

What's Happening?

A NEWSLETTER

FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MAINE MEDICAL CENTER

Weisberg awarded research grant

Tracey Weisberg, MD, Tumor Biology Research Investigator at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute and Medical Director of the Breast Care Center at MMC, has been awarded a US Army Medical Research grant for "The Role of Growth Hormone and Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 in Human Breast Cancer Growth in a Mouse Xenograft Model". The Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program awarded a total of \$55 million in grants for research covering a number of types of initiatives, including Dr. Weisberg's.

Dr. Weisberg's grant of \$134,000 falls under the IDEA award subcategory. In this area, researchers are encouraged to submit "speculative but especially promising and creative ideas that may yield a high payoff," according to the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. With this challenge to be innovative, proposals were invited even if they lacked pilot data. "The grants in this category are for new innovations and good ideas," says Dr. Weisberg. "Some will work and some won't, but the Army is willing to provide funding to test them.

"The primary goal of our research is to develop an animal model that supports the growth of primary breast cancer explants," Dr.

WEISBERG, SEE P.5

More cancer services move to Scarborough

The Maine Center for Cancer Care at Maine Medical Center's Scarborough campus will soon gain a few more residents. Oncology Information Services and Oncology Administration will move the last week of March and the Maine Children's Cancer Program will relocate its multidisciplinary pediatric oncology and hematology program during the first week of April.

SCARBOROUGH, SEE P.5

Keeping in Touch

A Letter from Vince Conti

Although I've been here only a short time, I wanted to thank everyone I've already met for the warm welcome to Maine Medical Center. It's been a pleasure starting to get to know the hospital and its family, and it's been exciting to see so much energy and commitment.

I have the extraordinary good fortune of following Don McDowell's tenure, and I've inherited the results

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**What was it like to work
at MMC in 1950?**

See page 3.

THE MMC family celebrated Don McDowell's 17 years at the medical center with a Farewell Coffee and Program on Friday, February 28. McDowell, MMC's President since 1990, is now President of MaineHealth. You'll find more photos on page 2.

**May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,**



**May the sun shine warm
upon your face,
the rains fall soft
upon your fields and,**

**until we meet again,
May God hold you
in the palm of his hand.**

Irish Blessing



**We love you,
Don!**

**Thank You
and
Good Luck!**

Friday, February 28, 1997

Caring

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

March 19, 1997

What's Caring To Make A Difference all about? It's about people who make MMC special. It's about the folks who are quietly working hard each day to improve themselves, improve their departments, and improve the quality of life at MMC for everyone who enters our doors.

A Time Capsule

Let's go back in time, back to the year 1950, and take a look at how things have changed, and, interestingly, how some things have remained the same here at Maine Medical Center.

In 1950, Maine Medical Center was still Maine General Hospital, but was fast approaching some major changes. Read the following quote taken from "A Plan of Integration of Hospital Services", dated 1950: "Dr. Basil MacLean recommends a complete integration of the services of Maine General Hospital, Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary, and the Children's Hospital to provide the area with the best medical service at the lowest possible cost for such service." What? A merger? It sure sounds familiar, doesn't it? And we thought we were on the cutting edge! As history proves, the idea of a merger is not a new one to Maine Medical Center and even the reason for a merger has remained the same...to provide the community with the best healthcare services at the lowest possible cost.

In 1950, Maine General's Main Dining Room was located where the Accounting Office is now.

Imagine all of us squeezing in there at noontime now! One perk for the employees was that they were permitted to eat here at no charge as part of their wages. The only problem was the IRS caught wind of it and put in a recommendation to begin taxing employees on this. (Sounds like some things haven't changed much in the tax world, either!) There was talk of redecorating the Main Dining Room, including a paint job, soundproofing, and a ventilation system. And change wasn't limited to the Dining Room. The Admitting Department was being remodeled and a Central Sterile Supply Department was being established.

Curious about the employees? In 1950, there were 455 employees and 275 volunteers. Today, the number of employees tops 4,500 and our volunteers are 587 strong. What were employees doing? Maine General welcomed 1,144 babies in 1949. In comparison, 2,242 babies were brought into the world at MMC in 1996. There were 363 beds and an average daily census of 315 in 1950 versus the 598 beds with an average census of 478 for the month of January 1997.

The numbers may have jumped a bit and our look may



MAINE GENERAL Hospital's Switchboard operators in 1954. Today, MMC's operators handle about 400 calls an hour with five operators working during the day. WOW!

have changed drastically, but many principles remain the same. For instance, Maine Medical Center has always given to the community and the community has given back in a number of ways. For example, in 1950, Gene Autry, the famous singing cowboy, came to visit the Pediatric Ward and in 1996, George and Barbara Bush visited the Pediatric Unit.

People have always been and continue to be interested in Maine Medical Center. This is something to be proud of! It's nice to see that *change cannot change* the true spirit of Maine Medical Center.

A Personal Take on MMC Since 1950

You've just read about Maine Medical Center in 1950. Now meet someone who has experienced the last 47 years at MMC firsthand. His name is Merle Usher and he is Maine Medical Center's Senior Cook. Merle's responsibility to Food Services extends beyond his cooking capabilities; he's also (to quote Mary Keysor, Director of Food and Nutrition Services) their "Resident Poet".

Coming from a man who has seen his share of renovations, Merle writes this about the current renovations in Food Services:

Renovation

Renovation....something new!
But we have a tried and trusty crew.

Walls will be built,
equipment will be rearranged
We'll begin again,
our lives will be changed.

Adversity will be our enemy.
Teamwork will be our friend.
Bolstered by friends from BMC,
it's just around the bend.

This will be my final gig,
I hope you will all join me...
and bring it in big.

Merle came to work at Maine General in 1950 and has worked for the Food Services Department ever since. When he first came to the hospital, Merle played on the softball team (he was then, and forever will be, a Yankee fan). Today he enjoys gardening, working around his home, and trying his



SENIOR COOK Merle Usher has been part of the MMC family for 47 years! He's experienced lots of change at MMC, including two mergers. A/V Photo.

hand at writing poetry.

Merle attributes his career loyalty to co-workers who are like family and friends to him. Merle is a special person, one you should certainly meet if you can. Maine Medical Center has been blessed with such a worker.

Thanks, Merle!

**Special thanks to
the Archives division
of MMC's Library
for research assistance.**

Applause, Please!

A round of applause to the following members of MMC's Quality Councils: Janet Beecher, RN, Employee Health; Deb Dolan, RN, R6; Sandra Ellis, Medical Records; Paulette Gallant, RN, R1; Charles Greer, Clinical Lab; Kathy Harris, Pulmonary; Joanne Meserve, Environmental Services;

Cindy Tack, Social Work; Cheryl Vacchiano, Risk Management; Brenda Whitmore, RN, Discharge Planning; and Nancy Young, Infection Control.

What are we clapping for? Each of these folks volunteered to be part of a trial run for a self-study program, "Basic Tools for CPQI: What Every Team Needs to Know". Each spent one to four hours reviewing and critiquing the "Basic Tools" self-study.

Thanks to the efforts of this group, the self-study will be more user-friendly and will soon be available for any and all to take advantage of.

If you're in the market to learn about a fishbone diagram or brainstorming techniques, or if your curiosity about an Affinity Diagram is more than you can bear, the "Basic Tools for CPQI" self-study just might be for you!

Caring To Make A Difference is a monthly publication of the Continuous Productivity and Quality Improvement Office. Ideas, questions, and comments may be directed to the Editor, Stephanie Smith, CPQI Program Assistant, at 871-2009, Fax 871-6344, or email smithsa.

WEISBERG, FROM P. 1

Weisberg continues. "Breast cancer is notoriously poor at being able to grow in animal models. Specific genes within the immune and endocrine systems are likely to be the major controlling elements in the successful development of mouse models for mammary tumor xenografts (tissue transplant of one species into another). Based upon our own preliminary data and the work of others, we believe that growth factors, specifically human growth hormone (hGH) and Insulin-Like Growth Factor (IGF-1) may be critically important in the successful establishment of such xenografts in an animal model."

The experiments proposed in the research will further explore the roles played by human growth hormone, human IGF-1, and 17- β estradiol in breast cancer initiation and progression in a mouse xenograft model. The experimental strategy in this proposed research is to employ a *scid/scid* mouse deficient in hGH and IGF-1 and a *scid/scid* mouse that overproduces human growth hormone to answer specific questions regarding primary breast cancer growth. A *scid/scid* mouse has no functioning immune system.

Experiments are designed to determine the optimal amount and mode of delivery of recombinant human growth hormone (rhGH) to experimental animals to result in primary tumor engraftment and initiation of a palpable tumor mass. Other experiments will address the IGF-1 requirements of a primary breast cancer growing in a xenograft mouse model. The role of estrogen and its importance in primary tumor initiation and progression will be explored in the hGH/IGF-1 axis.

"We plan to grow primary breast cancer explants obtained

from patients undergoing care at Maine Medical Center in the optimized animals model," says Dr. Weisberg. "Upon completion of the research, the role of hGH, IGF-1, and the hGH/IGF-1 axis in human breast cancer initiation and promotion in mouse hosts will be detailed. We hope that work from this animal model may help explain the biology of breast cancer growth in patients, especially those who have been given endogenous estrogen replacement, so that breast cancer research may be furthered."

The grant will be shared with Jackson Labs in Bar Harbor, where a mouse model has been designed to over-produce human growth hormone.

**Biomedical Conference
Involvement of ETS Transportation
Factors in Bone Development**

Arun Seth, PhD
Associate Professor, Dept. of
Pathology, University of Toronto

Wednesday, March 19, 1500 hours
Maine Medical Center
Research Institute

SCARBOROUGH, FROM P. 1

The Maine Children's Cancer Program (MCCP), currently located on Forest Avenue in Portland, provides comprehensive medical and psychosocial support services to Maine's children with cancer and their families. The program's specialized team includes pediatric oncologists, pediatric nurses, social workers, and clinical research staff. The program will be based in Scarborough, but serves children from across the state.

MCCP now serves hundreds of families from throughout Maine who have been touched by childhood cancer. Each year, approximately 35 to 45 new children from

birth to age 21, along with their families, come to MCCP for initial diagnosis and treatment. There they find an upbeat, non-threatening environment. The program's objective is not only to cure as many children as possible, but also to heal and support the family through its crisis. Today, close to 70 percent of children with cancer are cured.

Also moving to Scarborough is Oncology Information Services (OIS). The department, which provides major support services to the Maine Center for Cancer Care, will move the last week of March.

The services provided by OIS include the collection, management, and analysis of data about persons diagnosed with cancer; data management support for participation in Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) clinical trials; oversight of data collection, quality monitoring, and report generation from the Lung Cancer Data Base; and assistance and support to clinical departments in meeting Maine Cancer Registry reporting requirements. Staff coordinate publication of the quarterly newsletter *Maine Cancer Perspectives* and the *Maine Cancer Perspectives Protocols* supplement, as well as publication of *Cancer Program Annual Report*; they also help organize the annual cancer symposium and cancer conferences.

Oncology Administration will move from 31 Bramhall Street to the new Cancer Center. One of the oncology program's goals for 1997 is to provide oversight and support to the smooth operations of the interdisciplinary center. This will be facilitated by having the department located in the Cancer Center.

The majority of outpatient services for cancer and blood disorders are consolidating in the new building in Scarborough. All components will be in place at the Maine Center for Cancer Care by May.

Stressed out?

Join Peg Bradstreet, MS, RNCS,
Mental Health Nurse Specialist
for

Healthy Living, Managing Stress

Thursday, April 3

or

Monday, May 5

1730--1900 hours

Dana Center Auditorium

This free program will show you how to use relaxation, breathing, and imagery techniques to calm your mind and body and melt away stress. Register today by calling 871-2397, and take an important first step toward leading a less stressed, more healthy life!

LETTER, FROM P. 1

of his vision and effective management. His leadership has positioned us well for the future.

The success of leadership depends on the quality and commitment of everyone in the organization, and based on what I've seen so far, we are indeed fortunate in that regard. I look forward to spending time meeting as many staff as possible, and benefitting from your ideas and experience.

Sincerely,

Vince Conti

In One Voice:

Integrating Diabetes Care

Friday, April 25

0800-1600 hours

Dana Health Education
Center Auditorium

For a brochure or
to register,
call Libby Bancroft,
871-2397.

The 4th Annual Mud Season Conference

Asthma Issues

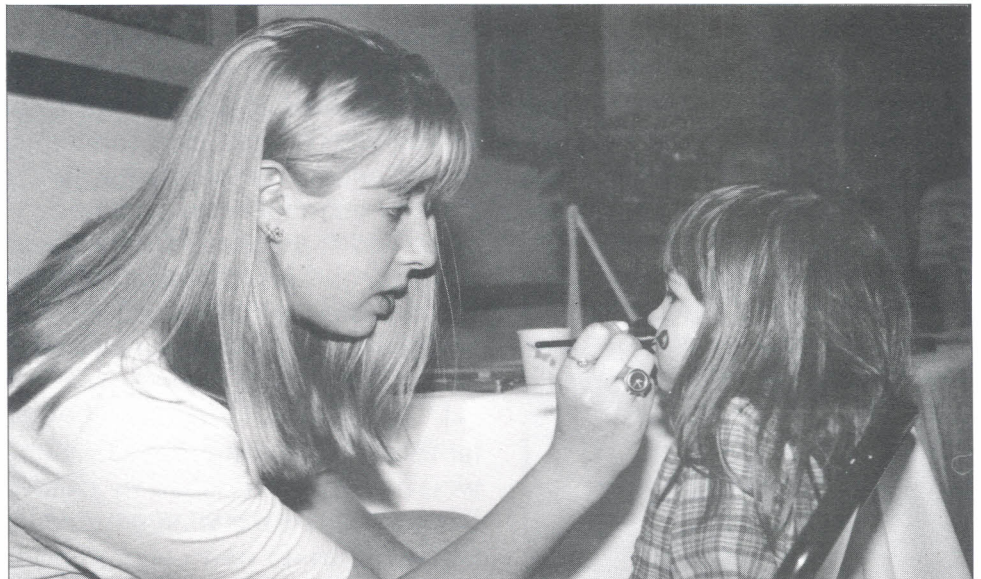
Friday, April 18, 0745--1545 hours

Dana Health Education Center

For details, to register, or to ask for a brochure, call Sue Mallory, 871-2662. Registration deadline: April 11.



JUGGLING, FACE PAINTING, and an ice sculpture were just some of the family-oriented events enjoyed by guests at the Falmouth Family Health Center's Open House on Saturday, March 1. Families large and small – an estimated 600 people in all – turned out to tour the new health facility and learn more about the wide range of services provided there. Part of the MaineHealth family, the facility houses Coastal Women's Healthcare, Family Care Associates, Greater Portland Medical Group, Health Commons Institute, MMC Diagnostic Center-Falmouth, MMC Family Practice Center, and NorDx Laboratories. Moving to the facility in May will be Greater Portland Pediatric Associates. A/V Photos.



Marketplace

In order to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to use the Marketplace, ads may be placed *once only*. Repeats will be permitted only on a space available basis.

FOR SALE

Chrysler LeBaron sport coupe turbo, 1987, new brakes, new front tires, auto. Very dependable. One owner, 118K miles, Blue Book value, \$3,000+. Asking \$2,000. Call 767-2983 after 1900 hours.

Power Rider exercise machine. Works great. Excellent cond. \$180 new. Selling for BO. Call 767-5105.

Concepts in Comfort pine entertainment center, \$250. Sony receiver and Bose speakers, \$275. Lazy Boy recliner, (exc. cond., sea foam green) \$100. Call 799-4915.

Custom-made, Waverly print, lined patio door drapery, \$40. Custom-made padded cornice, \$20. Call 775-4923.

Smith Corona laptop word processor with separate printer. Includes Grammar Right tools; MS DOS compatibility, WordPerfect and Lotus 1-2-3 conversions. 18 mo. old. New \$400, Asking \$200. Call 761-0304.

Weslo Cardio glide total body fitness machine. Low impact work out. Exc. cond. \$100 or BO. Call 786-3488.

Simple, elegant two-piece evening dress appropriate for weddings or semi formal wear. Sea moss color, size 6, combination acetate/rayon, long sleeve, suit style top with soft lines, cloth buttons, ankle length skirt with matching cloth covered buttons. Worn once, paid \$250, asking \$125. Call 775-2012.

3 YO camelback couch, light blue/rose floral vertical print. \$550. Call 883-5821 evenings.

Pony tail palm, 40 YO, 7'H, \$50.
1930s mahogany furniture: 4 drawer dresser, \$40, mirror, \$40, flip-top side table, \$40; one-drawer end table, \$15.
Contemporary 3 door cupboard w/3 glass door top, 6'H, 5'L, 16"W, light

blue, \$75. Call 774-7771.

Olin 800 downhill skis (175 length) Never used due to injury. Equipped w/ Solomon 637 bindings. Kerma ski poles (48"). Nordica women's ski boot (size 8). Asking \$150 for everything. Call 892-8906.

3/4 BR home in Gorham, master BR w/ whirlpool bath and walk-in closet, study, LR w/fireplace, dining room, K w/eating area, family room w/ woodstove flue. 2 1/4 acre lot. \$189,900. Call 839-7479.

2 vinyl replacement windows with screens. Used 2 years. 39 1/2" W x 28 1/2" H. \$75 each or \$125 or BO for both. Call 856-1198.

Hollis. 3 BR, 2 bath Cape, 9 YO on 5.5 acres, surrounded by 400 wooded acres. Sky lights, screened porch, part finished basement, 2 stall horse barn. Move in cond. Call 727-4321.

1996 Diamond Back mountain bike, model WCF 2.0. Rockshox, toe clips, Ridden 4 times. \$650 or BO. Call 839-6414. Leave message.

Everett upright mahogany piano. Decoratively carved, in exc. tuned cond. Asking \$750. Call 799-5401.

1984 Pontiac Firebird SE. Fire Engine red, V8, auto., 25 K miles, 1 owner, maintenance records. In showroom condition. Investment quality, needs nothing. \$9,000 or BO. Call 799-5401.

1990 Jeep Wrangler Laredo. Blue, hard and soft tops, 5 speed, 4.2 liter, Alpine stereo system with amplifiers, exc. cond. Call 774-3587.

Parabody-Bodysmith Express multi station weight machine including pec dec. No pins, no cable changes. Immaculate condition, 3 YO. Was \$1,100 new. Asking \$750. Call 871-2955 or 799-1885.

1987 Nissan Sentra. Red, 150 K miles, engine OK, body needs some work. Asking \$750 or BO. Call 799-0441.

1986 Nissan 200SX. 116K miles. A/C, 2 door, 5 speed, snow tires. Looks great, runs great. One owner. \$2,100. Call 839-8473.

The deadlines for announcement-length items and **MARKETPLACE** are March 19 for the April 2 issue and April 2 for the April 16 issue.

All items must be in writing.
Information for *What's Happening* may be sent by interoffice mail to the Public Information Department, by email to davolm, or by fax to 871-6212.

FOR RENT

1 BR apt. in nice, quiet Gorham neighborhood. N/S, no pets. \$350/mo. + utils. Call 839-4702.

Summer rental. Lake camp near Farmington. Gas and wood stoves. Electric refrig. Outhouse, 3 BR, great swimming, porch sitting and boating. \$200/wk. + refs. Call 774-7771.

1 BR apt. near Eastern Prom. Large K, heat incl. \$465/mo. + sec. dep. Call 772-1093 after 1700 hours.

CHILD CARE

Westbrook. Licensed day care has 1 full time opening for 2 YO or older. Nutritional meals and snacks served. Reasonable rates. 0630 to 1730 hours, M-F. Off Route 302. Call 856-1198.

WANTED

To rent year-round 2 or 3 BR cottage/house/mobile/apt. in Scarborough/Saco/OOB/South Portland areas. No pets. Call 846-1101.

Housekeeping position. Let me end your household stress and clean and organize your home. Experienced. 8 years w/physician. Dependable, trustworthy, efficient and effective. Exc. refs. Call 879-1024.

CNA looking for position as home health aide. Evenings or night shift. Call 767-0981.

What's Happening?

at Maine Medical Center

- Mar. 24 Maine Med Cyclists team meeting for ALA Trek Across Maine. 1200-1300 hours, Dana #3. All cyclists invited!
- Apr. 2 Kid's Photo Contest, through April 5. Call 871-2101.
- Apr. 5 Suicide & Survival Conference. 0800-1530 hours. Dana Center. Call 871-4226.
- Apr. 12 Spring Surgical Symposium & New England Surgical Society Spring Meeting. 0800-1700 hours, Auditorium. Call 871-4078.
- Apr. 18 4th Annual Mud Season Conference, 0745-1545 hours, Dana Center. Call 871-2662.
- Apr. 25 In One Voice: Integrating Diabetes Care. 0830-1600 hours, Auditorium. Call 871-2397.

About People

Karen L. Thurlow, RNC, BSN, Education Coordinator/Nurse Liaison with NorDx Laboratories, presented "Targeting the Underserved Beneficiaries: The Elderly in Long-Term Care" at the 1997 Adult Immunization Conference in Chicago. Her presentation focused on the use and non-use of pneumococcal vaccinations and influenza vaccinations in Maine's elderly residing in long-term care facilities.

The 28th Annual Spring Surgical Symposium & New England Surgical Society Spring Meeting

**Saturday, April 12, 0800--1700 hours
Dana Health Education Center Auditorium**

The Isaac M. Webber Surgical Lecture

**Surgical Management of Gastric Carcinoma:
Challenges and Controversies**

Blake Cady, MD

Professor of Surgery,

Harvard Medical School & New England Deaconess Hospital

Call the Dept. of Surgery, 871-4078, for more information.

NEW EMPLOYEES

ANESTHESIA: Dennis Dean

CARDIOLOGY: Denise Hardy, Debra Tarbox

CENTRAL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION: James Lawler

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Stephen Dunphy

FOOD SERVICES: Patrick Halpin

HUMAN RESOURCES: Kim Foglio, Melody Sweetser

INFORMATION SERVICES: Randall Harding, Jane Lebreck

MATERIELS MANAGEMENT: Charles Sellick, Charlene Robinson

MEDICAL RECORD SERVICES: Tracy Brewster

NURSING: Lois Beers, Jane McGee,

Frances Shashoua

ONCOLOGY INFORMATION SERVICES: Sherry Gilberti

OPERATING ROOM: Colin McLean, Elizabeth Reyes

PULMONARY MEDICINE: Jeanne Smith

RADIOLOGY: Raymond Frederick

SWITCHBOARD: Kimberly Gillikin

What's Happening? is published every other Wednesday at Maine Medical Center for members of the hospital community and for friends of the institution throughout Maine and northern New England. Comments, questions, and suggestions may be addressed to the Office of Public Information, MMC, 22 Bramhall Street, Portland, Maine 04102-3175. (207) 871-2196. Editor: Wayne L. Clark.

- Change name or address as shown on address label.
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MAINE MEDICAL CENTER 22 BRAMHALL STREET PORTLAND, ME 04102-3175