

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

MAY 11-15, 2026



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL



Wednesday, May 20, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Zoom

Research Methods Meeting

Presenter: Bruce Barton, Professor, Biostatistics and Director of the UMass Chan Quantitative Methods Core

Title: Bayesian Analysis and the Effect of Prior Data on Analysis Results

Abstract: Bayesian methods are becoming increasingly popular in medical research, both in study design and analysis. One of the features of Bayesian analysis that is especially interesting is the ability to formally incorporate prior data into the analysis of the current study, yielding a posterior distribution of the results. In this presentation, we will discuss how to perform that analysis using

an example from a clinical trial that included an internal pilot before the main study was conducted. Both the analysis setup and the interpretation of the results will be presented. Various scenarios of the informativeness of the prior data relative to the main study will be investigated. While the presentation will use SAS as the analysis platform, the same approaches will carry over to other statistical software as well.

Bio: Dr. Barton has substantial experience in statistical methods in clinical trials and has been awarded 80+ federal grants and pharma industry contracts to support biomedical research studies. He has over 49 years of experience in medical research, including study designs from observational data to randomized clinical trials. He has also designed pre-clinical (animal) studies, Phase I-III clinical trials for pharmaceutical and behavioral projects, and pragmatic trials for NIH-funded projects. He has been involved in studies covering many areas of medical investigation ranging from pain control in pre-term neonates to hip fracture prevention in nursing home residents, with substantial experience in cardiology, oncology, neurology, dermatology, anesthesiology, sickle cell disease, cardiovascular disease risk factors, infectious disease, and alcoholic hepatitis.

Click [here](#) to join.

Tuesday, May 26, 12:00 – 1:30 PM, Zoom

Stimulant Use Disorder (CME Training)

Description: The Virtual Stimulant session is intended to provide training to practicing addiction professionals who already provide trainings related to substance use disorders, with a deeper understanding of stimulant use disorders. This 90-minute session provides an overview of the effects of psychostimulants, including neurobiology, epidemiology, withdrawal, and overamping, followed by discussion of medications used to treat stimulant use disorders. The session will also review evidence-based behavioral health and pharmacological treatments for stimulant use disorders and associated sequelae, using polling questions and case-based discussion to engage participants throughout, and concludes with a review and question-and-answer period.

Objectives: Following this training, participants will have the knowledge to:

- Identify two populations at disproportionate risk for the development of stimulant use disorders.
- Recall the neurobiological effects of psychostimulants.
- Recognize both physiological and psychological symptoms of overamping.
- Name at least two medications with evidence for the treatment of stimulant use disorders.
- Name at least two evidence-based behavioral health interventions to treat stimulant use disorder.

Sponsored by: The SAMHSA-funded Training and Technical Assistance organization the *Opioid Response Network*, housed within PQHS and Boston Medical Center Grayken Center for Addiction TTA.

Credit Available:

CME, Nursing, Other Professionals, PA-CME, Pharmacy, Pharmacy Technician, Psychology (APA) Social Work (ACE), NAADAC CME, LMHC, LADC/CADC & Recovery Coach, CHW

Click [here](#) to register.



New England Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Presentations

Tuesday, May 12, 1:00-2:00 PM EST

A Practical Overview of Treating Cannabis Use in the Perinatal Period – click to register

Navigate an evidence-based framework for perinatal cannabis use, covering key clinical considerations and co-occurring mental health factors while applying case-based interventions for pregnancy and postpartum settings.

Tuesday, May 12, 12:00-1:30 PM

Older Adults and Casino Gambling: Behaviors, Motivations, and Risk – click to register

Learn what motivates older adults to gamble and the factors that increase their risk for Gambling Disorder as this population evolves. Explore key implications for prevention and reducing gambling-related harm among older adults.

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

Understanding ASAM Criteria: A Foundational Overview and 4th Edition Highlights – click to 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.

ATTC Monthly Blog Posts

[National Nutrition Month: Centering Nutrition in Substance Use Recovery](#)

[Brain Injury Awareness Month: Why it Matters for Substance Use Services](#)

The New England ATTC

Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

UMass Chan Medical School

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

SHOUT OUT



Nathaniel Glassy, PhD, ALM was selected to give an oral abstract presentation at the 2026 International Congress on Integrative Medicine and Health in Salt Lake City, April 20-23. The presentation, “Patient Experiences of Mind-Body Processes in Chronic Pain: Our Whole Lives Virtual Group Visits,” shared qualitative findings on how a mindfulness-based virtual group intervention shaped participants’ relationships with chronic pain, bodily awareness, emotional responses, and self-management. Nathaniel also received a Congress travel award in recognition of this work.

"THANK YOU" MESSAGE



Natalia and Greg Nielsen are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to and celebrated the upcoming arrival of their baby. The kindness and generosity shown meant a great deal. It was truly special to share such a joyful occasion with wonderful friends and colleagues. Thank you to all!

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**.



- 🇺🇸 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