

Weekly Newsletter May 12-16, 2025

PQHS NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bike to Work Day

Thursday, May 15



Meet in front of the Albert Sherman Building at 8 AM for a coffee/tea celebratory toast! Join the UMass Chan Bike Community channel for more information and to connect with others riding in from your area. Open the attached flyer to scan QR codes for:

- Biking at UMass Chan
- Worcester Bike Alliance
- MassBike
- National Bike Month

Research Methods Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 10:00-11:00 AM

Presenter: Mariel M. Finucane, PhD

Title: Improving the Accuracy of Race/Ethnicity Imputations Using Bayesian Machine Learning

Authors: Mariel M. Finucane, Daniel R. C. Thal, Anthony Sisti, Mark W. Friedberg

Abstract: Accurate and complete race/ethnicity data are central to measuring and reducing health inequities, but self-reported race/ethnicity data generally are incomplete for health plans. High-quality imputations are therefore critical. In this talk, we present a Bayesian machine learning imputation model that improves imputation accuracy compared to existing approaches by flexibly integrating information from all available data sources without being constrained by assumptions of linearity or additivity. Our method enables more precise measurement of inequities, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of health equity programs.



Bio: Dr. Mariel Finucane is the Director of Statistical Methods at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. She is a collaborative statistician and health services researcher, with expertise in heterogeneous treatment effects, generalizability, quality measurement, and Bayesian adaptive and factorial design. She has published widely, including first-author papers in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Statistical Science*, *Statistical Methods in Medical Research*, and the *Journal of Evaluation*; a first-author *Lancet* article on global trends in body mass index has been cited 6,000 times. Dr. Finucane holds a Ph.D. in biostatistics from the

Harvard School of Public Health.

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)

SHOUT OUT



UMass Chan study finds nutritious food can keep patients out of ER.

Author **Kurt Hager, PhD**, spoke to WBUR.

UMass Chan-led research found MassHealth's nutrition services program reduces hospitalizations & health care costs among high-need patients with food insecurity. Click [here](#) to listen to the interview.

MAY DIVERSITY CALENDAR

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	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Buddha Purnima			Lag BaOmer begins at sundown	Lag BaOmer ends at sundown	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	*Malcolm X Day *Victoria Day		*Navy Day *World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development	Declaration of the Báb starts at sundown	Declaration of the Báb ends at sundown	Battle of Pichincha Day	
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	Memorial Day			*Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh * Ascension of Jesus or Ascension Day	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	Dragon Boat Festival begins (ends June 2)	

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. 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.

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.