

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

MMCRI Researcher Joins Colorado Researcher To Study Why Therapeutic Horseback Riding Benefits Children With Autism



Mathew Siegel, M.D.

The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, in collaboration with the

Maine Medical Center Research Institute has been awarded a \$2.5 million grant to study why therapeutic horseback riding benefits children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), particularly children who have co-occurring psychiatric diagnoses.

The grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development of the NIH will fund a

five-year study of the physiological impacts of therapeutic horseback riding. A previous study showed that a 10-week riding intervention reduced irritability and hyperactivity while improving the social communication skills of youth diagnosed with ASD. To learn why, MMCRI Faculty Scientist Mathew Siegel, M.D., will team up with Principal Investigator Robin Gabriels, Psy.D. Dr. Siegel is the

study's co-investigator and leader of the Autism and Developmental Disorders Service of Maine Behavioral Healthcare.

"It's not often we have a chance to try to understand why something works," Siegel said. "Learning why will hopefully help us create other interventions that could address challenges that children with ASD face."

MMC Colleagues Go Red in Support of American Heart Month



MMC colleagues showed support for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign on Friday, Feb. 7. Clockwise from top left: Patient Access PreServices, MMC Admitting Patient Access, MMCRI and the Department of Medical Education.



Patient Care Support Services colleagues were recognized last week during the department's Employee of the Month Celebration. Employees of the Month were celebrated for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Thank you PCSS team!



MMC Stroke Program Receives Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke Certification

Maine Medical Center has recently received its second Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke Certification. This program is the most demanding stroke certification and is designed for those hospitals that have specific abilities to receive and treat the most complex stroke patients. The designation is for excellence in stroke care across the continuum, and shows a commitment to a higher standard of clinical service. It is offered in collaboration with the American Heart Association / American Stroke Association and shows that MMC is dedicated to raising the bar for stroke care. Maine Medical Center is leading the way in exceptional stroke care in Maine.