

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

JUNE 22-26, 2026



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

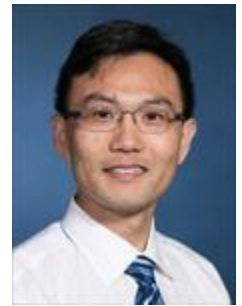
CONGRATULATIONS



Meagan Sabatino, PhD, MSL was selected for the Brandeis Harvard SPIRE Center Substance Use Disorder Systems Performance Scholars Program.

The SPIRE Center is thrilled to offer the opportunity for scholars to participate in a 1-year mentorship program exploring systems-level issues about addiction treatment and related services (including payment, care delivery, quality, and sustainability), learning from SUD treatment systems research experts about shaping a research agenda, building health services research skills, and engaging in networking activities with experts in the field.

The SUD Systems Performance Scholars Program offers tailored ongoing mentorship from experienced addiction health services researchers. It supports scholars who are new to the field and who demonstrate an interest in developing a program of addiction health services research.



Feifan Liu, PhD was selected and approved by AMIA Board of Directors to serve on the AMIA nominating committee for the term July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW DATE: Friday, June 26, 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.



Greetings from the New England Addiction Technology Transfer Center Team!

Summer is fast approaching, and we have an exciting lineup of trainings ahead. Take a look and save the dates on your calendar, and register now. We look forward to learning with you this summer!

Monday, June 29, 12-1:30 PM

Title: [Evidence-Based Care & Support for Adolescents and Young Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders and Eating Disorders](#) (click to register)

For many adolescents and young adults, eating disorders (ED) and substance use disorders (SUD) are not distinct challenges, but integrated and mutually dependent challenges. This 90-minute interactive session explores the clinical intersection of these disorders, with a look at the epidemiology of co-occurrence and the genetic, internal, and external factors that drive these behaviors. Moving beyond theory, this presentation utilizes clinical cases to illustrate how these behaviors serve as maladaptive coping mechanisms while exploring the risks of symptom substitution and the power of resiliency-based approaches. We will conduct a brief clinical review of DSM-5-TR criteria for both ED and SUD to ensure a shared diagnostic language. Participants will engage in active discussion and audience participation to identify symptoms, risks, resiliencies, and approaches to care. We will conclude with a review of SAMHSA-aligned, integrated treatment strategies and a comprehensive resource toolkit designed to support "whole-person" recovery in transition-age youth.

Tuesday, August 11, 12-1:30 PM (click to register)

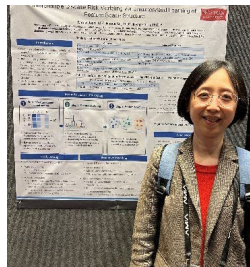
Title: [Gambling & Youth: Understanding the Why, Spotting the Signs, and Having Better Conversations](#) (click to register)
Sports betting apps, instant deposits, and 24/7 access have changed the game for today's college students. What was once occasional or social is now fast, frequent, and often difficult to detect – leaving many students vulnerable to gambling-related harm before it's recognized. As access expands and normalization grows, the line between "just for fun" and real harm is becoming increasingly blurred. This 90-minute webinar goes beyond the basics to examine the unique vulnerabilities of college students and the evolving culture of gambling on campus.

Please feel free to share this with anyone who may be interested. We hope to see you there!

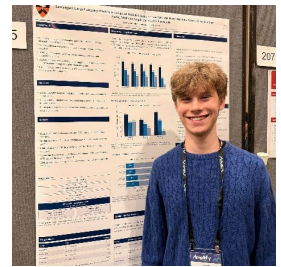
The New England ATTC Team
Population and Quantitative Health Sciences
UMass Chan Medical School
NewEnglandATTC@umassmed.edu
[New England ATTC - Addiction Technology Transfer Center \(ATTC\) Network](#)

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Jinying Chen, PhD and **Jack Cummins** (intern) presented at the 2026 AMIA Amplify Informatics Conference held on May 18–21 in Denver, Colorado.



Jinying Chen



Jack Cummins



Suzanne Morrissey, PhD presented a poster at the AcademyHealth 2026 Annual Research Meeting, held in Seattle, on Monday June 1. Poster Session: Digital Health, Data, and Analytics

"Exploring Real-Time Clinician Experiences with AI Ambient Scribe Solutions: Simulation Insights for Effective Integration"

Authors: **Suzanne Morrissey**, PhD, Julian Brunner, PhD, Elise Stevens, PhD, China Payne, PhD, Alex Kloehn, MPH, Sarah Cutrona, MD, MPH, Seppo Rinne, MD, PhD

UMASS BENEFIT REMINDER

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:



- Any hours over the cap will automatically be reset to 240 and will appear on your paycheck **on Friday, July 3, 2026**.
- Ensure your vacation time has been entered into the Time Reporting system **by June 27, 2026**.



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| ✚ Independence Day – Friday, July 3 rd (observed) | ✚ Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26 th |
| ✚ Labor Day – Monday, September 7 th | ✚ Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 27 th |
| ✚ Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 12 th | ✚ Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24 th |
| ✚ Veterans Day – Wednesday, November 11 th | ✚ Christmas Day – Friday, December 25 th |

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.