

Weekly Newsletter August 14-18, 2023

PQHS NEWS

WELCOME TO PQHS



Welcome to PQHS! Zakery Dabbagh is the Division of Health Informatics and Implementation Science's newest Clinical Research Coordinator. Zak is a recent graduate from Worcester State University. While at WSU, he majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry and Mathematics. For the past two years, Zak has worked as a Research Intern at HIIS. His past work in the department includes writing and publishing a research commentary (The Expanding Use of Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Type 2 Diabetes) with Dr. Ben Gerber and assisting Dr. Jamie Faro in the ongoing Survivor mHealth study. He is excited to join the team as a Clinical Research Coordinator and enthusiastic about learning and helping the HIIS team accomplish their goals! Zak will be supporting the TEAM CGM, M2Q2-HIV, and Survivor mHealth research studies. Please join us in welcoming Zak as a full-time member of the HIIS team in PQHS!

PQHS FAREWELL

Elizabeth Schieber (Izzy), a postdoctoral fellow who worked with Dr. Bo Wang and Dr. Arlene Ash in the past two years, is leaving UMass Chan on August 14, 2023. Izzy made significant contributions to our NIH-funded projects and played a very important role in collaborating with our teams in The Bahamas, Thailand, and Zambia. She also greatly contributed to our mHealth development and program management. Izzy is joining Dfusion (a public health research company in California). We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

PQHS HOT TOPICS



Congratulations! [Melissa Goulding, PhD](#), has taken a position as postdoctoral fellow on our NIH T32 Training Grant, Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change in Individuals and Systems (Stephenie Lemon and Judy Ockene, MPs.) Melissa will be mentored by Stephenie Lemon.

The first two aims of Melissa Goulding's recently defended dissertation describing adherence to clinical practice guidelines for blood pressure screening and follow-up within the UMass Memorial Health system have recently been published in [The Journal of Pediatrics](#) and [Academic Pediatrics](#).



Thursday, August 17 – 3:00-4:00PM

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

NEWS FROM THE QUANTITATIVE METHODS CORE

New projects! Working with T.J. Fitzgerald, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, U Mass Chan Medical School, the QMC has been approved by the Children's Oncology Group (one of the National Cancer Institute-supported oncology collaborative groups) to receive and analyze multiple data sets of the results of radiation therapy treatment of childhood cancers: Wilms tumors, Ewing sarcomas and other bone tumors, and rhabdomyosarcomas of the skeletal muscles. These analyses will update the survival of children who were treated with radiation therapy for their tumors between 1995-2002 and model prognostic factors related to survival. Bruce Barton will oversee the analysis that will be performed by QMC faculty and staff. In addition to his position at U Mass, Dr Fitzgerald manages quality assurance for every patient enrolled in a clinical trial for the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN), sponsored by NCI, in imaging/radiation oncology protocols and houses all the images, including staging/outcome and RT objects, at the Quality Assurance Review Center of the Imaging and Radiation Core, which Dr. Fitzgerald has led since 1975.

In addition, QMC received notice this past week of the funding of a new five-year project with PQHS secondary faculty, Dr. Melissa Anderson, entitled Evaluating Signs of Safety: A Deaf-Accessible Therapy Toolkit for AUD and Trauma. Dr. Anderson is a clinical psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry (and a joint appointment in PQHS) at U Mass Chan Medical School and strives to provide accessible behavioral healthcare to members of the U.S. Deaf community. She founded the DeafYES! Center for Deaf Empowerment and Recovery at UMass Chan Medical School in 2014, where she has continually provided outpatient therapy and conducted research on Deaf mental health care. Bruce Barton and other members of the QMC will participate in the study design, conduct, and analysis over the next five years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tuesday, August 29, 2023, 1:30-3:00PM

CPHR Dissertation Proposal Presentation: "Improving Women Veteran's Experience of Obstetric Care"

Presented by – Lael Ngangmeni, BA, MBS; Mentor: [Kristin Mattocks, PhD, MPH](#)

Click [here](#) to join. Password: 301815



Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 10:00-11:30AM

Leveraging Community Engagement To Address Behavioral Health Disparities In The Deaf Community

Featured Speakers – [Melissa Anderson, PhD, MSCI](#) and [Alexander Wilkins, PhD](#)

Click [here](#) to register.



DIVERSITY DIGEST



Women's Equality Day, celebrated on August 26th, commemorates the day the 19th Amendment of the Constitution was passed in 1920. This hard-fought journey towards gender equality and the recognition of women's fundamental rights finds its roots in the historic Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, where women suffragist pioneers like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony advocated for women's right to vote. These activities were not on behalf of all women however, with explicit exclusion of women of color leading activists like Mary Church Terrell

and Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin to find the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), a national organization of clubs focusing on the compounding issues such as the fight for women's suffrage and the struggle of Jim Crow laws. Similar to the inequities present in everyday life at the time, only white women who were US citizens were granted the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment. While this was an important day in history, it wasn't until 1962 that Indigenous people received the right of citizenship allowing them the right to vote and the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 45 years later, that all US citizens were given the right to vote.

Despite these milestones, the fight for women's equality is far from over. Continuing inequities in health, such as unequal access to healthcare and the persistence of gender-based disparities in medical research and treatment, remain critical issues that demand urgent attention and collective action to ensure a future where all women can thrive without barriers or prejudice.

MASS CHAN REMINDER



NIDDK has issued two RFAs seeking to solicit projects that will form a consortium aimed at using diverse data types to improve subclassification of T2D. These RFAs solicit projects that will make use of large and diverse U.S.-based cohorts with large number of individuals with T2D. More information can be found in the published RFAs here:

RFA-DK-23-019: Integration of Novel Measures for Improved Classification of Type 2 Diabetes

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-23-019.html>

RFA-DK-23-020: Integration of Novel Measures for Improved Classification of Type 2 Diabetes – Biostatistics Research Center

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-23-020.html>

The receipt date for these will be October 26, 2023.



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) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.