

Weekly Newsletter January 30 – February 3, 2023

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENT



Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 2:00PM

PQHS Teatime: We are excited to announce that we will start to host tea times again! (We are excited to announce that Teatime will resume next month.

Teatime is meant to be a time to meet up with old/new members of PQHS to converse and see friendly faces. They (It) will take place monthly instead of weekly and is completely voluntary. We are proposing the first week of the month; the first will be Thursday, February 2 at 2 PM. If your team is scheduled to be on campus a different day, feel free to move the day. We will meet on the 9th floor outside of the large conference room, AS9-2072.

Monday, March 20, 2023, at 12:00PM

Location: Faculty Conference Room

PQHS Annual State of the Department: All Students, Faculty and Staff are invited and encouraged to attend the PQHS Annual State of the Department meeting. Come hear all the exciting things happening in PQHS. Dean Flotte and Chancellor Collins will address the department. This is an in-person only event, zooming is not an option and will not be recorded. Slides will be provided following the meeting.



Lunch will be provided. Please click the link below to RSVP **whether or not you plan to attend (yes or no)**. If you answer yes, a link is provided to add the event to your Outlook calendar. **Please reply by Friday, March 3rd.**

<https://arcsapps.umassmed.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=X3JNCMAHRL>

THIS WEEK IN PQHS & UMMS

Revised NSF Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support Formats - Now Available in SciENcv and on the NSF Website: NSF implemented revised versions of the [Biographical Sketch](#) and [Current and Pending \(Other\) Support](#) formats for consistency with the *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 23-1)*. The requirement to use the revised formats is effective for proposals submitted or **due on or after January 30, 2023**. These revised formats are now available in [SciENcv](#) and on the [NSF Policy Office website](#). As a reminder, the mandate to use SciENcv only for preparation of these senior personnel documents will go into effect for new proposals submitted or **due on or after October 23, 2023**.

Data Management and Sharing Policy (DMSP)

NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy

RMS Process for the DMSP

Downloading & Refreshing Funding Opportunities

Resources for the Data Management Sharing Plan: have posted information and guidance on the implementation of the Data Management Sharing Plan (DMSP) that goes into effect with the use of FORMS H for any application that is being submitted to the NIH on or after January 25th 2023. Please go to the following link:

<https://umassmed.sharepoint.com/sites/gca/rms/SitePages/UMASS-Medical-School.aspx>

The DMSP guides can be found in the lower right-hand side of the home page.

REQUIRED IT Security and Privacy Training: With the new year upon us, I want to remind everyone to complete the required Information Security and Privacy training. The 25-minute training module teaches users how to identify and prevent cyberattacks, reinforcing knowledge that applies to the use of technology at work and at home.

This annual training is mandatory without exception for all members of the UMass Chan community.

If you have not already completed the training, please log onto the [Information Security and Privacy training](#) portal (provided by InfoSecInstitute.com) and complete the training as soon as possible.

WELCOME



[Crista Johnson-Agbakwu, MD, MSc, FCOG](#), Executive Director, Health Equity Collaborative joins PQHS February 1, 2023. Dr. Crista Johnson-Agbakwu, an Obstetrician/Gynecologist at Valleywise Health (VH), is Founding Director of the Refugee Women’s Health Clinic (RWHC), and Director of the Office of Refugee Health in the Southwest Interdisciplinary Center at Arizona State University. Her research focuses on investigating strategies to advance sexual and reproductive health equity for migrant women of color, with the aim of improving health care access and utilization, sexual and reproductive health education, counseling, community engagement, as well as enhance health care provider cultural competency. She will be located on the 6th floor (AS6-2071). Please welcome Crista to PQHS!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course in Clinical Trials – Spring, 2023

Are you ready to take your molecule or intervention to the next phase of research? The University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMCMS) Graduate School of Biomedical Science is offering a course in Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials (CTS 609) in the Spring Semester 2023 (January 17 - May 5). This course is open to all UMCMS research and clinical faculty, staff, students, as well as researchers external to UMCMS.



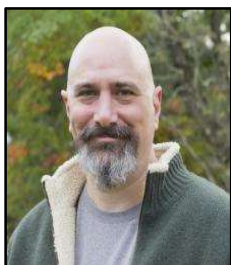
Description: The course is intended for the research scientist. The goal is to sharpen the methodological skills required in designing experimental studies for clinical investigators. The course will cover theoretical and practical methods in designing and implementing clinical trials, emphasizing design implications, developing individual study protocols, and addressing questions of importance in a feasible manner. The course emphasizes the design of intervention studies to achieve specific research objectives by selecting appropriate study samples, endpoints, and trial designs. It will cover not only the basics of clinical trials, including reviews/critiques of major clinical trials, but also new developments in trial design (e.g., stepped wedge designs, adaptive designs, integrated Phase I/II and II/III designs), randomization strategies (e.g., covariate-adjusted randomizations), and trial conduct (e.g., risk-based monitoring, consent processes, difficult environments).

Dates: January 18 through May 3, 2023, no class on March 15 – Spring Break

Times: Wednesdays, 8:00 – 10:00 AM for live lectures, article reviews, and discussions

Location: Zoom

Lecturer: [Dr. Bruce Barton](#), Professor in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, is a biostatistician with over 45 years of experience in randomized clinical trials and has served as the Principal Investigator / Director of Data Coordinating Centers for 38 major clinical trials across all phases. Interested researchers should contact Dr. Barton (bruce.barton@umassmed.edu) for further information about the course content. Information on how to register for the course can be found at <https://www.umassmed.edu/gsbs/academic-student-affairs/registration/>.



Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 10 AM

UMass Chan Center for Clinical & Translational Science Workshop: “Effective Communication of Risk and Uncertainty with Non-Experts” presented by [Justin Gross, PhD](#), who is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as well as a core faculty member of the UMass Amherst Computational Social Science Institute (CSSI). Participants will learn about challenges and opportunities with respect to effective communication of risk and uncertainty, including conveyance of probabilistic information, distinguishing between absolute and related risk, and understanding how peoples’ perceptions of uncertainty may depend on what is at stake. The focus will be on how to communicate risk and uncertainty more effectively with non-experts,

including the use of visual techniques and analogies to improve understanding and uptake of information. **[Registration is required](#)**. **Real-time captioning will be provided.**

February 1-2, 2023

NIH Grants Conference & Precon Events

Are you new to NIH grants and looking to better understand the processes and policies behind NIH funding? Or are you experienced and want to brush up on the latest policies and information? Consider this your personal invitation to the [2023 NIH Grants Conference](#), a free and virtual event on February 1-2, 2023. During this 2-day live event, NIH and HHS experts will share policies, resources, guidance, and case studies in informative and engaging sessions.

[Registration](#) is free and includes your personal “All Access Pass” to the virtual [NIH Grants Conference 2022-2023 season](#). Once registered and logged into the conference site, you are free to explore the 2-day agenda, on-demand library of related resources, and create your personal schedule.



March 22, 2023, at 12PM

Special Seminar: “Improving Cancer Health Equity in Rural Settings through Participatory Implementation Science” presented by Melinda M. Davis, PhD, M.C.R., is Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, Interim Director of the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network and Co-Director of the OCTRI Community and Collaboration Core at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). Dr. Davis is a participatory implementation scientist who collaborates with patient, community, and health system partners to adapt and implement interventions to improve health equity in rural and low resourced settings.

Dr. Davis conducts her work in ORPRN, often in partnership with the Community Health Advocacy and Research Alliance (CHARA), Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), and other state and national partners. Dr. Davis leads a portfolio of research and technical assistance contracts funded by the National Cancer Institute, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, American Cancer Society, and National Institute of Minority Health & Health Disparities.

Click this [link](#) to register for the webinar.

Separately, we will host Career Development Workshop with Dr. Davis for early-career researchers on **March 23rd, 2023**, from noon to 1 pm. **Click this [link](#) to register for the Workshop.**

This workshop is mainly for early career researchers and junior faculty.

However, anybody is welcome.

Monday, April 3, 2023, at 12 PM

Rigor and Reproducibility Seminar: “Sharing Confidential and Sensitive Data?” presented by [George Alter, PhD](#), Research Professor Emeritus with the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Dr. Alter’s research integrates theory and methods from demography, economics, and family history with historical sources to understand demographic behaviors in the past. From 2007 to 2016, Alter was Director of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, the world’s largest archive of social science data, and he is a past president of the Social Science History Association. He has been active in international efforts to promote research transparency, data sharing, and secure access to confidential research data. He is currently engaged in projects to create FAIR vocabularies in population research, to automate the capture of metadata from statistical analysis software, and to compare fertility transitions in contemporary and historical populations. This seminar is given jointly by the UMass Chan Medical School Population & Quantitative Health Sciences, and UMass Boston Gerontology Department and Gerontology Institute. **Click this [link](#) to join the ZOOM presentation; password: 468880.**



Postdoctoral Training is starting now and in August 2023. The [PRACCTIS program \(Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change in Individuals and Systems\)](#) at UMass Chan Medical School is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars. Funding is available starting now and in August 2023 for fellowships in three specialty areas:

[Cancer Prevention and Control](#)

[Health Communication](#)

[Tobacco and Digital Health Research](#)

We train independent researchers to address critical prevention and control care delivery issues across the cancer continuum, including primary prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. Emphasis is on promoting change in individuals, providers and systems. Our faculty mentors are leaders in health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, health informatics, systems change and health policy, health communications, population

health sciences, implementation science, and prevention and intervention research. Applicants must plan to pursue an independent research career focused on cancer prevention and control, have earned a doctoral degree (PhD, ScD, MD, DO, etc.), and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. PRACCTIS is a T32 training program funded by NCI. For more information contact [Barbara Estabrook](#).

Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 Training Program - now accepting applications for pre-and post-doctoral trainees. In collaboration with the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS) has established a NHLBI-funded T32 program with the aim of producing a new generation of investigators who have the enthusiasm, knowledge, and skills to make meaningful contributions to cardiovascular research across the translational spectrum. Directed by Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD (PQHS) and Kevin Donahue, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), the program is truly transdisciplinary, with investigators working together to expand knowledge beyond discipline-based concepts, theories, and methods. Please see the attached flyer for more information on eligibility and how to apply.

FUNDING REMINDERS

The Herman G. Berkman Diabetes Clinical Innovation Fund is accepting grant abstracts through February 28th. The annual award supports the development of clinical care initiatives that would not normally find funding through research grant programs. You'll find the eligibility guidelines, grant application, and learn about past awarded projects [HERE](#).

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke: [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis \(ALS\) Intermediate Patient Population Expanded Access \(U01 Clinical Trial Required\)](#). NINDS intends to commit up to \$75 million in FY 2023 to fund 3-5 awards in support of the conduct of scientific research utilizing data from expanded access for investigational drugs or biological products. These applications will target expanded access for intermediate size populations of patients living with ALS who are not eligible for ongoing clinical trials for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment or cure of ALS. The maximum project period is 4 years. The opportunity will open on Feb. 23, 2023, and **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 23, 2023, AT 5 P.M. LOCAL TIME OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION.**

For additional information, please refer to [the RFA](#) posted on the NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information (Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: RFA-NS-23-012).

2023 King Trust Fellowship Program: Health Resources in Action has recently launched the 2023 cycle of the Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Award Program. In recognition of additional support needed to help researchers achieve their independence, we have increased the award amount to include stipend, fringe, and a flexible expense allowance. We encourage you to disseminate this opportunity to eligible faculty, clinicians, and postdoctoral researchers. Join us for the King Trust Fellowship Office House ([Register here](#)), to be held on Thursday, January 19, 2023 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This informational session will be used to give applicants and institutional officers an overview of the program and answer any general questions about the program.

UMASS 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) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.