

## Neuro News

The latest news from the Department of Neurology

June 2022

Summer is now in full swing and we are now looking forward to vacations and spending time with family and friends.

In this month's newsletter, we celebrate the inaugural Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Chairs, including Dr. Robert Brown in neurology who has contributed tremendously to the understanding of the genetics of motor neuron disease and other related disorders and is now leading first in human gene trials for these devastating diseases. That this research is part of the fabric of UMass is testament to the commitment of improving the lives of patients through excellent clinical care and research. The newsletter also highlights a new research study in glioblastoma multiforme, a malignant brain tumor with a median survival of less than 2 years.

Dr. David Cachia, who recently joined UMass will be leading an important trial, which seeks to extend survival and quality of life.

Finally, we also celebrate Pride Month and the many patients and caregivers from the LGBTQ+ members in our UMass family.

Wishing everyone a health and happy summer.

Thanks,

Brian

**Dr. Brian Silver, MD**

*Interim Chair, Department of Neurology*

**IN THE NEWS**

## Inaugural Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Chairs celebrated at special investiture ceremony



UMass Chan Medical School celebrated in a special investiture ceremony on June 22 the \$5 million gift of UMass Lowell alumni Donna and Robert Manning, which established Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Chairs in neurosciences, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, nursing, and biomedical sciences.

Speaking of the accomplished scholars being honored, UMass President Marty Meehan said: “We are so lucky to have them at the Medical School, the accomplishments of innovation leaders who have dedicated themselves to educating others.”

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## Tracy Kedian appointed T.H. Chan School of Medicine associate dean for admissions

Tracy Kedian, MD, has been appointed the new associate dean for admissions for the T.H. Chan School of Medicine, according to an announcement by Terence R. Flotte, MD, the Celia and Isaac Haidak Professor, executive deputy chancellor, provost and dean of the T.H. Chan School of Medicine; and Anne Larkin, MD, associate professor of surgery and vice provost for educational affairs.

Dr. Kedian, professor of family medicine & community health, is a graduate of the Medical School and completed her residency training here in the Department of Family Medicine & Community Health as well. She joined the faculty in 2001 and has been deeply involved in



education since.

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## UMass Chan infectious disease expert shares outlook on virus, vaccines and treatment



More than two years since the COVID-19 global pandemic began, the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues its rampage through rapidly evolving mutations and gaps in population immunity. But the outlook for managing COVID-19 is brighter than in those first dark days of 2020, according to infectious disease specialist Richard T. Ellison III, MD, professor of medicine and hospital epidemiologist at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

“We’re in a very good point in that most people in the United States have now been vaccinated or may have actually had COVID before, so there is a lot of immunity to serious disease,” Dr. Ellison said.

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The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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-

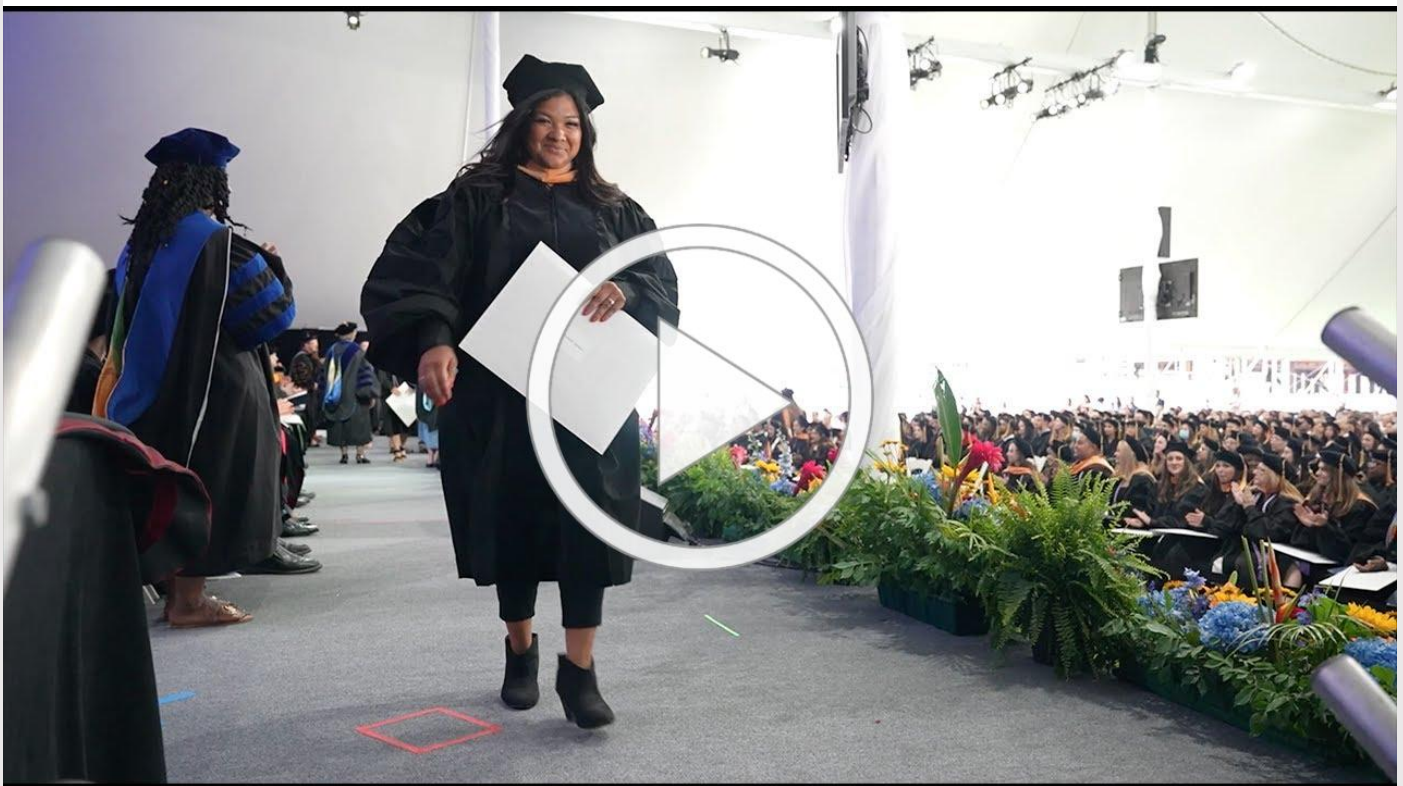
Atezolizumab + Tocilizumab every 4 weeks x 2 years

Click here for more information about the clinical trial

## IN RECOGNITION

### UMass Chan salutes grads at 2022 Commencement

UMass Chan Medical School held its 49th Commencement on Sunday, June 5, on the campus green in Worcester to recognize the Classes of 2022 from the T.H. Chan School of Medicine, Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing. Read more about the ceremony [here](#).



WELCOME TO THE NEUROLOGY DEPARTMENT



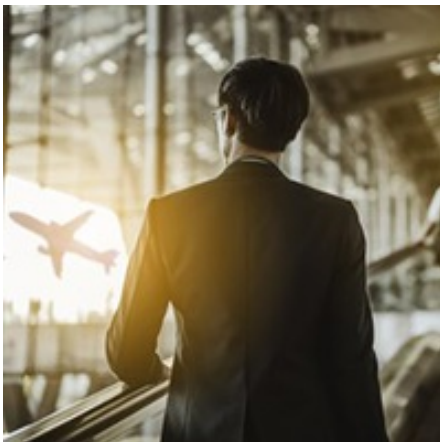
# Welcome TO THE TEAM

The Neurology Department would also like to welcome Jianjun Zhong as a post doc associate, Paromita Das as a post doc associate, Tyler Mola as a research associate and Julie Aguiar as a research associate.

Welcome to the team!

## UMASS CHAN UPDATES

### New Standard Mileage Rate



Please note the midyear mileage rate change for 2022. UPST will be updating the system to reflect this as of July 1, 2022.

[Learn  
More](#)

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### **Updated Mask Guidance:**

Per the UMass Chan email communication regarding immediate reinstatement of indoor masking policy; all school buildings will be requiring masks for all individuals who enter these buildings for common areas/spaces. Mask are located at the main entrance and signage will be placed in common areas.

If you are not feeling well, please do not come to campus and consult your health care provider as needed. Our campus guidelines regarding what to do if you have COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 can be found at [this link](#).

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### **New ID badges for everyone at UMass Chan Medical School:**

UMass Chan is initiating the process of issuing new ID badges to all employees, residents and students. The new badges reflect our new name and will help improve campus security.

Employees in each department will be notified when it is their turn to schedule an appointment to visit the UMass Chan Parking Office, located in the Michaelson Conference Room on the first level of the Lazare Research Building. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Each appointment is expected to take 10 minutes or less, and will consist of four steps:

- A new ID photo will be taken;
- Employees will be asked to update their information (address, phone, and their vehicle's make, model and license plate number);
- The old ID badge will be surrendered to the Parking Office, deactivated, and recycled; and
- A new ID badge will be issued.

Employees who are working remotely may wait until they return to campus to schedule an appointment for a new badge.

Employees located at South Street have the option of scheduling an appointment at the University campus Parking Office, as detailed above, or they may choose to send an email to [parking@umassmed.edu](mailto:parking@umassmed.edu) with a new photo and the requested information (address, phone and vehicle information). New badges will then be produced and delivered on a weekly basis to the South Street campus, where employees may turn in their old badges and obtain their new badges by visiting the security desk located in the main lobby. Employees based at South Street should not email the Parking Office until they receive an email prompting them to do so.

We anticipate this project will take several months and appreciate your patience and cooperation.

## **UMASS MEMORIAL HEALTH UPDATES**

### **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	<a href="mailto:employee_health_covid-19_mailbox@umassmemorial.org">employee_health_covid-19_mailbox@umassmemorial.org</a>
Community Healthlink	<a href="mailto:chemployeehealth@communityhealthlink.org">chemployeehealth@communityhealthlink.org</a>
HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital	<a href="mailto:HA-C_EmployeeHealthServices@umassmemorial.org">HA-C_EmployeeHealthServices@umassmemorial.org</a>
Marlborough Hospital	<a href="mailto:medworks@umassmemorial.org">medworks@umassmemorial.org</a>

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 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

### Diversity and Inclusion Office events focus on families for Pride Month



# Celebrating Pride Month

JUNE 2022

UMass Chan Medical School will recognize Pride Month with events on June 28 and 29 that focus on the experiences of LGBTQ families as they navigate the health care system and work as members of it.

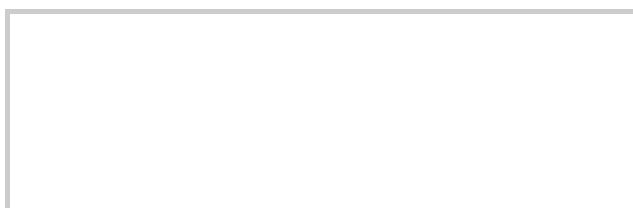
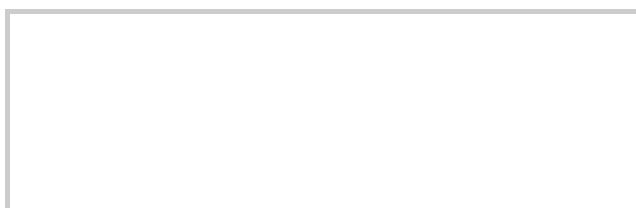
Fighting for our families: A community-placed study of LGBTQ+ childbearing hardships, harms and hope for a brighter future will be presented on Tuesday, June 28, at noon by Kodiak Soled, PhD, vice president of the Lesbian Health Fund at GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality and a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute. She will share stories of LGBTQ+ family-building experiences and cover the importance of conducting research in partnership with communities.

[Read More](#)

## Pride Month Profiles



**Jorge Sanchez Jr.**, MEd, inaugural program director for diversity and inclusion at Commonwealth Medicine (CWM) and a member of the UMass Chan Diversity and Inclusion Office, provides leadership, management, development and coordination of diversity programming for CWM. He also collaborates with the DIO and other partners to integrate and align diversity, equity and inclusion into the strategic plans for CWM and supports initiatives to advance UMass Chan Medical School's university-level plan (IMPACT 2025) in meeting its DEI goals. Sanchez is a sponsor of the CWM Cultural Diversity Committee, a member of the LBGTBA and Colorful Voices affinity groups and the UMass Chan Committee on Equal Opportunity and Diversity. He is a two-time recipient of the Commonwealth's Annual Performance Recognition Award and received the Chancellor's Award for Advancing Institutional Excellence in Diversity in 2017.







**Matthew Hemberger**, associate director of benefit enrollment and coordination within Health Care Finance Solutions at Commonwealth Medicine, has been with UMass Chan for 15 years. Hemberger oversees several third-party liability programs at Commonwealth Medicine, which collectively save the commonwealth more than \$150 million annually while supporting vulnerable members of the community in accessing coverage for medical care. Hemberger has more than 20 years of health and human services program management and operations experience and has been honored with the commonwealth's Annual Performance Recognition Award (team award) and the Autism Insurance Resource Center Champion Award.



**Steven Wooden** works as a fraud investigator at UMass Chan. His job entails analyzing MassHealth provider claims activity and helping prevent fraud, waste and abuse of MassHealth resources. He works with the Invest in Employees Strategic Planning Workgroup at Commonwealth Medicine and is part of the subgroup that has developed the Above & Beyond award with specific efforts in ensuring a diverse nomination and review process that incorporates DEI into the evaluation process and includes a review process that is void of identifiers. Wooden has worked in Community Outreach with the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod and has volunteered for the Fenway Health Hotline providing support to the Boston LGBTQIA community.

## 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.

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

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## Upcoming Events

Have you seen *Heartstopper* on Netflix? Many members of the UMass Chan LGBTQA affinity group

think that the series was very inclusive and had heartfelt representations of the queer communities. Whether you watched the show or not, join the group in discussing *Heartstopper*, the importance of representation in media and the impact of such representation on your life.

June 30, noon

[Zoom](#)

Password: 744940

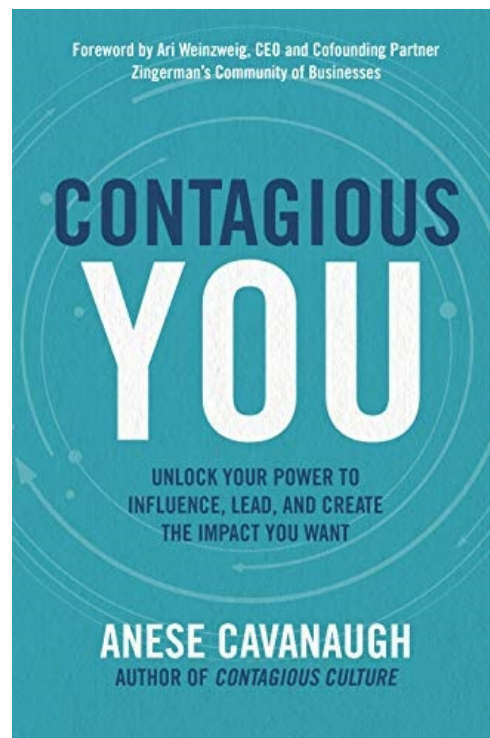
## CAMPUS LEARNING

### HR Learning and Development Virtual Book Club Take Learning to the Next Level, One Book at a Time

We are pleased to bring you the second book for the HR Learning and Development Book Club Series: *Contagious You* by Anese Cavanaugh.

Are you seeking to create change within yourself or those around you? This book is for you!

In *Contagious You*, Anese Cavanaugh shows us how to walk the path of more effective leadership while navigating roadblocks like unrealistic expectations or the general "busyness" of life and its excessive demands. Showing how each of us is contagious in our own way, she stresses the importance of leading with intention to achieve positive results. This book will take you on a journey how to collaborate effectively, influence others, and create the impact you desire in all parts of your life. Your intentions, energy, and presence impact your ability to achieve the goals you have set for yourself, and this book can help you do just that.



*Contagious You* is an invitation to UNLOCK your power to succeed. We invite you to join us on Zoom as we hold our virtual roundtable book club discussion **July 25, 2022, from 2 to 3 p.m., when we will explore parts 3 through 5 of the book *Contagious You*.**

[Click here to access the discussion questions for parts 3 through 5](#)

### How to Get the Book

You can access the *Contagious You* book in the **UMass Chan Learning Management System (LMS)** by clicking on the button below. You have access to both the online book or the audio version. The book summary is also available to you. Please select the book version that best fits your reading preferences.

#### Access Book

[\\*Click here to access the](#)

#### LMS Registration Support

[Click here to send an email to the](#)

"Contagious You" book in the LMS (book version).

UMass Chan Helpdesk for LMS Single Sign-On (SSO) Support.

\*Click here to access the "Contagious You" AUDIO book in the LMS (audio version).

Click here to submit a UMass Chan Helpdesk ticket for LMS Single Sign-On (SSO) Support.

\*Access the "Contagious You" BOOK SUMMARY in the LMS (book summary).

NEED HELP? If you need help registering for the live Zoom Book Club event, click here.

*\*When you attempt to click on a LMS course or book registration link in the beginning of the day, you may be brought directly to the LMS Learner Dashboard page versus directly to the LMS course or book page. Once logged into LMS, click the course or book registration link again and that will navigate you directly to the LMS course or book page. Click start this course.*

## LET'S GET SOCIAL

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