

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

Maine Track Students 'Matched' with MMC

Earlier this month 200 students at Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) Boston gathered to learn where the next step in their journey to becoming practicing physicians would take them. For 18 of them that answer was Maine Medical Center (MMC).

"I was so happy to open my envelope on Match Day and see that I would be at MMC," said Sarah Marie Harnois, a graduating medical student from Portland who matched with the Internal Medicine Program at MMC. "I have wanted to pursue a career that would allow me to come back to Maine, and I am beyond excited that I will be able to do so in medicine."

Match Day is a nationwide event at medical schools where graduating students find out where they will spend the next three or more years of their training through medical residency programs. Harnois is one of 38 graduating students who are members of the TUSM-MMC Program, and one of 14 program participants who will begin their residency at MMC in June. Additionally four other students from Tufts matched

into MMC residencies.

In partnership with Tufts, the Maine Track Program is offered to any applicant who is interested in a unique, innovative curriculum that offers clinical training experiences in Maine and exposes medical students to the unique aspects of rural practice. A portion of Maine Track students receive a scholarship and the program's goal, although it is not a requirement, is to attract future physicians to the state.

"The Maine Track program is an innovative approach to attracting future physicians to the state of Maine that is closely aligned with one of the most important aspects of Maine Medical Center's nonprofit mission of educating tomorrow's caregivers," said Peter Bates, M.D., Chief Academic Officer at MMC. "It is made possible by our partnership with Tufts and the vision of countless financial supporters, providers at MMC, Maine taxpayers and ultimately the students themselves."

The program was started in 2009, and including the 2017 class, has graduated



Back Row: Conor Walsh, Michael Tozier, Ellen Nagami (Tufts student), Erica Hidu, Alex Fiorentino; Middle Row: Kayleigh Sullivan, Leigh Johnson; Front Row: Sarah Marie Harnois, Kathryn "Kat" Hess.

nearly 170 students. Given the four years required for medical school and a minimum of three years of residency, the very first of the program's graduates are now becoming fully practicing physicians in Maine.

For program students who hail from Maine, the chance to come home and practice medicine with a financial head start and a community of professional supporters is invaluable.

"I am proud that I am from Maine and my plan has always been to return to Maine to work as a doctor," said Erica Hidu, an incoming Medicine-Pediatrics resident who is originally from Hampden, Maine. "Being able to do my residency here gives me the opportunity to train not only in medicine, but also to get a better understanding of the health care system and the unique issues that affect the people of Maine."

Kidney Screening Identifies At-Risk Patients

Members of the Maine Transplant Program (MTP), in collaboration with the National Kidney Foundation, volunteered at a kidney screening event at the Portland Public Library on March 20, in recognition of National Kidney Month.

The screening drew 45 people, who answered a brief health-risk survey and had their height, weight and blood pressure measured. Those considered at risk were then given a urine test. The test identifies protein in the urine, which is often the

first sign of kidney disease. Educational materials were provided and the MTP team reviewed results and answered questions from participants, and discussed next steps for those considered at risk for kidney disease. Patients ranged from 22 - 88 years old.

More than 26 million Americans have kidney disease and most don't know it. Early detection and treatment can slow or even prevent the progression of kidney disease.



Stuart Abramson, M.D., Debbie Hoch, D.N.P., and Mary Bess Skaletsky, P.A., wait to screen patients for kidney disease. Most of the patients who showed up did not have health insurance nor easy access to care.

MMC on TV? Yep, You Can Believe Your Eyes

Retired Neurologist John Kelly Sullivan, M.D., glimpsed something interesting as he was recently watching TV.

“I have been streaming ‘Designated Survivor’ and noticed a familiar hospital when they did a flyover of ‘George Washington Medical Center’ in the series,” says Sullivan. “I took this screenshot and sure enough, it is MMC!”

ABC Studios bought the footage, seen at right, from a production group called Axiom Images.




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