

Dear Members of the Maine Medical Center Medical Staff,

Happy October! This will be an excellent month for celebrating crisp autumn air, colorful leaves and of course: our medical staff. Please come dine with colleagues at the **Medical Staff Dinner** on October 17. It will buoy our sense of camaraderie and team spirit as we muster the grit necessary to take on shorter days, colder weather and yes, even flu season.

In this issue, we share an abundance of news, as well as exciting symposia and events in the coming month.

But first, a shout out to everyone who participated in the **Medical Staff elections**. We had so many nominations that we held two rounds of voting to narrow the field for a final and impressive slate. Voter turnout was at an all-time high. See election results and please come to our upcoming dinner to meet and congratulate your new officers and MEC representatives. Also — *today is the last day* — please nominate a colleague for a **medical staff award**. Send your nomination to medstaff@mmc.org today, Oct. 3, by midnight. Read the article for details and award descriptions. Today is also the last day to submit your “ah-ha” ideas to the **Innovation Cohort**. Read about the **Innovation Cohort** [here](#).

Are you ready for flu season? Last year’s flu was the deadliest in decades. Please get vaccinated at any one of the many **flu shot clinics**. There will also be a flu vaccine station right in the Dana Center at the beginning of our Med Staff dinner on October 17. Hospital Epidemiologist Dr. Valenti’s article outlines **this year’s vaccines and recommendations**.

Speaking of *diagnosis*, do you agree it’s the essential foundation of what we do as clinicians? We are trained to practice the art and science of medicine so as to compassionately diagnose, treat and prognosticate — and the latter two clearly depend on doing the first one well. Our colleague and national expert on diagnostic error, Dr. Trowbridge provides you with the top three steps to reduce diagnostic error. Diagnosis and Decision Making will be featured at the **Hospital Medicine Symposium** on October 31, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Andrew Olson discussing Health System Designs that Optimize Medical Decision-making. **There’s still time to register**.

Keeping pace with changes and challenges in health care requires strategic planning and the discipline to prioritize goals and objectives. In this issue, we present the MMC

This issue is my last before I pass the baton to Chris Cary who is taking over as Medical Staff President on November 1. I thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as Medical Staff President these past two years. I learned a great deal, including (and especially) that there is always more to learn and that there are fabulous ways to find meaning, purpose and connections in our days. I will shift to past president with ongoing presence at many committees and tables, and where I will proudly continue to serve and represent you, a dynamic medical staff.
-Lisa Almeder

FY'19 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) which puts forth objectives organized in the quadruple aim framework. We thank the many Medical Staff and leaders who participated and shaped this plan in numerous meetings (including our April Medical Staff dinner meeting).

A shared objective of the medical center and the Medical Staff is to improve and optimize the EHR. Though it seems not a month goes by without another survey, we want to emphasize the importance of this one: please complete the **Provider EHR Survey** to help us understand where we're at with the EHR. As part of a national collaborative, your responses will drive prioritization and decision making to improve the EHR, and we will get benchmark data on our status relative to other hospitals.

We think you will enjoy the clinical articles in this issue, covering topics ranging from **handoff communication**, **Cancer Institute outcomes**, **Project ECHO** for Heart Failure, and **Renal Pearls** from our Nephrology colleagues.

As always, we are thrilled to promote opportunities for professional development, academics, education, innovation and medical staff well-being.

Please consider participating in:

- The **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee** under the leadership of Dr. Beth Wilson.
- The Symposium on **Violence, Guns and the Health Environment**, with keynote speaker Dr. D. Hemenway, PhD, Director, Harvard Injury Control Research Center.
- **Coaching for MMC TUSM students**. See Dr. Bing-You's announcement - recruiting a pool of coaches for TUSM class of 2023 to start end of next summer.
- The **Brown Bag series** upcoming discussions: "Alter Ego" with John Erikson and "Scarcity Trap" with Katherine Rizzolo.

Sincerely,



Joel Botler MD

Joel Botler, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer



Lisa Almeder

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Medical Staff President