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.

June 2024 | View Archived Issues | created by Erin McCue

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A Note from Susan

Susan Ahern - Vice President of Innovation, MaineHealth

Hi Colleagues,

Happy Summer! What a month of successful collisions! Thank you to our clinical and business experts who are engaging with and sharing their knowledge with entrepreneurs bringing fresh, cutting-edge solutions to unmet care needs.

We are highlighting our commitment to the entrepreneurial community because it aligns with one of the innovation strategies: creating high impact and high value, fostering a different way of thinking, and supporting the vision of working together to make our communities the healthiest in America.

The Innovation strategy includes three approaches:
1. Serving and encouraging startups out of MaineHealth
2. Supporting local biomedical Maine startups
3. Partnering with and investing in the Roux Institute’s Future of Healthcare startups

This proactive approach ensures that MaineHealth remains at the forefront of medical advancements, helping us achieve the vision.
How exciting it is that MaineHealth has 5 startups!

How wonderful it is to support Maine’s biomedical ecosystem. One recent example is our sponsorship of the Maine Center for Entrepreneurs’ Summit. The MCE team and the hundred Maine mentors do a fantastic job nurturing and developing the growing local biomedical entrepreneurial talent in our community.

Finally, as a partner with the Roux Institute’s Future of Healthcare Founder Residency program, along with Northern Light Health, Maine Venture Funds, and Maine Technology Institute, we are attracting digital tech startups to Maine to help solve unmet needs in our communities. The recent site visit was a success. Thanks to colleagues from Maine Behavioral Health, Hospital Medicine, IT, the ACO, Workforce Development, Community Health Improvement, MaineHealth Medical Group, Palliative Care, and others who came to learn more and inspire the ten Future of Healthcare founders. A special thanks to Kathy Walsh with Lizzy Mulcahy’s telehealth team who coordinated the visit, and Andy Mueller and Dan Nigrin who enthusiastically welcomed all. See details below.

Across Northern New England, we are forming powerful alliances and driving forward healthcare innovation. By combining the entrepreneurial spirit of creativity and agility with MaineHealth’s clinical and business expertise, we are shaping the future of healthcare!

Please reach out if you would like to learn more and share your knowledge!

With kind regards,

Susan

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Recap of the Future of Healthcare Founder Residency Site Visit

Last week marked the seventh week of the 2024 Future of Healthcare Founder Residency Cohort, a collaborative initiative between MaineHealth, Northern Light Health, Maine Venture Fund, and The Roux Institute. This program aims to accelerate early-stage startups to collaboratively design solutions for our patients and communities.

On May 23, the Future of Healthcare Founder Residency companies met with MaineHealth care team members at the Free Street building. Founders received insights from Andy Mueller, MD, and Dan Nigrin, MD, and developed connections within the MaineHealth system. The visit concluded with a networking lunch session, fostering connections to support our mission of working together to make Maine communities the healthiest in America.

A huge thank you to Lizzy Mulcahy, DNP, FNP-C and the telehealth team for coordinating this successful visit, and to all MaineHealth colleagues who participated and contributed to building these valuable connections. If you’re interested in engaging with a founder company, please email innovation_center@mainehealth.org to get connected.

Future of Healthcare Founder Residency Companies:

1. Core.dio is a non-invasive cardiac health
2. Novomea is a digital health platform that
3. Nudge is a platform that
4. Pivotal Health is a health care
5. Tether is a health care
6. Vida is a health care
7. Novobling is a digital health platform that
8. Vida is a health care
monitoring platform which measures cardiac output and central blood pressure, utilizing common wrist-based signals and AI.

2. **EmpoweRx** is a marketplace tech platform to upskill healthcare professionals and ensure they are fully compliant, eliminating liability for healthcare organizations and offers options for contract and permanent placement staffing with our network of nursing and allied professionals.

3. **Health for Mankind** is a digital health solution that zeroes in on diabetes management, with an emphasis on serving minority and underserved communities.

4. **HUB Healthcare** is solving the healthcare collaboration challenge by providing a web-based platform that offers a centralized workspace, much like Slack, tailored to the specific needs of healthcare providers.

5. **Legacy** is a mobile application that significantly streamlines the Advanced Care Planning (ACP) process for healthcare providers. The app, currently at its Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage, features a unique integration of AI and GPT technologies to facilitate the rapid creation of personalized and legally sound ACP documents.

6. **Valhalla** is a clinical automation platform that automates medical office operations through generative AI making the EHR work on its own, with features such as automated filing and pre-charting, to workflow automation.

7. Valley delivers science-backed immersive stress management solutions. They are redefining the way people deal with stress and enhance their well-being through highly engaging and personalized virtual and mixed-reality experiences.

8. **OPTT**, “A revolutionary AI toolkit to improve behavioral health outcomes”, equips mental health provider teams with a digital technology to deliver high-quality care more efficiently across the patient’s journey. OPTT’s clinically validated technologies empower mental health providers to triage, access, and monitor patients’ progress effectively based on their unique narratives.

9. **Parrots.AI** is an AI-driven neurocare platform designed to support patients with neurological disorders and their healthcare providers. The state-of-the-art SaaS software solution offers real-time personalized assistance tailored to individual patient needs, enhancing patient independence, ensuring continuity in care, and augmenting the capabilities of caregivers and healthcare professionals.

10. **Metis Health Technologies** is developing a healthcare data platform tailored for clinical business owners, analogous to what Toast provides for restaurants. Leveraging the Quintuple Aim as our balanced scorecard framework, Metis unifies general ledger, scheduling, and EMR data to empower clinic owners and administrators in Financial Planning & Analysis (FP&A) and Business Intelligence, payroll, claims, scheduling, billing, quality measures.

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**Congratulations to Peter Brooks, PhD!**

Congratulations to Peter Brooks, PhD on receiving his 7th patent, which is issuing on June 4, 2024. The patent, titled “Enhancing the Therapeutic Activity of an Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor,” is a significant achievement in the field of immunotherapy. Kudos to Peter for his continued innovation and contribution to healthcare advancements.

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**Congratulations to the Spring 2024 Innovation Cohort!**

We are thrilled to congratulate and extend our heartfelt thanks to all participants of the Spring 2024 MaineHealth Innovation Cohort. This dynamic group, comprising eight diverse projects and teams from various locations and specialties, has completed the 8-week program designed to advance their innovative ideas.

Throughout the program, it was inspiring to witness colleagues sharing their expertise, developing their value propositions, collaborating on a wide array of projects, and even pivoting their ideas based on these insightful conversations. From Bug Bite Stickers to a Baby Warmer Rail System, the variety of initiatives showcased the ingenuity and dedication of MaineHealth care team members. These collective efforts and innovative spirit are what drive us forward! We look forward to seeing the continued process and impact of these exciting projects.
Spring 2024 Innovation Cohort Projects:

Inspiring Enduring, Child-Like Curiosity: Creating an Illustrated Book for Internal Medicine Learners
- Sam Woodworth, MD | MMC

Rewire Health - Mobile Culinary Medicine Education for Rural and New Mainer Populations
- Lauren Ciszak, MD, Eva Weinstein, Olivia Weinstein, RDN, Marin Johnson, MS | MMC

iPACE™
- Melissa Zelaya-Floyd, PhD, Alec Luro, PhD, Patricia White | MMC

Baby Warmer Rail System
- Patrick Tierney, Eric Worthing, MD | LincolnHealth

Neck Saver Laptop Holder
- Todd Lamoreau, PT | Mid Coast Parkview Health

Living Kidney Donor Mobile Device App for Follow-Up Tracking
- Shelby McDonnell, MS, Heather Stephen, RN, Andrew Pixley, RN, BSN, Marie Simoneau, Ardyce Peters, MS, Juan Pama-Vargas, MD | MMC

Bug Bite Stickers
- Shinya Amano, MD | Maine Medical Partners

MaineHealth Educational Programming Application (MEPA)
- Angela Leclerc, PA, Elizabeth Herrle, MD FHM, FACP, Meredith Beauregard, MSPA, PA-C, Mark Goode, MSPA, PA-C | MMC

MaineHealth Innovation at Transformation 2024

MaineHealth Innovation is immensely grateful for the opportunity to participate in Transformation 2024, Operations Transformation’s annual conference. With 313 registered participants, the event provided an invaluable platform for MaineHealth Innovation to share its journey and achievements. The opportunity to connect with colleagues, explore improvement techniques, and acquire new skills was truly enriching.

Our session, “Innovating Healthcare Futures: MaineHealth’s Journey for Collective Impact,” presented by Erin McCue, Innovation Program Coordinator, and Carla Muniz, Innovation Lab Program Manager, offered an immersive journey into our innovative processes. Through gamification and a “Crazy 8s” session, Innovation highlighted its initiatives to build connections, drive diversity of thought, and fund novel ideas to address unmet care needs.

Thank you to everyone who attended this session and the entire event. This engagement and enthusiasm are vital as we continue working to ensure our communities are the healthiest in America.

Human-Centered Innovation Framework at MaineHealth’s Lambrew Retreat

MaineHealth Innovation participated in the Lambrew Retreat Poster Session and Lunch and Learn Presentation. The annual research retreat gathered over 200 physicians, nurses, scientists, and trainees from MaineHealth for a multidisciplinary biomedical research symposium. It provided a platform for researchers to share their work, foster collaborations, and dive deeper into their research.
At the morning Poster Session, Carla Muniz, Innovation Lab Program Manager, presented “A Human-Centered Approach to Solving Unmet Care Needs at MaineHealth.” She outlined the innovation framework used by MaineHealth Innovation, covering problem identification, core innovation concepts, and qualitative and quantitative outcomes.

During the Lunch and Learn session, Todd Keiller, Director of Technology Transfer, Carla Muniz, and Erin McCue, Innovation Program Coordinator, led a dynamic discussion on advancing novel ideas through MaineHealth programs. Participants were inspired by success stories from MaineHealth innovators and received guidance on protecting intellectual property.

Maine Center for Entrepreneurs: Top Gun Showcase

MaineHealth Innovation proudly sponsored and participated in the Maine Entrepreneurs Summit on May 16. This event is part of Top Gun, a 15-week program combining hands-on mentoring with impactful weekly gatherings, culminating in the Top Gun Showcase. Entrepreneurs had the opportunity to present their businesses to over 300 potential investors, business leaders, and journalists, competing for a $25,000 prize.

Carla Muniz, Innovation Lab Program Manager, served as a judge alongside Dan Walsh, CEO of Norway Savings Bank, and Jeremy Barron, Director of Halloran Lab for Entrepreneurship at Colby College. They evaluated pitches from ten innovative companies, ultimately awarding the top prize to Nor’Easter Oyster Company, led by Jacqueline Clarke and Sean Corcoran, for their groundbreaking work in Maine’s aquaculture industry.

Congratulations to Tom Rainey, Executive Director, Laurie Johnson, Top Gun Program Manager, Sue Hanson, Program Manager, and the entire team at Maine Center for Entrepreneurs for their dedication to fostering economic growth and development in Maine through entrepreneurship.

2024 Top Gun Companies:

- WAVED Medical | Kendra Batchelder
- Balanced Card Sorts | Anush Hansen
- Glendarragh Lavender | Lorie Costigan
- Pen & Cob Farm | Katherine Swann
- Chapped Hide | Suzanne Belle Hiltz
- Kill Organics | Juliana Tebbetts
- Nor’Easter Oyster Company | Jacqueline Clarke & Sean Corcoran
- ScrapDogs Community Compost | Tessa Rosenberry & Davis Saltonstall

Final Session of the Bioscience Blueprint Webinar Series

Missed the first two sessions of the BioStartup Blueprint Webinar Series? No worries, there’s still one more session to dive into! Join us on June 18 for Session 3, where we’ll tackle the topic: Demystifying Shark Tank

In this session, we’ll explore what it’s like to deal with venture firms and how is it different from other funding avenues. What criteria must a venture firm consider before committing to investment? How do they make these decisions? What transformations does your company undergo when you take on venture funds? Our panel of experts, including Brady Bohrmann from Bold Ocean Ventures, Nina Scheepers from Maine Venture Fund, and Jeff Chu from Features Ventures, will share best practices for preparing and approaching funding sources.

MaineHealth Innovation and Maine Center for Entrepreneurs have partnered to develop this 3-part BioStartup Blueprint webinar series. Todd Keiller, Director of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer at MaineHealth and BioInnovate Program Manager at Maine Center for Entrepreneurs, will lead the discussion.
Entrepreneurs, and Brady Bohrmann, Managing General Partner at Bold Ocean Ventures and MaineHealth Intellectual Property and Business Development Committee member, will guide us through the journey of launching a bioscience, life science, or healthcare venture—from ideation to securing funding.

You won’t want to miss it—[register now to secure your spot](#)

### BioStartup Blueprint: From Idea to Funding Webinar Series | 12PM-1PM

- **April 24** I have an idea, now what do I do?
- **May 22** How do I fund my fledgling startup?
- **June 18** Demystifying Shark Tank

Facilitated By: Todd Keller, MCE/MaineHealth; Brady Bohrmann, Bold Ocean Ventures

Hosted By: [BioScience Maine Health Center for MaineHealth]

[Collaborating with MaineHealth Institute for Research - Center for Molecular Medicine](#)

On May 10, the MaineHealth Innovation team encouraged innovative collaboration at the Center for Molecular Medicine within the MaineHealth Institute for Research (MHIR). This initiative, spearheaded by CMM Director Adriana Rosato, PhD, and Innovation Vice President Susan Ahern, saw the participation of 20 scientific staff members, including research fellows, faculty scientists, research associates, trainees, post-doctoral students, and animal facilities workers.

The session featured an interactive ideation workshop led by Carla Muniz, Innovation Lab Program Manager, demonstrating design thinking principles and developing a user persona of a care team member at MHIR. Carolyn Chlebek, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Ryan Neilson, Research Associate, and Matthew Lynes, PhD, Faculty Scientist, served as facilitators to guide discussions and help moderate as teams worked in small groups.

The insights and feedback from this session will inform a follow-up workshop aimed at developing potential solutions to the identified challenges. We look forward to continuing this collaborative effort!

### Fall 2024 Opportunities: Innovation Cohort and Ignite Fund

Join our 8-week Innovation Cohort, designed specifically for care team members with novel ideas to address unmet care needs. Gain innovation and creative problem-solving skills, expert guidance, and opportunities for networking and collaboration. Whether you’re improving patient care, designing a medical device, or optimizing healthcare processes, our program equips you with the tools and knowledge to accelerate your novel solution. Don’t miss this opportunity to bring your healthcare innovation to life!

The Cohort will meet the following dates from 8-9:30am: 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, and 12/5. Applications are due October 3 at 10:00 am [Learn More and Apply](#).
The Innovation Ignite Fund is a $20,000 investment funding opportunity designed to help you bring your innovative idea that addresses an unmet care need to life. With funding that can be used for prototyping, pilot testing, or testing assumptions, you’ll have the resources and expert connections needed to accelerate your innovation and transform care!

**Applications are due October 3 at 10:00 am. [Learn More and Apply.](#)**

To learn more, join us for an Innovation Cohort & Ignite Fund info session using the links below:
- **August 27, 8-8:30am**
- **September 4, 1-1:30pm**
- **September 12, 4-4:40pm**

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**Accelerate Your Bioscience Innovation with I-Corps!**

Are you ready to take your bioscience technology to market? Join I-Corps, a short NSF program designed to help researchers, engineers, and scientists with novel bioscience technology-based ideas to explore their applications and better understand the problems they intend to solve.

**Why apply to I-Corps?**
- **Gain Entrepreneurial Training:** Learn how to identify your customers, understand their needs, and effectively communicate your ideas.
- **Connect with Essential Resources:** Access valuable resources and mentorship to help bring your innovation to market.
- **Enhance your Communication Skills:** Improve how you convey your technology’s value and potential impact.

This program is taught by the [MIT I-Corps team](mailto:icorps@mit.edu) in collaboration with MaineHealth, Maine Center for Entrepreneurs, and The University of Maine. It is open to individuals and teams, and all sessions are delivered virtually. Attendance at all sessions is required. [Apply here](#) or email icorps@mit.edu to request more information.

*I-Corps sessions will be held from 5-6:30pm on: 6/20, 6/26, 7/10, 7/17-7/19(date and time TBD), 7/24, and 7/31.*

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**Connect**

- **Events**
  - Innovation Brewing Ideas
    - Coffee Corner
    - 1st Tuesday of the month, 8:30-9:30 am
    - June 4
    - [Join Here](#)
  - Maine Artificial Intelligence Conference
    - University of Southern Maine, Ricci Hall
    - June 14
    - [Learn More + Register](#)
  - MaineBiz Health Care Forum 2024
    - Hilton Garden Inn
    - Freeport, ME
    - June 5
    - 7:30-10:30am
    - [Learn More + Register](#)

**Educate**

- **Learn + Discover**
  - Intellectual Property Information Session
    - 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:30-8 am
    - June 12
    - [Join Here](#)
  - I-Corps for Maine Bioscience Innovators
    - First session is June 20
    - Email icorps@mit.edu for more information
    - [Apply Here](#)

**Fund**

- **Seed Funding**
  - MaineHealth Innovation Cohort
    - Application deadline
    - October 3 at 10am
    - [Learn More + Apply](#)
  - MaineHealth Ignite Fund
    - Application deadline
    - October 3 at 10am
    - [Learn More + Apply](#)
  - Maine Funding Network
    - [Learn More + Apply](#)
Nurses at Maine Behavioral Healthcare’s Spring Harbor Hospital recently participated in an inspiring Ideas to Action workshop, integrated into the Nurse Residency Program. This initiative was made possible through the leadership of Megan Nantel, Nurse Educator, and Angelina Rice, Onboarding and Resource Nurse, who championed this opportunity.

In this workshop, nurses engaged in activities designed to encourage innovative thinking, empathy, problem definition, ideation, and prototyping. Key takeaways from the nurses included the importance of asking great questions, the ease of collaborative solution development, and the value of verbalizing problems to garner input.

If you are interested in an Ideas to Action workshop for your team, please email innovation_center@mainehealth.org