

Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

Weekly Newsletter

JULY 27 - 31, 2026



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

GRANTS



Award Number: 1K01HL186068-01
Awarding Agency: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Type: New Competing
Title: Improving Cardiovascular Futures Through Timely Identification and Management of Hypertension in Youth
Project Period: 8/1/2026 – 7/31/2027
PI: Melissa Gouldnig, PhD
Total approved for this period: \$173,929



Award Number: 1T32TR005445-01
Awarding Agency: National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences
Type: New Competing
Title: CTSA Predoctoral T32 at University of Massachusetts
Project Period: 8/15/2026 – 8/14/2027
PI: Kate Lapane, PhD
Total approved for this period: \$328,040



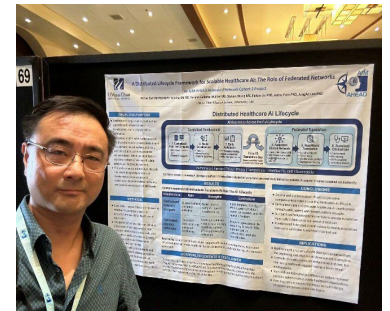
Award Number: 3H79T1088149-03S1
Awarding Agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Type: Administrative Supplement/Change
Title: Addiction Technology Transfer Center of New England
Project Period: 9/30/2026 – 9/29/2027
PI: Rosemarie Martin, PhD
Total approved for this period: \$2,388,542

Award Number: 1R01DA061886-01A1
Awarding Agency: National Institute on Drug Abuse
Type: New Competing
Title: A multiple health behavior change intervention for people with obesity who smoke cigarettes: a randomized clinical trial
Project Period: 7/1/2026 – 4/30/2027
PI: Cara Murphy, PhD, Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences, Brown University
Co-I: Rosemarie Martin, PhD
Total approved for this period: \$733,445

PRESENTATIONS

Adrian Zai and **Feifan Liu** attended the 2026 AIM-AHEAD Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, July 6-9.

Adrian presented, “A Distributed Lifecycle Framework for Scalable Healthcare AI: The Role of Federated Networks”. **Feifan’s** work was highlighted in the session of “Reflecting on 5 Years of AIM-AHEAD” presented by Dr. Gebreab from the Office of Data Science Strategy, NIH.



Feifan Liu presented a keynote “Ethical considerations for machine learning and generative AI applications in healthcare” at the 4th World Congress of AI Industry (WCAI-2026) on June 17 in Osaka, Japan.



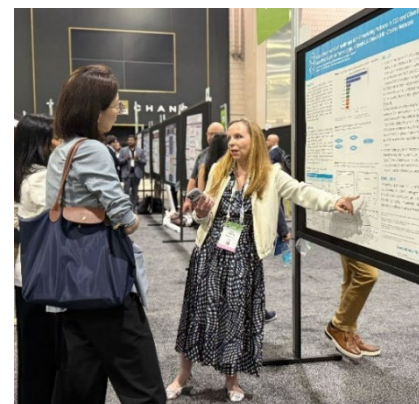
International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, 2026, Philadelphia, May 17-26, 2016

Poster: Social Determinants of Health and GLP-1 Prescribing Patterns in T2D and Obesity: Real-World Evidence from a Large, National U.S. Linked EHR–Claims Network

Julia O’Rourke, Megan Rafferty, Zuzanna Drebert, Jeffrey Brown

International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology, 42nd Annual Meeting, Milan, Italy, August 29-September 2, 2026

Poster: Deriving Breast Cancer Stage from Electronic Health Records: A Comparison of Gradient Boosting and Large Language Models Without Task-Specific Training
Assaf Aviram, Ellen Stein, Jeffrey Warnick, E. Susan Amirian, **Julia A O’Rourke**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Greetings from the New England Addiction Technology Transfer Center Team!

Summer is fast approaching, and we have an exciting lineup of trainings ahead. Take a look and save the dates on your calendar, and register now. We look forward to learning with you this summer!

Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 10:00-11:00 AM

Alcohol and Sleep: Clinical Implications

This training will focus on the relationship between alcohol use and sleep, and its implications for clinical practice. We will review how alcohol disrupts sleep architecture and circadian rhythms, and how these effects appear both in the short term—such as fragmented sleep after drinking—and over time, contributing to poorer sleep quality and insomnia. Finally, we will connect this knowledge to practice by exploring how clinicians can use it in patient conversations to better counsel individuals on reducing alcohol-related sleep disruption and improving overall sleep health.

[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 12:00-1:30 PM

Understanding Gambling-Related Harms Among College Students: Trends, Risks, and Support Strategies

This 90-minute webinar goes beyond the basics to examine the unique vulnerabilities of college students and the evolving culture of gambling on campus. Participants will learn how to identify early warning signs, understand the broader impact on student well-being, and explore practical strategies for engaging students in conversations about gambling. The session will also highlight actionable approaches for strengthening campus response, including early intervention, referral pathways, and connections to care. The goal of this training is to increase understanding of gambling-related harms among college students and enhance the ability to identify, prevent, and respond within campus and student-facing settings.

[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Tuesday, September 1, 12-1:30 PM (click to register)

Gambling & Youth: Understanding the Why, Spotting the Signs, and Having Better Conversations

Sports betting apps, instant deposits, and 24/7 access have changed the game for today's college students. What was once occasional or social is now fast, frequent, and often difficult to detect – leaving many students vulnerable to gambling-related harm before it's recognized. As access expands and normalization grows, the line between “just for fun” and real harm is becoming increasingly blurred. This 90-minute webinar goes beyond the basics to examine the unique vulnerabilities of college students and the evolving culture of gambling on campus.

[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Please feel free to share this with anyone who may be interested. We hope to see you there!

The New England ATTC Team

Population and Quantitative Health Sciences

UMass Chan Medical School

NewEnglandATTC@umassmed.edu

[New England ATTC - Addiction Technology Transfer Center \(ATTC\) Network](#)

[New England ATTC | LinkedIn](#)



2026 UMass Cancer Walk

Sunday, September 27, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Polar Park, 100 Madison Street, Worcester

Join Us for the Cancer Walk!

We're putting together a team for this year's cancer walk, and everyone is welcome to join! It's a great opportunity to support cancer research, honor those affected by cancer, and connect with colleagues outside of work. If you're interested in participating, please use the team invitation link below. We'd love to have you with us!

To register, click [here](#).



2024 PQHS Team

UMass Chan Farmers' Market



**Every Tuesday through October 27
(No market on Sept.15)
10 AM - 1 PM**

Two Locations:

- Market Vendors will be set up in the Albert Sherman Center, MPR - East, First Floor.
- Food Trucks and Food Vendors will set up outside on the Medical School Building Terrace.

[Click here](#) for more details and to view the list of attending food trucks and vendors



✚ 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.