

A message from our Chair

August 2023

Greetings, we hope the summer offers you the chance to recharge for the new school year.

Going forward, our newsletters will highlight our community updates quarterly and share research, professional and educational milestones of our residents, fellows, postdocs, and faculty team members. We will also announce happenings in the Department of Neurology, which includes faculty holding positions at UMass Chan Medical School and UMass Memorial Health.



Read on to learn about:

- This year's graduating residents and fellows
- Staff achievements and awards
- Grant recipients
- Program celebrations
- New neurology community members

Enjoy what is left of the summer and look forward to our next edition in November.

A.M. Barrett, MD
Chair, Department of Neurology
UMass Chan Medical School & UMass Memorial Health



2023 Resident Graduates

Ashley Bradylyons, MD

Medical School: UMass Chan Medical School, Neurology Residency at UMass Chan, Neurorehabilitation Fellowship at UMass Chan

Lauryn Currens, MD

Medical School: St. George's University School of Medicine, Neurology Residency at UMass Chan Medical School, Movement Disorders Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University

Eliza Grigoriuc, MD

Medical School: Universitatea de Medicina



Jared Quast, MD

Medical School: St. George's University School of Medicine, Neurology Residency at UMass Chan Medical School, Epilepsy Fellowship at Dartmouth University

Zakir Shaikh, MBBS

Medical School: Surat Municipal Institute of Medical Education and Research, Neurology Residency at UMass Chan Medical School, Clinical Neurophysiology Fellowship at UMass Chan

Samantha Willford, MD

Medical School: Sackler School of Medicine, Neurology Residency at UMass

si Farmacie Juliu Hatieganu, Neurology Residency at UMass Chan Medical School, Neurovascular Fellowship at UMass Chan

Brooke McNeilly, DO

Medical School: New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, Neurology Residency at UMass Chan Medical School, Neuromuscular Fellowship at Yale University

Peter Pacut, MD

Medical School: Jagiellonian University Medical College, Neurology Residency at UMass Chan Medical School, Neuromuscular Fellowship at Virginal Commonwealth University

Chan Medical School, Movement Disorders Fellowship at UMass Chan

Psychiatry-Neurology Residents

Taylor Young, MD,

Medical School: UMass Chan Medical School, Neurology Residency at UMass Chan

2023 Neurology Fellow Graduates

Raymond Catton, MD,

Vascular Neurology

Annie Ferris, MD,

Vascular Neurology

Lilya Yausheva, MD,

Neuroimmunology



Stroke Public Service Awareness Campaign

Kayla Overly, PA-C, Neurology Stroke Center, orchestrated the **Stroke Public Awareness Collaboration Project – held on June 10, 2023, at the Woosox game!**

received a collaborative grant of \$10,000 to increase community public stroke awareness. The **Stroke Public Awareness Collaboration Project** was made possible with Massachusetts Public Health and MORE Advertising. The project team assembled the “BE-FAST” stroke awareness campaign to empower children in our community with tools for recognizing and responding to stroke symptoms.



Local sports team mascots from the Worcester Woosox, Worcester Pirates, Worcester Railers, and Worcester Bravehearts contributed to the initiative. The community awareness event was held on June 10, 2023, during the local Woosox game.

Know the Signs of Stroke

B	E	F	A	S	T
Balance	Eyes	Face	Arm	Speech	Time
Trouble walking in a line?	Double vision or going blind?	Facial drooping?	Arm or leg weakness?	Words hard to say?	Call 911 right away!



Scan here for
stroke resources
at ummhealth.org



This project possible by MORE Advertising and your local Central MA Stroke Awareness Committee.



- The vascular neurology stroke prevention project team consisted of Joy Helgerson of Fairlawn Rehab Hospital – Encompass Health,
- Chief Norm Soucie of UMass Memorial EMS (Worcester EMS),
- Mary Beth Creem of St. Vincent Hospital,
- Michele Rosenthal of VNA Care,
- John Broach, MD, of UMass Memorial Health - Emergency Department,
- Kayla Overly of UMass Memorial Stroke Center.

Therapist Joy Helgerson from Fairlawn Rehab Hospital (pictured left) and stroke survivor Richard Goyette (pictured right) share the informational signs of stroke, BE-FAST materials with community members during the WooSox event.

- [**BE-FAST Stroke Public Service Awareness video message**](#) : available on Youtube.

Local stroke survivors Dennis Murphy, Cindy Brown, Richard Goyette, and Rachel Henry received recognition alongside the WooSox baseball field diamond.

NECN media televised the BE-FAST event during the game. Stroke Survivor, Rachel Henry won hearts by sharing her personal story.

The BE-FAST graphic was displayed on the jumbotron several times during the game that was attended by 9115 people!

Distribution of Marketing Materials included:

- Over 950 magnets,
- over 200 flyers,
- several DPH FAST stroke information flyers in other languages including Spanish and Portuguese were distributed.



Kayla Overly, PA-C, Kelsey Donahue, Nurse Navigator, and local stroke survivors Dennis Murphy, Cindy Brown and Richard Goyette are pictured on the WooSox field.

The event helped fuel public awareness that continues today. Social media views and statistics tracking of our public awareness campaign has reached 27,558 impressions as of August 21, 2023.

Stroke Awareness social media views:

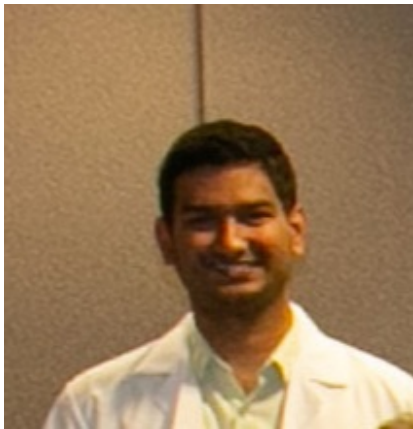
- 1,203 with 18 likes and 19 shares on Facebook
- 26,273 with 3,649 likes, 9 comments, 85 shares and 127 saves on Instagram with a total watch time of 124hrs and 17 minutes.
- 82 views on YouTube

Congratulations



Raphael Carandang, MD, elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology (FAAN). [AAN Fellow \(FAAN\) Application Requirements | AAN](#)

Batoul Chouiki, an intern with the Vision Rehabilitation Laboratory and Right Brain Research Laboratory completed the UMCTS summer internship. Wishing Batoul Chouiki well after her closing ceremony presentation.



SaiVarun Bethina, PhD, completed his postdoc training with the Vision Rehabilitation Laboratory and Right Brain Research Laboratory. Wishing SaiVarun Bethina well as he transitions to Wake Forest.

New Grant Recipients

Kara Smith, MD, and Wissam Deeb, MD: PACE Award

6th Annual PACE Award recipients receive a \$100,000 grant to fund their innovative solutions that will benefit our patients and strengthen UMass Memorial.

Congratulations Kara Smith, MD

Kara Smith, MD, co-director of the movement disorders group.



Congratulations Wissam Deeb, MD

Wissam Deeb, MD, director of the movement disorder's fellowship program.



Finalists: the team along with Jennifer Reidy, MD, Vandana Nagpal, MD, and Marycarla MacDonald members of the Palliative Care department presented their project, *Music Therapy for Hospitalized Patients with Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia: A Randomized Controlled Pilot to Prevent Delirium*.

A formal announcement and recognition ceremony will take place during the Family Fun Day, Sunday, September 10, 2023, at Polar Park, where winners will be announced and celebrated.

For more information regarding the UMass Memorial Medical Center's PACE program, click here. [PACE Award Winners - - UMass Memorial Health \(ummhealth.org\)](https://www.umasshealth.org/pace)

UMass Comprehensive Stroke Center

Brian Silver, MD, has received a collaborative grant award by the AHA American Heart Association to support the research of "*Migraine as a Risk Factor for Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease*."

New research project support aid for statistical results:

The Neurology Research team is creating a statistical template designed to provide support for ongoing research projects. The request form, accessible here, allows Neurology researchers to request aid in the following areas: <https://arcsapps.umassmed.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=9AER8JA44T>.

- study design (pre-proposal)
- sample size or power calculation
- data management, coding, data cleaning
- selecting statistical tests
- running statistical tests
- interpreting statistical tests
- manuscript writing (methods section, results tables or figures)
- grant writing (statistics section)

For more information, please contact Nils Henninger, MD, PhD, nils.henninger@umassmed.edu

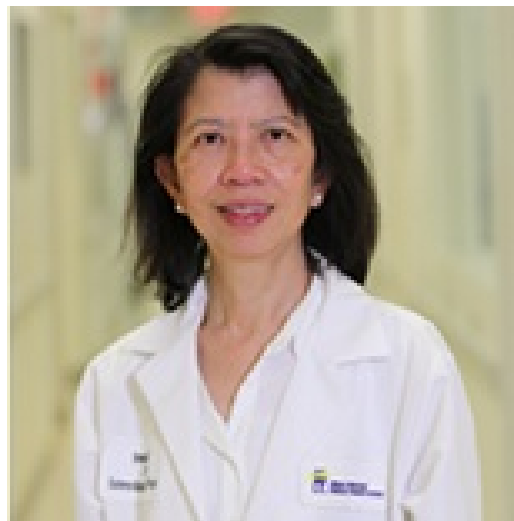
Neuroscience and Disease Forum focused on the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Program and Comprehensive Care Center



Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Comprehensive
Care Center at UMass Chan Medical School:
Duchenne Program

On Friday, July 14, 2023, patients and families were invited to attend the session with UMass Chan faculty, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, clinicians, and medical students. The program, “*Coordinated, Comprehensive Care in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: A Model for Complex, Multi-System Disease*” was hosted by the **Neuroscience of Disease** forum followed by a 5th Year Anniversary Celebration of **The Duchenne Program** led by Brenda Wong, MD.

Our speakers, Tracy Kramer Seckler, Co-Founder and CEO, Charley’s Fund, Elizabeth Woelfel Harvey, Executive Director, JB’s Keys to Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD); and Brenda Wong, MD, professor of pediatrics and neurology, clinical director, Duchenne Program at UMass Chan Medical School discussed the challenges and rewards of the comprehensive, coordinated care provided to patients with DMD. They successfully conveyed what patient care entails in our clinical center.



Brenda Wong, MD
Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology,
UMass Chan Medical School and The Duchenne Program Clinical Director



Tracy Kramer Seckler, Co-Founder and CEO, Charley's Fund



Elizabeth Woelfel Harvey, Executive Director, JB's Keys to DM

Front – Charley Seckler, Tracy Seckler; Back – Holly Blain (admin c/o scheduling), PT Robyn dos Santos, NP Courtney Shellenbarger, Brenda Wong, Meg (Margareth) Babosa, CRC Fiyin (Fiyinfoluwa) Olusola

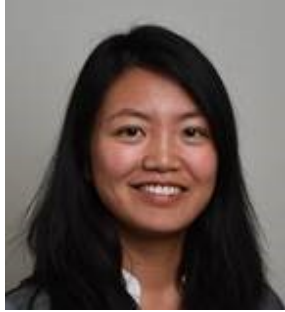


Charley Seckler, Tracy Seckler, Brenda Wong



Tracy Seckler, presenting at the 5th Anniversary Ceremony and information session.





Neurohumanities Seminar Series in August focused on the "**Neuroscience of Musical Emotion and Creativity: Implications for Music-Based Interventions**" by Psyche Loui PhD, Associate Professor and Director of the MIND lab at Northeastern University on August 10, 2023.



Neurohumanities Seminar Series in July focused on "**A brief history of Neurological Practice: What it means to be a Neurologist.**" by Raphael Carandang, MD on July 20, 2023.

Neurology Seminar Series in August 2023, introduced guest speakers hosted by Neuroimmune Interactions Laboratory, with specialized focused discussions on



Cytotoxic Behavior of Encephalitogenic CD4 Cells by **Dr. Alessandro dos Santos Faria** - Associate Professor of the Department of Genetics, Microbiology, and Immunology and Vice Dean of the Institute of Biosciences. UNICAMP – Brazil



Metabolic Adaptation of Myeloid Cells: from COVID-19 to Brain Diseases by **Dr. Pedro M. Moraes-Vieira** - Associate Professor of the Department of Genetics, Microbiology, and Immunology, UNICAMP – Brazil

Save the Date!



Department of
Neurology

Upcoming Neurology Events

5th Annual UMass Chan Department of Neurology Clinical and Research Update Program

Friday, November 3, 2023
Noon - 6:00 p.m.

5th Annual UMass Chan Department of Neurology

Additional Grand Round trainings by the Department of Medicine

DOM Calendar

Grand Rounds Archives

Newly Published Research Updates



Find the 100 most recently published articles from our UMass Chan Department of Neurology, as listed on Pub Med. on our website at <https://www.umassmed.edu/neurology/About-us/recent-publications/>.

Congratulations to our community for spreading awareness of neurology-related research.

Welcome to our Community!!

WELCOME to our community

Kalina Miller, Clinical Research Coordinator



Supporting:
Vision Rehabilitation Lab
Right Brain Therapy Lab

Born and raised in Michigan
Left Florida for Massachusetts in 2021

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WELCOME to our community

Dilara Halim, PhD, postdoc associate



Fen-Biao Gao Lab

She will be working on modifiers of ALS and FTD disease phenotypes using iPSC derived neurons

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WELCOME to our community

Michelle Manxhari
Neurology Clinical Research Coordinator



She coordinates research for patients who have suffered a stroke or have a movement disorder such as Parkinson's.

She is interested in attending UMass Chan Medical School with hopes of becoming a Primary Care Physician.

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WELCOME to our community

Tiago Francisco da Silva, PhD student, Biologist from UNESP, Brazil, with a Master in Immunology, USP, Brazil



Neuroimmune Interactions Laboratory

Seeks to study the role of the NMDA receptor in immune cells during Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis (EAE), an animal model of Multiple Sclerosis.

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WELCOME to our community

Laura Caroline de Faria, Bio Medical from UFTM, Brazil
PhD candidate, USP, Brazil/UMass Chan



Neuroimmune Interactions Laboratory

Study the biology of Extracellular vesicles and their function in the context of Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis (EAE), an animal model of Multiple Sclerosis.

Loves science, cats and being in nature

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WELCOME to our community

Annie Ferris, MD, Assistant Professor
Vascular Neurologist



She is interested in international and refugee health, and making stroke recovery at UMass more robust.

Fun facts:
She was in the Army National Guard for 7 years, and deployed to Kosovo and Iraq.
She has two adorable children and her husband is a Lutheran pastor!

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WELCOME to our community

Nana Oduro, Executive Assistant



Nana was an administrative support for the Cardiovascular Team.

She enjoys cooking, trying new recipes, being outdoors and hiking.

Nana was originally born and raised in Ghana, West Africa!

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WELCOME to our community

Danison Emmerson, MD, Assistant Professor
Vascular Neurologist



Special Interests include:
PFO closure, Vasculitis, stroke in the young, and General neurology as a whole.
Fun fact: I have two cats one which is named Pons.

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WELCOME to our community

Thomas Ford, MD, Assistant Professor
Vascular Neurologist



Interests include
Stroke in the Young and Quality Improvement/Patient Safety!

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WELCOME to our community
 Veronica Peschansky, MD, PhD
 joins the Neurocritical Care Team
 research interests in epigenetics of neurobiology, neurological disorders and critical illness
 Fun facts ... she enjoys skiing, hiking and keeping her Duolingo streak alive



UMass Chan UMass Chan UMass Memorial Health Department of Neurology

WELCOME to our community
 Batoul Chouki, Intern
 Vision Rehabilitation Laboratory
 for Research Laboratory Support
 Fun Fact: Batoul is a twin!



UMass Chan UMass Chan UMass Memorial Health Department of Neurology

Introducing our new residents!



Victoria Alonso, MD, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University



Minorvi Amin, DO, New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine



Nailah Asif, MBBS, RK College of Medical Sciences



Ron Baazov, MD, State University of New York Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine



Giovanna Crowther, MD, St. George's University



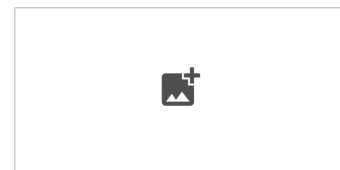
Molly Gallagher, MD, Drexel University, College of Medicine



Amanda Maynard, MD, Quinnipiac University, Frank H. Netter, MD, School of Medicine



Sameer Sarma, MD, Wright State University, Boonshoft School of Medicine



Introducing our current fellowship program members!



Muhammad Khurram Atzal, MD, of St. Louis University School of Medicine has joined the Vascular Neurology Fellowship.



Mustafa Al-Gburi, MD, of Tufts University has joined the Neuroimmunology Fellowship.



Ashley Bradylyons, MD, of UMass Chan has joined the Neurological Rehabilitation and Recovery Fellowship.



Eliza Grigoriuc, MD, of UMass Chan has joined the Vascular Neurology Fellowship.



Uzair Khalid, MBBS, of UMass Chan has joined the Neurocritical Care Fellowship.



Zakir Shaikh, MBBS, of UMass Chan has joined the Clinical Neurophysiology Fellowship.



Samantha Willford, MD, in Movement Disorders

We are Growing - see our open positions

To learn more about our various positions and to apply, [review our open job positions here.](#)

- **Clinical Research Coordinator (2023-42752)**

- **Research Associate (2022-42469)**
- **Research Associate (2021-39245)**

- **Clinical Research Coordinator**
(2023-43332)

- **Post Doctoral Associate**
(2023-43759)

Update your headshot photo!



Schedule your faculty headshot with the [Sign Up Link](#)

Photo Sessions (FREE headshots!)

Date: Every other Wednesday

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Sherman Center - 5th floor

Professional Staff Development

Office of Faculty Affairs

Center for Clinical &
Translational Science

Visit the [Professional Staff Development Website](#)

- Quick link to the [Professional Staff Development Registration page](#)
- Quick link to the [Professional Staff Development Calendar](#)
- Quick link for [LMS SSO Helpdesk Support](#)

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Chan

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