

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

MARCH 2-6, 2026



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

WELCOME



Dr. Jae Yong Yu joins the Division of Health Informatics and Implementation Science as an Adjunct Assistant Professor. Jae Yong is a professor in the Department of Data Science at Hallym University. His research focuses on AI assurance and EMR-based prediction modeling, with an emphasis on developing reliable and interpretable machine learning models for healthcare applications.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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.



Friday, March 6, 3:00 PM, AS9.2072 or Zoom

PhD Dissertation Defense

Presenter: Emmanuella Asantewaa Asiedu

Mentor: [Jennifer Tjia, MD, MSCE](#), **Co-Mentor:** [Sarah Forrester, MS, PhD](#)

Title: Adverse Health Outcomes in Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: A Multi-Methods Examination of the roles of Neighborhood-Build Environment and Healthcare Setting Experiences

Click [here](#) to join, password 386731

DIVERSITY

"Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future", is the theme of the 2026 Women's History Month, with emphasis on equity and justice. Women are a central, essential part of paving the way toward a future of civility, respect and honor of each of us as human beings together. Women are the CEOs of life, leading with heart and mind, protecting the vulnerable and promoting the wisdom of sustainable practices.



We honor **Gwen Hadden***, who recently passed at 82 years. Gwen was Founder and President of Cochran Hadden Royston Associates (CHR Associates), the consulting firm she led since the mid-1980s. Through CHR, she advised corporations, healthcare systems, academic institutions (including UMass Chan), nonprofits, and arts organizations on building equitable, inclusive, and sustainable cultures. Her work emphasized accountability, generational understanding, and meaningful systems change. Through Gwen's teachings, we will never forget her.* <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/gwendolyn-hadden-obituary?id=60718689>

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, led by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), is celebrated throughout March 2026 (March 1–31), focusing on inclusion, advocacy, and celebrating the contributions of people with developmental disabilities.

Key Aspects of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month:

- Goals: The campaign aims to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life, including education, employment, and social activities.
- Theme: The 2026 campaign emphasizes creating accessible, supportive communities year-round, with specific initiatives like "The Power of Support" theme focusing on sharing stories of support.
- History: Proclaimed by President Reagan in 1987 to increase awareness and support people with disabilities in leading productive, full lives.
- Scope: Developmental disabilities include conditions such as autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and intellectual disabilities.
- Significance: Approximately one in six children in the U.S. has a developmental disability, emphasizing the need for awareness and accessibility.



Irish Heritage Month, observed in March in the United States, celebrates the history, culture, and contributions of Irish and Irish American communities. It offers an opportunity to recognize the complex experiences of Irish immigrants—including periods of discrimination and economic hardship—while also honoring the rich literary, musical, political, and labor traditions that have shaped American society.

2026 MARCH	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Monthly observances: *National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month *National Irish American Heritage Month *Women's History Month	*Korean Independence Movement Day *Orthodox Sunday *Zero Discrimination Day	*Ala/Nineteen-Day Fast (3/2-20) *Purim (3/2-4)	*Daeboreum *Lantern Festival	*Makha Puja Day *Holi *Hola Mohalla (3/4-6)			
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	International Women's Day	Commonwealth Day					
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	International Day to Combat Islamophobia	*Laylat al-Qadr *Benito Juárez Day	St. Patrick's Day		*St. Joseph's Day *Chaitra Navaratri (3/19-27) *Eid al-Fitr (3/19-20)	*Ostara *Vernal Equinox Day *Naw-Rúz (3/20-21)	*Nowruz *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				*Annunciation of the Virgin Mary *Intl Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Slave Trade	Khordad Sal	Ram Navami	
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	Palm Sunday		*Mahavira Jayanti *International Transgender Day of Visibility				



HOLIDAY

— SCHEDULE —

-  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.