



Neuro News

The latest news from the Department of Neurology

August 2022

It has been a busy summer and hopefully everyone has had time to enjoy some time in the warm weather. One of the stalwarts of the Department of Neurology, Mary Rucho, is retiring after 38 years at UMass. Mary was instrumental in so many initiatives including Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification. Her attention to detail and focus on patient safety and quality of care are an example for all of us. We wish her all the best in her next journey.

The medical school has signed an agreement with Lahey Hospital, which will allow additional opportunities for training of UMass Chan students. We are excited about this opportunity in neurology as Lahey Hospital has a strong tradition in neurology.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy September.

Thanks,

Brian

Dr. Brian Silver, MD

Interim Chair, Department of Neurology

IN THE NEWS

Mary Rucho Retires



CONGRATULATIONS to our dearest Mary Rucho on your retirement!! A HUGE THANK YOU for all of your inspiring and essential work as our Stroke Coordinator for all these years! Mary Rucho NP is a UMass lifer obtaining her BS in Nursing from UMass Amherst and her MA at UMass Chan Medical School. She served as an ICU nurse at the University campus for many years and then assumed the role of Stroke Service NP and Coordinator. She is an Instructor on faculty in our department and provided stroke education to our attendings, fellows, residents, nurses, NP/PAs, patients and their families. She has overseen stroke operations and coordinated multidisciplinary care and led our efforts to obtain and maintain Gold Plus Awardee status from the American Heart/Stroke Association and she was instrumental in our Comprehensive Stroke Center Joint Commission designation. Most of all she has shown unrelenting dedication in providing compassionate and high quality care to our stroke patients for decades. Thank you for 38 years of service! Your example will continue to inspire us to do the best for our stroke patients long after your retirement! Best wishes from all of us!

UMass Chan Medical School and Lahey Hospital & Medical Center Sign Letter of Intent to Establish Regional Medical Campus



Pending the successful completion of discussions and a formal agreement to establish the regional campus, as well as approval by the Medical School's accrediting bodies, it is anticipated that the first UMass Chan-Lahey students would matriculate in the summer of 2024.

UMass Chan Medical School and Lahey Hospital & Medical Center (Lahey or LHMC), part of the Beth Israel Lahey Health system, announced that they have signed a nonbinding letter of intent to establish a regional campus of the commonwealth's only public medical school at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center in Burlington to help train, develop and support the next generation of health care leaders. If approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting body for medical schools in the United States and Canada, and the New England Commission of Higher Education, the regional campus of UMass Chan at Lahey Health would be the medical school's second regional campus in the commonwealth, joining the highly successful UMass Chan-Baystate regional campus in Springfield.

[Read More](#)

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New Bosco Lab website launches



The Bosco Lab launched their new website. Dr. Daryl A. Bosco's Lab is investigating the pathogenic mechanisms associated with neurodegenerative diseases, namely ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and frontotemporal dementia (FTD).

They use a multidisciplinary approach involving protein biochemistry, structural biology, human stem cell technology (to generate human motor neurons and human microglia), biophysics and mouse model systems for our investigations. Lab members are welcome to focus on one or multiple disciplines for

their research. Our projects are both basic-science and translationally oriented, as our ultimate goal is to translate our basic-research findings into therapies for these devastating diseases.

Please click the link below to visit the new site and bookmark it as well.

[Link to the new Bosco Lab website](#)



The 1st neuro oncology clinical trial for patients with recurrent glioblastoma has been activated. This is now open to enrollment. Please share with any patients with this diagnosis.

In summary this is for glioblastoma patients (IDHwt) who have evidence of progression of disease (1st recurrence) and who are at least 3 months out from completion of chemoRT. Below is schema.

First recurrence of glioblastoma after frontline therapy

Surgical resection NOT clinically indicated

↓

Tocilizumab*

-or-

Atezolizumab + Tocilizumab

↓

Fractionated Stereotactic Radiotherapy (FSRT)

(3-7 days after dosing)

↓

(starting 4 weeks from first dose)*

Tocilizumab every 4 weeks x 2 years

-or-

Atezolizumab + Tocilizumab every 4 weeks x 2 years

[Click here for more information about the clinical trial](#)

IN RECOGNITION

Neurology Articles published:

- **Dr. Daryl A. Bosco**, [*Human Microglia-like Cells: Differentiation from Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells and In Vitro Live-cell Phagocytosis Assay using Human Synaptosomes*](#)
- **Dr. Jennifer A. Moon & Dr. Jeanne B. Lawrence**, [*Chromosome silencing in vitro reveals trisomy 21 causes cell-autonomous deficits in angiogenesis and early dysregulation in Notch signaling*](#)

To learn more, click
here

WELCOME TO THE NEUROLOGY DEPARTMENT



We'd like to announce new members to the Neurology Department.

They include Anna Duda, an undergraduate intern and **Dr. Rakhee Lalla**, who is specializing in psychiatry and neurology.

Welcome to the team!

UMASS CHAN UPDATES

Worcester Pride events start Sept. 1



UMass Chan will have a table in Vendor Slot E at the intersection of Franklin and Portland Streets, against the Worcester Common.

For a full list of events, [click here](#).

Neurohumanities Session announced

This September's **Neurohumanities** Session will be on **September 8th** at **noon** and will be on **Mindful Medical Practice** and be given by **Tina Runyan PhD ABPP**. Dr. Runyan is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at UMASS Chan Medical School and Co-founder of Tend Health which is a company that focuses on mental health care for health professionals.

To learn more here is the link: <https://tend.health>. She has been active in research, writing, developing and implementing education, training and policies to promote clinician well-being. Dr. Runyan is one of the pillars of our Neurohumanities curriculum and has been invaluable in providing support to our department and residency program in times of



Faculty Care Program scheduled



This September's **Faculty Care Program** session will be on **September 15th** at **noon**. It will be a session on **Promotion 101: Nuts and Bolts** and given by **Susanne Muehlschlegel MD MPH**. Dr. Muehlschlegel is a Professor of Neurology, Anesthesiology and Surgery, Director of the Junior Faculty Development Program, and Director for Neurocritical Research. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Neurocritical Care Society, and on several committees (Women in Neurocritical Care, Research fellowship grant taskforce committee, Research committee, and Chaired the NCS Annual Meeting "Fun Run for Research" Committee.

For several years she was councilor of the *Critical Care and Emergency Neurology Section of the American Academy of Neurology* and also served on its Executive Committee and is an active participant in the AAN Women in Neurology Leadership Program. Susanne has been an essential contributor to our Faculty Care Program not only for the great sessions she gives but also in providing valuable input for the program curriculum.

PhD Horticulture program at Tower Hill

The UMass Memorial Movement Disorders program and the New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill are offering a horticultural session on **Sept 24 at 10:30 a.m.** This program will include both theoretical and hands-on experience.

Join us for this new program, which was developed specifically for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Participants will learn about how they can make gardening a part of their lives-- and create a beautiful fall planter for their home that features sensory-rich plant materials with gorgeous autumn colors and amazing textures and fragrances.



To register and learn more, [click here](#).

Save the Date

Upcoming Neurology Events

4th Annual UMass Chan Department of Neurology Clinical & Research Update Program

Friday, November 11th, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 12th, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

4th Annual UMass Multiple Sclerosis Center Clinical & Research Update Symposium

Friday, December 9th, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Details to follow



Faculty Search: Longitudinal Preceptor in Medicine

The Third Year Clerkship in Medicine is seeking faculty for a **Longitudinal Preceptor in Medicine**. Descriptions of the position can be found below. If you have interest in a position or wish to nominate a colleague for consideration for the position, please submit a CV and a brief statement of interest to **Ms. Sara Jacques**. Please direct any specific questions about the role to **Dr. Nancy Skehan**.

The **Longitudinal Preceptor in Medicine (LPM)** is a faculty member who serves as mentor to a small cohort of students during their clerkship rotation. They are asked to do the following:

- Conduct at least ten 2-hour meetings per 15-week Care of Adult block with assigned LPM group,

- reviewing on-line modules, EKG interpretation, and case presentations
 - Conduct a mid-clerkship review of each student's performance
 - Review student written histories and physicals and give timely feedback to students
 - Conduct Physical Diagnosis rounds with students at least 3 of their 4 weeks on the inpatient service
 - Precept OSCE
 - Prepare grades for each student in assigned LPM group and attend Grading Committee meetings
 - Provide academic support and mentoring to struggling students within the group
-

**Grand Rounds
Department of Medicine**

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Time: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Terry Flotte, MD

Dean, T.H. Chan School of Medicine

Title: TBA

Save the Date for the Department of Medicine Town Hall

Monday, September 26, 2022

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

**[https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/96301136385?
pwd=cHBnbXQ4Q2F2UHU3dmloRoFyWnIzUT09](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/96301136385?pwd=cHBnbXQ4Q2F2UHU3dmloRoFyWnIzUT09)**

Save the Date for the Department of Medicine Research Faculty Meeting

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Zoom link and agenda will be posted closer to the date of the meeting.

[DOM Calendar](#)

[Grand Rounds
Archives](#)

UMASS MEMORIAL HEALTH UPDATES

UMass Memorial Health Nominated for Best of Central Massachusetts Awards

UMass Memorial Health would like to inform patients and caregivers about the opportunities to receive free at-home COVID-19 tests that will be mailed by the federal government. Learn more about how to receive yours at the link below.



[Learn More](#)

Please Submit Your COVID-19 Booster Status

To better understand the need for more booster clinics and to comply with a federal regulation that requires us to document and report on the booster status of all health care workers, we are asking all caregivers who received a booster shot outside of UMass Memorial Health to submit appropriate documentation. Please submit a picture of your vaccination card to the following inbox, depending on the entity where you work:

Entity	Email
Medical Center, Medical Group, Division 40	employee_health_covid-19_mailbox@umassmemorial.org
Community Healthlink	chlemployeehealth@communityhealthlink.org
HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital	HA-C_EmployeeHealthServices@umassmemorial.org
Marlborough Hospital	medworks@umassmemorial.org

In the next few days, this message will be translated into Albanian, Portuguese, Spanish and Twi. You will be able to find those translations on [the Hub](#) soon.

NOW HIRING

The Brown Lab is hiring multiple positions. They include:

- [Research Associate \(2022-41592\)](#)
- [Research Associate \(2022-41594\)](#)
- [Research Associate \(2022-41532\)](#)

The Neurology Department is hiring. We're offering a \$2,000 sign on bonus for all positions. Click the links below to apply and share.

- [Research Scientist, Sr.](#)
- [Research Associate](#)
- [Research Associate I](#)

We are seeking a highly motivated and goal-oriented individual to join our gene therapy lab in learning and working with cutting edge vector research and development to treat neurodegenerative diseases affecting children and adults. The candidate, under the direction of Dr. Miguel Sena-Esteves, and working as part of the Li Weibo Institute for Rare Diseases Research and the Horae Gene Therapy Center, will be working to develop gene editing methods to inactivate or correct the disease-causing version of the genes at the DNA level. Our lab is currently researching Neurofibromatosis type I, GNAO1, TNNT1 nemaline myopathy, as well as Dravet Syndrome and Diffuse intrinsic pontine gliomas, among others. The Research Associate will work closely and interact with other lab members to design and execute in-vitro and in-vivo experiments testing the toxicity and biodistribution of new vectors. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in molecular biology, including PCR, Western Blots, and tissue culture, as well as have strong record keeping and organizational skills.

The Neurology Department is also hiring the following positions. To learn more and to apply, click the link below.

- [Neurologist specializing in Headache](#)
- [Neurologist specializing in Epilepsy](#)
- [Neurologist specializing in Movement Disorders](#)

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWS

UMass Chan medical student serves as advocate, role model for LGBTQIA+ patients



Theo Eldore, a member of the T.H. Chan School of Medicine Class of 2024, was on his family medicine rotation when he realized the profound impact he could have as a pediatrics or internal medicine-pediatrics clinician. It happened during a meeting with a 15-year-old patient.

“He acknowledged the rainbow badge that I had. And he spoke to me about being gay and how important it was for him to see somebody who was proud and open and who was a safe space,” said Eldore, a member of the UMass Chan chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. “And I think that there is the possibility to be the only person that a child has in their life who is a safe space and who can support them and give them the information and resources they need in order to not just make healthy choices, but to embrace themselves and become who they are fully without that shame and without that fear. And that’s the role that I would love to play in somebody’s life.”

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Diversity events at UMass Chan

10th Annual LGBT Convocation Welcome Celebration

The guest speaker for this virtual event, **David G. Zelaya, PhD**, (he/him/él), is an assistant professor of behavioral and social sciences at Brown University and a research fellow at Harvard University. Dr. Zelaya's research focuses on examining health disparities among Black, indigenous, and people of color; and sexual and gender minority communities and links to HIV risk; mental health; and substance use. Clinically, he is interested in providing culturally competent behavioral health services to historically underserved communities.

Sept. 12, 3 p.m.

[Register for the LGBT Convocation Welcome Celebration](#)

Foundation workshops at UMass Chan

UMass Chan Medical School is committed to creating an inclusive and equitable learning and work environment. The Diversity and Inclusion Office's training program conducts high-impact diversity, equity and inclusion workshops that utilize innovative instructional design to support DEI professional development and capacity-building efforts across UMass Chan Medical School. The foundations workshops are intended for staff, faculty and learners of all levels to provide a foundation in DEI to support building more advanced skills.

Inclusive Communication: The Language of Belonging

In this interactive virtual workshop, we will review common terminology and concepts used in diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and examine how we can promote inclusion and belonging through intentional language and communication.

Sept. 6, noon

[Register](#)

Addressing Unconscious Bias at UMass Chan

In this interactive virtual workshop, we will explore how unconscious bias impacts our relationships, decision making and experiences. By the end of the workshop, you will identify strategies to mitigate biases in your interactions, increase self-awareness and foster inclusive practices at UMass Chan Medical School.

Sept. 13, noon

[Register](#)

[Register for any of our 2022 workshops](#)

CAMPUS LEARNING

Professional Staff Development Website & Calendar

[Professional Staff](#)

[Professional Staff](#)

Development website
Calendar

Development website
Registration

Professional Staff
Development website
homepage

Email the UMass Chan
Helpdesk for LMS SSO
Support

LET'S GET SOCIAL

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