

# 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.

March 2024 | [View Archived Issues](#) | created and edited by Erin McCue

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**SUSAN AHERN**  
Vice President  
of Innovation

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### *A Note from Susan*

*Susan Ahern - Vice President of Innovation, MaineHealth*

Hi Colleagues,

I would like to share the following kind words from Patsy Aprile after recently collaborating with a CHANS innovator.

“The level of support that Jim Byrne received from MaineHealth Innovation was amazing and has lifted up the entire staff here at CHANS.”

- Patsy Aprile, President, Home Health and Hospice Services

Thank you to Todd, Karen, Erin, Carla, Katrina, and **Jeremy Qualls** for all you do!

With kind regards,  
Susan

## Building New Connections: MaineHealth Innovation and the Department of Medicine

A big shout out to Dr. Aji Djamali, MD, MS, FACP, FASN, Chair Department of Medicine, Maine

Medical Center for inviting the MaineHealth Innovation team and innovators to join the Department of Medicine's Chair Walk social gathering. On a recent wintery Friday evening, members of MaineHealth Innovation staff and innovators joined the Department of Medicine at Rising Tide Brewery to share laughs and stories of innovation. It was a great opportunity to connect, many meeting face-to-face for the first time, and gain deeper insights into the remarkable work being carried out by our care team colleagues. It was also a chance to establish new relationships and engage directly with numerous innovators, fostering an environment of collaboration and inspiration.



## Kicking Off Innovation To-Go at Memorial Hospital!

On Feb. 20, MaineHealth Innovation kicked off its Innovation To-Go event at **Memorial Hospital**. Innovation To-Go is an initiative that brings innovation resources directly to care team members by visiting high-traffic areas within each local health system and showcasing upcoming programs and services.

A big thank you to **Peter Waugh** (pictured) and **Tim Kershner** for their support in organizing and hosting the event at Memorial.

Interested in a visit from MaineHealth Innovation? Check your local eNews to find out when MaineHealth Innovation will be coming your way or reach out to Innovation Coordinator [Erin McCue](#).



## MaineHealth Innovation on the Road at Community Health and Nursing Services!



MaineHealth Innovation is expanding its outreach efforts to engage innovators across the MaineHealth system. Spearheading this initiative are **Todd Keiller, MBA, Director of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer** and **Karen Budd, MPH, Innovation Manager**, who lead a series of presentations for regional senior leadership teams.

These presentations offer a comprehensive overview of MaineHealth Innovation and highlight the Intellectual Property emerging from within MaineHealth. By showcasing examples of innovation within the organization, we aim to stimulate ideas and creativity system-wide. Whether it's novel product concepts, services, or care team models, we are committed to fostering projects that not only

yield a return on investment but can provide a return on mission.

Currently, presentations are scheduled at CHANS, Mountain Region, Western Maine & Stephens Memorial, Coastal Healthcare Alliance, and Maine Behavioral Healthcare. If you are interested in hosting a presentation, please contact us at [innovation\\_center@mainehealth.org](mailto:innovation_center@mainehealth.org).

## Coming Up Soon!



### Lunch & Learn: Sponsored by Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Scholars Academy

MaineHealth Innovation and Innovator, **Charlotte Helvie, MD**, will join the **Barbara Bush Children's Hospital (BBCH) Scholars Academy's** upcoming **Lunch & Learn on March 6, 2024 at 12pm!** Presentation topics will include the various programs, services, and funding opportunities offered by MaineHealth Innovation as well as an opportunity to hear from Dr. Helvie on her experience with Innovation.



### 3rd New England Consortium (NEC)-NCDAN State CDAs Conference

[Join us](#) for "Tackling the Skills Gap and Talent Scarcity in the Work Place: Cultivating a Disruptive Mindset" on **March 21, 2024, at 10:20 am!** MaineHealth Innovation team members Erin McCue, Innovation Coordinator, and Carla Muniz, Innovation Specialist Program Manager, are excited to lead a session in the **3rd NEC-NCDAN State CDAs Conference - "Turbulent Times Require Innovative Interventions"**. Q&A will be available at the end of the session.

### Interprofessional Innovation in Education Award Update: Healthcare Ethics Consultation: Developing interdisciplinary expertise to serve the health system

**Frank Chessa, PhD, Director of Clinical Ethics** and recipient of the [Interprofessional Innovation in Education Award](#), shares an exciting update: Ethics Committees across MaineHealth are joining forces for the Innovation in Interprofessional Education Award, aiming to strengthen connections through education, collaboration, and the sharing of EPIC tools and processes. Hosting a series of engaging ethics case discussions, there has already been participation from Maine Medical Center, Southern Maine Health Care, and upcoming presentations from Midcoast Hospital and PenBay Medical Center. These discussions delve into specific ethical issues, broadening participants' understanding of the Ethics Consultation process.



Additional activities supported by the award include preparing staff for the national exam in Healthcare Ethics Consultation certification, offering consultation support across institutions, standardizing ethics consult documentation templates, and tracking consultations provided at MaineHealth. In partnership with a MITE scholar recipient, Chessa is also developing a Canvas course to disseminate educational materials across the system. Ethics consultations are integral to patient care, proving support to staff navigating emotional and ethical challenges.

The Interprofessional Innovation in Education Award is a collaboration between the Maine Medical Center Department of Medical Education and MaineHealth Innovation and supports novel ideas that solve an unmet healthcare professional education need. In the spirit of

interprofessional collaboration, this award requires that the team is representative of more than one health profession and the innovative idea applies to learning and development across multiple health professions. [Applications](#) are open and accepted through April 12, 2024.

## Spring 2024 Opportunities: Innovation Cohort and Ignite Fund

The **Innovation Cohort** is designed for care team members who have ideas on how to address unmet care needs. During this 8-week experience, innovators will learn essential innovation and creative problem-solving skills as well as receive expert guidance to develop ideas.



*The Cohort will meet the following dates from 8-9:30am: 4/11, 4/25, 5/9, and 5/23.*

**Applications are due March 13 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.](#)

To learn more, join us for a Cohort & Ignite Fund info session using the link below:  
[February 29, 9:30-10 a.m.](#)

### Connect Events

**Innovation Brewing Ideas  
Coffee Corner**

*1st Tuesday of the month,  
8:30-9:30 am  
March 5*

[Join Here](#)

**BioME Career Exploration  
2024**

*IDEXX, Westbrook, ME  
March 5  
12-4 pm*

[Learn More + Register](#)

### Educate

*Learn + Discover*

**Intellectual Property  
Information Session**

*2nd Wednesday  
of the month, 7:30-8 am  
March 13*

[Join Here](#)

**MaineHealth Innovation  
Cohort**

*Application deadline  
March 13*

[Apply Here](#)

**Radiology Grand Rounds:  
Building a Culture of  
Innovation in a Health  
System**

*Hybrid, MMC (Radiology MRI  
Conference Room) or  
Virtual  
March 1  
7-8 am*

[Join Here](#)

*\*Thank you, Dr. Liz Herrle  
for sending this event.*

### Fund

*Seed Funding*

**MaineHealth Ignite Fund**

*Application deadline  
March 13*

[Apply Here](#)

**Interprofessional  
Innovation in Education  
Award**

*Application deadline  
April 12*

[Apply Here](#)

## Empowering Nurses through Design Thinking

By Carla Muniz

Nurses and nurse leaders, with their hands-on patient



experience and ability to navigate challenges swiftly, play a pivotal role in driving innovation and addressing unmet care needs at MaineHealth. This foundational belief led to the development of the Ideas to Action workshop offered through MaineHealth Innovation.



Recently, in collaboration with **Kari Robinson, Nurse Residency Program Coordinator**, at **Midcoast Hospital**, eight nurse residents engaged in an interactive session, forming teams to tackle pressing issues. One team focused on optimizing responses to Best Practice Advisory (BPA) alerts, recognizing their potential to improve patient outcomes while mitigating alert fatigue among nurses. Their proposed solution involves introducing a “Timing Option” to the current system, aimed at reducing excessive and redundant alerts, with plans for collaboration with EPIC Staff or the IT department to assess feasibility and implementation in the future.

Another team addressed the issue of nurses foregoing breaks due to high workloads and staffing shortages. Their proposed solution involves implementing a lunch board as part of a broader campaign to promote the benefits of breaks and foster a culture that supports breaks as essential for overall health and productivity.

The workshop emphasized the importance of leading by example and creating a culture that prioritizes self-care and mutual support among nurses. Participants also reflected on the significance of problem-solving and collaboration, recognizing their capacity to effect change. These insights underscored not only nurses’ potential to tackle complex challenges but also the value of cross-departmental collaboration in finding solutions.

## 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 & Technology Transfer

[Karen Budd, MPH](#) - Innovation Manager

[Erin McCue](#) - Innovation Program Coordinator

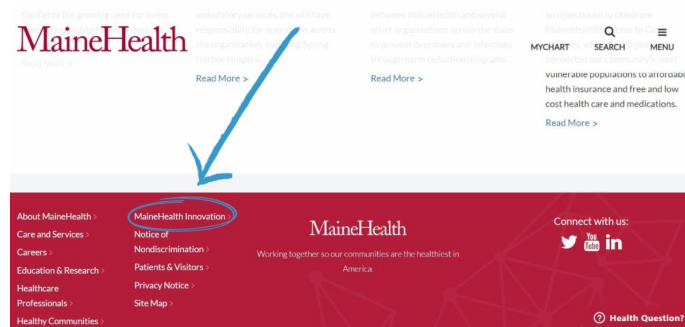
[Carla Muniz](#) - Innovation Specialist Program Manager

[Katrina Jacobson](#) - Administrative Specialist III

Let us know how we can help support innovation: [innovation\\_center@mainehealth.org](mailto:innovation_center@mainehealth.org)

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