

May 6, 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

Maine Track Celebration Honors 35 Members of the Class of 2019



Maine Medical Center (MMC) held a special celebration on Saturday, April 27 to recognize the seventh cohort of “Maine Track” program students graduating from Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston next month. The class of 35 will begin their residencies this summer. Five of them will be residents at MMC, joined by

four students from the Boston-based Tufts program.

“Each of our future graduates, whether they began their lives in Maine or moved here to go to medical school, has been woven into the fabric of health care in this state,” said Doug Sawyer, M.D., MMC’s Chief Academic Officer. “We look forward

to watching them make a difference in the health of our state and nation for years to come.”

The Maine Track program is a partnership between MMC and Tufts that was formed 11 years ago to help address the shortage of doctors in Maine, provide financial assistance to aspiring medical students from

Maine and to develop an innovative curriculum focused on community-based education.

Including the 2019 class, 239 physicians have graduated from the program since it began. Program participants are not required to practice in Maine, but 43 percent of graduates who have completed their residencies were doing so as of the fall of 2018.

MMC’s annual Maine Track celebration marks the local recognition of medical school students who will graduate from Tufts on May 19 in Boston. After that, many students plan to return to Maine.

MMC, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Awarded Major National Institutes of Health Grant for Cardiac Surgery Research

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, NH and Maine Medical Center (MMC) have been awarded a \$3.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to increase access to cardiac

surgery clinical trials among rural populations.

Alexander Iribarne, M.D., M.S., cardiac surgeon and director of cardiac surgery research at DHMC, will serve as the overall principal investigator, along with co-principal investigator

Robert Kramer, M.D., director of research and quality improvement in the division of cardiothoracic surgery at MMC.

The grant, “Advancing Cardiothoracic Surgical Trials in Rural Health Populations,” also provides

funding to help train a new generation of clinical and implementation science researchers at both DHMC and MMC.

*‘NHLBI Grant’
Continued on Back*

Happy Nurses Week!

Look for a story on Thursday's Nursing Excellence Awards Ceremony in the May 12 edition of What's Happening.

MMC Makes Becker's Great Hospitals List

Maine Medical Center has been included in the prestigious Becker's Healthcare list of "100 Great Hospitals in America" for 2019.

MMC is the only hospital in Maine to earn this distinction. Becker's, a leading publication highlighting business, legal news and analysis for the health care industry, recognized the hospitals on the list for "excellence in clinical care, patient outcomes and staff and physician satisfaction."

Becker's Healthcare selected the hospitals for inclusion based on its analysis of ranking and award agencies, including U.S. News & World Report's 2018 - 19 rankings, CareChex, Healthgrades, CMS star ratings, Leapfrog grades and IBM Watson Health top hospitals. Becker's also sought nominations for this list.

"We are proud to be included in the '100 Great Hospitals' list for 2019," says Jeff Sanders, MMC President. "The criteria for

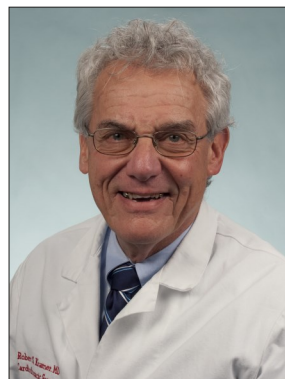
consideration are comprehensive and varied, and our inclusion is a testament to the high-quality, patient-centered care our team provides every day."

Other New England hospitals making the 2019 list include Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Children's Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital and UMass Memorial Medical Center.

'NHLBI Grant' From Front

DHMC and MMC enter this grant as Linked Clinical Research Centers to support the NIH Cardiothoracic Surgical Trials Network (CTSN). CTSN was established in 2007 to create an infrastructure for conducting major clinical trials in cardiac surgery.

Over the past 12 years, the CTSN has grown to include more than 40 major academic medical centers across the United States and Canada, and more than 20 hospitals in Europe, resulting in research findings that have changed clinical practice. Only five linked clinical



Robert Kramer, M.D.

centers were selected from a highly competitive application process for this seven-year grant.

The grant will have a significant impact on rural cardiac surgery patients in Maine and New Hampshire, states with the oldest populations in the nation, according to

the most recent U.S. Census data. Maine is also the state with the highest percentage of its population living in rural or non-metropolitan areas. People residing in rural areas of northern New England often have higher-than-average rates of cardiovascular disease. This high cardiovascular disease burden, coupled with challenges in access to care, often contribute to a shorter life expectancy for patients in rural areas compared with those in metropolitan areas.

"The evidence-based medicine of today is the research of yesterday," Dr. Kramer said. "This grant allows us to tap into a network of clinical trials that are being performed across the

country, and will improve the access our rural populations have to high-quality care."

The grant also provides funding to train the next generation of cardiovascular clinical researchers in late-stage translational research, through a Clinical and Implementation Research Skills Program (CIRSP). The CIRSP program will provide junior faculty and fellows from DHMC and MMC with comprehensive didactic training and mentored research, and will also provide funding for the education and training of national scholars drawn from populations traditionally underrepresented in clinical research.



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