

Weekly Newsletter August 19-23, 2024

PQHS NEWS

Message from the Chair

Dear PQHS Community,

We are pleased to announce that our department will undergo a comprehensive review on **April 7-8, 2025**. This review is a valuable opportunity to showcase the strengths of our faculty, research, and academic programs, as well as to identify areas for future growth and development.

As part of the preparation for this important event, we will request all faculty members to submit their updated biosketches, including a general personal statement outlining their areas of expertise. These biosketches will play a crucial role in presenting a unified and detailed picture of our department's achievements and contributions.

We encourage everyone to participate fully in this process, ensuring that our department is well-represented during the review. Your involvement and dedication are key to the success of this endeavor.

Please mark your calendars for April 7-8, and stay tuned for further details as we approach the review date.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence in our department.

Sincerely,

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CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Sarah Forrester, PhD, has been awarded a 3-year Alzheimer's Association Research Grant for a project entitled "Life Course Blood Pressure Trajectories and Time to Dementia in Black Aging Persons." This research will focus on understanding how blood pressure patterns over a lifetime may influence the onset of dementia in Black older adults. Congratulations to Dr. Forrester on securing this important funding!

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 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!



UMass ARC PBRN Pilot Project Awards 2024 Call for Applications: Letters of intent are due September 16, 2024

The UMass Ambulatory Research Consortium (ARC) practice-based research network (PBRN) welcomes submissions for pilot project awards. Study teams should include a practicing clinician and a health services investigator. Awardees will have access to support from PBRN core staff, the DOM Research Core, and CCTS cores, as appropriate for the project. Projects that address one or more of the following areas are encouraged:

- Development or piloting of interventions focused on improving health outcomes, patient engagement, or patient/caregiver experience in primary care
- Development or piloting of interventions that address clinician satisfaction or engagement in primary care
- Research topics that are relevant to primary care

- New approaches to linking practices to community-based organizations to improve health outcomes or health equity
- Digital health solutions to improve patient experience, outcomes, equity, or practice efficiency

Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, August 29, 2024, 1:00-2:30PM – AS9.2072 & Zoom

Worcester Neighborhood Scan Presentations by Incoming Population Health Sciences (PHS) PhD students: Our incoming PHS students will be conducting a neighborhood walk-through and assessment of health-promoting opportunities they observe in 3 Worcester neighborhoods, supplemented with on-line research. After working on this project over the course of 2 weeks, they will present their findings on, 9th floor large conference room and Zoom. We would greatly appreciate your attendance and insights during the Q&A after each 20 minute presentation. Click [here](#) to join. Password: 815908

DIVERSITY DIGEST



August 23rd is International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. This day was designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade on the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean. Did you ever wonder why Haiti is the poorest country in our hemisphere? Well freedom wasn't free. The **Haiti Independence Debt** was an 1825 agreement between Haiti and France that included France demanding an indemnity of 150 million francs to be paid by Haiti in claims over property – including Haitian slaves – that was lost through the Haitian

Revolution. Over the 122 years between 1825 and 1947, Haiti paid approximately \$34 billion to France rather than spending it on economic development or for infrastructure and public services.



Women's Equality Day

Women's Equality Day is observed on **August 26th** each year. It commemorates the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. The amendment was certified on August 26, 1920.

Women's Equality Day honors the achievements of the women's suffrage movement and serves as a reminder of the ongoing efforts toward gender equality in various spheres, including the workplace, education, and politics. Women's Equality Day serves to highlight and promote awareness of the

broader issues of gender equality and women's rights. This includes advocating for: equal pay, workplace equality, reproductive rights, political representation, education and career opportunities, combating gender-based violence, and more. Overall, this day highlights the progress made and the work still needed to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all women!

UMASS CHAN REMINDER

Holiday Calendar for UMass Chan Medical School

Remaining Holiday Schedule for 2024:

- 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.