

## A message from our Chair

February 2023

It is almost spring! This is a great time to reflect on our structural research and clinical innovations, here in the heart of Massachusetts.

[Read full message from our chair...](#)



## Department of Neurology Legacy Leaders

This month let us celebrate Dr. Jane Sargent, MD, who served our Neurology Department for forty-three years. As one of the founding original faculty members in our Department of Neurology, her passion for teaching touched the careers and experiences of hundreds of our trainees, residents, and staff as well as the patients she cherished.



[Read full story...](#)

## Congratulations Fellowship graduates -

On February 28, two Neurology Department fellows will graduate from our program! We wish them well in their future endeavors and look forward to the contributions they will make to neurology.

Dr. Jerris-Stephanie Okonkwo of Movement Disorders



After the completion of her fellowship program, Dr. Okonkwo has plans to work as a locum physician and transition to academic medicine.

Dr. Aladdin Alhomosh Neurocritical Care Fellow



After the completion of his fellowship program, Dr. Alhomosh has plans of returning to Houston Methodist at The Woodlands to start a new (NSICU) Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit, in early March.

## Congratulations to Dr. Daryl Bosco, PhD

I am proud to share Daryl Bosco, PhD has accepted her new position, as Associate Vice Chair for research leadership, in basic science.

[Read full story...](#)



## Research communication progress -

### 2023 EQUIP Program nominees:

We are honored to share that *Dr. Sandra Almeida, PhD* and *Dr. Janice Dominov, PhD* of the Department of Neurology were nominated to participate in the 2023 Equip Program facilitated by *Jennifer Reidy, MD*, Joy McCann Professor for Women in Medicine, *Emily Green, PHD, MA*, Associate

Vice Provost, Faculty Development and *Mary Ahn*, MD, Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs from UMass Chan and *Kristina Dzara*, PhD, MMSC, former Social Media Strategist at the Harvard Macy Institute.

The EQUIP program is a faculty-based program, run between January through June of 2023. Designed to support skill-building in effective, strategic, and authentic communication, the Equip Program provides each participant real-time feedback from peers and expert facilitators to develop a variety of communication resource skills. We are honored that of the nine available program spots, two members of our team have been accepted to participate.

### ***Newly appointed positions -***

- Daksha Gopal, MPH has accepted the position as our Biostatistician. We look forward to her joining our Department of Neurology.
- Christopher Brooks, NP is a new Nurse Practitioner working with our Epilepsy group. Welcome NP Brooks.
- Leslie Wilson, RN is the new Nurse Navigator for the Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis group. We are glad you have joined our team.

Enjoy the last weeks of the winter!

A.M. Barrett  
Chair, Department of Neurology  
UMass Chan Medical School & UMass Memorial Health

## **Celebratory News**

Dr. Catherine Phillips' family in May  
2022 celebrating  
Josh Erban & Adriana Garcia's wedding



## **Neurology News**

### **UMass Chan researchers achieve gene therapy milestone for potential Cockayne syndrome treatment**

Ana Rita Batista, PhD, instructor in neurology, is leading the research, along with Miguel Sena-Esteves, PhD, associate professor of neurology and director of the Translational Institute for Molecular Therapeutics.

[Read full article](#)



## **Continuing Our Education in Neurology**

**February's Faculty Care Program** given by our very

**Neurohumanities Seminar** by Dr. Joel Popkin

own Dr. Ika Noviawaty focused on **Simulation as an Educational Tool**.



**Ika Noviawaty MD** is an Associate Professor, Co-Director of the Epilepsy Surgery Program, Director of the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at UMASS. She is currently a Senior Councilor at Large for the Massachusetts Neurological Association. She has conducted research in various topics in Epilepsy, notably on Ketogenic Diet in Adult Super Refractory Status Epilepticus and is also a gifted educator, and for several years has been conducting education simulation sessions for students and residents in our iCELS simulation center.

**February's Neurology Seminar**, hosted by Dr. Oliver King, PhD, covered, **Understanding Cell Types in the Developing Human Brain and Glioblastoma** presented by guest speaker, **Dr. Aparna Bhaduri, PhD** an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Chemistry at the University of California in Los Angeles.



focused on **The Symphony of the Brain**. It was a wonderful talk representing how the brain processes music.



**Joel Popkin MD** is a Professor-Emeritus of Medicine at UMASS Medical School, the Former Director of Special Services at St. Vincent Hospital, and retired Program Director of the SVH medicine residency program. He has been awarded a Mastership of the American College of Physicians, Laureate of the Year by the Massachusetts Chapter of the ACP, Clinician of the Year by the Worcester District Medical Society, Senior Volunteer Physician of the Year from the Mass Med Society, and Physician of the Year, the Pillar Community Award, and Teacher of the Year by SVH as well as Teacher of the Year by the Reliant Medical Group, and Outstanding Primary Care Educator and Community Educator Awards at our medical school. He has long been interested in and actively promoting Humanism in Medicine and the use of integration of art and music into residency training and the community and is one of the pillars of our Neurohumanities program.

## Save the date for more Neurology Continuing Ed.

**The Neurohumanities program** seminars are held on the 2nd Thursday at noon March 9th, "**Compassionomics**" with Dr. Elizabeth Degrush.  
Location: Room S5-710 and [zoom](#) Meeting ID: 481537944  
Password: 970420

Save the dates for future seminars on

- Apr. 13
- May 11

**The Faculty Care Program** is held every 3rd Thursdays at noon via zoom

- Mar. 16 - *Islamic Community Engagement* by Presenter: Muhammad Ramzan
- Apr. 20 - *People's Stories and Their Importance* by Presenter: Lucia Knoles
- May 18 - *Mindfulness in Practice* by Presenters: EAP Erin Almstrom, Emily Green, Valerie Wedge

**Neurology Seminar Series**, Tuesday, April 11, 2023 11:00 AM-12:00 PM in AS6-2072 & zoom with

- scheduled speaker, Elliott Edmiston, Ph

**Neuroscience of Disease Forum Topics -**

- Opioid Addiction, Friday, April 21, 2023 12:15 PM-1:45 PM via Zoom
- Disorders of Consciousness, Friday, May 19, 2023 12:15 PM-1:45 PM via Zoom

## Newly Published Research Updates



### Multi-omics analysis of magnetically levitated plasma biomolecules.

Ashkarran AA, Gharibi H, Zeki DA, Radu I, Khalighinejad F, Keyhanian K, Abrahamsson CK, **Ionete C**, Saei AA, Mahmoudi M. Biosens Bioelectron. 2023 Jan 15;220:114862. doi: 10.1016/j.bios.2022.114862. Epub 2022 Nov 3. PMID: 36403493

### How villains are made: The translation of dipeptide repeat proteins in C9ORF72-ALS/FTD.

Van't Spijker HM, **Almeida S**. Gene. 2023 Jan 6;858:147167. doi: 10.1016/j.gene.2023.147167. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36621656 Review.

### Trends in Venous Thromboembolism Readmission Rates after Ischemic Stroke and Intracerebral Hemorrhage.

Shu L, Havenon A, Liberman AL, **Henninger N**, Goldstein E, Reznik ME, Mahta A, Al-Mufti F, Frontera J, Furie K, Yaghi S. J Stroke. 2023 Jan 3. doi: 10.5853/jos.2022.02215. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36592970

### Neuroprognostication.

Fleming V, **Muehlschlegel S**. Crit Care Clin. 2023 Jan;39(1):139-152. doi: 10.1016/j.ccc.2022.06.005. Epub 2022 Oct 13. PMID: 36333028 Review.

### Therapeutic Response in Pediatric Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder

**Raffaella Pizzolato Umeton**, Michael Waltz, Gregory S Aaen, Leslie Benson, Mark Gorman, Manu Goyal, Jennifer S. Graves, Yolanda Harris, Lauren Krupp, Timothy E. Lotze, Nikita M. Shukla, Soe Mar, Jayne Ness, Mary Rensel, Teri Schreiner, Jan-Mendelt Tillema, Shelly Roalstad, Moses Rodriguez, John Rose, Emmanuelle Waubant, Bianca Weinstock-Guttman, Charles Casper, Tanuja Chitnis, on behalf of and the U.S. Network of Pediatric MS Centers First published December 2, 2022, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000201625>

## We are Growing - see our open positions

To learn more about our various positions and to apply, [click here](#).

- **Clinical Research Coordinator III (2023-42752)**
- **Clinical Research Coordinator III (2023-42612)**
- **Clinical Research Assistant (2023-42611)**
- **Clinical Research Assistant (2023-42694)**
- **Research Associate (2022-42469)**
- **Research Associate (2022-40178)**
- **Research Associate 1 (2022-40749)**
- **Research Associate 1 (2021-39245)**
- **Post Doctoral Associate Fellow/Inst. (2022-40179)**

- Open Positions for**
- The Bosco Lab**
- **Post Doctoral Associate (2022-40126)**
  - **Research Associate (2022-39916)**
- The Brown Lab**
- **Research Associate (2022-41532)**
- The Gao's Lab**
- **Research Associate 1 (2022-38811)**
- The Rigel Chan Lab**
- **Research Associate 1 (2021-36596)**
- The Sena-Esteves Lab**
- **Research Associate (2022-42131)**
  - **Research Associate (2022-42133)**



Schedule your faculty headshot with the [Sign Up Link](#) Photo Sessions (**FREE**

headshots!)

**Date:** Every other Wednesday

**Time:** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Location:** Sherman Center - 5th floor

### Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Mentoring

**Application Deadline:** March 1, 2023

**Sponsor:** Terence R. Flotte, MD, Executive Deputy Chancellor, Provost and Dean

REMINDER: Chancellor's Award is bestowed annually upon a UMass Chan Medical School associate professor or professor who exemplifies the role of, and demonstrates the qualities associated with, an outstanding mentor through his or her daily work. Submit a one-page letter of nomination, CV and up to 2 additional letters of recommendation by March 1, 2023

[Website](#)

### HHMI 2024 Investigator Competition

**Application Deadline:** March 21, 2023

We seek a diverse applicant pool consistent with HHMI's values that creating new knowledge and solving difficult scientific problems requires the perspectives of people with different backgrounds and experiences. We have updated the Investigator application to include questions about research culture and mentoring. We have expanded our **list of eligible institutions** (now more than 300), and we have developed new resources to help applicants complete the application. These resources include a publicly available **instructional video**, and sample applications from successful past applicants in our online system, viewable by scientists who have established eligibility to apply.

If you have a question, please email [sciencecomp@hhmi.org](mailto:sciencecomp@hhmi.org), an account that we are closely monitoring.

[Competition Site & Program Details](#)



Save the Date!

### Women's History Month Virtual Event

Theme of the month: "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories"



#### Dr. Gretchen Gerzina

Former Dean of the Commonwealth Honors College at UMass Amherst  
Professor of English  
Paul Murray Kendall Chair in Biography

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

12:00 - 1:00 PM

[Click here to join on Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 970 9791 8670 | Password: 716991

This event is co-sponsored by the UMass Chan Women's Faculty Committee, Office of Faculty Affairs, Professional Women's Committee, and Office of Diversity and Inclusion

### Say it with Pictures: Tips, Tricks, and Best Practices for Data Visualization and Visual Abstract

**March 28 | 12:00-1:00pm**

This virtual session will examine best practices for presenting data to communicate information. It will address a wide variety of information visualizations, including visual abstracts, and how to determine what visualizations are appropriate for various types of data, and for different communication goals.

[Register](#)

### The EMPOWER Summit

Register to join the waitlist for the next high-intensity, interactive women's leadership development event here. [Register](#)

**Time:** 8:00am - 5:00 pm

**Location:** Faculty Conference Room, UMass Chan Medical School

**Sponsors:** UMass Chan Medical School and UMass Memorial Health

The EMPOWER Summit is designed to enhance the skills of aspiring, current and new women leaders. Topics include financial leadership, delegation, negotiation and more.

### Scientific Writing

**Date:** April 25

**Time:** 12:00-1:00pm

Save the date for a virtual session on scientific writing. More information coming soon.

**REGISTRATION COMING SOON**

# AAN - American Academy of Neurology 75th Annual Meeting will be held in Boston! April 22 -27, 2023

Stop by and see us! Our Neurology Department will host a reception at the 75th AAN Annual Meeting.

Presenters from the Department of Neurology, *please share your presentation topic with [umasschan\\_neurology@umassmed.edu](mailto:umasschan_neurology@umassmed.edu) for our upcoming newsletter!*

If you are not an AAN member and have never created an AAN.com account, [Log In here](#) and select "Continue as a nonmember" from the login screen to create your account.

## Professional Staff Development

Office of Faculty Affairs

Center for Clinical & Translational Science

Visit the **Professional Staff Development Website**

- Quick link to the **Professional Staff Development Registration page**
- Quick link to the **Professional Staff Development Calendar**
- Quick link for **LMS SSO Helpdesk Support**

Click here to sign up for weekly emails from UMass Chan

## Diversity and Inclusion Office

To learn more about DIO

## Stay Connected



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Visit the Neurology website



Send us your story ideas

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