



## Weekly Newsletter July 10-14, 2023

### PQHS NEWS

#### UPCOMING EVENT

**Tuesday, July 11 – 9:00 – 10:00 AM**

**Research Meeting – Presenter:** JungAe Lee, PhD, Assistant Professor, PQHS, UMass Chan Medical School

**Title:** Advancing Regularized Regression

**Brief Description:** This continuation of the previous talk on regularized regression methods, namely ridge, lasso, and elastic net, presents illustrative examples and explores their connections with support vector machine (SVM) and neural network (NN) approaches. By sharing examples, prostate cancer clinical data, leukemia gene expression data, and image classification, we will go beyond theoretical concepts and demonstrate how these methods can be effectively applied. Furthermore, we compare their performance with SVM and NN approaches in regression and classification tasks. Attendees can expect to gain valuable insights that will guide their decision-making process in utilizing these techniques for their specific requirements.

Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 851 294 7151 **password: smm2020 and password for phone: 3426111**

#### WELCOME TO PQHS

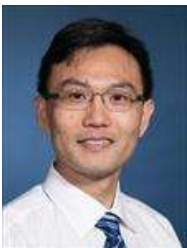


Welcome to Jeff Driban, PhD, ATC, CSCS, Professor, Epidemiology Division in PQHS. Dr. Driban received his Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training from the University of Delaware. He received a Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology with an Emphasis in Athletic Training from Temple University. He completed a post-doctoral research fellowship in the Division of Rheumatology at Tufts Medical Center. His current funding focuses on clarifying how much change in MRI-based measures of disease progression predict poor outcomes in people with knee osteoarthritis. He also examines the relationship between PFAS (“forever chemicals”) and hand osteoarthritis. Jeff also aims to raise awareness about osteoarthritis and promote primary and secondary prevention strategies. Jeff chairs the Osteoarthritis Action Alliance’s injury prevention and secondary prevention task groups. He also serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Rheumatology, BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders, Journal of Athletic Training, and Arthritis Care and Research.

#### PQHS SHOUTOUT



Congratulations to Jamie Faro! Jamie’s proposal for the Spring 2023 Pilot Project Program (PPP), "Integrating Cancer Survivorship Care in to Primary Care" has been chosen for funding by the Scientific Review Committee as part of the UMass Clinical and Translational Science Award (UMCCTS) Pilot Project Program.



Congratulations to [Feifan Liu, PhD](#)!! The R03 project is titled *“Applying Deep Learning for Predicting Retention in PrEP Care and Effective PrEP Use among Key Populations at Risk for HIV in Thailand”* funded by NIMH. It is a collaboration between UMass Chan and the Institute of HIV Research and Innovation (IHRI) at Thailand. During the next two years, we will explore advanced machine learning techniques to identify protective and risk factors for retention in PrEP care and effective PrEP use among key populations in Thailand.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Thursday, July 13, 2023, 10:00-11:30AM**

**CPHR Dissertation Proposal Presentation: “Exploring the Impact of Family Involvement on Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes: A Study on Physical and Occupational Therapies, Depression, and Pressure Ulcers”**

Presented by – Syed Naqvi, BS; Mentor: [Anthony Nunes, PhD](#)

Click [here](#) to join. Password: 519160



**Tuesday, August 29, 2023, 1:30-3:00PM**

**CPHR Dissertation Proposal Presentation: “Improving Women Veteran’s Experience of Obstetric Care”**

Presented by – Lael Ngangmeni, BA, MBS; Mentor: [Kristin Mattocks, PhD, MPH](#)

Click [here](#) to join. Password: 301815



**Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 10:00-11:30AM**

**Leveraging Community Engagement To Address Behavioral Health Disparities In The Deaf Community**

Featured Speakers – [Melissa Anderson, PhD, MSCI](#) and [Alexander Wilkins, PhD](#)

Click [here](#) to register.



## DIVERSITY DIGEST



### **National Disability Independence Day: July 26th**

This day commemorates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26th, 1990. The ADA provides protection from employment discrimination as well as better access to goods, services, and communications for people with disabilities.

As a Diversity Equity Accessibility Inclusion consultant, I have often been disappointed to see so few people with mobility disabilities in the workplaces. Staff working in wheelchairs or using other assistive devices are very rare in most workplaces. I had not noticed the same as true for people using mobility devices in

more public areas until I became a person who navigates through the world with a wheelchair.

Last August I had to have double hip surgery due to bone cancer metastasized from breast cancer. Since that time, I have used a wheelchair when I am outside of my home. A typical day presents a world of challenges for me and whoever in my family is transporting me and my wheelchair. One day in my life looks like this: I am driven to a client appointment by my husband, and we look for parking near a curb cut out and can't find one, so we double park near my client's office. This presents the first problem of the day but not the only time this happens in this day: the wheelchair has to be placed on the sidewalk near the car door. This means that I have to navigate getting out of the car and to the sidewalk from the double parked car and up into the wheelchair. Then, because my client's office is in an old building, I have to walk up 5 steps to access the wheelchair placed in the building entrance. The second work around of the day is to reverse this process to get back into the car after my meeting. While in Boston, I have an appointment for a haircut at my stylist salon. Parking in the garage and then taking the wheelchair to the salon is a smooth process this time. However, getting through the sales showroom to the salon at the back is challenging. All of the aisles have merchandise in displays which makes getting through the maze of products with the wheelchair difficult. Happily, my stylist's salon has adaptive sinks and chairs where I can use my wheelchair and a really functional accessible bathroom. Last stop of the day, dinner at a restaurant so we won't have to cook. Since I have been going out again, we have eaten in restaurants in Boston, Brookline, on the North Shore and in the North End. With a few exceptions, many times we have the problem of getting from the car to the restaurant due to the sidewalk issues I discussed above. Once inside the restaurant, there is very little space to get through with the wheelchair to a table – people have to stand up or pull their chairs in to let me get by in my wheelchair. These are not all old restaurants, several of them are new and therefore should be meeting the ADA requirements that were a product of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. But I have learned that often public facilities are meeting the spirit of the law but not truly making access easily possible.

I urge all of us to be aware of the difficulties of access for those of us with disabilities. No one should be challenged to live a full life because the Americans with Disabilities Act is only being observed in a cursory way.



### International Non-binary People's Day

International non-binary people's day has been celebrated on 14 July since 2012. This date was chosen because it falls at the midpoint between International Women's Day (8 March) and International Men's Day (19 November).

What does Non-Binary mean?

Non-binary gender is a term used to refer to a gender identity that does not fit into the gender binary of male and female. Being 'non-binary', sometimes called 'enby' is an

umbrella term for any gender that does not fall into the two categories of male and female.

A few common non-binary identities are:

Agender – either not having a gender or being gender neutral

Bi-gender – having aspects of more than one gender, either at different times or at the same time

Gender-fluid – having a gender identity that changes over time

Gender-queer – this can be used as an umbrella term for non-binary identities or can be used as a gender identity itself

Non-binary people often face prejudice and discrimination for their gender identity and lack of recognition and representation in society. Non-Binary People's Day is an opportunity for non-binary people to celebrate their identities and be visible worldwide. It is also a chance for allies and supporters to learn more about non-binary people and to show their support.

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

*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](mailto:kellie.armstrong@umassmed.edu)) & Sarah ([sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu)) by Friday each week.*