

Weekly Newsletter January 8-12, 2024

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS



**Wednesday, January 10 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM**

**Research Meeting – Presenter:** Tien-Chan Hsieh, MD, Fellow, Hematology Oncology Division, UMass Chan

**Title:** Disparities in Palliative Care Use for Patients with Blood Cancer Who Died in the Hospital

**Brief Description:** This study reveals disparities in palliative care usage among blood cancer patients during their terminal hospitalizations. Analyzing the National Inpatient Sample (NIS), the research identifies sociodemographic and hospital-related factors on the receipt of palliative care. The palliative care was absent in 46% of cases, shedding light on the urgent need for targeted interventions to bridge

these gaps and ensure equitable access to optimal palliative care services

Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 937 1668 5400 password: 492717

PQHS HEADSHOTS FOR WEBSITE



PQHS would like to encourage all staff and faculty to get their headshots taken in their best outfit during this season as this will be used to update our website. Photos are taken every other Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM on the fifth floor of the Sherman Center by the elevators. Each session caps at 50 people. Anyone at UMass Chan can sign up using this document found on the SharePoint site. **See updated link for new options:** [Photo Sign-Ups \(office365.com\)](#)

PQHS HAPPENINGS



**Sign up to have lunch with the Chair & Vice Chair!** There are still slots available to pick from. Lunch with the Chair and Vice Chair sign ups are first come first serve for 3 Faculty Members and 3 Staff Members each month to have to have a nice catered meal and to talk about anything, but NO WORK TALK. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up for the date that works for you. Thank you!

Click [here](#) to sign up!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 3:30PM-4:30PM**

***“Housing, Homelessness and Health: What Do We Know  
Housing And Health And What Is Being Done?”***

Presented by: Tom Byrne, MSW, PhD; Jeneczka Roman, MPH & Elizabeth Gonzalez Suarez, MA

Click [here](#) to Register.



**Monday, January 29, 2024, 2:00-4:00PM**

**“Striving for Impact: Designing the Community – Academic Research Dissemination Process to Foster Equity”**

Presented by: Kathleen Szegda, PhD, MPH, MS, Director of Community Research and Evaluation at the Public Health Institute of Western MA (PHIWM) & Sarah Goff MD, PhD, Associate Professor and Program Head of Health Policy and Management at UMass Amherst  
Click [here](#) to Register.



**Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 12:00-1:00PM**

**“Making Reproducibility Research More Systematic”**

Presented by: Abel Brodeur, PhD, Assistant Professor at University of Ottawa & Institute for Replication  
Click [here](#) to join. Password: 602937

**DIVERSITY DIGEST**



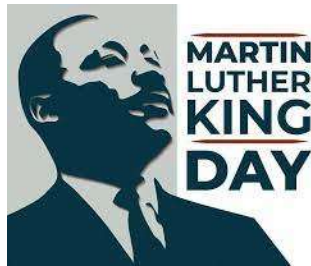
**THREE KINGS DAY: January 6** Excerpted from [nationaltoday.com](http://nationaltoday.com)

On the twelfth day of Christmas, January 6, we celebrate Three Kings Day! Celebrated most in Europe, Spain, and Latin America, ‘El Dia de los Reyes,’ as it’s called in Spanish, marks the glorification of baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men.

In Mexico and many other Latin American countries, Santa Claus isn’t as popular as he is in the United States. Rather, it is the Three Wise Men who are the bearers of gifts and leave presents in or near the shoes of small children. The holiday is also known by the name Epiphany and dates back to the 4th century. A grand feast would be held on this day to honor the occasion of Jesus’

baptism and to pay homage to the Three Wise Men.

Three Kings Day, or El Dia de Reyes, remains an important holiday for Catholics. In addition to gift-giving, there is also a culinary treat that is specific to the holiday. Known as Rosca de Reyes (King’s Cake), this holiday dessert is a symbolic pastry. Shaped in a circle to signify a king’s crown, this sweet bread holds a special surprise. Inside is a small plastic figurine representing the baby Jesus. Whoever finds this token is obligated to host an upcoming party for the occasion Dia de la Condelaria (Candlemas Day) which occurs each year on February 2.



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY: January 15**

The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service is a defining moment each year when Americans across the country step up to make communities more equitable and take action to create the Beloved Community of Dr. King’s dream. While Dr. King believed the Beloved Community was possible, he acknowledged and fought for systemic change. His example is a call to action. Coretta Scott King reflected on the meaning of The King Holiday. “The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America.”

Legislation for a King Holiday was first introduced four days after Dr. King’s assassination in 1968. Signed into law in January 1983 by President Ronald Reagan, the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday is a celebration of Dr. King’s immeasurable contribution to the United States, and to humankind.

MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. During the last quarter-century, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact increased as more Americans embraced the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving communities.



**THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION:** January 27 Excerpted from UNESCO International Days  
January 27 was officially proclaimed, in [November 2005](#), International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust by the United Nations General Assembly. On this day, the victims of the Holocaust are remembered; the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945; and the UN Holocaust Memorial.

#### UMASS CHAN REMINDER



#### Deadline to Use Your Personal Time

The last day for all employees to use their 2023 Personal Time will be on January 13, 2024. Employees will be awarded their 2024 Personal Time on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, which will be available in their timesheet. The 2024 personal time will be reflected on the January 19, 2024, Pay Advice.

To avoid the potential loss of any Personal Time, we suggest you check your Personal Time by using [HR Direct](#). If you have Personal Time that has not been used, work with your manager to plan for the use of the time. Your manager must approve your planned Personal Time in advance. Also, please review and update any home address information in [HR Direct](#) in anticipation for the tax season.

To view the UMass Chan Personal Time policy, click [here](#) or the policy image to the right. You will need to be logged into the intranet system to view the page.

If you have questions, please email [HRCommunications@umassmed.edu](mailto:HRCommunications@umassmed.edu).

### GOOD HEALTH PRACTICES

To Prevent the Spread of Viruses

<p>20 Seconds</p> <p>Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds</p>	<p>Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth</p>	<p>Cover your mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing</p>	<p>Disinfect surfaces at home and at work</p>
<p>Stay home when you're sick and not feeling well</p>	<p>Avoid contact with people who are sick</p>	<p>Do Social Distancing by staying at least 6 feet away from people</p>	<p>Avoid large gatherings of people (as determined by authorities)</p>

**Holiday season public health reminders:** With the holiday season upon us, many will be traveling and gathering with family, friends and colleagues, which, while festive, may increase the possibility of contracting COVID-19, the flu, RSV and other viruses or infectious diseases. Consider masking while on public transportation and in crowded areas. Please be reminded to follow good public health practices, including receiving annual vaccinations against influenza, COVID-19 and, if in a risk group, RSV ([How to Get Your Flu, COVID-19, and RSV Vaccines This Year | CDC](#)) and practicing good hygiene, including frequent hand washing. If you are experiencing symptoms of any illness, contact your health care providers, avoid coming to work or school, and contact Employee or Student Health for return-to-work guidance.

[Click here for instructions on what to do if you are experiencing symptoms or are exposed to COVID-19](#). We continue to require that individuals who test positive for COVID-19 report the test result to Employee or Student Health so that we can prevent outbreaks.

Free, at-home COVID-19 tests are available to order at <https://www.covid.gov/tests>. To locate COVID-19 vaccines in your area, visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for helping to keep our campus community safe and healthy.



**Holiday season is upon us.** Here is the [link](#) to the Holiday Calendars for UMass Chan Medical School.

**Following Holiday Schedule for 2024:**

- New Year's Day – Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>
- Presidents Day – Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Patriots' Day – Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>
- Independence Day – Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day – Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Day – Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>



UMass Chan Medical School's [Office of Communications](#) is initiating regularly scheduled opportunities where faculty, staff, and students can have a professional headshot taken. Photos are taken every other Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM on the fifth floor of the Sherman Center by the elevators. Each session caps at 50 people. Anyone at UMass Chan can sign up using this document found on the SharePoint site. **See updated link for new options:** [Photo Sign-Ups \(office365.com\)](#)

*PQHS Weekly will be sent to all members of PQHS on Monday mornings. The intent is to provide a snapshot of what is going on that week in PQHS and to share our faculty and staff activities with the department. We depend on you to provide the items we need to share. Please send suggestions of events, faculty invited seminars & talks, honors, student thesis presentations, and news – new babies born! – to Kellie ([kellie.armstrong@umassmed.edu](mailto:kellie.armstrong@umassmed.edu)) & Sarah ([sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu)) by Friday each week.*