

Weekly Newsletter April 24-28, 2023

## PQHS NEWS

### UPCOMING EVENT

**Tuesday, April 25 – 9:00 – 10:00 AM**

**Research Meeting** – **Presenter:** Feifan Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor, Division of Health Informatics, and Implementation Science, PQHS, UMass Chan Medical School

**Title:** Interpretable, Generalizable, and Fair Predictive Modeling for Long COVID

**Brief Description:** The post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 (PASC), or long COVID, have affected many individuals since the pandemic began. Identifying individuals at risk of developing long COVID is crucial to improving patient outcomes. Machine learning has shown promise in this area. However, existing studies have used relatively small sample sizes with limited patient data, which could compromise the model's fairness and generalizability. In this talk, I will present our recent work on developing an interpretable, generalizable, and fair machine learning model to predict the risk of developing Long COVID after the acute infection phase. Leveraging a national sample of data from the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C), we found that Optuna hyperparameter tuning and Boruta feature selection not only helped boost the prediction performance but also reduced the disparities across race ethnicity groups, achieving the AUROC of 0.86 and AUPRC of 0.57. Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 851 294 7151 **password: smm2020**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Regenstrief Center for Health Services Research Presents - Hiring, Engaging, and Retaining High Performing Research Staff Professionals: A 2-Part Virtual Conference for Faculty and Leaders of Research Teams**

Please visit the event website for the [full agenda with speaker and chair bios](#).

**Part 2: Monday, April 24, 2023, 11:00 AM – 2:45 PM (EDT)**

- Changing the Clinical Research Professional Landscape, **Denise C. Snyder, MS, RD, LDN**, Duke University
- Learning from Highly Effective Career Research Professionals
  - **Aquila Brown-Galvan, BS, MPH**, University of Alabama at Birmingham
  - **Curt Austin, BFA, BS, MDiv**, VA HSR&D Center for Health Information & Communication
  - **Diane Bresch, RN, BSN, CCRC**, Duke Office of Clinical Research
  - **Brie Sullivan, MS, PMP**, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

[Click to register](#). Following completion of registration, you will receive an automated confirmation message followed by separate Outlook invitation with Zoom information.

[Visit event website for more details](#)

**Event or Registration Questions:** [llosee@regenstrief.org](mailto:llosee@regenstrief.org)

**Monday, May 8, 2023**



**UMCCTS Workshop, “Data Visualization for Effective Science Communication with Diverse Audiences”.** Participants will learn about various approaches to visualizing scientific findings and data for effective communication with diverse audiences. Focus will be on both key principles of effective data visualization as well as concrete skill-building

amongst participants. [Narges Mahyar, PhD](#), and [Ali Sarvghad Batn Moghaddam, PhD](#) will be speakers at the workshop.

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



Center for Clinical and Translational  
Science



## MASS CHAN REMINDER

### 2023 UMass Chan Medical School Benefits Open Enrollement

April 5 - May 3, 2023 for changes effective July 1, 2023

This is your once-a-year opportunity to review your benefit choices and enroll/make changes to the following benefits:

Enrollment includes:

- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Short-Term Disability
- Health Care Spending Account (HCSA)\*
- Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP)\*
- Child Care Assistance\*



*\*Note: These benefits require participants to re-enroll each open enrollment period.*



UMass Chan Medical School encourages employees to “Take a Break” – Use Your Excess Vacation Leave by June 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 17, 2023. Accordingly, we encourage**

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



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](mailto:kellie.armstrong@umassmed.edu)) & Sarah ([sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu)) by Friday each week.*