

NEW VIROLOGY FELLOWS TO JOIN RYAN WHITE PROGRAM JULY 1

New Virology Fellow

Dr. Soojoung Yu, MD

(she/her/hers)

Hello! My name is Soojoung (Gemma) Yu, and I'm a first-year Infectious Disease fellow at UIHC. I grew up living in several countries and completed my medical training in South Korea before coming to Iowa to continue my journey. Outside of work, my husband, daughter, and I enjoy taking walks, reading, and discovering new things at grocery stores. I'm grateful to be part of this team and look forward to serving you with care and dedication.

Staffing updates continued on page 2.

Summer Healthcare Reminders

• Sun Protection

Summer means more time outside in the sun and because sun damage is a direct cause of skin cancer, it's important to protect yourself! While the best sun protection is shade or clothing, sunscreen is also a good option as long as it is not expired!

• Hydration

Being outside also means that there is an increased risk of heat related illnesses including heat stroke and heat exhaustion. In order to prevent this and also for health in general, it is important to stay hydrated and to be mindful of physical activity outside.

• Connection

Summer is a great time to be outside, which means it's also a time to connect with friends! Prioritizing connection is one of the best things you can do for your long term health.



Staffing Update: Arrival

Breann (Bre) Brown, LISW

(she/her/hers)

Hello everyone! I am joining the team as a social worker/case manager and am very excited to work with and meet you all. I have been a mental health therapist for the last three years, working with a wide age range and in multiple settings. I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge and growing with this position. When I am not working, I am at home with my two daughters (2 year old and a 3 month old), my two cats, and my husband. Some of my passions include reading, writing, being a goofball with my family, and camping.

Staffing Update: Position Change

Mike Lawler, BSW

(he/him/his)

Mike Lawler started a new role as our Field Benefits Specialist in mid-May of this year. Mike has been a case manager with our team since December 2023 and will continue to work in that role as well. Having worked as a social worker with the Health Care Benefits Assistance Program at UIHC for over four years, Mike has previous experience assisting patients navigate health insurance programs, specifically those through Medicaid of Iowa. He is currently being trained as a certified SHIP counselor so he will be ready to assist our patients navigate Medicare Open Enrollment later this year. Mike looks forward to continuing to grow his knowledge of insurance and other programs to serve as a resource during periods of change and unknowns. Mike's advice to stay on top of any potential insurance changes? Check and read your mail regularly! The less conspicuous an envelope looks, the more important and time sensitive the information inside may be. Feel free to email Mike at michael-j-lawler@uiowa.edu or call him at 319-335-7449 with coverage questions or concerns.

Staffing Updates: Departures**Renate Wright, MD**

As I begin to wrap up my last year of fellowship training in Infectious Disease at University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, I can't help but reflect on the positive experiences the program and patients had on me. My learning was made valuable by all the faculty and patients that I have encountered during my two years here. I am honored to have taken care of so many patients in the community as well - both inpatient and outpatient. I value all the relationships that I have built and will greatly miss everyone following graduation as I will be heading to start my next chapter as an Infectious Disease physician at Parkview Health System in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Shinya Hasegawa, MD

I really enjoyed my time at the Virology Clinic! All of the clinic staff helped me/us improve the quality of our care and build good relationships with patients. It was an honor to be part of the care team and complete my fellowship here. Thank you very much for all your support! I'll be staying at UIHC as a research-oriented fellow, so please don't hesitate to say hello if you see me!

Our Ongoing Commitment Amid a Changing Policy Landscape

We are aware of multiple pieces of legislation, both at the state and federal level, that have the potential to impact access to care and medications for our patients. Please know that we are following the news closely to be aware of potential hurdles as soon as they arise. As of this newsletter's publication, not enough is known about Medicaid work requirements, gender affirming care changes, or other new policies to state how our program may respond to resulting healthcare access issues. Our commitment to care and medication access for all remains unchanged. Please contact your case manager to discuss specific concerns related to your situation or any issues you have accessing care or medication. If you do not have a case manager, feel free to contact Support Services Coordinator Malory Dreasler at 319-359-9181 (call or text) or malory-dreasler@uiowa.edu. We would be happy to review your situation and offer resources or solutions that may be available.

NEW SERVICE TO CUT TRANSPORTATION COSTS




Trip Connect Johnson County

Trip Connect, launched in December of 2024, is a rideshare service designed to cover the gaps in public transportation for people who need rides to/from work, school or training. Running Sunday through Friday 5 pm to 12 am at a flat cost of \$2 a ride, Trip Connect services Iowa City, Coralville, University Heights, North Liberty, Tiffin and all areas north of I-80 in Johnson County. To book a ride, users should download the Trip Connect app, buy ride credits, and book a ride! For more information, please visit: <https://horizonsfamily.org/transportation/johnson-county-tripconnect/>

LGBTQ+ Crisis Support – Quick Guide (U.S.)


 **The Trevor Project** (24/7, LGBTQ+ youth)

 1-866-488-7386

 Text **START** to 678678

 Chat: thetrevorproject.org


 **Trans Lifeline** (Peer support for trans people)

 1-877-565-8860

 10 AM – 6 PM PT / 1 PM – 9 PM ET

 translifeline.org


 **LGBT National Hotline** (All ages)

 1-888-843-4564

 M–F 11 AM–8 PM PT / Sat till 2 PM

 glbthotline.org

 **LGBT Youth Talkline** (Ages ≤25)


 1-800-246-7743

 Same hours as above

 **Crisis Text Line** (24/7, any crisis)

 Text **HELLO** to 741741

 En español: Text **HOLA** or WhatsApp **443-SUPPORT**

 crisistextline.org

General Healthcare Reminders

- If you need to cancel your appointment with your provider in the Medicine Specialty clinic, please Call 319-356-8133.
- Please call the Faculty General Practice Clinic at 319-335-8232 if you need to cancel or change your College of Dentistry appointment.
- Please be aware that health insurance information often comes by mail. To ensure continued coverage, please open your mail and share with your case manager.

Support Group for People Living with HIV

Are you a person living with HIV? Consider joining UIHC's monthly Support Group Zoom meetings! In this online meeting we focus on connecting with others who may share similar experiences, discovering helpful resources, developing coping strategies and more! Join host Kari Vrbán on the first Wednesday of the month from 4 to 5:30 pm on Zoom. For more information and to sign up, please scan the QR Code below with your phone, or visit:

<https://forms.office.com/r/f8eYjN4L6A>

This will take you to an online form. After you fill this out, Kari will email you a Zoom link the day before each meeting. If you need assistance, please contact Kari at

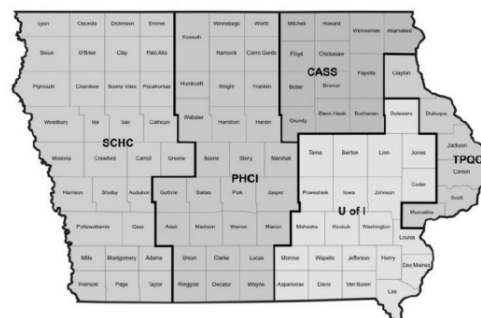
319-467-5655 or at

kari-vrbán@uiowa.edu.



Housing Opportunities for People With HIV/AIDS

Are you in need of financial assistance to get or maintain housing? You may be eligible for services provided by HOPWA such as Long-Term Rental Assistance, Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance, or Permanent Housing Placement. Eligibility is based on your income (limits vary by county) and emergency status. Clients who are case managed by a Ryan White agency may talk to their case manager to complete a referral form that will be forwarded to the HOPWA coordinator Viri Estudillo Areguin. Clients who are not case managed may contact HOPWA coordinator directly to be assessed.



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