

INNOVATION

The connective tissue between research, education, and care

MaineHealth

[INNOVATION CENTER](#)

[INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
& TECH TRANSFER](#)

[TRANSFORMING CARE](#)

MaineHealth Innovation builds connections to drive diversity of thought, educates to produce creative problem-solvers, and funds to accelerate ideas. By leveraging the ideas, insights and expertise of all care team members to develop novel solutions to our unmet care needs, we are working together so our communities are the healthiest in America.

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SUSAN AHERN
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A Note from Susan

Susan Ahern - Vice President of Innovation, MaineHealth

Hi Colleagues,

As we meet folks across MaineHealth, I am constantly in awe of the amazing care team members and the collaborations happening to achieve the vision of working together. Last week, thanks to **Dominic Gagnon, Vice President of Facilities**, we toured the **Malone Family Tower**. It was jaw dropping to learn about the volume of collaborators involved, the innovations, and how you are building the hospital-within-a-hospital, as **Lou Inzana, MBA, CPA**, had described it! Congratulations!

I'd also like to thank **Leisa Collins, M. Ed., Manager, Staff Services, MHIR** and **Tsveta Kysela, Sr. Labor Analyst, MMC Financial Planning**, who are awesome, welcoming, and creating synergies where novel ideas can flourish.

Collaborations are the catalysts for accelerating novel ideas that solve unmet care needs. They energize us.

I am curious, how might we further collaborate?

With kind regards,
Susan

Building Momentum for Innovation with MaineHealth's Nurse Residents

By Karen Budd

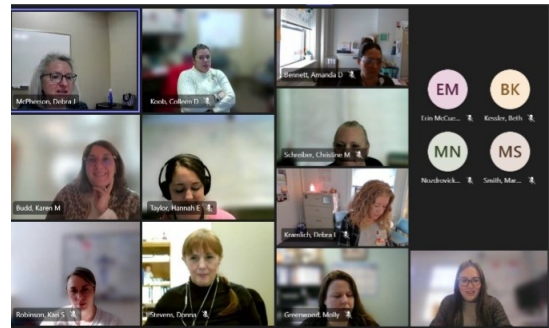
Amid our hectic schedules, promoting creativity and innovative thinking among peers may seem challenging. However, MaineHealth Innovation is excited to share the **growing momentum within MaineHealth's Nurse Residency education program** to incorporate innovation training into the learning curriculum.



Based on the success of the first Ideas to Action workshop held last fall at Southern Maine Health Care, a second workshop was recently held in the Coastal Region. Working collaboratively with Donna Stevens, RNC-OB, Clinical Nurse Educator from Lincoln Health, this workshop was designed to address a specific challenge identified by the nurse residents: How can we increase retention and mitigate high turnover for the Coastal Region nurses?

Through a highly interactive and hands-on learning experience, led by MaineHealth Innovation's Carla Muniz, Innovation Specialist, workshop participants engaged in developing creative solutions guided by design thinking principles.

Based on the success of these workshops, MaineHealth Innovation was invited to present at a system-wide Nurse Residency leader meeting where the resounding feedback was, **"Nurse residents are loving the training. How can we do more of them?"** The growing enthusiasm has spurred MaineHealth Innovation to extend their workshops to more participants and introduce Train the Trainer opportunities. The success of these initiatives not only enhances the innovative spirit among nurse residents but also sets a precedent for integrating innovation training into healthcare education.



Year 2 of Future of Healthcare Founder Residency is Underway!

By Karen Budd

The selection process for the second cohort of [Future of Healthcare Founder Residency](#) has begun. On January 24th, 20 competitive candidates were screened during pitch-day. Many thanks to Lizzy Mulcahy, DNP, FNP-C, Senior Director Telehealth and Nir Harish, MD, Pen Bay Emergency Medicine (seen on the left) for providing their expertise on companies that best align with MaineHealth needs and demonstrate growth potential and innovation. Stay tuned here for announcement of the final selection of the 11 companies that will join Year 2 of the program set to begin in April 2024. Once

the announcement of the final companies is made, we encourage any care team member interested in serving as an advisor or mentor to any of start-up companies to reach out to MaineHealth Innovation for introductions. It's a wonderful opportunity to work with innovators transforming healthcare in Maine and beyond.

The Future of Healthcare Residency was designed in partnership between MaineHealth, [the](#)

[Roux Institute](#), and [Northern Light Health](#) and is the first of its kind in northern New England. Selected companies will be given funding, mentorship opportunities, and access to clinical spaces to help innovators develop their ideas.

Thank You to the 12 Future of Healthcare Founder Residency Reviewers!

A big thank you to the MaineHealth experts who provided feedback on over 34 applicants!

Reviewers: Peter Baker, LCSW, Program Manager MaineHealth Elder Care Services; Scott Ballard, Chief People Officer; Michael Baumann, MD, Chair Emergency Medicine; Rob Chamberlin, VP Population Health Management; Arjang Djamali, MD, Chair of Medicine; Michelle Duval, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Information Officer; Rob Ecker, MD, MMP Physician; Andrea Fletcher, Senior Program Manager MEH; Nir Harish, MD, Pen Bay Emergency Medicine, Dan Nigrin, MD, Chief Information Officer; Doug Sawyer, MD, Chief Academic Officer, Susan Ahern, VP of Innovation.

Interested in becoming a reviewer? Reach out to Innovation Manager, [Karen Budd](#) for more information.

MaineHealth Innovation at Transformation 2024!



Join us for "Innovating Healthcare Futures: MaineHealth's Journey for Collective Impact" on May 16, 2024, 11:00-11:45 am! MaineHealth Innovation team members Erin McCue, Innovation Program Coordinator, and Carla Muniz, Innovation Specialist Program Manager, are excited to lead a session in Transformation 2024, the Operations Transformations Team's yearly conference. Q&A will be available at the end of the session. Come learn the latest about MaineHealth Innovation and the amazing Innovators within MaineHealth! We look forward to seeing you there!



Innovation Cohort: Advancing Back-of-the-Envelope Ideas

Do you have an idea that might improve care for your patients? Increase workflow efficiency? Create a device to solve an unmet care need? Enroll in our next Innovation Cohort! Explore, analyze, and refine your ideas with tools to assess their true potential and benefits. In this 4-class program, we will guide you through identifying competition and overcoming implementation barriers, and in between classes, you'll conduct customer discovery to enhance your

innovation. Reach out with any questions or join an upcoming information session below - We hope you consider joining us! | *The Cohort will meet the following dates from 8:00-9:30 am: 4/11, 4/25, 5/9, and 5/23*

Applications are due March 13 at 10:00 am. [Learn More and Apply](#)

To learn more, join us for a Cohort & Ignite Fund info session using the links below:

[February 7, 4-4:30 p.m.](#)

[February 29, 9:30-10 a.m.](#)

Spring 2024 Funding Opportunities! - Call for Applications

The Innovation Bonfire Fund provides investment opportunities of up to

\$100,000 for innovative solutions aimed at improving the well-being of our care team and community members. The funding is open to companies or potential startups initiated by members of the MaineHealth care team. Applications are due February 8 at 10:00 am [Learn More and Apply.](#)



The **Innovation Ignite Fund** provides seed capital of up to \$20,000 to help advance innovations. Investments can be used to help innovators understand user pain points, build a prototype, or test an assumption.

Applications are due March 13 at 10:00 am [Learn More and Apply.](#)

Connect Events

**Innovation Brewing Ideas
Coffee Corner**
1st Tuesday of the month,
8:30-9:30 am
February 6
[Join Here](#)

**BioME Career Exploration
2024**
March 5
12-4 pm
[Learn More + Register](#)

Educate Learn + Discover

**Intellectual Property
Information Session**
2nd Wednesday
of the month, 7:30-8 am
February 14
[Join Here](#)

**MaineHealth Innovation
Cohort**
Application deadline
March 13
[Apply Here](#)

**Beyond the AI Hype:
Balancing Innovation and
Social Responsibility**
January 31
1-2 pm
[Learn More](#)

Fund Seed Funding

MaineHealth Ignite Fund
Application deadline
March 13
[Apply Here](#)

MaineHealth Bonfire Fund
Application deadline
February 8
[Apply Here](#)

Coming Soon! - Innovation To-Go



MaineHealth Innovation is dedicated to fostering innovation across the MaineHealth system. In pursuit of this goal, we are actively promoting awareness about the services accessible to MaineHealth care team members within the system. Introducing Innovation To-Go! -- our initiative involves onsite visits to high-traffic locations, such as the cafeteria, to engage with care team members and inform them about upcoming programs and services. The aim is to connect with as many care team members as possible during these visits, and Innovation To-Go plans to cover all MaineHealth locations. Interested in a visit from MaineHealth Innovation?

For those eager to have Innovation To-Go at their location, please reach out to Innovation Coordinator, [Erin McCue](#), for additional information.

Collaborative Leadership for Healthcare Innovation

By Carla Muniz

In my 12 years immersed in the world of innovation, what I have learned is that traditional leadership

approaches fall short in the realm of innovation. Change requires the collaborative effort, knowledge, and investment of those around you to find optimal solutions for patients and care teams.



Leadership is not confined to a role or individual; rather, it is a set of distributed tasks throughout the entire organization. MIT identifies four interconnected components for launching a collaborative innovation process.

1. **Fostering Passionate Collaboration:** Bring people together to work on ideas they genuinely care about. Diversity of thought is key; invite team members with different expertise and perspectives.
2. **Clarifying Vision and Taking Action:** Leaders define the direction, providing vision and indicating the path. However, the real challenge lies in translating this vision into action by incorporating diverse ideas and perspectives.
3. **Navigating Highs and Lows Together:** Innovation is a rollercoaster. Collaborative leaders must navigate the emotional ups and downs, providing support and energy to the team as they face challenges and successes.
4. **Continuous Improvement and Adaptation:** Measurement is crucial to determine progress. Yet, the focus should also be on cultivating a culture of change, enabling care team members to assess evidence, share insights, and collaboratively adapt and improve.

In essence, innovation is not the result of individual brilliance; it's about collective collaboration. To build a systematically innovative health system, the first step is to cultivate and reinforce leadership not only at the top but across the entire organization.

MaineHealth Innovation Center Programs

[Innovation Cohort](#) | [Innovation Fund](#) | [Innovation Blender](#) | [Brewing Ideas Coffee Corner](#)

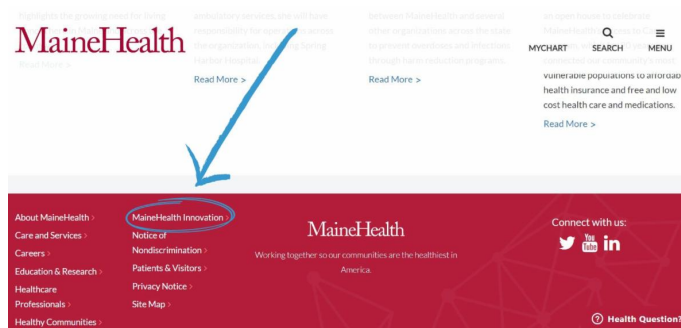
The MaineHealth Innovation Team:

[Susan Ahern](#) - Vice President of Innovation
[Todd Keiller, MBA](#) - Director of Intellectual Property & Tech Transfer
[Karen Budd, MPH](#) - Innovation Manager
[Erin McCue](#) - Innovation Program Coordinator
[Carla Muniz](#) - Innovation Specialist Program Manager
[Katrina Jacobson](#) - Administrative Specialist III

Let us know how we can help support innovation: innovation_center@mainehealth.org

Can't Find Us Online?

Our page is located at the bottom of the [MaineHealth website](#).



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