A message from the Chair

Community

Happy 2023!

As I start my third month with the Department of Neurology, I have the privilege of looking over feedback that many of you provided in our Department of Neurology survey.

It is very moving to read about the kindness, personal support, shared concern, honesty, and camaraderie the members of our Department experience and cherish. As I shared when we met at the holiday lunch, I think these words about the Department’s family ties and institutional memory are a special strength here at UMass.

This kind of community identity allows us to accomplish so much more. A powerful community, such as ours, also presents challenges during the period of growth we are currently experiencing as a Department. I am very excited by the new faculty members joining us: 5 (including me) joined in the latter half of 2022, and 7 more scientists and providers are already scheduled to join in 2023. With our growth, and community strength the focus will rest on how we can keep everyone moving together, communicating, and synchronized through our many developed activities in research, clinical care, and education, in addition to developing new areas of distinction.

I am so proud of our advanced challenge of inclusion and belonging—it reveals how rich we are in Departmental human resources. Not only have our department members trained in biology, bioinformatics, neuroscience, biochemistry, psychology, neurology, optometry...and so many more areas, our enhanced Departmental leadership structure will help us to celebrate, and also bring together...
As you know, Lawrence Hayward is now working with us as Neuromuscular Division Director, and Brian Silver, who set the bar high as interim Chair for compassionate, collegial interaction, is now our Vice Chair of Clinical Operations. I look forward to lively conversations about how we can stay abreast of our Departmental activities across the medical school and healthcare system, and to new ways of engaging each other.

Our Department relationship with the Veteran Administration continues to grow, and I am always happy to discuss this formally or informally with each of you. The 2023 VA research budget is over $900M, and the VA is distinguished among federal funders by its proportion of funded researchers who are also practicing clinicians: over 60 percent. Many exciting new developments are in process in the UMass-VA relationship, as well.

Hoping that for everyone, the new year, 2023, brings hope and many peaceful moments, as we appreciate our UMass Neurology community.

A.M. Barrett

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**Neurology Community News**

**Congratulations Rakhee LALLA!!**

On November 14 ~ Rakhee LALLA, DO, our Assistant Professor in Vascular Neurology welcomed baby girl, Zia Garg.

**Best Wishes to your growing family!!!**

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**Congratulations on newly appointed positions!**

**Congratulations to Brian Silver, MD, FAAN, FANA, FASNR**

Dr. Silver has accepted the position as our new Vice Chair of Clinical Operations within the Neurology Department. He will work to continue enhancing the Departmental Divisional Structure while upholding the Clinical mission and standard of excellence.

**Congratulations to Lawrence Hayward, MD, PhD**

Dr. Hayward has been promoted to our new Neuromuscular Division Director overseeing their research, education, clinical strategy and operations. In addition, he will be partnering with Clinic Director Brenda Wong and the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Clinic.

**Congratulations to Kara Smtih, MD**

Dr. Smith is now an Associate Professor in Neurology with a secondary appointment in Neurological Surgery.

**Congratulations to Nancy Bellantoni**

Nancy Bellantoni is the new Ambulatory Operations Supervisor for Neurodiagnostics.
November 2022

Gisselle Ayala
Amb Service Rep, MS Center

Ina Hoxhallari
Neurodiagnostic Tech, EMU

Israa Hassan
Research Associate

Kate Brush
Executive Assistant to the Chair

Kelly Gaumond
Nurse Navigator

Pegah Afra
Physician

Sai Bethina
Post Doc Associate

December 2022

Fininfoluwa Olusola
Clinical Research Coordinator

Kevin Houston
Physician

Kyle Rossi
Physician

Sharon Velazquez
Web Communications Specialist

Tracy Goodfield
Medical Office Assistant

Linda Gregoire
Amb Operations Supervisor

MS Center Recognized by National MS Society

Multiple Sclerosis Center & Dr. Carolina Ionete receive recognition by the National MS Society

The UMass Multiple Sclerosis Center team received recognition by the National MS Society as a
The MS Center team, led by Carolina Ionete, MD, PhD., received recognition on behalf of the work and treatment they provide to their patients.

The certificate was presented on January 14.

Leading in Education ~ with some fun!

World Stroke Day - Friday, October 28

The clinical nursing team chose to honor the special day with support by the Neurology Stroke Team.

Carolyn Griffin, one of the Medicare Nurse Navigators is seen relating to students on the 4th floor, by providing education in a fun way.

The game, which included individually wrapped homemade chocolate cookies, encouraged the nurses and MD Residents (not pictured) to take turns spinning the Support Wheel and answering questions.

Research Updates & Learning Seminars

December 9, 2022 - UMass Multiple Sclerosis Center Clinical & Research Update Symposium

The annual Neuroimmunology / Multiple Sclerosis Clinical & Research Update Symposium provided scientists and clinicians with the latest updates in clinical and translational research findings via eleven presenters through the qualifying CME event.

Thank you to our research community for your contributions to this event.

Presenters include Dr. Carolina Ionete, Dr. Roberto Bomprenzi, Dr. Christopher Hemond, Dr. Biljana Beretich, Dr. Raffaella Umenton, Dr. Rachel Gerstein, Dr. Jillian Richmond, Dr. Maria Antonietta Mazzola, Dr. Caterina Mainero, Dr. Andrada Treaba,
November 18, 2022 - 4th Annual UMass Chan Department of Neurology Clinical & Research Update Program
The annual Neurology Clinical & Research Update program provided twenty-six participants with updates on our scientific inquiry initiatives to better serve our patients and communities.

Thank you to our research community for your contributions into this event. 
**Presenters include** Dr. A.M. Barrett, Dr. Andrew Galica, Dr. Robert Brown Jr., Dr. D. Phil, Dr. Mehdi Ghasemi, MPH; Dr. Oliver King, PhD; Dr. Idanis Berrios-Morales, Dr. Fen-Biao Gao, Dr. Kara Smith, Dr. Wissam Deeb, Dr. Rita Batista, Dr. Susanne Muehlschlegel, Dr. Jean Pierre Peron, Dr. Nils Henninger, Dr. Yingleong (Rigel) Chan

Administrative Support was provided by Dr. Brian Silver, Dr. Carolina Ionete, Dr. Daryl Bosco, Morna Larson, Lynn Hancock
To learn more about the topics covered, please review the [meeting agenda](#).

October 29, 2022 - Massachusetts Neurologic Association
Rafaella Umeton, MD, MSc of UMass Chan Medical School, and Andrew Galica, MD of UMass Memorial Health, collaborated with MNA during the fall seminar. Thank you for your contributions!! To learn more, please review the [meeting agenda](#).

**Research Updates and Publications**

We are excited to share your research news!
Check out what our department has been up to through the Neurology Articles published during November and December 2022

**Multi-omics analysis of magnetically levitated plasma biomolecules.**

**Neuroprognostication.**

**Predicting mortality in moderate-severe TBI patients without early withdrawal of life-sustaining treatments including ICU complications: The MYSTIC-score.**

**Characteristics and outcomes of postpartum cerebral venous sinus thrombosis: A subgroup analysis of the ACTION-CVT study.**
**Anti-SOD1 Nanobodies That Stabilize Misfolded SOD1 Proteins Also Promote Neurite Outgrowth in Mutant SOD1 Human Neurons.**


**Mutation in protein disulfide isomerase A3 causes neurodevelopmental defects by disturbing endoplasmic reticulum proteostasis.**


**A reference human induced pluripotent stem cell line for large-scale collaborative studies.**


**Paramagnetic rim lesions are associated with pathogenic CSF profiles and worse clinical status in multiple sclerosis: A retrospective cross-sectional study.**


**Predictors of Recurrent Venous Thrombosis After Cerebral Venous Thrombosis: Analysis of the ACTION-CVT Study.**


**The SOD1-mediated ALS phenotype shows a decoupling between age of symptom onset and disease duration.**


**Impaired mitochondrial oxidative metabolism in skeletal progenitor cells leads to musculoskeletal disintegration.**

Neuroprotective effects of Lasmiditan and Sumatriptan in an experimental model of post-stroke seizure in mice: Higher effects with concurrent opioid receptors or K<sub>ATP</sub> channels inhibitors.

**We are Growing - see our Open Positions**

The Neurology Department is hiring. To learn more about our various positions and to apply [click here](#).

- **Bioinformatician 11 (2022-39754)**
- **Biostatistician 11 (2022-40355)**
- **Clinical Research Coordinator 1 (2022-42334)**
- **Research Associate (2022-40178)**
- **Research Associate (2022-42133)**
- **Research Associate 1 (2022-40749)**
- **Research Associate 1 (2021-39245)**

**Bosco Lab** is hiring for the following positions:
- **Post Doctoral Associate (2022-40126)**
- **Research Associate (2022-39916)**

**Brown Lab** is hiring for the following positions:
- **Post Doctoral Associate (2022-41684)**
- **Research Associate (2022-41532)**

**Gao's Lab** is hiring for the following position:
- **Research Associate 1 (2022-38811)**

**Rigel Lab** is hiring for the following position:
- **Research Associate 1 (2021-36596)**

**Sena-Esteves Lab** is hiring for the following position:
- **Research Associate (2022-42131)**

**UMASS UPDATES**

The 2022 UMass President’s Report, provided by University of Massachusetts President Marty Meehan, is available. To learn more, click the link below.
UMASS MEMORIAL HEALTH UPDATES

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:

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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.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWS

Jillian Richmond mentoring Morehouse med student Sachi Desse in research aimed to reduce disparities in dermatology
A Morehouse School of Medicine student is studying a rare group of blood cancers that disproportionately affect Black people, with the support of mentor Jillian Richmond, PhD, assistant professor of dermatology, and a grant from the dermatology foundation.

UMass Chan resident-led 'Day in the Life of a Surgeon' event promotes diversity in surgery

More than 60 college students from across Massachusetts attended "A Day in the Life of a Surgeon" event last month, organized by two UMass Chan Medical School surgery residents to give students underrepresented in medicine the opportunity to learn about the surgical field.

Nominations sought for Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion and MLK Semester of Service Awards
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. tribute to be held Jan. 25 on campus at UMass Chan

In recognition of the persistent efforts to make UMass Chan Medical School a more diverse, inclusive and equitable institution, the Diversity and Inclusion Office is pleased to announce nominations are now being accepted for the 2023 Chancellor’s Award for Advancing Institutional Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion.

Nominations forms can be found on the Diversity and Inclusion Office website and will be accepted until Jan. 6.

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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

Register for any of our 2022 diversity workshops

Read More about the VA Outpatient Clinic

Click here to sign up for weekly emails from UMass Chan

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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.