

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

MAY 25-29, 2026



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS



We are pleased to announce **Jamie Faro's** promotion to Associate Professor. Promotion is dependent on professional academic achievement and is an honor within our institution. Jamie proved to have an established record of scholarly activity. She provided outstanding service to the department, the TH Chan School of Medicine and the community. Furthermore, she has contributed considerably to the Medical School's education mission. We congratulate her and express our sincere appreciation for your support of the Medical School.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

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

[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.



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](#)

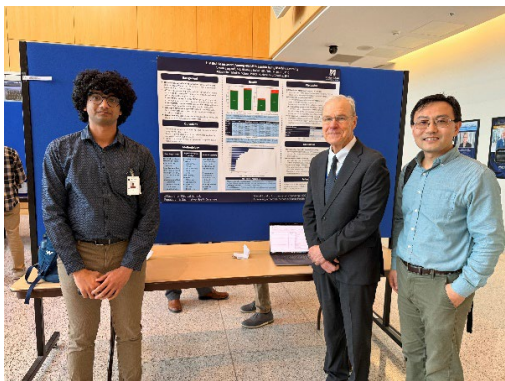
To donate to the food pantry, click [here](#).

Contact Amy Borg with any questions, amy.borg@umassmed.edu.

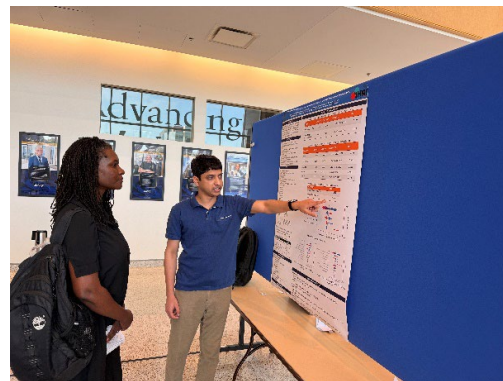


SHOUT OUT

Feifan Liu's iAI4Health lab participated in the 2nd Annual UMass Chan Global Health Symposium on May 5, 2026. **Aayush Sangani** presented a poster titled "HIV Risk Assessment Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Zambia Using Machine Learning" and **ChandraHarsha Rachabathuni** presented a poster titled "PrEP Adherence Prediction among Key Populations in Thailand: Machine Learning vs. Deep Learning".



Aayush Sangani



ChandraHarsha Rachabathuni

Feifan Liu (MPI) and **Ben Gerber** (co-I), in collaboration with Hongfu Liu (MPI) at Brandeis University, secured an AI AgeTech pilot grant through the Penn AI and Tech Collaboratory for Healthy Aging and NIA. The study aims to advance data centric AI to support more accurate and equitable prediction of hospital readmission risk among older adults.

Ben Gerber and **Feifan Liu** will be on a panel titled "From Prediction to Prevention: Translating Responsible AI to Reduce Diabetes Risk in Prediabetes" at AMIA 2026 Amplify Informatics Conference, May 18-21, where they will share findings and lessons learned related to the AIM-AHEAD DETERMINE project.

Feifan Liu has been invited as a keynote speaker to the 4th World Congress of AI Industry (WCAI-2026), Osaka, Japan, June 16-18, 2026, where he will present "Ethical considerations for machine learning and generative AI applications in healthcare".

Reem Najjar got accepted into the MPH program – Social and Behavioral Sciences at UMass Lowell! She will be starting in the Fall.

Mayuko Ito Fukunaga, Rajani Sadasivam, and Julie Lemoine received the best patient proposal for AI Innovation at Lahey CARE-AI-HON 2026 - transforming lung screening and patient outcomes.

TRAINING REMINDER

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](#). Please send your certificate to judi.saber@umassmed.edu.

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.