

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

MMC Receives \$1.3M from the NIH Toward Obesity Study



Robert Koza, PhD, looks at data inside his lab at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute.

Maine Medical Center (MMC) has received \$1.3 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study how changes in the expression of a certain gene affect obesity. The hope is that studies of this gene, known as mesoderm specific transcript (*MEST*), could someday lead to new

strategies for the treatment of obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Maine Medical Center Research Institute (MMCRI) Faculty Scientist Robert Koza, PhD, has been studying the epigenetic regulation of *MEST*. Epigenetic processes can determine whether genes are

expressed, or “turned on.” Dr. Koza’s previous studies indicate that animals are less likely to become obese on a high-fat diet when *MEST* is not expressed or expressed at low levels. What scientists have yet to determine is the function of *MEST* in the body and the precise epigenetic processes that regulate its expression. This study aims to answer those questions.

development of obesity and type 2 diabetes.”

Metabolic diseases like obesity and diabetes are a focus of researchers at MMCRI because of their prevalence in Maine. In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention listed Maine as having a diabetes rate of 8.5 percent and obesity rate of 30 percent, the highest in New England.

“Identifying the molecular pathways by which *MEST* facilitates the expansion of fat mass and regulates blood glucose could be the first step toward a new way to help treat obesity,” Dr. Koza said. “Years from now, these studies may also define new early interventions doctors could take to help patients prevent the

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AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

45 Years

Diane Hansen, Coding
Molly Jackson, Radiology

40 Years

Lora Dixon, EVS
Theresa McGeehan, Health Information Management

35 Years

Barbara Barrett, PICC Line
Ina Boulier, EVS
Stacy Keenan, Food Services

Andrea Killinger, R4

30 Years

Christine Baran, IT
Anne Boehm, PICU

Robert Carpenter, IT

Alice Doyle, Turning Point
Brian Ellis, Patient Transport
Anne Esposito, R3
Helyne May, P4C

25 Years

Anna Bannon, Pulmonary Medicine

Christina Guthrie, Supply Chain

Rodney Knights, Finance
Carol McCarthy, Pediatric Specialty Care
Patricia Neelon, General Surgery

‘Anniversaries’

Continued on Back

'Anniversaries'
From Front

Deirdre Nielsen, Pharmacy
Jessica Stowe, Neurosurgery
Albert Swallow III, Chief
Financial Officer

20 Years

Jonathan Adams,
Ultrasound
Emma Anastacio, EVS
Heather Beaulieu, MRI
Marcia Bradford, CICU
Tracy Callahan,
MaineHealth ACO
Olga Celick, Pharmacy
Merydeth Charlton, NICU
Kristen Martin, Surgery
Sundy Plumley, Radiation
Therapy
Elizabeth Pontius, Physical
Therapy
Lindsay Rosario, SCU3
Kathy Williamson, Portland
Family Medicine

15 Years

Hillary Ames, Human
Resources
Wendy Benoit, Hospital
Billing
Linda Eda, EVS
Debra Haase, Employee
Health
Victoria Hayes, Family
Medicine
John Larson, EVS
James Nicholson, Security
Elizabeth Pavao, Surgery
David Peck, Food Services
Eric Sawtelle, Distribution
Catherine Shorr, Quality
Customer Service
Sharon Smith, OR

Kalli Varaklis, OB/GYN
Administration

10 Years

Danna Allen, EVS
Erin Beaver, Family Birth
Center
Shaun Campbell, Pharmacy
Debra Cushman, Linen
Processing
Jason Dunton, Scarborough
Surgery Center
Jami Gardner, Neurology
Alison Gilbert,
Anesthesiology
Nancijean Goudey, ED
Nursing
Catherine Hagerman,
Anesthesiology
Paul Han, MMCRI
Bryan Hayes, Digestive
Disease
Sean Heavin, General
Mechanical
Marie Janoushek, CTICU
Glenn Jones, Distribution
Thomas Kinkead, Urology
Meghan Libby, Pharmacy
Brittany McKenney,
Oncology
Sarah Milliken, Family Birth
Center
Osvaldo Montanez, General
Mechanical
Sara Moon, R2
Angela Mowatt, Children's
Health
Carolyn Palmer, R7
LuAnn Perakis, P6
Gary Perry, Sterile
Processing
Ruth Prue, Neurology
Dianne Shaw, Patient
Access
Emily Siegel, Pediatric
Specialty Care

Tara Wardrop, Cardiology

5 Years

Virginia Adams,
Anesthesiology
Allyson Allard, ED Nursing
Lin-Lee Allen, Poison
Control
Sarah Austin, Nursing
Clinical Resources
Jonathan Bausman,
Newborn Pediatrics
Daniel Becker, Patient
Transport
Elizabeth Benham, R2
Elizabeth Blazick, Vascular
Surgery
Pauline Boyce, Critical Care
Aaron Carpenter, IT
David Chalmers, Urology
Kristin Clark,
Anesthesiology
Martin Coyne, Supply Chain
April Cummings, P3CD
Danielle Currier, Hospital
Medicine
Alyssa Damon, ED Nursing
Terence Doherty,
Distribution
Brian Dougher, Safety
Office
Zachary Eller, R5
Stacie Emerson, Admitting
Tracie Everett, Prenatal
Center
Rebecca Ferland, Financial
Services
Stacey Fletcher, Admitting
Charlotte Goodson,
Lactation Consultation
Maxine Guay, Neurology
Lee Hallagan, General
Surgery
Mackenzie Henry, ED
Nursing
Mark Howell, Security

Victoria Hynes, Tobacco
Independence
Sarah Keller, Endocrinology
& Diabetes
Emily Krams, Occupational
Therapy
Katherine Lafferty,
Outpatient Care
Michael Lai, R4
Alex Lary, Patient Access
Bridget Laskey, Pharmacy
Amy Lecureux, Emergency
Brenda Libby, Supply Chain
Breanna Manson,
Continuing Care
Nursery
Jesse Mcleod, Cardiac Cath
Lab
Sokear Meak, Linen
Processing
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Alain Mukendi, EVS
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ACO
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Diabetes
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Otolaryngology
Angela Ranger,
Endocrinology &
Diabetes
Matthew Sanborn,
Neurosurgery
Gregory Sawyer, Sports
Surgery
Angela Umbro-Hussey,
Endocrinology &
Diabetes
Francis Ungvary, Hospital
Billing
Tanya West, Hospital
Billing



Maine Medical Center
MaineHealth

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Comments, questions, and story ideas:
Caroline Cornish, Communications Manager
mmcnews@mmc.org