

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

## Maine Transplant Program One of Eight Kidney Transplant Centers to Receive the 'NKR Excellence In Teamwork Award'



*Juan Palma, MD, (second from right) poses with other recipients of the "NKR Excellence in Teamwork Award" and representatives from the National Kidney Registry.*

The Maine Transplant Program (MTP) is one of eight kidney transplant centers across the country being honored with the "NKR Excellence in Teamwork Award 2019."

The award is given by the National Kidney Registry (NKR), which helps coordinate living donor kidney transplants involving donors and recipients from different states.

*'NKR Award'  
Continued on Back*

## Boston Children's Hospital and BBCH Form Alliance to Enhance Patient Access to Highly Specialized Pediatric Care

Boston Children's Hospital and The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center (BBCH) have formed an alliance that will enhance patient access to highly specialized pediatric care and improve the coordination of care between the two hospitals.

This alliance will provide BBCH patients throughout Maine with more coordinated access to specialized care at Boston Children's

Hospital and streamline care planning among providers at both institutions.

Boston Children's Hospital and BBCH will jointly develop care protocols and pathways for children and adolescents to enhance their shared ability to ensure that each patient gets the right care in the right setting. In some instances, Boston Children's Hospital clinicians will be available to

provide care at BBCH in Portland.

"Together, we can ensure that our patients have access to the most appropriate care close to home," said Maine Medical Center President Jeff Sanders. "Children and their families require the highest levels of coordinated care that we can provide, and this alliance allows us to raise that bar on their behalf."

The alliance builds on the strong working relationship that currently exists between the two hospitals. By working collaboratively in orthopedic oncology surgery, cleft lip and palate care, congenital heart disease, education and access, the two institutions will be better able to coordinate care for their patients.

*'NKR Award'  
From Front*

The award recognizes NKR member centers that, through exceptional coordination and communication, went above and beyond demonstrating excellence in teamwork for a complex kidney swap.

MTP coordinated with the University of Cincinnati Hospital, Augusta Health in Georgia, Emory Healthcare, University of California San Francisco, University of California San Diego, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and University of Wisconsin Hospital on the kidney swap that earned the

reward. It involved 14 surgeries and seven life-saving transplants.

“This kidney swap took an incredible amount of teamwork to complete, both at The Maine Transplant Program and with our partners,” said Ardyce Peters, Director of Transplant Services at Maine Medical Center. “The National Kidney Registry is a wonderful resource for us.”

MTP is the regional leader for transplants in the Northeast with lower wait times to transplant, shorter hospital stays and higher graft survival rates.

## Maine Medical Center Publishes Inaugural ‘Journal of Maine Medical Center’

The inaugural issue of the “Journal of Maine Medical Center” (JMMC) has been published, with research articles covering everything from the potential hazards of foraging wild foods to innovative ways to help patients decide whether to pursue colorectal cancer screening.

The JMMC is the state’s only peer-reviewed medical journal dedicated to original research in the health sciences and is accessible to

the public at [mmc.org/jmmc](http://mmc.org/jmmc). The journal will publish biannually, and is now accepting submissions for its second edition.

The inaugural issue contains 14 articles in the areas of original research, patient safety and quality improvement exemplars, innovation highlights and case reports, as well as five supplements pulled from research posters developed by clinicians and students.

## PEOPLE NEWS



**Crystal Fox, MD**, has joined Maine Medical Partners - Hospital Medicine.

Board certified in Internal

Medicine, Dr. Fox earned her medical degree from Trinity School of Medicine in Saint Vincent, West Indies. She completed her residency at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, IL, where she stayed on as a hospitalist and Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Dr. Fox’s clinical interests include academic medicine and global health.

When she isn’t working, Dr. Fox enjoys travel, outdoor adventures and spending time with her family.

## MMC receives A-fib Gold Quality Achievement Award

Maine Medical Center (MMC) has received the American Heart Association’s (AHA) Get With The Guidelines® A-fib Gold Quality Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the AHA guidelines for the management of patients with atrial fibrillation (A-fib), an irregular heartbeat that can lead to stroke and other complications.

This is the highest award given by the A-fib registry

signifying that an outstanding level of care is provided to our patients who experience A-fib. When MMC received the Gold status two years ago, the hospital achieved a score of greater than 85% on all six achievement measures for two consecutive years. To maintain the status, MMC achieved greater than 85% on all six achievement measures for a third year.



Maine Medical Center  
MaineHealth

WHAT’S HAPPENING IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Comments, questions, and story ideas:  
Caroline Cornish, Communications Manager  
[mmcnews@mmc.org](mailto:mmcnews@mmc.org)