

# Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

## Weekly Newsletter

JUNE 1-5, 2026



**UMass Chan**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, June 3, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Zoom**



### Research Methods Meeting

**Presenter:** Jonggyu Baek, PhD, Associate Professor, Biostatistics and Health Services Research

**Title:** Multilevel Analysis of Individual Heterogeneity and Discriminatory Accuracy (MAIHDA) Model

**Abstract:** Dr. Baek will present an intro for the Multilevel Analysis of Individual Heterogeneity and Discriminatory Accuracy (MAIHDA) model, an intersectionality-based multilevel modeling approach first introduced in social science research by Evans et al (2018). MAIHDA helps researchers examine how combinations of social identities jointly influence health and social outcomes. I will briefly review the MAIHDA framework and key statistics, including variance partitioning coefficients (VPC) and percent change in variance (PCV), stratum residuals, and then

focus on an inference challenge on PCV. To address this issue, a cluster bootstrap approach was used with reflated random effects to construct empirical confidence intervals for PCV in multilevel MAIHDA models.

**Bio:** Dr. Baek is an Associate Professor in the Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences at UMass Chan Medical School. Dr. Baek, received his PhD in Biostatistics from University of Michigan in 2014. His research interests focus on developing statistical methods in longitudinal data, hierarchical data, and correlated data. He developed Hierarchical Multiple Informants Model and applied Distributed Lag Model to examine association between measured factors of the built environment and health outcomes in epidemiological research. He also developed Bayesian Newton's Growth Model, as an extension of a Bayesian semi-parametric stochastic velocity model, to formulate infant body mass index growth dynamics and to examine its association with prenatal environmental exposure to toxicants. He proposed to use an efficient algorithm via pruned dynamic programming to predict sleep duration from actigraphy. He recently proposed a joint use of propensity and prognostic scores for binary outcome and its prediction. He is interested and experienced in the area of missing data analysis, propensity score methods, semi-parametric methods, spatial data analysis, tracking data analysis. His collaborative research includes environmental epidemiology, pharmacoepidemiology, social epidemiology, and health disparities.

Click [here](#) to join.

**Friday, June 5, 1:00-2:30 PM**

**Understanding ASAM Criteria: A Foundational Overview and 4th Edition Highlights** – click title register

This session provides a foundational overview of the ASAM Criteria, including key updates in the Fourth Edition (2023) and major changes from prior versions. The ASAM Criteria offers a patient-centered, evidence-based framework for assessing and treating substance use and co-occurring conditions, with an increased emphasis on a chronic care model and continuity across the care continuum. The training will also highlight practical applications in correctional settings, including screening, level-of-care decision-making, and care transitions during reentry—areas further emphasized in the Fourth Edition.



### The New England ATTC

Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

UMass Chan Medical School

[NewEnglandATTC@umassmed.edu](mailto:NewEnglandATTC@umassmed.edu)

[New England ATTC - Addiction Technology Transfer Center \(ATTC\) Network](#)

**Monday, June 8, 12:00-1:00 PM, Zoom**

**Title:** Insights from the Accountable Health Communities Model – Final Evaluation Report

**Co-hosts:** Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network ([SIREN](#)) and the [Camden Coalition](#)

**Description:** Join us for a webinar about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [Accountable Health Communities Model Final Evaluation Report](#) (published February 2026)! The event will include a brief report overview and a moderated discussion with AHC implementation site leaders from Colorado, New Jersey, and Oklahoma exploring their experiences with model implementation, impacts, and sustainability.

To register, click [here](#).

**Monday, June 8. 11:00-11:30 AM**

Live Webinar: OAI CORE Knowledgebase

**Title:** The Lifetime Leisure Physical Activity Questionnaire in the Osteoarthritis Initiative

**Presenter:** Dr. Grace Lo, Associate Professor, Baylor College of Medicine

**Description:** This presentation will review how the questionnaire was administered in the OAI and how it has been used thus far. We will also review some strategies of analyses that should be avoided when using this data.

[Register here](#)

For questions, contact the OAI CORE Team at [oaiknowledgebase@umassmed.edu](mailto:oaiknowledgebase@umassmed.edu).



**Tuesday, June 9, 12:30-5:15 PM, Paul J. DiMare Center, UMass Chan Medical School**

**Health Education Academy for Leadership and Learning (HEALL) Education Day**

Education Day brings people together who are trying to get better at their work as educators—whether that’s improving teaching in practical, evidence-based ways, exploring a path into scholarship, or just figuring out what comes next. Through engaging plenary content on the *sciences of learning*, interactive workshops, and collaborative conversations, you’ll have opportunities to explore how learning really works—and how to apply those insights across your teaching, leadership, and career development.

What makes it meaningful is the combination: time to connect with colleagues doing similar work, space to share real challenges—like integrating new tools or technologies—and the chance to leave with something you can actually use.

If nothing else, it’s a good way to reconnect with colleagues, pick up a few practical ideas, and remember that improving education is a shared experience.

**Schedule:**

**12:30–1:00 PM:** Socialize & Welcoming Remarks

**1:00–2:00 PM:** Plenary Session, presented by **David Alan Hirsh, MD, FACP**, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

**2:00–4:00 PM:** Workshops

**4:15–5:15 PM:** Community Scholarship Engagement & Reception

Click [here](#) to register



**Friday, June 12, 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

55 Illinois Street, Worcester, MA

**Yes We Care Food Pantry**

The PQHS Diversity Action Committee invites you to volunteer at the Belmont A.M.E. Zion Church

You are welcome to use the staff benefit of being paid while you volunteer. For the direct link to sign up, click [here](#)

To donate to the food pantry, click [here](#).

Contact Amy Borg with any questions, [amy.borg@umassmed.edu](mailto:amy.borg@umassmed.edu).



2026  
JUNE

Monthly observances:

- \* Caribbean American Heritage Month
- \* Immigrant Heritage Month
- \* Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Month
- \* National Indigenous History Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 * Global Day of Parents * Children's Day	2 * Native American Citizenship Day * Republic Day	3	4 Corpus Christi	5	6 Memorial Day (Hyeonchungil)
7	8	9 King's Birthday	10 Portugal Day	11	12 * Feast of the Most Sacred Heart * Independence Day	13
14 Flag Day	15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	16 Islamic New Year / Muharram 1	17	18 * International Day for Countering Hate Speech * Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	19 * Juneteenth * Dragon Boat Festival * New Church Day	20 World Refugee Day
21 * National Day of Indigenous Peoples in Chile * First Nations Day * Litha	22	23	24	25 Ashura (6/25-26)	26	27 International Day of Deafblindness
28 LGBTQ+ Pride Day	29 Feast Day of Saints Peter & Paul	30 Armed Forces Day	1	2	3	4

June 2 - Native American Citizenship Day



Native American Citizenship Day is observed annually on June 2 and commemorates the signing of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, which granted U.S. citizenship to Native Americans born in the United States.

The observance serves as a reminder of an important milestone in American history and highlights the history and contributions of Native American and Indigenous communities throughout the country. Native Americans have contributed to many areas of society, including military service, government, education, science, agriculture, healthcare, and the arts.

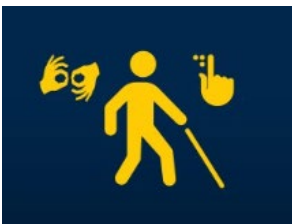
Native American Citizenship Day also provides an opportunity to learn more about the diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of the many federally recognized Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities across the United States.

June 19 - Juneteenth

**Juneteenth**, also known as Freedom’s Day, is celebrated on June 19 to celebrate the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas was ordered. What began as church-centered community gatherings in Texas during those first years after 1865 turned more commercialized in the 1920’s and 30’s often centered around a food festival. Juneteenth became recognized as a federal holiday in 2021.



June 27 - International Day of DeafBlindness



The **International Day of DeafBlindness** is observed annually on **June 27**, honoring the birth of Helen Keller (1880–1968), the pioneering author and activist who became DeafBlind at 19 months old and went on to become a powerful advocate for people with DeafBlindness. The United Nations General Assembly officially proclaimed this day in June 2025, marking the first time DeafBlindness was recognized as a distinct disability at the international level. Before the UN’s formal recognition in 2025, the DeafBlind community had observed June 27 and the last week of June as a time to assert their visibility and existence.

This day holds profound significance because people with DeafBlindness have historically faced unique barriers that made them invisible in data, policies, and public discourse. According to the World Federation of the DeafBlind (wfdb.eu),

approximately 160 million people worldwide live with DeafBlindness. The UN resolution calls on member states to ensure full participation in education, healthcare, employment, and social life, while emphasizing the critical role of DeafBlind interpreter services and specialized support. By recognizing DeafBlindness separately in laws and programs, the day aims to lay the foundation for inclusive legislation, improved access to communication support and assistive technologies, and greater public understanding that DeafBlind individuals can be fully integrated into society on equal terms. We can observe this day by learning about DeafBlindness, ensuring our communications are accessible in multiple formats, and supporting the use of DeafBlind interpreter services when needed. The red-and-white striped cane is an important tool for mobility and identification in the DeafBlind community.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/deafblindness-day>

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### National Immigrant Heritage Month

National Immigrant Heritage Month is observed every June in the United States, celebrating the diversity, resilience, and contributions of immigrants to American society. The observance was first established in 2014 through the I Stand With Immigrants / I Am An Immigrant initiative, when former President Barack Obama issued a presidential proclamation designating June as National Immigrant Heritage Month. Since then, it has given people across the United States an opportunity to explore their own heritage and celebrate the shared diversity that shapes this country's unique story.



Immigrants have played vital roles in shaping the nation's history, economy, culture, and society across fields such as science, arts, sports, technology, and entrepreneurship. With over 50 million immigrants living in the United States as of 2025 and more than 40% of U.S. citizens tracing their ancestry to immigrants, this celebration highlights how immigration helps create jobs, raise wages, and drive innovation. The month encourages communities to celebrate the many cultures, languages, and traditions brought by immigrants while fostering a more inclusive society that recognizes immigration as central to the American story.

Ways to observe Immigrant Heritage Month include sharing family immigration stories, attending cultural festivals and educational events, supporting immigrant-owned businesses, and ensuring departmental communications are accessible to people from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Communities nationwide celebrate through storytelling events, film screenings, cultural exhibitions, and panels that amplify diverse voices and deepen understanding of the immigrant experience.

### The Culture Code

#### Week 5: Giving Feedback — Direct, Layered, or Between the Lines?

Few things reveal cultural differences faster than feedback.

Some people appreciate straightforward, explicit input.

Others prefer feedback that is softened, contextualized, or delivered privately.

In the High–Low Context framework, cultures differ in how directly feedback is communicated.

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#### Low (Individual) Context — Direct Feedback

- Feedback is explicit and specific
- Behavior is separated from the person
- Efficiency and clarity are valued
- Open critique may be seen as productive

#### High (Group) Context — Indirect Feedback

- Feedback may be implied rather than stated
- Tone and relationship matter greatly
- Public correction may feel disrespectful
- Harmony and face-saving are important

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When these styles interact:

- Direct feedback may feel harsh or personal.
- Indirect feedback may feel vague or unhelpful.

Often, both parties believe they are being respectful. They simply define respect differently.

### Cultural Agility Challenge

#### Notice:

How is feedback typically delivered in your environment — publicly or privately? Directly or indirectly?

#### Try:

Before giving feedback, ask yourself:


“How will this land given the other person’s context orientation?”

Before receiving feedback, ask yourself:

“What part of this message might be cultural style rather than intent?”

#### Reflect:

Do I define professionalism as clarity? Or as relational sensitivity?

 **Next:** Disagreement in Meetings — When conflict feels personal... and when it doesn’t.

## UMASS BENEFIT REMINDERS

### Use Your Excess Vacation Leave by June 27, 2026

As we get closer to fiscal year end, we want to remind you of the maximum accruals outlined in the [UMass Chan Holiday, and Personal and Vacation Time Policy](#) so you can plan accordingly.

As of the last full pay period of the fiscal year, the maximum number of vacation hours employees may carry over into the next fiscal year is 240. During the fiscal year, employees are allowed to accrue hours over



240. Hours over this accrual limit are automatically re-set in the payroll system to the accrual maximum. This year, **the relevant pay period ends Saturday, June 27, 2026**. You are encouraged to use any vacation balances that exceed the 240-hour maximum before that date. To avoid the loss of accrued vacation hours, review the following recommendations:

- Take all vacation over 240 hours before Saturday, June 27, 2026. Keep in mind that the vacation accrual for the pay period ending on that date that will not appear on your paycheck.
- Any hours over the cap will automatically be reset to 240 and will appear on your paycheck **on Friday, July 3, 2026**.
- If you are approaching 240 hours of accrued vacation time, talk with your manager about planning time off before June 27 and make sure it is approved by them.
- Ensure your vacation time has been entered into the Time Reporting system **by June 27, 2026**.



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|  Juneteenth National Independence Day – Friday, June 19 <sup>th</sup> |  Veterans Day – Wednesday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>        |
|  Independence Day – Friday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup> (observed)           |  Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26 <sup>th</sup>     |
|  Labor Day – Monday, September 7 <sup>th</sup>                        |  Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 27 <sup>th</sup> |
|  Indigenous Peoples’ Day – Monday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>           |  Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>        |
|  |  Christmas Day – Friday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>          |

*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](mailto:judi.saber@umassmed.edu)) & Sarah ([sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu)) by Friday each week.*