

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 1- 5, 2025



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL



Labor Day originated in the late 19th-century labor movement, with the first parade held in New York City on September 5, 1882. Labor activists sought to honor workers' contributions and demand better working conditions, leading several states to recognize the holiday. After the violent [Pullman Strike](#) in 1894, [President Grover Cleveland](#) signed a law making Labor Day a federal holiday, celebrated on the first Monday in September to recognize American workers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Non-Competing Continuation of Grant



PI: [Yiyang Yuan, PhD, MPH, MS](#)

Source of support: National Institute on Aging

Award Number: 5K00AG068591-06

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$96,344

Title: Concurrent trajectories of physical frailty and cognitive impairment among nursing home residents and community-dwelling older adults

New NIH RM1 Award



PI: [Rosemarie Martin, PhD](#)

Source of support: National Institute for Drug Abuse

Award Number: 1RM1DA064507-01

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 9/1/2025 – 5/31/2030

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$1,548,605

Title: Improving Jail Response to the Overdose Crisis: A Hybrid Trial of Jail ECHO to Improve MOUD Implementation and Public Health Outcomes

This project will improve the justice system's response to the opioid overdose crisis by implementing and scaling evidence-based treatments in rural jails. Using a Type 2 hybrid stepped wedge design, the study will test Jail ECHO Operations, Planning, and Strategy (J-ECHO OPS), a jail-specific, tailored Project ECHO model that engages the entire jail ecosystem by connecting multidisciplinary jail and community teams through case-based learning and mentoring. The project will enhance the reach and adoption of evidence-based practice, increase workforce readiness, and improve organizational climate. And ultimately, safer and healthier transitions from jail to community for people with opioid use disorder. Partners on this study include Project ECHO®, the American Correctional Association, and the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence. Faculty of the UMass Chan research team include Rosemarie Martin, Bruce Barton, and Grace Ryan.

Competitive Renewal of R01 Award



PI: [Bo Wang, PhD](#) and [Jeroan Allison, MD, MS](#)

Source of support: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development

Award Number: 2R01HD095765-06

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

Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 9/1/2025 – 8/30/2030

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs): \$2.1M

Title: National Implementation of an evidence-based HIV prevention program:

multilevel scale-up strategies and precision prevention

This study will assess the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of multiple sequences of strategies to sustain nationwide implementation of an evidence-based HIV prevention program using a SMART adaptive implementation trial. It will also harness advanced machine learning (ML) to promote program sustainability and advance precision prevention in schools. The project builds on more than a decade of NIH-funded implementation research in collaboration with the Bahamas Ministries of Health and Education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 3, 10:00-11:00 AM

Research Methods Meeting

Presenter(s): [Hua Zheng](#), Assistant Professor in Orthopedics and Physical Rehabilitation, with commentary by [Arlene Ash](#) and [Jeroan Allison](#), Professors in PQHS, of UMass Chan.

Title: Study Design issues for a randomized trial (RCT) of robotic-assisted versus conventional knee surgery (rTKA vs. cTKA)

Abstract: Total knee replacement (arthroscopy, TKA) is the most common surgery in America. These are increasingly being done with robotic assistance although its benefits compared to conventional surgery are unknown and real-world “assignment mechanisms” have essentially no relationship to clinical differences that might be relevant. We suspect that for many patients, it matters little which type of surgery they receive, and the convenience of more local care may overshadow the potentially modest or even non-existent incremental benefit of rTKA, which may require notably more travel, especially for rural residents. However, we also hypothesize that there are patients for whom the choice is important, and our study seeks to identify which ones. We will recruit patients from centers that are urban and rural, academic, non-profit, and for-profit, geographically disbursed (but not representative), low-, middle-, and high-volume. The lowest-volume centers won’t do any robotic, but surgeons working at larger centers often do both. We will discuss and seek feedback from the group on our plans for stratified recruitment, analytic strategies, and associated sample size/power calculations. Click [here](#) to join.



Friday, September 5, 10 AM, AS9-2072 or on Zoom ([click here](#))

Claire Branley's Thesis Defense (Public)

Title: Barriers to Participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

Background: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal nutrition program that provides a tailored healthy food package, nutrition and breastfeeding support, and referrals to healthcare or other services for women and children up to age five. Participating in WIC is associated with a myriad of positive health benefits. However, approximately half of individuals eligible for WIC are not enrolled. In particular, enrollment among mothers who identify as Hispanic and Black fell from 2016-2021 relative to mothers who identify as White. This dissertation examines associations between (1) national policy change in 2018, (2) neighborhood socioeconomic status, and (3) experiences of racial discrimination on WIC participation.

Mentor: Stephenie Lemon, PhD - Dissertation Exam Committee: Drs. Kate Lapane, Jonggyu Baek, Melissa Goulding, Rajani Sadasivam, and Kim Gans

Teatime – Tuesday, Sept 9, 2 PM

The Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research will be hosting teatime. We invite you to stop by for a cup of tea or coffee, enjoy a snack, and take the opportunity to connect with your colleagues.



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.

THE NEW ENGLAND ATTC TEAM WEBINARS

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

[Compassion Fatigue: Workforce Well-Being for Providers and Individuals with Lived Experience](#)

Date: 9/4/25

Time: 12-1:30 PM EST

Explore the broad relevance of work-force wellbeing: How is this defined and experienced uniquely among professionals and peer workers? What are the warning signs for burnout and vicarious trauma?

[Understanding Emerging Evidence on Cannabis Use and Cannabis use Disorder \(CUD\) among Perinatal Populations: What Clinicians Need to Know](#) – 3-part series

September 11th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 1 – Current Trends and New Insights

September 18th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 2 – They Why and What Happens

September 25th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 3 – From Awareness to Action: Understanding Your Role

This three-part training series explores the latest evidence on cannabis use and CUD among pregnant and prenatal individuals, covering prevalence, health impacts, and clinical considerations. Participants will gain insight into patient motives, maternal and child health outcomes, mandated reporting requirements, and emerging intervention strategies to better support perinatal populations

[Contingency Management in Practice: Evidence, Ethics, and Implementation](#) – 3-part series

September 19th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 1 – Foundations of Contingency Management: What It Is and Why It Works - An introduction to CM

September 24th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 2 – Ethical, Policy, and Funding Considerations for CM: Applying It Responsibly

September 29th | 12-1 PM EST – Session 3 – Data-Driven CM: Research, Outcomes, and Lessons from the Field

This three-part virtual series introduces Contingency Management (CM), an evidence-based approach proven to enhance outcomes in substance use treatment. Participants will progress from foundational concepts and research to exploring ethical considerations and practical strategies for real-world implementation.

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](#)

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.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

2025 SEPTEMBER Monthly observances: * Hispanic Heritage Month * Intergenerational Month Weekly observance: National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week (2nd week of Sept.)	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	31	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5 Mawlid Al-Nabi	6 Hungry Ghost Festival
	7 Brazilian Independence Day	8	9	10	11 Ethiopian New Year	12	13
	14 Elevation of the Life-Giving Cross	15 *Guatemala Independence Day *Respect for the Aged Day	16 Mexican Independence Day	17	18 *Chilean Independence Day * International Equal Pay Day	19 Army Day	20
	21 Mabon	22 *Rosh Hashanah (sundown through sundown 9/24) *Sharad Navratri (through Oct. 1)	23 *Autumnal Equinox Day *International Day of Sign Languages *Saudi National Day	24	25	26 Native American Day	27 *Meskel * The Day of the Walloon Region *French Community Holiday
	28	29 Michaelmas	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	1	2	3	4

Intergenerational Month 2025 - Reach across the ages. You never know what might happen.

The Intergenerational Foundation launched Intergeneration Month, held each September, to connect generations and to prompt folks from varying age groups to befriend and learn from each other.

<https://nationaltoday.com/intergeneration-month/>

CONNECT: Learn from another generation, either younger or older than yourself. Step outside your comfort zone, and recognize what history you carry into conversations that is dictated by the generation you grew up in. Think of music, history, life habits that have and will change.

EMBRACE: different points of view, of culture, language, education, and ideas. Thinking itself is molded by these components, step outside your own generation and welcome the ideas of another. How have your family food traditions changed with our changing food environment?

LISTEN: to other generations, even the very young have lessons to teach their elders. Never stop learning and cultivate curiosity. This is key to enhancing quality of life.

ACCEPT: our differences. We learn from each other when we communicate our differences.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2025:

- 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.