

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

MaineHealth Receives \$5.1 M to Expand Cancer Clinical Trials



Scot Remick, MD

The MaineHealth Cancer Care Network (MHCCN) has received a \$5.1 million award to increase access to cancer clinical trials in rural areas that will address efforts to improve cancer prevention, treatment and care delivery. Work under the grant will be led by Scot

Remick, MD, Christopher Darus, MD, and Peter Rubin, MD.

The six-year, \$5.1 million award from the National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) is the single largest grant ever extended by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for clinical cancer research and cancer clinical trials in the state of Maine.

It will establish the MaineHealth Cancer Care Network Lifespan Program, designed to bring the latest research in cancer prevention, cancer treatment and cancer care delivery to

underserved populations. NCORP is funding a total of 46 institutions, 32 of which like the MHCCN are community-based sites.

The MHCCN Lifespan Program will be the only oncology program in Northern New England to enroll patients in NCI clinical trials at every stage of the cancer continuum, from prevention to survivorship.

Some of the studies will focus on cancer control and prevention, with a goal of reducing the incidence, risk and mortality rates for cancer and improving quality of life for survivors. Others will aim to improve the way

cancer care is delivered.

“Patients often feel that in order to get state-of-the-art care and to enroll in clinical trials, they need to travel to a major metropolitan area,” said Dr. Remick, who is Maine Medical Center’s Chief of Oncology and the principal investigator of the Lifespan Program. “We believe patients should have access to advanced care close to home – wherever they live. This grant is a transformational award that will bring a wide variety of clinical trials to our rural communities.”

*‘MHCCN Grant’
Continued on Back*

Thank You For Donating To the United Way Food Drive!

Thank you for your support of the MaineHealth United Way Food Drive. Your donations are on their way to help our neighbors in need.

The MaineHealth United Way Campaign begins Sept. 13. Employees should look for an email with their pledge link.

Join us to kick off the United Way of Greater Portland Campaign and Sculpture Contest:

- **Friday, Sept. 13, Noon**
- **Monument Square**
- **Shuttle leaves Bramhall at 11:45 a.m., returning at 1 p.m.**



'MHCCN Grant' *From Front*

Patients currently have access to clinical trials through the MHCCN at Maine Medical Center, Maine General Medical Center, Southern Maine Health Care, Stephens Memorial

Hospital, Waldo County General Hospital and Pen Bay Medical Center. St. Mary's Regional Medical Center and Mid Coast Hospital are expected to begin enrolling cancer patients through the MHCCN early next year.

The Lifespan Program will help extend the reach of clinical trials to Franklin Memorial Hospital, Lincoln Health and Memorial Hospital in North Conway as well as increase the number of clinical trials available to patients at other locations within the MHCCN. The

number of clinical trials available to oncology patients in the MHCCN is expected to nearly triple during the life of this grant.

For more information on how you might be able to participate in a clinical trial, visit: mainehealth.org/cancer.

PEOPLE NEWS



Jessica J. Bian, MD, has recently joined Maine Medical Partners – Medical Oncology in South Portland after completing a fellowship in hematology/medical oncology at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

She earned her medical degree at New York University School of Medicine, New York City, and completed her residency in internal medicine at Brown University. Her undergraduate degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology is from Yale University.

She has a particular interest in the treatment of patients with lung cancer and head and neck cancer.



Stephen Ryan, MD, has joined Maine Medical Partners – Surgical Care, in the Division of Urology.

Dr. Ryan is an Urologist specializing in diagnosing and treating patients with prostate, kidney, bladder and testicular cancer. He has expertise in robotic, laparoscopic and open surgery for the management of multiple genitourinary

malignancies (adrenal, kidney, ureter, retroperitoneal sarcoma, prostate, bladder, testicular and penile).

He also provides care for other urologic conditions including benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) or enlarged prostate, elevated prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels and the presence of blood in urine (hematuria).

He received his master's in physiology from Georgetown University and his medical degree from East Carolina University School of Medicine in Greenville, North Carolina. He completed his residency in urology at Maine Medical Center.

Dr. Ryan went on to complete a fellowship in urologic oncology in the Department of Urology at the University of California in San Diego, California.

His research interests include management of

urologic cancer, improvements on clinical outcomes, genetic markers of risk in cancer and clinical trials with neoadjuvant therapy.



Micheal Hellen, MD, has joined Maine Medical Partners – Hospital Medicine. Dr. Hellen will be working at both MMC and Stephens Memorial Hospital.

A graduate of University of Nevada School of Medicine, Dr. Hellen completed his residency here at Maine Medical Center.

Dr. Hellen's clinical interests include medical education and diagnostic reasoning.



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