

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

## MMC and Partnering Institutions Awarded \$20M by NIH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced a five-year, \$20 million research grant to Maine Medical Center, its research institute and our partnering institutions, the University of Vermont and the University of Southern Maine.

The funding will establish the Northern New England Clinical and Translational Research Network, a consortium dedicated to enhancing collaborative biomedical research activities for the improvement of human health. This consorti-

um joins nine other NIH-supported regional networks across the country.

Funding from this award will help researchers develop and implement innovative medical treatments for many chronic diseases prevalent in our region including cancer, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and substance abuse. Research activities will also focus on defining optimal methods of prevention and health care delivery in rural environments, where approximately 60 percent of Maine's popula-

tion resides. Another key purpose of the network is training the next generation of biomedical scientists, physicians and nurses in research methodology to attract additional research support to the region.

Collaborations with researchers at Tufts University School of Medicine and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth will serve to extend the capabilities of the network and its reach across the region.

Clifford Rosen, M.D., Director of the Center for

Clinical and Translational Research at Maine Medical Center Research Institute, and Gary Stein Ph.D., Director of the University of Vermont Cancer Center and Chair of the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, will co-lead the program.

"Our goal is to support innovative and transformative research, increase participation in clinical research and improve access of our rural residents to clinical studies.

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## Peter Bates, M.D., Receives Distinguished Faculty Award

Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) recently presented the Tufts Distinguished Faculty Award to Peter Bates, M.D., MMC's Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Chief Academic Officer and Academic Dean for the MMC-Tufts School of Medicine Medical School Program.

The award recognizes faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to Tufts University School of Medicine in the areas of teaching, scholarship and service.

Bob Bing-You, M.D., Vice

President of Medical Education at MMC, says, "Dr. Bates' outstanding contribution to TUSM is embodied in the success of the Maine Track Program. His leadership legacy will undoubtedly leave its mark on TUSM in the decades to come."

Dr. Bates was instrumental in the 2008 creation of the Maine Track medical education program, developed to address Maine's physician shortage, help Maine students overcome barriers to their medical ambitions and develop an innovative curriculum focused on rural, community-based educa-



*Peter Bates, M.D., welcomes a Class of 2017 medical student to the Maine Track Program in this 2013 photo.*

tion.

In his current role, Dr. Bates has oversight for all academic, research and edu-

cation activities, and participates in all strategic and operational decisions and policy as a senior corporate officer of MMC.

# PEOPLE NEWS

**Lesley Gordon M.D., M.S.**, has joined Maine Medical Partners — Hospital Medicine. Dr. Gordon received her medical degree from the Warren Alpert

School of Medicine of Brown University. She completed her residency at Maine Medical Center where she served as Chief Resident. Dr. Gordon also

has a Master of Science from the University of Maryland. In her spare time, Dr. Gordon enjoys hiking and traveling with her family.



## *'Maine Medical Center' from front*

This will ultimately improve the health and vitality of the people of Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire,” said Dr. Rosen.

Donald St. Germain, M.D., Director of Maine Medical Center Research Institute and Vice President of Research at Maine Medical Center, said, “This award by the National Institutes of Health to MMC acknowledges a truly unique collaborative effort on the part of three of the major academic institutions in northern New England and will bring important resources to bear across the region that will improve the health of our communities. The award represents the work of many dedicated individuals who will now turn their talents and expertise toward the discovery and implementation of novel preventative strategies and treatments for human disease and the development of

optimal health care delivery methods in rural environments.”

St. Germain expressed appreciation for the strong support of biomedical research and the NIH by Maine’s Congressional delegation.

Senator Susan Collins said, “This \$20 million grant for the Northern New England Clinical and Translational Research Network will improve collaboration among researchers and spur the advancement of treatments, means of prevention, and cures for diseases that affect nearly every American family. The fact that this exciting research will be conducted here in Maine is a credit to the skilled scientists at the Maine Medical Research Institute. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I have worked to secure significant investments for biomedical research, including a \$2 billion increase for the NIH this year, which will

help us conquer so many diseases that take both an emotional and financial toll.”

Senator Angus King also praised the researchers: “Maine Med has established itself as a premier medical institution with a dedicated team of health professionals and researchers who are advancing our understanding of medicine. This significant funding from NIH will support Maine Med’s important and ongoing work with the Center of Biomedical Research, which will help save lives and build a healthier Maine community.”

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree noted the impact this research center can have on rural Maine: “I am delighted to see Maine Medical Center and its research institute receive the federal funding necessary to establish the Northern New England Clinical and Translational Research Network. This five-year NIH grant

has a potential to change the health outcomes for thousands of Mainers living with chronic conditions ranging from cancer to diabetes. What’s more, this grant will support the retention of cutting-edge researchers working in rural states in Maine.”

Congressman Bruce Poliquin recognized the important role that this funding has in advancing medical treatment: “Thanks to our nation’s strong commitment to our top-of-the-line research institutions and facilities, America continues to lead the world in medical innovation and in finding cures and treatments for ailments once thought impossible to overcome. I’m very pleased with the announcement of this substantial and important support for medical research at Maine Medical Center and their partners so these health innovators can continue their work in providing a better and healthier future for all.”



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MaineHealth

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Comments, questions, and story ideas:  
Chelsea Miller, Communications Manager  
mmcnews@mmc.org