

Weekly Newsletter February 27 - March 3, 2023

PQHS NEWS

WELCOMING A NEW FACULTY MEMBER



Welcome to the Department! Christie Hager, JD, MPH, was appointed Associate Professor in the Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research effective February 23rd. Christie is a public health lawyer, whose work, teaching, and scholarship have focused on state health policy in health care access and public health and health care regulation, with additional expertise in public insurance coverage and regulation of behavioral health services. She was Chief Health Counsel to the Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives during the drafting, passage, and early implementation of the state health care reform law that became the model for the Affordable Care Act, and served in the Obama Administration's Department of Health and Human Services as the

Secretary's New England Regional Director, and Early in the COVID-19 emergency response, she was the interim director of the Office of Behavioral Health at MassHealth.

UPCOMING EVENT

Tuesday, February 28, 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Research Meeting –

Presenter: Kurt Hager, PhD, Instructor, Division of Epidemiology, PQHS, UMass Chan Medical School

Title: Food Insecurity and Diabetes Management

Brief Description: He will share new research on the impacts of produce prescriptions on glycemic control, discuss policy pathways to expand coverage for nutrition programs in Medicare and Medicaid, and highlight current research at UMass Medical School that is moving this field of research forward.

Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 851 294 7151 **password: smm2020**

Monday, March 20, 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Location: Faculty Conference Room

PQHS Annual State of the Department: All Students, Faculty and Staff are invited and encouraged to attend the PQHS Annual State of the Department meeting. Come hear all the exciting things happening in PQHS. Dean Flotte and Chancellor Collins will address the department. This is an in-person only event, zooming is not an option and will not be recorded. Slides will be provided following the meeting.



Lunch will be provided. Please click the link below to RSVP **whether you plan to attend (yes or no)**. If you answer yes, a link is provided to add the event to your Outlook calendar. **Don't forget! Please reply by Friday, March 3rd. (LAST DAY TO SIGN UP)**
<https://arcsapps.umassmed.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=X3JNCMAHRL>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tuesday, March 21, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Please join the Women's Faculty Committee, Office of Faculty Affairs, Professional Women's Committee, and Office of Diversity and Inclusion for the Women's History Month Virtual Event. This year's national theme for Women's History Month is "Celebrating the Women who Tell Our Stories." We will be joined by our keynote speaker Dr. Gretchen Gerzina, former Dean of the Commonwealth Honors College at UMass Amherst, Professor of English and Paul Murray Kendall Chair of Biography at UMass Amherst. She was also recently awarded the Chancellor's medal at UMass. The title of her talk is "**Forgotten Lives: Who They Were and Why They Are Important**" click [here](#) to join.



Wednesday, March 22, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Special Seminar: “Improving Cancer Health Equity in Rural Settings through Participatory Implementation Science” presented by Melinda M. Davis, PhD, M.C.R.

Dr. Davis is Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, Interim Director of the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network and Co-Director of the OCTRI Community and Collaboration Core at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). Dr. Davis is a participatory implementation scientist who collaborates with patient, community, and health system partners to adapt and implement interventions to improve health equity in rural and low

resourced settings. Dr. Davis conducts her work in ORPRN, often in partnership with the Community Health Advocacy and Research Alliance (CHARA), Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), and other state and national partners. Dr. Davis leads a portfolio of research and technical assistance contracts funded by the National Cancer Institute, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, American Cancer Society, and National Institute of Minority Health & Health Disparities. **Click this [link](#) to register for the webinar.**

Separately, we will host Career Development Workshop with Dr. Davis for early-career researchers on **March 23rd, 2023**, from noon to 1 pm. **Click this [link](#) to register for the Workshop.**

This workshop is mainly for early career researchers and junior faculty. However, anybody is welcome.



Monday, March 27, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

HIIS Special Seminar: “Reducing Chronic Disease Disparities in Women’s Health: Moving Science to Real World Impact” presented by Dr. Debra Haire-Joshu, PhD, MS, MSN, RN.

Dr. Haire-Joshu holds the Joyce and Chauncy Buchheit Professorship in Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis with a joint appointment as Professor in the School of Medicine. Dr. Haire-Joshu is a behavioral scientist and public health researcher who develops and tests population-wide interventions to prevent obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease among women and children

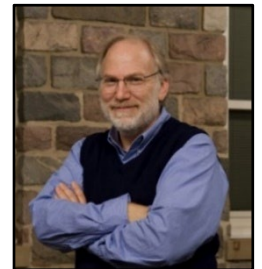
from under-resourced communities. She is the Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded Center for Diabetes Translation Research which supports over 90 faculty conducting diabetes research with the aim of achieving health equity, and currently leads three NIH-funded trials targeting the prevention of excess weight gain among women of childbearing age and their young children. She has served on several National Academy of Medicine (and Institute of Medicine) committees on early childhood obesity and is a current member of the National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council. She has published extensively in peer reviewed literature, authored an award-winning textbook on diabetes management across the lifespan, and has been an active contributor to health policy at national and state levels.

Click this [link](#) to join the ZOOM presentation.

Monday, April 3, at 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Rigor and Reproducibility Seminar: “Sharing Confidential and Sensitive Data?” presented by [George Alter, PhD](#), Research Professor Emeritus with the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Alter’s research integrates theory and methods from demography, economics, and family history with historical sources to understand demographic behaviors in the past. From 2007 to 2016, Alter was Director of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, the world’s largest archive of social science data, and he is a past president of the Social Science History Association. He has been active in international efforts to promote research transparency, data sharing, and secure access to confidential research data. He is currently engaged in projects to create FAIR vocabularies in population research, to automate the capture of metadata from statistical analysis software, and to compare fertility transitions in contemporary and historical populations. This seminar is given jointly by the UMass Chan Medical School Population & Quantitative Health Sciences, and UMass Boston Gerontology Department and Gerontology Institute. **Click this [link](#) to join the ZOOM presentation; password: 468880.**





Postdoctoral Training is starting now and in August 2023. The [PRACCTIS program \(Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change in Individuals and Systems\)](#) at UMass Chan Medical School is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars. Funding is available starting now and in August 2023 for fellowships in three specialty areas:

[Cancer Prevention and Control](#)

[Health Communication](#)

[Tobacco and Digital Health Research](#)

We train independent researchers to address critical prevention and control care delivery issues across the cancer continuum, including primary prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship. Emphasis is on promoting change in individuals, providers, and systems. Our faculty mentors are leaders in health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, health informatics, systems change and health policy, health communications, population health sciences, implementation science, and prevention and intervention research. Applicants must plan to pursue an independent research career focused on cancer prevention and control, have earned a doctoral degree (PhD, ScD, MD, DO, etc.), and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. PRACCTIS is a T32 training program funded by NCI. For more information contact [Barbara Estabrook](#).

Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 Training Program - now accepting applications for pre-and post-doctoral trainees. In collaboration with the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS) has established a NHLBI-funded T32 program with the aim of producing a new generation of investigators who have the enthusiasm, knowledge, and skills to make meaningful contributions to cardiovascular research across the translational spectrum. Directed by Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD (PQHS) and Kevin Donahue, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), the program is truly transdisciplinary, with investigators working together to expand knowledge beyond discipline-based concepts, theories, and methods. Please see the attached flyer for more information on eligibility and how to apply.

Monday, May 8, 2023

CCTS Workshop, “Data Visualization for Effective Science Communication with Diverse Audiences”. Participants will learn about various approaches to visualizing scientific findings and data for effective communication with diverse audiences. Focus will be on both key principles of effective data visualization as well as concrete skill-building amongst participants. Registration is required. Click [here](#) to register.

FUNDING REMINDERS

Revised NSF Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support Formats - Now Available in SciENcv and on the NSF Website: NSF implemented revised versions of the [Biographical Sketch](#) and [Current and Pending \(Other\) Support](#) formats for consistency with the *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) ([NSF 23-1](#)). The requirement to use the revised formats is effective for proposals submitted or **due on or after January 30, 2023**.

These revised formats are now available in [SciENcv](#) and on the [NSF Policy Office website](#). As a reminder, the mandate to use SciENcv only for preparation of these senior personnel documents will go into effect for new proposals submitted or **due on or after October 23, 2023**.



Resources for the Data Management Sharing Plan: have posted information and guidance on the implementation of the Data Management Sharing Plan (DMSP) that goes into effect with the use of FORMS H for any application that is being submitted to the NIH on or after January 25th, 2023. Please go to the following link: <https://umassmed.sharepoint.com/sites/gca/rms/SitePages/UMASS-Medical-School.aspx>

The DMSP guides can be found in the lower right-hand side of the home page.

The Herman G. Berkman Diabetes Clinical Innovation Fund is accepting grant abstracts through February 28th. The annual award supports the development of clinical care initiatives that would not normally find funding through research grant programs. You'll find the eligibility guidelines, grant application, and learn about past awarded projects [HERE](#).

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke: [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis \(ALS\) Intermediate Patient Population Expanded Access \(U01 Clinical Trial Required\)](#). NINDS intends to commit up to \$75 million in FY 2023 to fund

3-5 awards in support of the conduct of scientific research utilizing data from expanded access for investigational drugs or biological products. These applications will target expanded access for intermediate size populations of patients living with ALS who are not eligible for ongoing clinical trials for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment or cure of ALS. The maximum project period is 4 years. The opportunity will open on Feb. 23, 2023, and **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 23, 2023, AT 5 P.M. LOCAL TIME OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION.**

For additional information, please refer to [the RFA](#) posted on the NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information (Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: RFA-NS-23-012).

2023 King Trust Fellowship Program: Health Resources in Action has recently launched the 2023 cycle of the Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Award Program. In recognition of additional support needed to help researchers achieve their independence, we have increased the award amount to include stipend, fringe, and a flexible expense allowance. We encourage you to disseminate this opportunity to eligible faculty, clinicians, and postdoctoral researchers. Join us for the King Trust Fellowship Office House ([Register here](#)), to be held on Thursday, January 19, 2023 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This informational session will be used to give applicants and institutional officers an overview of the program and answer any general questions about the program.



The ALS Association is excited to announce that the request for applications for the Milton Safenowitz Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is now open for 2023. Letters of Intent are due **Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by 5 p.m. US ET.**

The Safenowitz Fellowship Program supports the development of promising early career scientists doing research of high scientific merit and relevance to ALS with grants of up to \$150,000 for two years. We are especially interested in funding studies for new target validation, risk factors research, biomarker discovery, assistive technology development and measurement of caregiver/family burden.

Applicants who received their highest degree (e.g., Ph.D. or M.D.) less than two years before the date the award starts are eligible to apply. Individuals must have the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research and have an existing postdoctoral position, including the support of their mentor.

For more details, please visit our website: <https://www.als.org/research/funding-opportunities/milton-safenowitz-postdoctoral-fellowship-program-2023>.

If you have any questions about this exciting funding opportunity, please reach out to researchgrants@alsa-national.org. We look forward to receiving your applications.

UMASS CHAN REMINDER



UMass Chan Medical School's [Office of Communications](#) is initiating regularly scheduled opportunities where faculty, staff, and students can have a professional headshot taken. Photos are taken every other Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM on the fifth floor of the Sherman Center by the elevators. Each session caps at 50 people. Anyone at UMass Chan can sign up using this document found on the SharePoint site. See updated link for new options: [Photo Sign-Ups \(office365.com\)](#)

REQUIRED IT Security and Privacy Training: With the new year upon us, I want to remind everyone to complete the required Information Security and Privacy training. The 25-minute training module teaches users how to identify and prevent cyberattacks, reinforcing knowledge that applies to the use of technology at work and at home.

This annual training is mandatory without exception for all members of the UMass Chan community.

If you have not already completed the training, please log onto the [Information Security and Privacy training](#) portal (provided by InfoSecInstitute.com) and complete the training as soon as possible.

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 Kellie (kellie.armstrong@umassmed.edu) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.