

Faculty name:	Department:	Please select what type of project:	Please enter the project title:	What is the general research problem or project that the student will be completing under your mentorship? (e.g., how does transgenerational epigenetic inheritance affect metabolic disease risk? Which support systems provide better outcomes for people with traumatic brain injury? Creation of independent learning modules for a course).	What specific question will the student addressing during their rotation, and can it be completed during the rotation? (e.g. Does thermoneutrality enhance the effect of a high-fat diet on glycemia in mice? What is the population with TBI in Worcester? How can we advance students' self-directed learning using technology?)	What type of study (e.g., cross-sectional case-control study, longitudinal cohort study, clinical trial, model system (e.g., cells, mice, worms, flies, etc.) will the student be working on? What is the implementation plan for the curriculum?
Melanie Gnazzo, MD	Family Medicine and Community Health	Community Health	Summer produce distribution at a community health center	Food insecurity is widely recognized as a social determinant of health that has significant impact on overall health and well being, and can be addressed with existing resources. The Family Health Center of Worcester is a federally qualified health center in an urban neighborhood, at which the patients are more likely to experience food insecurity than the general population of Worcester. The Community Harvest Project of Grafton, MA, is a farm that provides 100% of its harvest to hunger relief. Since 2013 the Family Health Center of Worcester and the Community Harvest Project and UMass Chan Medical students have collaborated to give	Students engaged with the collaboration will have two primary roles. 1) coordinate and implement the produce distribution. This will involve part-time work over 6-8 weeks during the summer. It can involve hands-on work at the farm, bagging produce, transporting produce to the FHCW, and working with staff at the FHCW to distribute to patients. 2) Quality improvement project. This can be tailored to the program's needs and the student's interests. In 2024, the student surveyed staff to assess the impact of produce distribution	This is a direct community service project with a Quality Improvement process.
Heather Forkey, MD	Pediatrics	Community Health	Supporting Foster Parents Understanding of and Response to Trauma in Foster Youth	Creation of learning modules and resources for birth parents and foster parents	How does a foster parent and birth parent understand and respond to trauma in foster youth?	Literature and resource scan and distillation for lay foster and birth parent population
David J. Ramsey	Ophthalmology	Community Health	Access to a Patient Portal is Associated with a Higher Rate of Diabetic Eye Examination Completion	The use of digital communication tools to enhance diabetes care	Access to a Patient Portal is Associated with a Higher Rate of Diabetic Eye Examination Completion	Assist with assessing the impact of eye exam adherence reminders on eye exam completion
David J. Ramsey	Ophthalmology	Community Health	Impact of a Patient Portal is on Adherence to Glaucoma Treatment	Many patients with glaucoma fail to take their medications regularly and are at risk of irreversible vision loss.	Do reminders sent by a Patient Portal increase adherence to glaucoma medication use	Longitudinal short study
Amber Sarkar MD	Family Medicine	Community Health	Latent Tuberculosis Tracking and Treatment at the Family Health Center of Worcester	The FHCW refugee clinic diagnoses many patients with LTBI. The facility has transitioned to the Epic EMR and would like to optimize the systems utilized for documenting, treating and tracking patients diagnosed with LTBI.	Can the Epic EMR be used to create an LTBI registry that clinical staff can utilize to track and report treatment of LTBI? Can Epic tools be utilized to enhance, standardize and improve the efficiency of LTBI documentation? Can the FHCW refugee team collaborate more effectively with DPH LTBI community health workers to improve the rates of completion of LTBI treatment plans?	Quality Improvement
Suzanne Cashman	Family Medicine and Community Health	Community Health	A Qualitative Analysis of MassAHEC Rural Health Scholar Impact on Alumni Careers	Participants in MassAHEC's Rural Health Scholars Program are more likely to specialize in primary care than their peers. Following a quantitative survey study, this project will explore how the rural health scholar program impacted graduates' careers, including specialty choice and practice	What are the main career-related themes that Rural Health Scholars report via 60-90 minute interviews?	Qualitative

Melanie gnazzo	Family medicine and community health	Community Health	Worcester earn a bike	Access to bicycles, bicycle skills and safe transportation routes is one answer to addressing transportation needs, physical activity and social connectivity needs in the local community. This summer project broadly explores these themes while applying a community health lens.	Needs assessment for earn a bike for future collaboration between students and organization - specifically an immersive exploration for pathways project. A deliverable outcome goal will be developed during the first week of the project which may include community assessment of outreach strategies , assessment of educational needs for summer high school students working with the project, or understanding community	Immersive experience in the earns bike workshop; literature review of best practices for bike safety and roadway safety; design and implementation of a workshop for summer high school students
Erin Cathcart	Family Medicine	Community Health	Engagement for hospitalized adults at memorial hospital	The patients at Memorial Hospital have little to do while hospitalized, and this can often lead to decrease in mental status, delirium, and poor mood. We are hoping to develop a library of engaging activities/reading materials/games for patients on our service at Memorial.	How can we engage our patients to help decrease low mood and delirium on the inpatient medicine service at Memorial hospital?	It is not a study- it is a project to increase engagement of hospitalized adults.
Susan Hogan	Family Medicine and Community Health	Community Health	Creating a Complimentary Medicine Elective	Allopathic medicine offers patients incredible tools for prevention and cure, but has its limitations. Many patients benefit from complimentary medicine, yet medical learners have little exposure in the current curriculum to acupuncture, chiropractic, massage therapy and more. The Department of Family Medicine and Community Health has some funding to support resources for an elective. The summer student will work with faculty to explore local complimentary clinical sites and educational resources to create a new 4th year elective.	The goal of this project is to help create a complimentary medicine elective for UMass Chan students to do in their 4th year. The project will include exploring what other medical schools do for this type of elective, contacting local complimentary medicine clinicians, contacting local primary care doctors who incorporate complimentary medicine into their practice, and write up the elective in the UMass Chan format. The project will also include assembling a list of readings and listening materials for students to use during the elective. The Department of Family	Not a study. Curriculum will be implemented by our department as a 4th year elective. Parts of the project will also be shared with our residency program for residents to benefit as well from the resources.
SHRINKHALA KHANNA	Internal Medicine	Community Health	Development of a pilot Hematology/ Obstetrics/MFM clinic to expedite care for pregnant patients with hematologic disorders	Epic data mining to determine the scope of the problem: how many pregnant patients get referred to hematology? What is the gestational age at referral? What is the wait time?	Wait times for pregnant patients referred to hematology in the last 5 years	Retrospective study. Working with RIC to obtain the above mentioned data to determine the scope of the problem as we plan the logistics of heme/OB clinic
Susan Hogan	Family Medicine and Community Health	Community Health	Restoring Health and Stability: Medical Respite as a Bridge to Well-Being	This project aims to explore and highlight the benefits of medical respite for patients experiencing homelessness through the lens of narrative medicine in our Worcester community.	It aims to better understand how individuals who are unhoused interact with and experience the healthcare system and how the medical respite supports their medical recovery and healing.	Conducted at the medical respite facility in Worcester, MA, the project will focus on interviewing a select number of patients who are receiving care there, documenting their experiences, and showcasing the role of our medical respite program in supporting their healing and stability.