



Weekly Newsletter May 5 -9, 2025

PQHS NEWS

WELCOME



A warm welcome to **Mark Zocchi, PhD**, who joined the Division of Health Informatics and Implementation Science (HIIS) as an affiliate Assistant Professor. Dr. Zocchi is a quantitative health science researcher at VA's Center for Health Optimization and Implementation Research (CHOIR), applying machine learning and causal inference to investigate VA policy and implementation questions. His research addresses critical issues such as VA community care, digital health technologies, and Whole Health initiatives. Welcome to PQHS!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Research Methods Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 10:00-11:00 AM

Presenters: Kurt Hager, PhD, Assistant Professor, and Meagan Sabatino, PhD, Instructor, Epidemiology, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences at UMass Chan Medical School

Title: Impacts of Medicaid-Funded Nutrition and Housing Supports on Healthcare Utilization and Costs in Massachusetts

Abstract: Massachusetts was one of the first states in the US to obtain a waiver to allow Medicaid to pay for nutrition and housing programs for medically complex members with food insecurity and housing insecurity. This presentation will focus on new research analyzing changes in hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and total costs of care among 30,000 Medicaid members who received services from 2020-2023 under the Flexible Services Program.



Bio: Dr. Hager's research focuses on structural determinants of health, food insecurity, and nutrition and health insurance policies. He is currently evaluating the Flexible Services Program, which addresses food and housing insecurity under Massachusetts's Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver. Dr. Hager has training in nutritional epidemiology and his recent studies have included policy modeling, economic evaluations, and quasi-experimental studies.



Bio: Dr. Sabatino is a recent graduate of the Population Health Sciences program, where she contributed to data collection and analytic efforts for the independent evaluation of the Massachusetts Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration. Her current research examines the effects of Medicaid policy reforms on health outcomes among low-income populations, with particular emphasis on individuals with behavioral health conditions.

To join the meeting click [here](#).

NHLBI-funded Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research Program (T32)



Directed by Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD (PQHS) and Kevin Donahue, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), the **NHLBI-funded Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research Program (T32)** is currently accepting applications for **post-doctoral trainees**. Please visit [PQHS - Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 Training Program](#) for more information on this opportunity." Questions? Contact Rebecca Gigliello (Rebecca.gigliello@umassmed.edu)

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

2025
MAY

Monthly observances:

- * Asian American & Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AANHPI)
- * Jewish American Heritage Month
- * Mental Health Awareness Month
- * National Military Appreciation Month
- * Older Americans Month

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	1 *Beltane *May Day	2 National Day of Prayer	3 *Constitutional Memorial Day *Feasts of St. Philip & James	4 Greenery Day
5 *Buddha Day *Children's Day *Cinco de Mayo *Liberation Day	6	7	8 *Iris Day *May Day *Victory in Europe Day	9	10 Military Spouse Appreciation Day	11
12 Buddha Purnima	13	14	15 Lag BaOmer begins at sundown	16 Lag BaOmer ends at sundown	17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia	18
19 *Malcolm X Day *Victoria Day	20	21 *Navy Day *World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development	22 Declaration of the Báb starts at sundown	23 Declaration of the Báb ends at sundown	24 Battle of Pichincha Day	25
26 Memorial Day	27	28	29 *Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh * Ascension of Jesus or Ascension Day	30 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	31 Dragon Boat Festival begins (ends June 2)	1

UMASS CHAN REMINDERS

Use Your Excess Vacation Leave by **June 28**

As we get closer to fiscal year end, we want to remind you of the [UMass Chan Holiday, and Personal and Vacation Time 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 Saturday, June 28, 2025. You are encouraged to use any vacation balances that exceed the 240-hour maximum before that date.

To avoid the loss of accrued vacation hours, review the following recommendations:

- Take all vacation over 240 hours before Saturday, June 28, 2025. Keep in mind that the vacation accrual for the pay period ending on that date that will not appear on your paycheck.
- Any hours over the cap will automatically be reset to 240 and will appear on your paycheck on Friday, July 4, 2025.
- If you are approaching 240 hours of accrued vacation time, talk with your manager about planning time off before June 28 and make sure it is approved by them.

Ensure your vacation time has been entered into the Time Reporting system by June 28, 2025.

Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- Memorial Day – Monday, May 26th
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19th
- Independence Day – Friday, July 4th
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1st
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 13th
- Veterans Day – Tuesday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27th
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 28th
- Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24th
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25th



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