Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

JANUARY 19-23, 2026
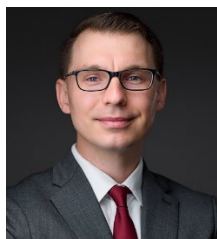
UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 20, 2:00 PM
The Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine (PBM) will be hosting teatime. We invite you to stop by for a cup of tea or coffee, enjoy a snack, and take the opportunity to connect with your colleagues.

Wednesday, January 21, 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Research Methods Meeting
Presenter: Wojciech Losos, MD, MBS, is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Program in Digital Medicine at UMass Chan Medical School and a T32-funded scholar supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Title: Cardiometabolic Therapy and ECG-Derived Biological Age: A Real-World Methods Framework for Evaluating Dynamic Digital Biomarkers
Abstract: Biological aging measures derived from machine-learning analysis of the electrocardiogram (ECG-Age) have emerged as scalable and clinically interpretable digital biomarkers, yet their responsiveness to pharmacologic therapy remains poorly understood. In this talk, I will present a retrospective cohort study of 2,910 unique patients evaluating whether initiation of cardiometabolic therapies—including GLP-1 receptor agonists, SGLT2 inhibitors, PCSK9 inhibitors, and metformin—is associated with improvements in ECG-derived biological age (delta age) across overlapping real-world exposure groups. A central methodological focus will be the development and application of a time-weighted mean (TWM) framework to address irregular and sparse ECG measurement intervals common in electronic health record data. I will highlight key analytic considerations in modeling dynamic digital biomarkers, summarize findings demonstrating significant improvements across medication classes, and discuss opportunities for causal inference, longitudinal modeling, and digital phenotyping in future work. The overarching goal is to illustrate a generalizable methods framework for rigorously evaluating dynamic digital biomarkers in precision cardiometabolic care.
Bio: Wojciech Losos, MD, MBS, is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Program in Digital Medicine at UMass Chan Medical School and a T32-funded scholar supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. His research focuses on developing and validating digital biomarkers and clinical decision support systems, with particular emphasis on machine learning–derived cardiovascular signals and wearable devices for arrhythmia detection. He works closely with Drs. Apurv Soni and Honghuang Lin on projects integrating electronic health record data, wearable sensors, and advanced analytics to advance precision cardiometabolic care. Clinically, Dr. Losos is an attending physician with the Hospital at Home program and will begin cardiology fellowship at UMass in July 2026, pursuing a career in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology within an academic medicine pathway. Click here to join.

Monday, February 9, 11:00 – 11:30 AM
Live Webinar: OAI CORE Knowledgebase
Join our upcoming webinar: Current State of the Osteoarthritis Initiative (OAI) Data Usage and Introduction to the OAI Knowledgebase, presented by Dr. Jeffrey Driban (Director, OAI CORE Knowledgebase), Professor of Epidemiology, PQHS.

For questions or support, contact us at oaiknowledgebase@umassmed.edu.
Register here.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Observed on the **third Monday of January**, Martin Luther King Jr. Day honors the life and legacy of Dr. King and his leadership in the U.S. civil rights movement. The day serves as a time to reflect on his enduring commitment to justice, equality, and nonviolent social change. It is also recognized as a *day of service*, encouraging individuals and organizations to engage in acts that strengthen communities and advance equity. Martin Luther King Jr. Day reminds us that progress toward fairness and inclusion requires ongoing action, dialogue, and collective responsibility.

International Day of Commemoration
Each year on **January 27**, we observe the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, marking the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945. This day honors the memory of the six million Jewish victims and the millions of others who were persecuted by the Nazis. It calls on us to remember how antisemitism, racism, and state-sponsored hate can erode humanity step by step, leading to genocide.

By reflecting on the past, we reaffirm a shared responsibility to defend human dignity and human rights wherever they are threatened. Around the world, communities mark this day by remembering each victim as an individual, listening to the voices of survivors, and supporting education that confronts denial, distortion, and the resurgence of hate.
Learn more at: https://www.un.org/en/observances/commemoration-holocaust-victims-day

UMASS CHAN REMINDERS

Holiday Schedule for 2026:
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 19th
- Presidents Day – Monday, February 16th
- Patriots' Day – Monday, April 20th
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 25th
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Friday, June 19th
- Independence Day – Friday, July 3rd (observed)
- Labor Day – Monday, September 7th
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 12th
- Veterans Day – Wednesday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26th
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 27th
- Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24th
- Christmas Day – Friday, December 25th

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