

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

National Institutes of Health Awards \$15M to MMC

Studies to Advance Research in Osteoporosis, Obesity, and Growing Kidney Tissue

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a total of \$15 million in research grants to two researchers at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute (MMCRI).

MMCRI Director of Clinical and Translational Research and Senior Scientist Clifford J. Rosen, M.D., along with his colleagues at Yale University, Harvard University and University of Michigan, was awarded an \$8,048,101 five-year renewal grant to study the charac-

teristics of bone marrow fat and how these fat cells affect other tissue. MMCRI is serving as the coordinating site and the liaison with the NIH.

“This is the first time researchers are looking at the link between osteoporosis and obesity in the bone marrow,” said Dr. Rosen. “There is tremendous potential for this study to affect the diagnosis and treatments of two very common conditions.”

Dr. Rosen has also received a \$100,000 grant from the NIH’s Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) to study the differences in male and female bone development at a cellular level. This project, a supplemental award to a larger grant under which Dr. Rosen is studying how the protein IGFBP-2 stimulates new bone formation, is a collaborative with Dr. David Clemmons at the University of North Carolina.

“We know that there is a

huge difference between the sexes in terms of how bone is developed, and we will now have a first-ever opportunity to see if these bone cells are programmed differently in men and women,” said Dr. Rosen. This is in line with major initiatives throughout NIH to address the issue of sex differences in clinical and basic studies including the 2010 NIH Strategic Plan for Women’s Health: A Vision for 2020.

Continued on back

Maine Medical Partners Recognized for Service to Medicare Advantage Patients

Maine Medical Partners (MMP), recently earned the 2014 UnitedHealthcare PATH Excellence in Patient Service Award for improving service to Medicare Advantage members.

The PATH program was developed by UnitedHealthcare to help improve outcomes for its Medicare Advantage members by encouraging greater use of preventive health care services. The award is based on clinical results that meas-

ure how successfully practices have closed gaps in patient care.

“We are proud of our physicians, nurses, and staff who have engaged our patients in preventive health care, including annual visits and recommended screenings that will lead to better health,” says Maine Medical Partners President Christopher Sprowl, M.D.



Pictured: Debra Charest, R.N., Denise Lancaster, and Debra McGill, R.N., with the PATH Award

The MaineHealth United Way Campaign

Launch Date: Wednesday, September 16



Look for details in eNews

*“National Institutes of Health Award”
from front*

Leif Oxburgh, D.V.M., Ph.D., of the MMCRI Center for Molecular Medicine was awarded a five-year grant of \$6,855,225 from NIH for a groundbreaking study to rebuild kidney tissue for people with kidney disease, which may ultimately provide an alternative to kidney transplants. Dr. Oxburgh is coordinating the study which includes collaborators from Tufts University and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

“To address complex questions such as engineering new kidney tissue, we need to assemble the best team, irrespective of geographic location. With this funding

we have built a team of experts with complementary research expertise from three different academic research centers from Maine to Texas,” says Dr. Oxburgh. “The next five years will see accelerating progress in tissue engineering, and it is a great privilege to help lay the groundwork for a solution to kidney transplant organ shortage.”

MMCRI’s work is aligned with the NIH’s growing focus on interdisciplinary studies to better answer complex medical questions by bringing together experts from different fields.

Don St. Germain, M.D., Vice President of Research for MMC and Director of MMCRI says, “Dr. Rosen is a seasoned and interna-

tionally recognized scientist in the bone metabolism field, who is a pioneer in the concept of team science and was one of the first investigators in the country to receive interdisciplinary research funding from NIH.”

“Dr. Oxburgh began his career at MMCRI as a junior investigator and quickly rose to independent status with NIH funding for kidney research. These grants, where MMCRI will coordinate large multi-state studies are of great importance in treating disease, are testament to our outstanding research environment and our commitment to collaboration to advance cutting-edge solutions to health problems.”

COMING
UP AT
MMC

Nursing Grand Rounds
Wednesday,
September 16
2 - 3 p.m.
Dana Auditorium

The Down East
Art of Giving Gala
Thursday, September 17
5:30 - 9 p.m.
54 Danforth St., Portland

**Let’s Go! Childhood
Obesity Conference**
September 17 and 18
MaineHealth Conference
Rooms, 110 Free Street

Annual MCCP WALK
Saturday, September 19
9 a.m.
Multiple Locations

Fall Into Fashion
With Friends
Sunday, September 27
1 - 4 p.m.
The Woodlands,
Falmouth

**For details on these
and all upcoming
events, check out the
Calendar on the MMC
Intranet.**



Maine Medical Center
MaineHealth

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