

# 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.

“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

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.

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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  
Yasmin Mohamud, EVS  
Alain Mukendi, EVS  
Diane Neff, MaineHealth  
ACO  
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Endocrinology &  
Diabetes  
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Wendy Poitras,  
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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