

## Congratulations!

To Julia McDonald DO who was one of two recipients honored by the Maine Medical Association with the 2023 Mary Floyd Cushman, MD Award for Exceptional Humanitarian Service as a Medical Volunteer. The award, which includes a \$1,000 donation to the institution or organization of the recipient's choice, was established in 2003 and recognizes the humanitarian service of Maine medical volunteers who dedicate their time to help the less fortunate of humanity. Dr. McDonald (pictured with Dr. Connie Adler class of '87 who nominated her) accepted the award at the Maine Medical Association's Annual Session dinner Sept 9.



## Outward Bound

PGY3 residents participated in a team-building weekend on Burnt Island through Hurricane Island Outward Bound



Sept 15-17 (yes, during Hurricane Lee!), completing the transition of this experience from the PGY3 practice management block to the PGY1 outpatient block.



Similar to last year, PGY1 residents participated in a team-building weekend through Hurricane Island Outward Bound during their outpatient clinic experience.

## MERGE Collaborative News

The Maine Rural Graduate Medical Education ([MERGE](#)) Collaborative will hold its first annual conference on Oct 27 from 9 to 3 at UMaine Orono as part of the Maine Research Symposium on Biomedical Science & Engineering. See MERGE website for more info. Residents are now able to participate in elective rotations at rural training sites through the MERGE Collaborative. Rural training site info is posted on the [MERGE website](#). The MERGE learning platform will launch soon – stay tuned!



## UNE Library News

Over the next few months the UNE library will initiate a new system for off-campus access to library resources. Each resident & fellow affiliate will receive an individual login, and the common institution user name and password will be phased out. Faculty with a UNE appointment interested in library access are expected to complete the Utilization of Benefits form accompanying their appointment letter.

## CFAD Update

The newly minted Committee on Faculty Affairs and Development (CFAD) was created this summer with the goal of addressing needs to improve faculty work. CFAD identified two collateral projects: 1) creation of a faculty handbook and 2) review of MDFMR's committee structures to create a map for communication and decision making. CFAD had a productive retreat on 9/13 and developed a shared understanding of the committees at MDFMR, discussed recommendations on who each committee should serve/represent (FM vs. subspecialty vs. all), and began to delineate a structure of communication that interfaces with the leadership organization chart. Next steps include bringing findings and recommendations to leadership for discussion. After this meeting, further updates will be provided to all faculty.

## In Recognition

Recognizing and thanking our team members who help the Residency uphold its mission and care for our patients:

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> is **National Midwifery Week**. We are very thankful to have Angela & Julie on our faculty to provide great obstetrical care for our patients and wonderful teaching and support for our residents and students.

Oct 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> is **National Physician Assistant Week**. The Residency has been blessed with a multitude of skilled PA teachers over the years, and our current group including Toby, Sadienne, Ken, Rebecca, Theresa, Adrian, and Megan are wonderful additions to our clinical teams and provide excellent patient care and teaching.

Oct 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> is **Medical Assistant Recognition Week**. We have had too many wonderful MAs to list over the years. Make sure to take a moment that week to thank your MA for all they do to keep our clinics running smoothly.

Nov 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> is **Nurse Practitioner Week**. We have been fortunate to have many wonderful advanced practice nurses in our program. Thanks to Persis, Alissa, Kate, Louise, Rebecca, and Elizabeth for all that you do!

On behalf of MDFMR Senior Leadership, thanks to everyone for all your hard work and contributions to our community.

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## Faculty & Staff Recruitment News

We are pleased to announce **John Diefenderfer DO** has been appointed the new Director of Osteopathic Education effective Oct 1. We would also like to welcome **Mary Dionne MEd, MPH** as MDFMR's Learning Environment Specialist. This is a new role created to expand support in the residency clinical learning environment including in QI and community engagement.

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## MDCCC at Ballard Center

MDCCC is now established and seeing patients at Ballard Center in Augusta. Persis Hope FNP has the flexibility to see patients at Thayer (sharing exam room space at MaineGeneral College Health), and also sees patients at Ballard or via telehealth. The ONMM inpatient consult service at MGMC has expanded and is now available most Tues mornings as well as Mon, Wed, and Fri afternoons.

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## CME – Project ECHO

Maine Health will be facilitating Project ECHO sessions which qualify for free CME. Sessions are held via Zoom and there are a variety of specialty care topics in which to participate. For more info and to register: [Project ECHO | MaineHealth](#)

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## Resident & Fellow Recruitment News

**Family Medicine:** Virtual interviews begin Oct 19 and end late January, with group visits offered in February.

**Sports Medicine:** Virtual interviews began Sept 13 and end Nov 29.

**Geriatric Medicine:** Virtual interviews began Sept 12 and end by Oct 26.

**ONMM:** In-person interviews to assess manual skills are scheduled on a rolling basis (no Match participation).

### Match Dates

Nov 29: Geri Match Day

Mar 15: FM Match Day

Jan 10: Sports Match Day

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## Scholarship Opportunity

American Geriatrics Society call for abstracts for the virtual spring 2024 annual meeting is coming soon. Abstract submission deadline is late Nov/early Dec; case-based submissions accepted. If you are interested in submitting, reach out to Rebecca Spear.

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## Nevola Grantee Opens Labyrinth

St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Waterville was awarded funds through MDFMR's Nevola Small Grants Program to build an accessible meditation labyrinth. The labyrinth is located at the corner of North Street & Eustis Parkway, across from the North Street Recreation soccer fields and playground, near the Thayer Center for Health. It is open to the public at all times.



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## Institutional Action Plan

MDFMR developed its [institutional action plan](#) for 2023-24. Improvement efforts focus on (1) optimizing MDFMR's capacity to use data to drive positive change around DEI & wellness, and (2) finalizing leadership job descriptions and developing structures to support QIPS, CFAD, and an alumni association.