



Weekly Newsletter March 11-15, 2024

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 13 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM

**Research Meeting – Title:** Searching for a useful quality measure in TKA surgery

**Presenters:** Hua Zheng, PhD, Assistant Professor, Orthopedics

Arlene Ash, PhD, Professor, PQHS

**Description:** Total Knee replacement surgery (TKA) can be life transforming. One year out, about 80% are very satisfied with the results, and even more at two years. Patient reported outcomes are well-developed and validated for TKA, and of primary importance for this quality-of-life enhancing surgery. Despite great interest in learning what factors are associated with better outcomes, there is substantial disagreement about how to measure quality in TKA. We will build on our earlier paper showing how CMS' quality measure can be improved ([link to the article](#)), and show some surprising findings in our search for a better way to measure surgical success.

Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 937 1668 5400 password: 492717



Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – 2:00-3:00PM

Tea Time will be hosted by the HIIS. Please stop by, say hello and have a cup of tea.

PQHS SHOUT OUT



**Congratulations on your promotion to Assistant Professor!** Yiyang's research primarily focuses on unraveling the dynamics of aging conditions arising from physical, cognitive, and psychosocial aspects, utilizing administrative, claim, national survey, and other population-level databases. Passionate about the stories behind data points, she is also expanding her research portfolio to qualitative research, currently exploring Chinese caregivers' experiences as they support their loved ones with dementia in nursing homes.

PQHS HOT TOPICS

PPP Letters of Intent (LOIs) Due Thursday, March 14, 2024.



INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

A major goal of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is to accelerate the translation of basic discoveries into practical, cost-effective solutions that improve individual well-being and community health. Building upon our strong reputation as a world-class research institution, producing noteworthy advances in clinical and basic research, the UMCCTS provides the infrastructure necessary to support outstanding clinical and translational investigators and their work.

Click [here](#) for Details

Click [here](#) for PPP Website



## The Equity in Caregiving Project. Second Community Convening

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00-12:00 PM at UMass Chan Medical School,  
Faculty conference Room, S1-342.



Please join us for a panel discussion with:

- **Family Caregivers**
- **Nancy McCool**, LICSW, ACHP-W, APHSW-C, Palliative care social worker, UMass Memorial Health.
- **Jeevarathna Subramanian**, MD, Internal Medicine, UMass Memorial Health.
- **Valerie Zolezzi-Wyndham**, JD, Promoting Good
- **Brian Gibbs**, PhD, Vice President & Chief of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. UMass Memorial Health.

Come listen to the experience of family caregivers. Bring your voice - we want to hear about your caregiving experience!

For more information to register click [here](#) or scan the QR code

[www.equityincaregiving.org](http://www.equityincaregiving.org)

### PQHS HAPPENINGS



**Sign up to have lunch with the Chair & Vice Chair!** There are still slots available to pick from. Lunch with the Chair and Vice Chair sign ups are first come first serve for 3 Faculty Members and 3 Staff Members each month to have to have a nice catered meal and to talk about anything, but *NO WORK TALK*. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up for the date that works for you. Thank you!  
Click [here](#) to sign up!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### UMass Boston Department of Gerontology & Gerontology Institute Present Proseminar Speaker Series Spring 2024

Monday, April 1, 2024  
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. (new time)  
via [Zoom](#)

**Manu Thakral, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, University of Massachusetts Boston Chronic Geriatric Pain and Its Impacts on Health and Quality of Life

Thursday, April 25, 2024  
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.  
via [Zoom](#)

**Sarah Forrester, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School  
Stress, Depression, and Age Acceleration: Why Time Matters in Black Health

Monday, May 2, 2024  
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
via [Zoom](#)

**Chantel Pheiffer, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Public Health, University of Massachusetts Boston  
Migration and Population Health: Insights from South Africa

via Zoom: <https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94175483404> Password: Boston  
For more information contact Jaqueline Contrera Avila: [Jaqueline.Avila@umb.edu](mailto:Jaqueline.Avila@umb.edu)

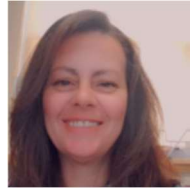


**Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 12:00-1:00PM**

***“Making Reproducibility Research More Systematic”***

Presented by: Abel Brodeur, PhD, Assistant Professor at University of Ottawa & Institute for Replication

Click [here](#) to join. Password: 602937



**Wednesday, April 2, 2024, 4:00PM-5:00PM**

***“Housing, Homelessness and Health: What can Communities do?”***

**Featured Speakers:** Carolyn Chou, Gabe Cohen-Glinick and Rose Weber-Smith

Click [here](#) to Register.



**Thursday, April 11, 2024, 12:00PM – Albert Sherman Center Auditorium**

***“Black Maternal Health Week (April 11-17)” part of the Health Equity Distinguished Lecture Series hosted by UMass Chan Collaborative in Health Equity***

**Guest:** Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, PhD, MPH, the Julia A. Okoro Professor of Black Maternal Health in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine

**DIVERSITY DIGEST**



***Women’s History Month***

March is Women’s History Month, which honors women’s contributions to American history. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a “Women’s History Week” celebration in 1978. In 1987 Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as Women’s History Month. The National Women’s History Alliance has designated this year’s theme as “Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.” Who are the women in your community or organization that you will honor?



***ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY:*** March 1 (UNAIDS.org)

UNAIDS has a vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths, and a principle of leaving no one behind. UNAIDS organizes zero discrimination day each year to join with communities across the world in demanding equality. Zero discrimination day calls to an end discrimination, stigmatization, and criminalization. It challenges all institutions and people of influence to not only be non-discriminatory but to be anti-discrimination.



***INTERNATIONAL DAY TO COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA:*** March 15 (Wikipedia)

Taking place on March 15 every year in 140 countries worldwide, this international observance was designated by the United Nations in 2022. The date, March 15, was chosen as it is the anniversary of the Christchurch Mosque shootings, in which 51 people were killed during Friday prayer.



**Neurodiversity Celebration Week** is an event that seeks to challenge stereotypes and change the way people perceive and support neurodivergent individuals. The event promotes inclusivity and celebrates the unique strengths of people who have neurological differences. It is important to recognize that approximately 15-20% of the population falls under this category. Many of the challenges that neurodivergent people face are caused by the environment and systems they interact with, which are often designed by a majority population.



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION:** March 21 (United Nations)

Proclaiming the day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. Racial discrimination continues to be a pressing issue in today's global society, with far-reaching consequences that hinder social cohesion and impede the realization of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The International Day for the Elimination

of Racial Discrimination, observed annually on 21st March, serves as a vital reminder of our collective responsibility to combat racism, promote tolerance, and strive for a more equitable world.



**International Transgender Day of Visibility**

March 31 is the International Transgender Day of Visibility, a day to “celebrate the achievements and resiliency of transgender individuals and communities.” In 2021, President Joe Biden officially dedicated this day as the Transgender Day of Visibility with the words “I call upon all Americans to join in the fight for full equality for all transgender people.” (“A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021”. The

White House. March 31, 2021. Archived from the original on March 31, 2021. Retrieved March 8, 2024.)

**The month of March includes several religious holidays and observances, including:**

**Ramadan: March 11 – April 10 (sundown to sundown)**

Every year, Muslims fast each day of Ramadan from dawn until dusk, for the duration of the month. It is customary for Muslims to pray extra nightly prayers and participate in other religious practices throughout the day and night, when possible.

**Holi: March 25**

Holi is a popular and significant Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colours, Love, and Spring.

**Purim: March 23 -24**

Purim, a joyous Jewish festival commemorating the survival of the Jews who, in the 5th century BCE, were marked for death by their Persian rulers.

**Easter: March 31**

Easter, also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday, is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

**Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School**Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2024:

- Patriots' Day – Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>
- Independence Day – Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day – Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Day – Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>



UMass Chan Medical School's [Office of Communications](#) is initiating regularly scheduled opportunities where faculty, staff, and students can have a professional headshot taken. Photos are taken every other Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM on the fifth floor of the Sherman Center by the elevators. Each session caps at 50 people. Anyone at UMass Chan can sign up using this document found on the SharePoint site. See updated link for new options: [Photo Sign-Ups \(office365.com\)](#)

*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 Kellie ([kellie.armstrong@umassmed.edu](mailto:kellie.armstrong@umassmed.edu)) & Sarah ([sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu)) by Friday each week.*