



Weekly Newsletter May 8-12, 2023

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENT

Tuesday, May 9 – 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Research Meeting – **Presenter:** WebENAR presenter: [Sarah J. Ratcliffe](#), PhD, University of Virginia School of Medicine; and discussant: [Bruce A. Barton](#), PhD, Professor, PQHS, Director of QMC, UMass Chan Medical School

Title: WebENAR discussion part I: Statistical Issues in Responsible Conduct of Research

Brief Description: Technology has made it easier to share and analyze data. As statisticians, we are responsible for the data that is in our “custody,” and how it is used. This WebENAR will discuss some of the ethical issues that arise in collaborative research, the importance of reproducible analyses, and the impact that both can have on “good science.”

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

PQHS HOT TOPICS



Congratulations to **Mariam Chekmeyan** who successfully defended her MSCI Thesis Defense titled **Artificial Intelligence for the Diagnosis of Pediatric Appendicitis: A Systematic Review**. Mariam was mentored by [Shao Hsien Liu, PhD](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Monday, May 8, 2023

UMCCTS 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. [Narges Mahyar, PhD](#), and [Ali Sarvghad Batn Moghaddam, PhD](#) will be speakers at the workshop. Registration is required. Click [here](#) to register.



Center for Clinical and Translational
Science



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Monday, May 22, 2023, 3:30-5:00PM

CPHR Dissertation Proposal Presentation: “Care Integration, Supportive Housing, and Outcomes for Medicaid

Accountable Care Organization Enrollees with Behavioral Health Conditions” Presented by Meagan Sabatino, BA, MSL;

Mentor: [Matthew Alcusky, PhD, PharmD](#)

Click [here](#) to join. **Password: 188328**

Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 10:30-11:30AM

CPHR Dissertation Proposal Presentation: “Multimorbidity and the Cancer Trajectory of Older Adults with Multiple Myeloma” Presented by Atinuke Oyinbo, BSc, MPH; Mentors: [Mara Epstein, ScD](#) & [Kate Lapane, Ph.D.](#)

Click [here](#) to join. **Password: 698106**



AGING UNBOUND: MAY 2023

May is Older Americans Month in the United States. May 2023 marks the 60th Anniversary of Older Americans month since John F. Kennedy established it in 1963. It was conceived as a way to acknowledge older Americans for their past and current contributions to our country. When Older Americans Month was established, there were only 17 million living Americans who were 65 years of age and older. By the year 2000, there were 35 million Americans who were 65 years and older which was 12.4% of the total population. As of 2021 there are nearly 56 million Americans who are 65 years and older making up 16.8% of the total population. By 2050 it is expected that almost 86 million Americans will be 65 years and older making up roughly 22% of the total population. This year's theme is Aging Unbound which is intended to explore diverse aging experiences. In addition to aging, our population is also growing more racially and ethnically diverse. In 2010, only 10% of those aged 65 years and older were from a racial and ethnic minority population whereas by 2019, 24% of all persons 65 years and older were from a racial and ethnic minority population. It is imperative that we recognize the diversity, not just in the population, but in the aging experience so that we can facilitate aging with dignity and offer aging Americans the best opportunities to live out their years in good health. For more about Older American's Month visit <https://acl.gov/oam/2023/older-americans-month-2023>



May is Mental Health Awareness Month! It's an excellent opportunity to bring attention to the importance of mental health care and reduce stigma of mental health treatment. The brain is arguably the most important organ in our bodies. Though we wouldn't get far in life without a heart or liver, the brain's primary functions - thinking, feeling, experiencing, remembering, making connections to other people...these are the things that make us who we are. Yet too often, mental healthcare is steeped in mystery at best and shame at worst. This stigma can prevent some people from seeking help when needed, and if someone DOES seek treatment or is struggling with a mental health issue, they sometimes feel it necessary to hide this fact from family, friends, or colleagues in order to avoid awkward or even pejorative responses. This needn't be the case though. As an example, consider a doctor's appointment. People seek out medical attention when they have a serious condition such as a broken bone or a chronic disease, but they also seek medical attention proactively for a yearly physical, or a consult on a sore throat that isn't getting better quickly enough. Generally, we regard seeking medical attention as a healthy and appropriate thing to do in order to thrive and be well. Mental health concerns are more common than most people realize, and if we can de-stigmatize mental health treatment we can lower the barrier to improvements in wellbeing. Whether someone is experiencing trouble adjusting to a big change in life, has social anxiety, PTSD, suicidal thoughts, or some other mental health issue, experiencing these things need not be a mark of shame or a diminishment of humanity. All of us struggle in our own ways. We can lift each other up through compassion, mutual support, and embracing a culture where the pursuit of better health is supported and encouraged.

For those who are struggling and in need of immediate help, there is a new nationwide hotline for mental health crises and suicide. Simply dial 988 to be connected to the national crisis and suicide hotline.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month! This month serves as a time to celebrate the culture, history, and achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). The communities celebrated during AAPI Heritage Month have origins in the many countries that the Asia-Pacific region encompasses, which includes the entirety of the Asian continent, as well as the Pacific Islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia), and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Easter Island). Coming from such a wide geographical area, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has a rich and varied history and culture.

The effort to officially recognize Asian American and Pacific Islander contributions to the United States began in the late 1970s and took over 10 years to make it a permanent month-long celebration. [Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed significantly](#) to many facets of American culture and society, including science and medicine, literature and art, sports and recreation, government and politics, and activism and law.

May is Jewish American Heritage Month - Jews first arrived on American soil back in 1654 in New Amsterdam. In search of better opportunities and lifestyles, they made the U.S. their new home base, finding in it a space where they could openly practice their faith and lead their lives freely without the fear of persecution. The efforts to create a Jewish American Heritage Month had been in the pipeline since 1980. The U.S. Congress passed and authorized a bill that would allow President Carter to designate a special week in either April or May for Jewish heritage celebrations. Finally, in April of 2006, the whole month of May was dedicated to recognizing and honoring Jewish contributions and achievements. Albert Einstein and Ruth Bader Ginsburg are some of the most prominent Jewish American figures.

Jewish people have also been great advocates for other minorities and their rights in America. They participated in the Civil Rights Movement, having showed up at voter registrations, rallies, sit-ins. All the achievements by Jewish people, big and small, deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

Malcolm X Day, May 19, 2023

Malcolm X Day is observed on May 19 every year in the United States. It is used to show appreciation for Malcolm X, who was a civil rights leader. He was an African American Muslim minister who was a vocal advocate for Black empowerment. He championed the promotion of Islam within the Black community. Malcolm X is also known to be credited with raising the self-esteem of Black Americans since he reconnected the people with their African heritage. The holiday serves to appreciate and celebrate the works he did in his time and the impact he had on society.



Memorial Day, May 29, 2023

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

MASS CHAN REMINDER



UMass Chan Medical School encourages employees to “Take a Break” – Use Your Excess Vacation Leave by June 17th. As we get closer to fiscal year end, we want to remind you of the [UMass Chan Vacation Policy](#) and maximum accruals so you can plan accordingly.

As of the last full pay period of the fiscal year, 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. **This year, the relevant pay period ends June 17, 2023. Accordingly, we encourage**

you to use any vacation balances over 240 that exceed the 240-hour maximum before that date.



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 \(office365.com\)](#)**

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.