Congratulations to the TUSM-MMC Maine Track Class of 2016

Match Day 2016 included the fourth class of students in the “Maine Track” program, a partnership between Tufts University School of Medicine and Maine Medical Center. Counting this year’s class, more than 130 students have graduated from the program since 2013.

This year’s class included 35 medical students, 12 of whom were matched with MMC programs. Two additional students from the Boston-based Tufts class also matched with MMC. Others were placed in excellent teaching settings throughout the country, said Peter Bates, M.D., MMC’s Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer.

“The campus for these students is the State of Maine. Family practices, community hospitals, and Maine Medical Center all serve as training sites for these medical students,” says Dr. Bates. “Their experiences in the Maine Track program will have far-reaching benefits for underserved communities in the state. In addition, their residencies will give them a broader base of clinical experience, leading to improved care if they choose to practice here.”

Two Doctors, One Mountain, and a Life’s Goal Achieved

James Morse M.D., and Susan Miesfeldt, M.D., just accomplished a major personal goal: to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro before Dr. Morse’s 60th birthday. The couple did the climb while visiting Africa for an American Society of Clinical Oncology conference. The conference focuses on areas – in this case, Eldoret, Kenya – where non-specialists frequently provide cancer care, offering fundamental training to physicians, nurses, pathologists, and residents.

Although they spent five months training for the climb, the couple battled altitude sickness, suffering from headaches, fatigue, and nausea. Both took diuretics and drank 3.5 - 4 liters of water a day to stay hydrated, and carried multiple medications for unexpected illnesses or complications. They also battled frigid temperatures, especially at night, which made sleeping difficult.

The couple made it up the mountain in six days — just a few days before Dr. Morse turned 60. They plan to return to Tanzania to continue volunteering at a local oncology clinic.

Drs. Miesfeldt and Morse celebrate at the Kibo summit. Mt. Kilimanjaro is actually a volcano comprised of three volcanic cones, Kibo being the highest at 19,341 feet, and the only one still active.
Care Management’s Jane Thibodeau, R.N., was recently recognized with a DAISY Award for helping transfer a patient so she could be closer to friends and family during her final days. The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses “honors the super-human work nurses do for patients and families every day.”

Thibodeau was nominated by her colleague, who wrote this about the experience: “We had a patient who wanted to be transferred back to their “home” hospital … Jane Thibodeau was instrumental in getting everything organized and explaining to the family what was needed to do this on a Sunday … Jane went out of her way and took this family to the large, quiet room so she could ask if this is what they really wanted … [she] was compassionate with the family who kept saying thank you.”

To learn more about DAISY Awards, visit daisyfoundation.org.

MMC Employees Recognized With Moment To Shine
Visit the MMC Intranet to Submit Your Moment to Shine

Kathryn Sawyer has received an award from Monica Russo for Ownership
“Thank you very much for your tremendous work to develop and implement a preceptor workshop for MMP. Your efforts have had an immediate positive impact on staff engagement and professional development … This is a wonderful display of our values and a testament to your dedication.”

Erin Hogan has received an award from Judith West for Patient Centered
“Thank you for being a Leader in Operational Excellence, your commitment to the training, and taking the training back to your unit and implementing this new process. You have displayed not only outstanding ownership to this process but also a strong commitment to our patients and safety.”

Johanne Lovejoy has received an award from Paul Caron for Integrity
“Thank you so much for your help today with the HomeHealth domain migration. You were able to come in cold, quickly ascertain where you could add value and did so with style. Your communications with the team, either on the phone or in person, had a great personal touch, and you made people feel comfortable in dealing with you.”

Dawn Mangan has received an award from Tanya Richard for Respect
“I am very excited and proud at all that you have accomplished with learning the front desk and doing the check out, too. I also wanted to say thank you for covering for me when my child was ill. I appreciate you as a coworker and a team player.”