

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 16-20, 2026



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, February 18, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Research Methods Meeting

Presenter: Chris Wilson, MS, Quantitative Core Director, Seattle-Denter Center of Innovation

Title: Bridging the Gap: Integrating Patient-Generated Health Data into Healthcare Monitoring and Research

Abstract: The presentation will show preliminary results and the proposed framework for evaluating the utility of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) data in predicting and understanding diabetes-related outcomes within healthcare systems. We compare and integrate CGM-derived metrics with hospital-based HbA1c values to assess predictive performance for acute care utilization due to hypoglycemia, as well as complications including diabetic ketoacidosis, neuropathy, and retinopathy. Both traditional econometric models are employed to estimate causal associations, while advanced data science approaches are used to enhance predictive accuracy and identify opportunities for improved monitoring and observational research.

Bio: Chris Wilson is a Senior Data Scientist with the Department of Veterans Affairs and serves as the Quantitative Core Director for the Seattle-Denver Center of Innovation for Veteran-Centered and Value-Driven Care. His work focuses on combining modern data science methods with traditional econometric and statistical approaches to identify the complex phenotypes that drive patient outcomes. Click [here](#) to join.



Wednesday, March 4, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Research Methods Meeting

Presenter: Christopher Schmid, PhD

Title: N-of-1 Trials for Personalized Healthcare

Abstract: Personalized (N-of-1) trials hold great promise for broadening the clinical knowledge production enterprise to engage individuals in trial design, creation and use of personal data, and decision making. N-of-1 trials use a multi-crossover design in which each individual receives two or more treatments multiple times in a randomized order. In contrast to traditional clinical trial designs, N-of-1 designs can measure individual treatment efficacy to create personalized knowledge. N-of-1 trials may be deployed in a variety of ways. Individuals may create unique, personal designs focused on treatments and outcomes of interest carried out in a manner best suited to them. Or, when practical, trials may be coordinated to have similar protocols facilitating the sharing and combining of information to learn about groups of individuals as well. Such designs may better inform individuals through borrowing of strength from the findings of exchangeable group members. Such group designs may be particularly valuable in clinical settings such as healthcare organizations that provide personalized care to groups of individuals. By combining individual trials in a meta-analysis, it is also possible to describe average treatment effects in populations and subgroups and measure treatment effect heterogeneity to create generalizable knowledge. I discuss the promise and challenges of N-of-1 trials, including the use of software to design and analyze trials, the use of mobile apps to facilitate participation, retain interest, collect data and provide interpreted results to participants, and some of the research barriers that need to be overcome, particularly the challenges of accommodating personalized protocols. These issues are illustrated by several of our recent projects each involving many N-of-1 trials.

Bio: Dr. Schmid is Professor and past Chair of Biostatistics at Brown University School of Public Health where he co-founded the Center for Evidence Synthesis in Health. Currently, he directs the Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) Core of the Rhode Island Center to Advance Translational Science. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, founding Editor of the journal Research Synthesis Methods, long-time statistical editor of the American Journal of Kidney Diseases, former President of the Society for Research Synthesis Methodology, Chair of the Health Policy Statistics Section of ASA and member of the Drug Safety and Risk Management Committee for FDA. He has a long record of collaborative research and training activities in many different clinical and public health research areas, authoring more than 300 publications and contributing to many consensus statements and guidelines including the Institute of Medicine report that established national standards for systematic reviews. His methodological research focuses on Bayesian models for meta-analysis and N-of-1 trials as well as assessment of predictive models using data from multiple sources. Click [here](#) to join.

Thursday, February 26, 3:00 – 4:00 PM, NERB 1-1100

A culminating lecture to celebrate the retirement of Bill M. Jesdale, PhD

Presenter: Bill Jesdale, PhD, Assistant Professor, Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Title: Hallucinating the Future of Epidemiology in the World of AI: The Importance of Asking Good Questions

Vegan halal snacks provided. In lieu of retirement gifts, please consider a modest donation to The Cancer Network to support LGBTQ data collection and survivor support. Click [here](#) to join.

DIVERSITY DIGEST

Celebrating the Lunar New Year – February 17

On **February 17**, communities around the world will welcome the **Lunar New Year**, a celebration observed across many cultures in East and Southeast Asia, including Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Tibetan traditions. The Lunar New Year marks the beginning of a new year based on the lunar calendar and is often a time for family gatherings, honoring ancestors, sharing meals, and setting intentions for the year ahead. It is both a joyful celebration and a reflective pause—an opportunity to release what has passed and step forward with renewed hope.

We celebrate the World Day of Social Justice on **Friday, February 20th**. The United Nations has designated this day as a call to action to promote a sustainable future that benefits everyone around the globe. "Through collective action and inclusive policies, we can create a future where environmental integrity and social equity go hand in hand, forming the foundation of a truly sustainable global economy." Visit the United Nations website for more information.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day>

Monthly observance: Black History Month Weekly observance: *World Interfaith Harmony Week (Feb. 1-7) *Losar (Feb. 18 - March 4)	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	*Parinirvana Day *Meatfare Sunday	Presidents Day	*Lunar New Year *Seollal *Mardi Gras *Shrove Tuesday	*Ramadan (Feb. 17-18 sundown to sundown) *Ash Wednesday		World Day of Social Justice	
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	*Cheesefare Sunday *Foundation Day	*Beginning of Great Lent *The Emperor's Birthday	Día de la Bandera	Intercalary Days (Feb. 25-March 1)			

UMASS CHAN REMINDERS



- 🚩 Presidents Day – Monday, February 16th
- 🚩 Patriots' Day – Monday, April 20th
- 🚩 Memorial Day – Monday, May 25th
- 🚩 Juneteenth National Independence Day – Friday, June 19th
- 🚩 Independence Day – Friday, July 3rd (observed)
- 🚩 Labor Day – Monday, September 7th
- 🚩 Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 12th
- 🚩 Veterans Day – Wednesday, November 11th
- 🚩 Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26th
- 🚩 Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 27th
- 🚩 Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24th
- 🚩 Christmas Day – Friday, December 25th

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 Judi (judi.saber@umassmed.edu) & Sarah (sarah.yeboah@umassmed.edu) by Friday each week.

UMASS CHAN-HAYLLM COLLABORATION

More photos from the International Joint Symposium on Medical and Healthcare AI: UMass Chan-Hallym Collaboration
January 28-29, 2026



JungAe Lee with students



iCELS tour: Melissa Fischer, Ben Gerber, Dong-soo Shin with students



iCELS tour: Melissa Fischer and Julie LeMoine with students



iCELS tour: Melissa Fischer with students



Ga-Young Choi and students



Mark Johnson with students