

Weekly Newsletter April 22-26, 2024

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, April 24 – 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Research Meeting – Title: The Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on Crime and Incarceration in the US

Presenter: David Swedler, PhD.

Bio: Dr. David Swedler is a Senior Healthcare Research Analyst with ForHealth Consulting at UMass Medical School, where he is embedded with the MassHealth state Medicaid agency. His work at MassHealth has focused on statistical methods and health disparities analysis. Prior to coming to ForHealth in 2023, he spent 6 years as a methodologist at the non-profit Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, and 2-and-a-half years as reach faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. He has an MPH in Epidemiology from Michigan, a PhD in Health Policy from Johns Hopkins, and did a postdoc in Occupational Epidemiology at Harvard.

Brief Description: This analysis is from work that we did at PIRE for the plaintiffs on the national opioid litigation. My coauthors, Ted Miller and Mark Cohen, have decades of research on the costs of crime in the US. We sought to apply data on opioid drug distribution and overdose deaths to established methods of analyzing crime and incarceration at the state-level over time. While the results are interesting in and of themselves – we find a significant amount of property crime, violent crime, and prison and jail inmates are associated with the opioid epidemic – this project involved a few advanced methods worth discussing in a research forum. In particular, I am going to talk about how we identified “missed” opioid overdoses, how we allocated fentanyl deaths by licit and illicit origin, and the creation of a counterfactual version of the states to assess how big the impact of opioids on crime and incarceration was. This project was very broad, so I will leave time to discuss any implications you’d want to raise.

Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 937 1668 5400 password: 492717

PQHS SHOUTOUT



Congratulations to [Feifan Liu, PhD](#) for receiving an NIH R01 award for “*A12Equity: AI Integrating Social Determinants of Health to Advance Health Equity in Cardiovascular Risk Prediction*”

PQHS HAPPENINGS



Sign up to have lunch with the Chair & Vice Chair! There are still slots available to pick from. Lunch with the Chair and Vice Chair sign ups are first come first serve for 3 Faculty Members and 3 Staff Members each month to have a nice catered meal and to talk about anything, but *NO WORK TALK*. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up for the date that works for you. Thank you!

Click [here](#) to sign up!

Next Lunch will be on May 29th, Sign up today!

Slots Still Available!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**UMass Boston Department of Gerontology & Gerontology Institute
Present Proseminar Speaker Series Spring 2024**

Thursday, April 25, 2024
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
via [Zoom](#)

Sarah Forrester, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School
Stress, Depression, and Age Acceleration: Why Time Matters in Black Health

Monday, May 2, 2024
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
via [Zoom](#)

Chantel Pheiffer, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Public Health,
University of Massachusetts Boston
Migration and Population Health: Insights from South Africa

via Zoom: <https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94175483404> Password: Boston
For more information contact Jaqueline Contrera Avila: Jaqueline.Avila@umb.edu



Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 3:00PM – AS8.2072 & Zoom
Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Masters in Clinical Investigation Program
Announces the MSCI Dissertation Defense of Justin Rucci ***“Variation in Depth of Sedation Targeted and Achieved Among Mechanically Ventilated Patients and Associated Outcomes”***
Click [here](#) to join. Password: 043090

UMASS CHAN REMINDER



Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 12:00-3:00PM – University Campus (on the plaza between the Medical School Building and Sherman Center, near North Road and Library parking lot)
Employee Appreciation: Food Truck Fest
Join for fun and food as we say Thank you to UMass Chan employees

The graphic features a blue background with a diamond pattern. On the left, a large number '3' is inside a diamond, with text above it: 'Open enrollment STARTS Wednesday APRIL'. On the right, a large number '1' is inside a diamond, with text above it: 'Open enrollment ENDS Wednesday MAY'. The UMass Chan Medical School logo is in the top right. The main title '2024 BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT' is centered. Below the title, two columns list benefits: 'Benefits that do not require action unless making changes' (Health Insurance, Health Insurance Buy-Out Option, Dental Insurance, Vision Insurance) and 'Benefits that require you to re-enroll each open enrollment' (Health Care Spending Account, Dependent Care Assistance Program, Child Care Assistance Program).

Benefits that do not require action unless making changes:

- Health Insurance
- Health Insurance Buy-Out Option
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance

Benefits that require you to re-enroll each open enrollment:

- Health Care Spending Account
- Dependent Care Assistance Program
- Childcare Assistance Program



UMass Chan Medical School encourages employees to “Take a Break” – Use Your Excess Vacation Leave **by June 29th**. As we get closer to fiscal year end, we want to remind you of the [UMass Chan Vacation Policy](#) and maximum accruals so you can plan accordingly.

As of the last full pay period of the fiscal year, the maximum number of vacation hours employees may carry over into the next fiscal year is 240. During the fiscal year, employees are allowed to accrue hours over 240; hours over this accrual limit are automatically re-set in the payroll system to the accrual maximum. **This year, the relevant pay period ends June 29, 2024. Accordingly, we encourage**

you to use any vacation balances over 240 that exceed the 240-hour maximum before that date.

Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2024:

- Memorial Day – Monday, May 27th
- Juneteenth National Independence Day – Thursday, June 19th
- Independence Day – Thursday, July 4th
- Labor Day – Monday, September 2nd
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 14th
- Veterans Day – Monday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28th
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 29th
- Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th
- Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25th



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.