



Weekly Newsletter August 21-25, 2023

PQHS NEWS

WELCOME TO PQHS

Incoming CPHR Students



Heeyoon (Melissa) Jung, BSN, MS

"Heeyoon (Melissa) Jung graduated from College of Nursing in Chung-Ang University. While working at the Clinical Trial Center at Samsung Medical Center, she participated in coordinating breast cancer trials and collecting patient data, which sparked her interest in analyzing medical data. This led her to pursue a Master's degree in Pharmacy at Chungnam National University. Throughout her Master's studies, she worked on modeling pharmacokinetic data from clinical studies for drug optimization and analyzing electronic medical records for assessing medication effect. Her current research interest has deepened to analyzing large population datasets to assess the safety and effectiveness of medical interventions."



Claire Branley, BS

Claire is mentored by Stephenie Lemon, PhD and her research interests include prevention of chronic disease through nutrition and diet-related interventions, particularly through government programs such as SNAP and WIC.



Natalia Nielsen, MPH

Natalia graduated with her MPH from the University of Utah in 2019. Her master's practicum project focused on menstrual hygiene management among women living in rural villages in Punjab, India. She has worked on research projects focused on environmental health, women's health, and gerontology. Her most recent work as a clinical research coordinator for Dr. Kate Lapane, PhD included working on a systematic review of the effect of social connectedness on health outcomes in long term care settings and a qualitative analysis of nursing home administrators' efforts to mitigate social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is interested in studying older women's health through a Life Course Framework and working with minority populations. Natalia is mentored by Kate Lapane, PhD and has research interests in women's health, aging, mixed methods research and working with minority populations.



Mary R. Lee, BS, MPH

Mary is mentored by Sarah Forrester, PhD, and has research interests in global health and preventing chronic diseases, health disparities, and disordered eating behaviors among vulnerable populations.



Nathaniel Glassy, ALM, CCRC

Nathaniel is mentored by [David A Smelson, PsyD](#). His research interests include understanding substance abuse and cooccurring mental health disorders, their impact across neurocognitive domains, relationship of cognitive rehabilitation to treatment outcomes, and research participation among underserved populations.



Hyein (Sarah) Lee

Hyein Sarah Lee is mentored by Apurv Soni, MD/PhD. Her research interests are in using digital tools and qualitative methods to understand mechanisms of suicidality, structural racism, and iatrogenic harm in mental healthcare.

Incoming MSCI Students



Adam Rosenblum

Adam Rosenblum is an assistant professor of medicine and cardiovascular unit medical director at UMass Chan Medical School’s regional campus. He received his bachelors in biology from the University of Tampa, received his medical degree from Nova Southeastern University, and served his internal medicine residency at Campbell University. His research focuses on optimizing treatment practice in cardiac electrophysiology and improving outcomes in preventative cardiology.



Alison Asirwatham

Alison Asirwatham is Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellow in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UMass Memorial Medical Center. She received a Bachelors in Biomedical Sciences from the University at Buffalo where she also received her Medical Degree. She then completed her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at UMass Chan Medical School. Her research interests include maternal cardiovascular disorders and improvements in surgical outcomes as well as medical education.



Inbar Plaut

Inbar Plaut is a fellow in Pediatric Emergency Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics. She received a Bachelor's degree in Materials Science and Engineering from MIT and a Doctor of Medicine degree from UMASS Chan Medical school. She completed her residency in Pediatrics at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. Her research interests include using machine learning to develop algorithms that standardize and improve care in the Pediatric Emergency department.



Joseph Tejan

Joseph Tejan is a T32 Research fellow in Cardiovascular Medicine. A native of Dallas Texas, he completed his undergraduate degree at Washington University in Saint Louis, then his medical degree at UT Southwestern medical center and completing his residency at Johns Hopkins Bayview. Dr. Tejan's research interests include biomedical devices and the integration of devices into patient's lives. He is working under the mentorship of Dr. McManus on digital health and device implementation for patients with cardiovascular disease.



Zachary Ballinger

Zachary Ballinger is a general surgery resident in the Department of Surgery at UMass Memorial Medical Center. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia, then received a Doctor of Medicine at New York Medical College. He is currently on two academic development years, where he will be working closely with the Department of Pediatric Surgery on a variety of clinical outcomes, injury prevention, and quality improvement projects.

Incoming PREP Students



Blanca Munoz Villarreal

Blanca earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology with Chemistry and Human Biology minors from Western Oregon University. As an undergraduate, she focused on her studies and volunteering as a medical interpreter for free clinics. She was a part of the 2019 ARCHES cohort where she was able to fuse her passion for public health and research to study diabetes and depression. Post graduation, Blanca has focused her time working as a social service provider to facilitate distribution of emergency rental and housing assistance to families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Blanca maintains her interest in research as a research volunteer for the Novel Interventions in Children's Healthcare (NICH) lab at the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). Blanca's interests fall within research implementation and analysis to understand health outcomes affecting underserved and under-resourced communities. Her goal is to become a Physician-Scientist.



Olachi Unaka

Olachi Unaka received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a Neuroscience sub-concentration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the Spring of 2023. As an undergraduate student, she worked in Dr. Linda Isbell's Affect and Social Cognition Lab where research focused on assessing populations suffering from substance abuse, and racial and mental health inequities in provider-patient care settings. Her undergraduate research journey also continued while working under Dr. Rebecca Ready in the Aging Cognition and Emotion Lab where research focused on concussion and analysis of disparities within literature relative to clinical neuropsychology. During the current PREP year, Olachi will work with Dr. Sarah Forrester in the Clinical and Population Health Research Pathway as her interests reflect clinical neuropsychological studies.

PQHS SHOUT OUT

Shout out!



Shoutout to [Feifan Liu PhD](#) for receiving an NIH R21 Award for project titled: *"Deep Certainty: Deep Learning for Contextual Diagnostic Uncertainty Measurement in Radiology Reports"*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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, September 13, 2023, 10:00-11:00AM

Introduction to Rapid Qualitative Methods Workshop - This workshop will give an overview of rapid qualitative methods, delve into the analytic process, and share examples and lessons learned from our team's work using these methods.

Presented by – Grace Ryan, PhD, MPH and Melissa Goulding PhD, MS

Click [here](#) to register, registration is required.





Thursday, September 28, 2023, 11:30AM-1:30PM in the lobby of the Medical School
Faculty Affairs Hosting Faculty Resource Fair: For an old-fashioned, in-person resource fair! Access essential information and make in-person contacts with offices that help support faculty endeavors and faculty advancement.



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.



**CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
 TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE**

MASS CHAN REMINDER



NIDDK has issued two RFAs seeking to solicit projects that will form a consortium aimed at using diverse data types to improve subclassification of T2D. These RFAs solicit projects that will make use of large and diverse U.S.-based cohorts with large number of individuals with T2D. More information can be found in the published RFAs here:

RFA-DK-23-019: Integration of Novel Measures for Improved Classification of Type 2 Diabetes

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-23-019.html>

RFA-DK-23-020: Integration of Novel Measures for Improved Classification of Type 2 Diabetes – Biostatistics Research Center

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-23-020.html>

The receipt date for these will be October 26, 2023.



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.