

Weekly Newsletter May 1-5, 2023

PQHS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENT

Tuesday, May 2 – 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Research Meeting – Presenter: Austin Lee, PhD, Professor, Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research, PQHS, UMass Chan Medical School

Title: Mean or Median?

Brief Description: We are told to use mean for symmetric distributions and median for skewed distributions. Is it always the case? By varying the value of kurtosis, t- and exponential power density functions generate a wide range of symmetric distributions, each having its asymptotic best linear unbiased estimator (ABLUE) of the location parameter. We evaluate the relative efficiencies of the sample mean, sample median, and some robust location estimators relative to ABLUE. Will the results shed some light for responding to the decade-long and yet fundamental question in statistics, “mean or median”? Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 851 294 7151 **password: smm2020**

PQHS HOT TOPICS

Shout out!



Shoutout to [Rajani Sadasivam, PhD](#) and [Judith Ockene, PhD, Med, MA](#) for their new competing NoA for Grant 1R01, titled “MRWeight: Medical Residents Learning Weight Management Counseling Skills -- A Multi-Modal, Technology-Assisted, Spaced Education Program”.



In a new [Voices of UMass Chan podcast](#), Michelle K. Trivedi, MD'09, MPH, discusses her research on how school-based asthma programs can improve outcomes for historically marginalized children. PQHS's [Lori Pbert PhD](#), [Stephenie Lemon PhD](#), [Milagros Rosal PhD](#), [Rajani Sadasivam PhD](#) and post doc Grace Ryan are involved in this research as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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 17th. 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) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.