

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

MAY 18-22, 2026



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

WELCOME



Lauren Ranney, MPH is joining PQHS as a Clinical Research Coordinator II to work with Grace Ryan, Elise Stevens and Melissa Goulding to support their work. She has an MPH from Brown University where she conducted research on effectiveness of MDMA psychotherapy for PTSD. Prior to her MPH she worked at the Rhode Island Department of Public Health to support COVID-19 response.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

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

[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](#).

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

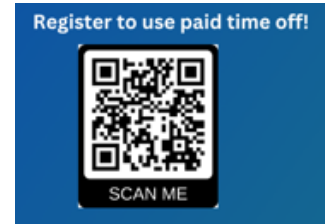
Yes We Care Food Pantry

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.



DIVERSITY DIGEST

The Culture Code

Week 4: Time & Flexibility — What Does “On Time” Really Mean?

Time feels universal.

But our relationship to time is deeply cultural.

Some of us view time as something to manage carefully, schedule tightly, and protect. Others see time as more fluid — shaped by people, relationships, and changing needs.

In the High–Low Context framework, cultures differ in how they understand time and change.

High (Group) Context — Time as Process

- Time is relational and flexible
- Plans may shift based on people’s needs
- Multiple activities can happen at once
- What matters most is that the work gets done
- Change may happen slowly and thoughtfully

Low (Individual) Context — Time as Commodity

- Time is scheduled and structured
- One task is done at a time
- Deadlines are firm and efficiency is valued
- Time can be “spent,” “saved,” or “wasted”
- Change can happen quickly and decisively

Neither approach is right or wrong.

But when these orientations interact:

- Flexible time may feel disorganized.
- Structured time may feel rigid.
- Adaptability may feel inconsistent.
- Firm deadlines may feel impersonal.

Often, conflict around time is really conflict around **assumptions**.

Cultural Agility Challenge

Notice:

Pay attention this week to your emotional reaction when plans change — or when they don't.


Try:

If you prefer structure, experiment with building a small buffer into your schedule.

If you prefer flexibility, practice clearly confirming timelines and expectations.

Reflect:

Do I see time primarily as a resource to manage — or a process to navigate with others?

 **Next:** Conflict & Feedback — When disagreement feels personal... or purely professional.

TRAINING REMINDERS

Title IX for Higher Education training must be completed by May 19, 2026.

State employees are required to complete the Title IX for Higher Education training each year to remain in compliance with the 2021 Campus Sexual Assault law. The training takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. Please make every attempt to complete the training by **May 19**.

To access the Title IX for Higher Education online training:

1. Log into the [HR Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) via Single Sign-On using your UMass Chan credentials.
2. On your LMS homepage, click on the **Assignments** tab to launch your training.
3. If the training is not assigned to you, you completed for this year already.

NEW CITI Research Security Training

The NIH is implementing a new Research Security Training for senior/key personnel listed on an NIH grant application. This is an annual training that will be effective for applications submitted for due dates on or after May 25, 2026. All PQHS primary faculty are encouraged to complete the training at their convenience. To access the CITI site, click [here](#).

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**.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



- ✚ 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.