



Weekly Newsletter April 16-19, 2024

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 3:00PM – AS8.2072 & Zoom

Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Masters in Clinical Investigation Program Announces the MSCI Dissertation Defense of Pryce Michener ***“Implementation of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Jail Settings and the Post-Release Risk Environment”***

Click [here](#) to join. Password: 931781



Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 10:00-11:00AM – Zoom

PQHS Special Seminar: “Applying Physics Reasoning in Epidemiology”

Presented By: Dustin Burns, PhD

Click [here](#) to join. Password: 492717



Thursday, April 18, 2024, 10:00AM EST – Zoom

Grand Rounds Lecture hosted by the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio is hosting UMass Chan Medical School’s [Maira Castanada Avila, PhD](#) who will present her research ***“Disparities in Colorectal Cancer Care Among Hispanic Adults in Puerto Rico and the United States”***

Click [here](#) to join. Password: UThscsa24#

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**

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



APRIL Celebrate Diversity Month

Celebrate Diversity Month was initiated in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity of the world around us. This yearly celebration of differences invites us to learn and understand each other better. By embracing diversity, we can create an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcomed and valued.



Autism Acceptance month

April is a month that holds immense significance for the Autism community worldwide. The month-long celebration aims to raise awareness, promote acceptance, and support individuals living on the autism spectrum.

Acceptance means not only understanding Autism but respecting Autistic people and not trying to change fundamental aspects of who they are with treatments. Acceptance includes education and inclusion. Non-autistic people are encouraged to learn about Autism and accept differences in the

people around them.

By fostering inclusion, understanding, and empathy, we can reshape societal norms and create a more welcoming and supportive environment for everyone.



World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) is celebrated on April 2nd every year. The United Nations General Assembly designated the day in 2007 to promote the equal realization of human rights and freedoms for autistic people on an equal basis with others. The day also encourages United Nations member states to raise awareness about autistic individuals worldwide and is one of only seven official health-specific UN days.

The 2024 observance will for the first time seek to provide a truly global overview of the state of affairs in this regard from the perspective of autistic people themselves. The event will feature an all-autistic lineup of panelists from all walks of life, representing six regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Oceania. The speakers will provide their thoughts on the state of affairs in their respective regions, for autistic people to thrive. Video [link](#) (from UN.org)



Deaf History Month is a time to celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of those in Deaf or Hard of Hearing communities. Our colleague Melissa L. Anderson, PhD, MSCI and Alexander Wilkins, PhD are leading the first evidence-based therapy clinical trial of its size in the Deaf community. The trial will test evidence-based therapy for Deaf people with trauma symptoms and alcohol use disorder. To learn more about this important research, see [this article](#) in the UMass Chan News.



During the month of April, we recognize the achievements of Arab Americans through the celebration of **National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM)**.

Arab Americans are defined as those who immigrated from or are descendants of immigrants who came from the predominantly Arabic-speaking nations in Southwest Asia and North Africa. This includes people from the 22 contemporary nations that make up the Arab League: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza), Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and the Comoros Islands. "Arab Americans trace their roots to 22 countries in Africa and Asia that share a common language and heritage. They are of many

religions. The majority of Arab Americans are Christian -- Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant, but Muslims are the fastest growing segment of the community. The majority of Arab Americans are native-born Americans, and 82 percent are U.S. citizens" (Allied Media Corp., 2009).



Earth Day is an annual celebration on April 22 that raises awareness of the need to protect Earth’s natural resources for future generations and honors the achievements of the environmental movement. It was founded on the premise that all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have a moral right to a healthy, sustainable environment. First held in 1970, it was inspired by the protests of the 1960s and began as a national teach-in on the environment; the date of April 22 was chosen to maximize the number of students that could be reached on university campuses. Earth Day now brings together citizens and activists from around the world to raise awareness and take action on environmental issues like global warming and renewable energy. Check out <https://www.earthday.org> for more information and

ways to get involved. Happy Earth Day!

UMASS CHAN REMINDER



Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 12:00-3:00PM – University Campus (on the plaza between the Medical School Building and Sherman Center, near North Road and Library parking lot)

Employee Appreciation: Food Truck Fest

Join for fun and food as we say Thank you to UMass Chan employees

Benefits that do not require action unless making changes:

- Health Insurance
- Health Insurance Buy-Out Option
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance

Benefits that require you to re-enroll each open enrollment:

- Health Care Spending Account
- Dependent Care Assistance Program
- Childcare Assistance Program



UMass Chan Medical School encourages employees to “Take a Break” – Use Your Excess Vacation Leave **by June 29th**. As we get closer to fiscal year end, we want to remind you of the [UMass Chan Vacation Policy](#) and maximum accruals 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 June 29, 2024. Accordingly, we encourage**

you to use any vacation balances over 240 that exceed the 240-hour maximum before that date.

Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2024:

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





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.