Save the Children – Ukrainian Crisis Relief Fund** This London-based organization is currently working in refugee camps in Poland and Romania distributing food, water and hygiene kits to refugees arriving at the Romania-Ukraine border and in reception centers. Their Child Protection services include targeted support for unaccompanied and separated children, psychosocial support and access to legal services. Learn more about the **Save the Children – Ukrainian Crisis Relief Fund**
- **International Committee for the Red Cross**: Working closely with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, this Switzerland-based organization provides: emergency assistance such as food, water and other essential items; support for hospitals and primary health care facilities with medical equipment and emergency preparedness; repair of water stations/damaged homes; and reunification of families separated by the conflict. Learn more about the **International Committee for the Red Cross**.
- **Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders**: Based in Switzerland, Doctors without Borders is mobilizing to set up emergency response activities with teams in eastern Europe. They are working as emergency response, providing surgical care, emergency medicine and mental health support for displaced people. In addition, they are shipping surgical kits, trauma kits and basic necessities for intensive care units, emergency rooms and surgical operating theaters for use in hospitals in Kyiv and for distribution to other towns further east.

### **How to Support Our Caregivers**

As the heartbreaking news and images of violence and destruction continue to come out of Ukraine, this is a difficult time for many of our caregivers, especially those from Ukraine, Russia or other European nations. Please take this opportunity to care for each other, lean on each other and take advantage of **resources** that are available to help. In addition, our Optum Employee Assistance Program offers the following that may be helpful to you:

- Employee Assistance Program: 866-263-3525
- **Optum Ukraine Unrest Handout**
- **Optum Disaster Planning and Recovery Pre-recorded Webinars**
- **Optum Disaster Planning and Recovery Articles**

We sincerely hope we see an end to this senseless violence soon. Until then, we appreciate all you do to extend a helping hand to those impacted by this crisis abroad and here at home. Stay informed of the latest information

## **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:

| <b>Entity</b>                              | <b>Email</b>   |
|--|--|
| Medical Center, Medical Group, Division 40 | <a href="mailto:employee_health_covid-19_mailbox@umassmemorial.org">employee_health_covid-19_mailbox@umassmemorial.org</a> |
| Community Healthlink                       | <a href="mailto:chemployeehealth@communityhealthlink.org">chemployeehealth@communityhealthlink.org</a>                     |
| HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital            | <a href="mailto:HA-C_EmployeeHealthServices@umassmemorial.org">HA-C_EmployeeHealthServices@umassmemorial.org</a>           |
| Marlborough Hospital                       | <a href="mailto:medworks@umassmemorial.org">medworks@umassmemorial.org</a>   |

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 position through AAMC Career Connection. To learn more and to apply, click the link below.

## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWS

### Vibrant stoles at Commencement to honor accomplishments of students of color



A new tradition will be celebrated at UMass Chan Medical School on Friday, June 3, when graduating students of color from all three schools will be given colorful Kente and multicultural stoles to be worn as regalia during Commencement. The stole ceremony, organized by the UMass Chan chapter of White Coats for Black Lives with support from the Diversity and Inclusion Office, was held off campus last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is part of ongoing efforts to illuminate the stories and experiences of underrepresented students.

MD/PhD candidates Abiola Ogunsola and Zachary Dyer, co-presidents of the UMass Chan chapter of **White Coats for Black Lives**, were instrumental in creating this new tradition, with the support of the Diversity and Inclusion Office. They said the stole is a symbol of overcoming barriers that underrepresented students face in pursuit of higher education, especially in STEM education.

[Read More](#)

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## Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Profile

**[Xiaoduo Fan](#)**, MD, MPH, is a board-certified psychiatrist and professor of psychiatry at UMass Chan Medical School. Dr. Fan is the director of UMass Chan's Psychotic Disorders Clinical and Research Program and its community outreach program, UMass MIND, as well as the UMass Chinese Mental Health Program, which builds sustainable academic collaborations between mental health professionals in the United States and China. His clinical work and research focus on innovative pharmacological and psychosocial interventions for refractory symptoms of schizophrenia, medical co-morbidity, co-occurring substance use disorders and real-life functioning in patients with schizophrenia. He serves on the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Advisory Panel on Healthcare Delivery and Disparities Research and is a distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.



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## 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.

### **Equitable and Inclusive Search Processes**

In this workshop you will learn to identify how unconscious bias and groupthink may impact search processes, describe at least three ways to mitigate bias within the recruitment cycle, and apply standardized interview questions and holistic review to promote inclusion.

May 30, 12:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

### **Inclusive Communication: The Language of Belonging**

In this interactive virtual workshop, we will review common terminology and concepts used in diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and examine how we can promote inclusion and belonging through intentional language and communication.

June 7, noon

[Register](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### **LGBTQA Affinity Group: Pride Month Celebration**

The UMass Chan LGBTQA affinity group invites you to attend a hybrid meeting to celebrate Pride Month. You can share your first pride parade/event experience, listen to shared stories, connect with people, and learn about school resources to support LGBTQ students, staff and faculty.

### **LGBTQA Affinity Group: *Heartstopper* discussion**

Have you seen *Heartstopper* on Netflix? Many members of the UMass Chan LGBTQA affinity group think that the series was very inclusive and had heartfelt representations of the queer communities. Whether you watched the show or not, join the group in discussing *Heartstopper*, the importance of representation in media and

June 7, 5 p.m.  
Sherman Center cafeteria  
[Zoom](#)  
Password: 230097

the impact of such representation on your life.  
June 30, noon  
[Zoom](#)  
Password: 744940

## CAMPUS LEARNING

### EPC Retreat

**Audience:** Open to all (students, staff, faculty)

**Logistics:**

- Day 1, fully remote, large group session and recorded (email [epccommittee@umassmed.edu](mailto:epccommittee@umassmed.edu) for recording)
- Day 2, hybrid, large group and small group sessions with Vista Curriculum leaders

**Topics:**

- Vista Longitudinal Focus Topics (the new School of Medicine curriculum)
- Lecture from Lamar Soutter award winner Dr. Suzanne Cashman on teaching and learning (Day 1)
- Workshops from Vista leadership regarding the Medical School's educational objectives, are Physician as...Professional, Scientist, Communicator, Clinical Problem Solver, Patient & Community Advocate, Person and Healthcare System Navigator (Days 1 & 2)

June 6, 2022 Zoom Link

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### Call for Applications

The **UMass Chan Medical School Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) 2022-2023** is now open for applications.

The JFDP, sponsored by the UMass Chan Medical School Office of Faculty Affairs (OFA), is designed to accelerate the professional development of faculty in the early stages of their academic career.

The JFDP is an intensive experience, combining a curriculum in professional development and a project conducted with the guidance of a program-assigned senior faculty member. Since its implementation in 2010, 278 UMass Chan Medical School junior faculty have completed the JFDP. More information on the JFDP can be found on the Office of Faculty Affairs website at <https://www.umassmed.edu/ofa/development/JFDP>

If you are interested in the JFDP, we encourage you to attend one of the virtual informational sessions – on May 4 or 11 – a flyer is attached. Please also contact us if you have questions about the program.

**Application to the JFDP requires approval by your department Chair**— if you are interested in the program, you should discuss the opportunity first with your chair (and your division chief, if applicable) before completing an application. The application form is attached: the deadline for submission is

**Wednesday, June 08, 2022.**

**New additional application requirements this year include** a personal/leadership statement and Letter of Support from the Chair or Division Chief.

Selection will be based on the merits of the applicant's leadership potential, chair letter, and the potential impact of the proposed project on the individual, departmental and institutional level, including likelihood of scholarship for the applicant.

JFD Application 2022

JFD Informational Flyer

## 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.



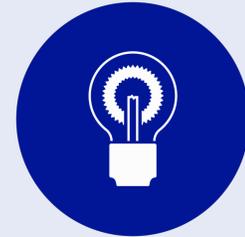
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ideas

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