

Weekly Newsletter February 13-17, 2023

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENT

Monday, March 20, 2023, at 12:00PM

Location: Faculty Conference Room

PQHS Annual State of the Department: All Students, Faculty and Staff are invited and encouraged to attend the PQHS Annual State of the Department meeting. Come hear all the exciting things happening in PQHS. Dean Flotte and Chancellor Collins will address the department. This is an in-person only event, zooming is not an option and will not be recorded. Slides will be provided following the meeting.



Lunch will be provided. Please click the link below to RSVP **whether you plan to attend (yes or no)**. If you answer yes, a link is provided to add the event to your Outlook calendar. **Please reply by Friday, March 3rd.**

<https://arcsapps.umassmed.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=X3JNCMAHRL>

THIS WEEK IN PQHS & UMMS

Tuesday, February 14 – 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Research Meeting – Presenter: Sandra Wolitzky, Deputy Division Chief of the Health Care Division; and Chloe Cable, Assistant Attorney General, Health Care Division, Office of the Attorney General, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA

Title: AGO's 2022 Cost Trends Report: How Current Approaches to Risk Adjustment May Entrench Barriers to Care and Divert Funds Away from Low Income Communities

Brief Description: In November 2022, the AGO released its Cost Trends Report which studies how risk adjustment formulas do not fully capture health needs for individuals who have barriers to accessing health care services. The report also documents how this redistribution of dollars away from insurers that contract with low-cost hospitals correlates with – and may compound – barriers to accessing health care services that low-income communities face because of hospital essential health service closures and lack of capital investment by hospitals that serve those communities. This presentation will highlight the AGO's methodology, findings, and recommendations for further study. Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 851 294 7151 **password: smm2020**

PQHS INTERN SPOTLIGHT



Dedeepya Billa, an intern in the Division of Health Informatics and Implementation Science, has been featured in the [Public Health Informatics and Technology \(PHIT\) Spring 2023 Newsletter](#): My internship is with the UMass Chan Medical School Division of Health Informatics and Implementation. I am working on All of Us data from NIH. I was also allowed to select any topic of interest and use the date to perform research. So, I decided to work on “How Cancer Impacts Heart Failure”. So far, I have prepared a research protocol on this subject and am about to analyze the data. This internship has helped me improve my presentation skills since I am given many opportunities to present. The stipend from the PHIT program helped me a lot because I used that to cover some of my tuition. The internship helped me build skills such as writing protocols for research and presenting findings which I mentioned earlier, and these are skills I

will need to advance in my career. When I first heard about the PHIT program I was very excited because it related to data, and I am a data person.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



March 22, 2023, at 12PM

Special Seminar: “Improving Cancer Health Equity in Rural Settings through Participatory Implementation Science” presented by Melinda M. Davis, PhD, M.C.R., is Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, Interim Director of the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network and Co-Director of the OCTRI Community and Collaboration Core at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). Dr. Davis is a participatory implementation scientist who collaborates with patient, community, and health system partners to adapt and implement interventions to improve health equity in rural and low resourced settings.

Dr. Davis conducts her work in ORPRN, often in partnership with the Community Health Advocacy and Research Alliance (CHARA), Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), and other state and national partners. Dr. Davis leads a portfolio of research and technical assistance contracts funded by the National Cancer Institute, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, American Cancer Society, and National Institute of Minority Health & Health Disparities.

Click this [link](#) to register for the webinar.

Separately, we will host Career Development Workshop with Dr. Davis for early-career researchers on **March 23rd, 2023**, from noon to 1 pm. Click this [link](#) to register for the Workshop.

This workshop is mainly for early career researchers and junior faculty.

However, anybody is welcome.

Monday, April 3, 2023, at 12 PM

Rigor and Reproducibility Seminar: “Sharing Confidential and Sensitive Data?” presented by [George Alter, PhD](#), Research Professor Emeritus with the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Alter’s research integrates theory and methods from demography, economics, and family history with historical sources to understand demographic behaviors in the past. From 2007 to 2016, Alter was Director of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, the world’s largest archive of social science data, and he is a past president of the Social Science History Association. He has been active in international efforts to promote research transparency, data sharing, and secure access to confidential research data. He is currently engaged in projects to create FAIR vocabularies in population research, to automate the capture of metadata from statistical analysis software, and to compare fertility transitions in contemporary and historical populations. This seminar is given jointly by the UMass Chan Medical School Population & Quantitative Health Sciences, and UMass Boston Gerontology Department and Gerontology Institute. Click this [link](#) to join the ZOOM presentation; password: 468880.



Postdoctoral Training is starting now and in August 2023. The [PRACCTIS program \(Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change in Individuals and Systems\)](#) at UMass Chan Medical School is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars. Funding is available starting now and in August 2023 for fellowships in three specialty areas:

[Cancer Prevention and Control](#)

[Health Communication](#)

[Tobacco and Digital Health Research](#)

We train independent researchers to address critical prevention and control care delivery issues across the cancer continuum, including primary prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship. Emphasis is on promoting change in individuals, providers, and systems. Our faculty mentors are leaders in health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, health informatics, systems change and health policy, health communications, population health sciences, implementation science, and prevention and intervention research. Applicants must plan to pursue an independent research career focused on cancer prevention and control, have earned a doctoral degree (PhD, ScD, MD, DO, etc.), and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. PRACCTIS is a T32 training program funded by NCI. For more information contact [Barbara Estabrook](#).

Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 Training Program - now accepting applications for [pre-and post-doctoral trainees](#). In collaboration with the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS) has established a NHLBI-funded T32 program with the aim of producing a new

generation of investigators who have the enthusiasm, knowledge, and skills to make meaningful contributions to cardiovascular research across the translational spectrum. Directed by Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD (PQHS) and Kevin Donahue, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), the program is truly transdisciplinary, with investigators working together to expand knowledge beyond discipline-based concepts, theories, and methods. Please see the attached flyer for more information on eligibility and how to apply.

FUNDING REMINDERS

Revised NSF Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support Formats - Now Available in SciENcv and on the NSF Website: NSF implemented revised versions of the [Biographical Sketch](#) and [Current and Pending \(Other\) Support](#) formats for consistency with the *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) ([NSF 23-1](#)). The requirement to use the revised formats is effective for proposals submitted or **due on or after January 30, 2023**. These revised formats are now available in [SciENcv](#) and on the [NSF Policy Office website](#). As a reminder, the mandate to use SciENcv only for preparation of these senior personnel documents will go into effect for new proposals submitted or **due on or after October 23, 2023**.



Resources for the Data Management Sharing Plan: have posted information and guidance on the implementation of the Data Management Sharing Plan (DMSP) that goes into effect with the use of FORMS H for any application that is being submitted to the NIH on or after January 25th, 2023.

Please go to the following link:

<https://umassmed.sharepoint.com/sites/gca/rms/SitePages/UMASS-Medical-School.aspx>

The DMSP guides can be found in the lower right-hand side of the home page.

The Herman G. Berkman Diabetes Clinical Innovation Fund is accepting grant abstracts through February 28th. The annual award supports the development of clinical care initiatives that would not normally find funding through research grant programs. You'll find the eligibility guidelines, grant application, and learn about past awarded projects [HERE](#).

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke: [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis \(ALS\) Intermediate Patient Population Expanded Access \(U01 Clinical Trial Required\)](#). NINDS intends to commit up to \$75 million in FY 2023 to fund 3-5 awards in support of the conduct of scientific research utilizing data from expanded access for investigational drugs or biological products. These applications will target expanded access for intermediate size populations of patients living with ALS who are not eligible for ongoing clinical trials for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment or cure of ALS. The maximum project period is 4 years. The opportunity will open on Feb. 23, 2023, and **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 23, 2023, AT 5 P.M. LOCAL TIME OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION.**

For additional information, please refer to [the RFA](#) posted on the NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information (Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: RFA-NS-23-012).

2023 King Trust Fellowship Program: Health Resources in Action has recently launched the 2023 cycle of the Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Award Program. In recognition of additional support needed to help researchers achieve their independence, we have increased the award amount to include stipend, fringe, and a flexible expense allowance. We encourage you to disseminate this opportunity to eligible faculty, clinicians, and postdoctoral researchers. Join us for the King Trust Fellowship Office House ([Register here](#)), to be held on Thursday, January 19, 2023 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This informational session will be used to give applicants and institutional officers an overview of the program and answer any general questions about the program.



The ALS Association is excited to announce that the request for applications for the Milton Safenowitz Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is now open for 2023. Letters of Intent are due **Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by 5 p.m. US ET.**

The Safenowitz Fellowship Program supports the development of promising early career scientists doing research of high scientific merit and relevance to ALS with grants of up to \$150,000 for two years. We are especially interested in funding studies for new target validation, risk factors research, biomarker discovery, assistive technology development and measurement of caregiver/family burden.

Applicants who received their highest degree (e.g., Ph.D. or M.D.) less than two years before the date the award starts are eligible to apply. Individuals must have the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research and have an existing postdoctoral position, including the support of their mentor.

For more details, please visit our website: <https://www.als.org/research/funding-opportunities/milton-safenowitz-postdoctoral-fellowship-program-2023>.

If you have any questions about this exciting funding opportunity, please reach out to researchgrants@alsa-national.org. We look forward to receiving your applications.

DIVERSITY DIGEST

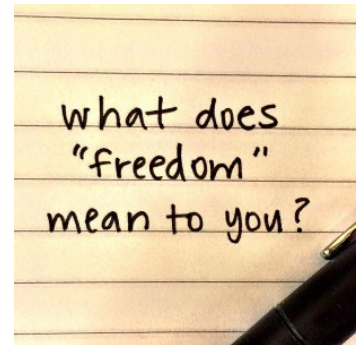


Thank you for taking the time to complete the Diversity Action Committee Events Survey. Close to 60 students, staff, and faculty in total provided their input on the desired topics and mode of delivery for diversity programming. We will be reporting in more detail the results of this survey as well as providing some training sessions soon. Thank you again for your input and commitment to improving the environment of PQHS.

What Does Freedom Mean to You?

National Freedom Day is February 1, because it was the day in 1865 that President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Do you know what the 13th Amendment did? This amendment, an important change to our written law, outlawed slavery, *except as a form of punishment* in the United States. Check out the [13th Amendment](#).

“Live Free or Die” is the New Hampshire State motto, established in 1945, many years since slavery was outlawed. The lineage of statements proposing that freedom is worth dying for can be traced back through the ages. VIVRE LIBRE OU MOURIR (“Live Free or Die”) was a popular motto of the French Revolution. In 1775, Patrick Henry closed his address during the Second Virginia Convention with the now-famous line, “Give me liberty or give me death!” Going way back, the monument to the 1345 Battle of Warns in the Netherlands features a phrase that translates as “Better to be dead than a slave”—and it probably wasn’t a new thought then, either. Freedom is a very personal concept....to each of us. Freedom is an imperative (accompanied by respect for others) that forms our moral fabric and has come to encompass many aspects of expression and engagement with others.



February is Black History Month: Although this is likely not new information for most it is becoming increasingly more important as the country becomes more divided around racial issues. The celebration of Black history began as a week in February of 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass, an abolitionist who escaped slavery. Black History week became Black History Month in 1976 when President Ford advocated for Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our

history.” Within Black History month, on February 4th, we celebrate the birthday of notable civil rights activist Rosa Parks. Most famous for refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Alabama which kicked off the Montgomery Bus Boycott, lasting 381 days and ultimately resulting in the desegregation of buses in Montgomery, Parks was an activist prior to that event. She had become a civil rights activist at a young age, worked with many social justice organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and was an organizer and leader in the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama. Beyond kicking of the boycott with her act of resistance, she was an organizer and planner for the boycott. Black History Month in 2023 comes at an especially fraught time when some states are actively suppressing accurate history mainly centered around slavery and civil rights. Although February is a time to celebrate the contributions of Black persons in America it should never be forgotten that Black history is American History.



Mardi Gras, February 21, 2023

Mardi Gras originated as a pagan festival of spring and fertility. As Christianity arrived in Rome, it was incorporated into the faith and celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. “Mardi Gras” translates from French as Fat Tuesday and is traditionally when people eat rich, fatty foods before the fasting they will do during Lent. The day is also called Shrove Tuesday in some Christian denominations.

Some foods connected to Mardi Gras: King cake (New Orleans), Fasnacht pastry (Pennsylvania Dutch), Pączki (Polish donut), sweet cream bun called semla (Sweden), and pancakes (England). The colors of Mardi Gras were selected by the Krewe of Rex in 1872 in New Orleans. Purple represents justice, green represents faith, and gold represents power. Locations known for their large celebrations: New Orleans, LA; Rio Janeiro, Brazil: Carnival; Venice’s Carnevale; Denmark’s Fastevlan; and Karneval, Fastnacht or Fasching in Germany.

UMASS CHAN REMINDER



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 \(office365.com\)](#)

REQUIRED IT Security and Privacy Training: With the new year upon us, I want to remind everyone to complete the required Information Security and Privacy training. The 25-minute training module teaches users how to identify and prevent cyberattacks, reinforcing knowledge that applies to the use of technology at work and at home.

This annual training is mandatory without exception for all members of the UMass Chan community.

If you have not already completed the training, please log onto the [Information Security and Privacy training](#) portal (provided by InfoSecInstitute.com) and complete the training as soon as possible.

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) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.