

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

AUGUST 11 - 15, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS



PI: Catarina Kiefe

Source of support and # of award: NIH (NIGMS); T32GM159591

Primary Place of Performance: UMass Chan Medical School, Worcester MA

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 8/6/2025 - 6/30/2030

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$5,017,535

Title: UMass Chan Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)

Major goal: Train medical students to become physician-scientists by obtaining dual MD and PhD degrees; 18 students each year will receive full stipend and tuition support.

[Catarina Kiefe, PhD, MD](#)

Professor and Chief Scientific Officer, Epidemiology, PQHS



PI: Strambio, co-PIs: Zai, Chambers, Grunwald

Source of Support: NSF

Primary Place of Performance: UMass Chan Medical School

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 07/2025-06/2029

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$3,999,550

Title: Frameworks-Imaging-PHD: Empowering data reuse and reproducibility through microscopy-community-defined Persistent Hardware Descriptors

[Adrian Zai, MD, PhD, MPH](#)

Associate Professor, Health Informatics and Implementation Science, PQHS

Major Goals: This proposal introduces Persistent Hardware Descriptors (PHDs), specifically in the domain of microscopy images to solve the problem of inadequate metadata capture and storage, which hinders research reproducibility, data integrity, and cross-disciplinary collaboration. By providing a standardized framework for capturing this essential information, the project enhances the reliability of scientific results, makes advanced technologies more accessible, and supports long-term data preservation, ultimately advancing scientific research practices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Tuesday thru August 26, 12-1 PM, Conference Room AS7-1073, in-person only **Drop-in PQHS Faculty/Staff Meetings**

All faculty and staff are invited to attend a weekly in-person “drop-in” meeting throughout the summer months. These informal gatherings are intended to provide a welcoming and inclusive space where participants can freely ask questions, voice concerns, or simply engage in open conversation and connect with one another in a relaxed setting. This is an informal, open discussion. Feel free to bring your lunch!

We hope you’ll take advantage of this opportunity to stay connected over the summer!

Every Tuesday thru November 4, 10 AM – 2 PM

(No market or food trucks on Sept. 2 and 9)

Farmers' Market, CSA, and Food Trucks at UMass Chan



Sponsored by Office of Well-Being and Office of Sustainability

Location: Outdoors, Medical School Building Terrace (Rain location: Old School Lobby or Albert Sherman Cafeteria)

In an effort to enhance campus sustainability, foster **engagement**, and promote well-being, we are proud to provide fresh, locally sourced food and products to our UMass Chan community and support small, local businesses in the region.

A variety of food trucks will be available each week offering food for purchase.

Questions? Email OWB@umassmed.edu.

Free Chair Massage, August 12

Albert Sherman Center Café during Farmers' Market, 10 AM- 2 PM

Free chair massage by Bancroft School of Massage Therapy. First come, first served.



THE NEW ENGLAND ATTC TEAM WEBINARS

We welcome you to check out our upcoming events! Mark your calendars and register now!

[Addiction Implementation Science Webinar Series: From Evidence to Impact](#)

Session 3: Monitoring, Adapting, and Sustaining Impact

Date: 8/13/25

Time: 12-1 PM

Master tools to evaluate addiction and implementation outcomes. Learn to adapt EBPs for changing contexts and sustain long-term impact. Engage in hands-on activities and leave with practical strategies!

[Building Recovery Ecosystems in Rural Communities](#)

Date: 8/21/25

Time: 12-1:15 PM

Address the unique challenges of rural recovery—from limited resources to stigma—with evidence-based strategies and community-driven solutions. Explore real-world success stories and practical approaches to strengthen support networks in underserved areas.

[Spirituality in Behavioral Health for Wellness and Well-Being](#)

Date: 8/25/25

Time: 10-11:30 AM

Explore how spirituality and mindfulness enhance behavioral health and well-being. Learn to integrate SAMHSA's 8 Dimensions of Wellness and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs into holistic self-care. Gain practical strategies for mindful living and personal growth through evidence-based approaches.

[Harm Reduction: Safer Use Saves Lives](#)

Date: 8/27/25

Time: 12-1:00 PM

Discover harm reduction principles to support safety and empowerment through evidence-based, patient-centered care. Explore trauma-informed approaches, non-stigmatizing language, and practical strategies—with case-based learning to apply key concepts.

Cancelled

Please feel free to share this with anyone who may be interested. Also keep an eye out for our September events, where we will be discussing topics such as cannabis use and maternal and perinatal health, contingency management, and others. We hope to see you there!

The New England ATTC Team

New England ATTC

Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

UMass Chan Medical School

[New England ATTC - Addiction Technology Transfer Center \(ATTC\) Network](#)

DIVERSITY DIGEST CALENDAR

2025
AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1 *Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus (from 1-14 Aug.) *Lammas *Lughnasadh	2 Tisha B'Av
3 Tisha B'Av	4	5	6 Transfiguration of the Lord	7 Battle of Boyacá Day	8 Raksha Bandhan	9 *International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples *National Day of Singapore
10	11 *Ecuadorian Independence Day *Mountain Day	12	13 Obon (13-15 Aug.)	14	15 *Assump. Virgin Mary *Dormition of Theotokos *Pierogi Day *Indian Indep. Day *Korean Nat'l. Liberation Day	16 Krishna Janmashtami (15-16 Aug.)
17 Marcus Garvey Day	18	19	20 Paryushana Parvarambha (20-30 Aug.)	21 Ninoy Aquino Day	22	23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
24	25	26 Women's Equality Day	27 Ganesh Chaturthi	28	29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist	30

FYI

UMass Cancer Walk, Sunday, September 28th

Started in 1999, the UMass Cancer Walk has become the largest one-day, single-location fundraising event in Central Massachusetts, bringing together thousands of individuals to celebrate their fundraising success. The event supports adult and pediatric cancer research and care, and clinical trials of new, potentially lifesaving therapies taking place at UMass Chan Medical School.



Mara Epstein and Raj Sadasivam are leading the “Cancer Population Health Sciences” team. Click [here](#) to register and join the walk, or to donate.

UMASS CHAN REMINDERS

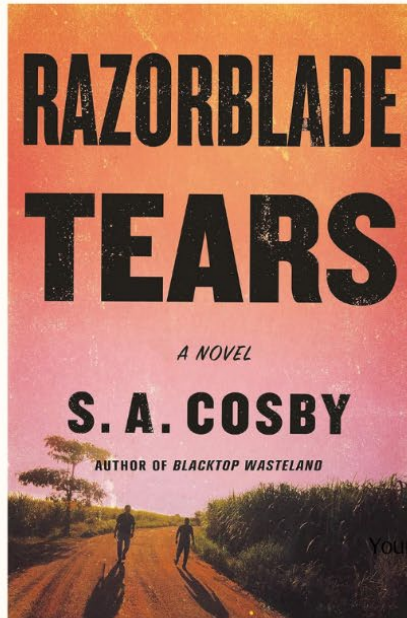
**HOLIDAY
SCHEDULE**

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- 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



Book Corner



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Everybody's got a box they're supposed to live in. But some people's boxes got more barbed wire than others

Razorblade Tears by S.A. Cosby is a powerful novel that explores themes of grief, masculinity, race, class, and homophobia in the rural American South.

The story follows two fathers—one Black, one white—both former convicts, who set out to **avenge the murder of their married sons**. As they confront their own prejudices and past failures, the novel probes the limits of redemption, the complexities of identity, and the societal forces that shape violence and intolerance.

Content warnings: violence, homophobia, racism, grief & trauma, incarceration, profanity

Brought to you by the PQHS
Diversity Action Committee

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.