



Lobstergram



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Did you know you automatically become a member of the MeSRC when you join the AARC? You will help support respiratory therapists in Maine by joining!

Why is the AARC so important? Without the AARC, there would be no respiratory care departments; no respiratory care educational programs; no nationally recognized NBRC credentials: the Federal Government would not have drafted the new Conditions of Participation allowing respiratory care practitioners to take verbal orders and administer medication such as oxygen and aerosols; there would not be the recognition and respect given to us by our medical sponsors; and there would be no legal recognition nor efforts towards increased legal recognition.



*Unfortunately, as of May 2013 the MeSRC is unable to process memberships. *
We apologize for the inconvenience.

SAVE THE DATE !!!

Plan Now for the Maine Event

May 13 & 14, 2015

Hollywood Casino

Bangor, Maine

Questions

Hannah Keaney, RRT

Educational Comm. Chair

hannah.keaney@maine.edu

www.mesrc.org

www.hollywoodcasinobangor.com



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Platinum Partner for their outstanding support.

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SMCC News




SMCC students and faculty are busy once again this semester. Thirteen senior students are completing coursework and clinical experiences as they prepare to take the new NBRC examinations. The focus this final semester is in developing critical care skills. We have added Douglas Wentworth in Dover NH as a new clinical site for the program. Membership in the Lambda Beta Society (the national honor society for the profession of respiratory care) has been offered to Anastasia Belova, Lindsay Strattard, Brittany Cook, Erin Healey and Beverly Bryant.

Some of the senior students will be traveling to Eastern Maine Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital to job shadow and explore these sites for future employment. SMCC will become a “tobacco free” campus in August. Students are designing tobacco cessation education and support materials for this effort. We wish the entire class of 2015 a fantastic final semester.

We have seventeen first year students. They are busy with foundation courses and are out on clinical for the first time. They rotate to Central Maine Medical Center, Douglas Wentworth, Maine Medical Center, Mercy Hospital, Mid Coast Hospital, Southern Maine Health Care, and St. Mary’s. In addition, they will observe in the Pulmonary Function Lab and Physician Offices.

Dr. Patty Lerwick, Norma Hay, Daren Rainey, Sally Whitten, Bill Phelan, Jessie Lawford, and Sean Shortall are all scheduled to share their expertise with the SMCC students. We thank all of these people and our clinical affiliate preceptors for helping us educate our students. This program is inspired to work hard and to meet the challenges of the Respiratory Care profession because of all of you. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Karen McDonald
Program Director, Department Chairperson



2015 EDU Committee

Hannah Keaney (SMHC) – EDU Co- Chair
Norma Hay (MMC) - EDU Co-Chair
Daren Rainey (SMHC)
Kate Johnson (MMP)
Jack Higgins (WCGH)
Jon Lewis (VA)
Erin Healey (SMMC)
Brian Sadowski (Mercy)
Alex Dickinson (MMC)
Lauren Jordan (MMC)
Ashley Cude (MMC)
Amanda Albee (MMC)
Cynthia Carlton (CMMC)
Tara Inman (CMMC)
Bobbie Crockett (SJH)
Sean Shortall (Maquet)
Keith Englehart (KVCC)



LOBESTERGRAM INFO



If anyone is interested in submitting an article for an upcoming addition of the Lobestergram, please contact me at roberta.crockett@sjhhealth.com. Please provide me with an email address and I will send the newsletter to you electronically and save postage.

KVCC News



As the spring semester begins students are ready for another busy semester. Congratulations to Keith Englehart first year student who will be the student representative for the MeSRC. Keith is excited to begin his duties. He will represents the students from KVCC and SMCC well.

There are a number of activities taking place this spring. Daren Rainey will be visiting the college to speak with students about Health Literacy and the Affordable Care Act. Second year students will be completing ACLS and PALS. In addition they will be participating in the annual Mass Casualty Incident Simulation. First year students will play an important role in the MCI event serving as patients. First year students are determining their topics for the Health Fair in March. Participants for the Health Fair include Medical Assisting, Nursing, Radiologic Technology and Respiratory Therapy. The Health Fair provides members of the KVCC community with information on topics relevant to everyone's health and well-being.

I would like to report at this point in time the Respiratory Therapy program at KVCC has not accepted any students for the class entering fall 2015. Applications have been accepted and applicants have been informed that acceptance decisions will be made in March. Unless you live under a rock you've heard statements that the program at KVCC is closing. A decision about closure will be made in March. In the interim the program's Advisory Board continues to explore opportunities for additional revenue to support the program. I would like to recognize and thank the Board for their ongoing support and continued efforts to find a way to keep the program open. I will have more information about this for the Respiratory community in the next newsletter. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Congratulations to Adam Lowe, class of 2011 for achieving the CRT credential.

Barbara Larsson, M.Ed., RRT

SAVE THE DATES

2015 MeSRC MEETING DATES

Educational Meeting: 1700
BOD Meeting: 1800

- Feb 24th at Southern Maine Health Care in Biddeford
- May 13th at the Maine Event Conference
- Sept 15th in Bangor (location TBA)
- December 10th in Lewiston (Dr. Duval's Office or CMMC - TBA)

www.mesrc.org

American Lung Association's 2015 COPD Educator Institute March 12-13, 2015

Cost: \$125 Contact hours: 10.5

For more information
Contact Lee B. Gilman at lgilman@lungne.org

American Lung Association's Asthma Seminar Thursday, April 30, 2015

Cost: \$ 75.00 Contact hours: 6.0

For more information
Contact Lee B. Gilman at lgilman@lungne.org

APRIL 9, 2015 CURRENT TRENDS IN HEALTHCARE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL, BANGOR, MAINE

If you would like more information please contact
Peggy Innocenti at 907-1630 or
peggy.innocenti@sjhhealth.com





RT'S

MMC News

"Retirement, a time to do what you want to do, when you want to do it, where you want to do it, and, how you want to do it."

Catherine Pulsifer

After almost 76 years of combined employment at MMC, Joanne Wheeler and Tom Freeman are retiring from MMC.



Joanne graduated from Holliston Junior College (now Newbury College), worked at various Massachusetts hospitals, and eventually settled at Framingham Union Hospital. When she made the decision to move to Maine in 1975, she applied at MMC and was the first employee hired with college training and a Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician (CRTT) certification.

Tom grew up in Fort Kent, Maine and graduated from Northeastern University. He joined the MMC team in 1978 and worked here until 1883. Tom spent a year working as a respiratory therapist in Saudi Arabia, before returning to MMC in 1984. In total, he has been employed at MMC for 36 years and has worked with every patient population from neonates to adults.

We asked Joanne and Tom to answer a few questions before they left the building.

Tell us, what is your most memorable experience?

Joanne: Oh there are so many experiences, but I really can't disclose the most memorable ones (laughs). We always had lots of fun times while we worked. When I first started here, George Blaisdell, Pat Smith, June McNair, and Chuck Schaffer were here and we enjoyed what we were doing and tried to have fun while we worked.

I guess one of the most memorable experiences was when we had a push to unionize. Many of the RTs were at the front of that union push and it was a tense time for everyone involved. The union failed, but I remember there was a lot going on in the department during that time.

I often think how different my life would be if I hadn't moved to Maine. I met my husband Dennis through a friend at MMC and he and I have a wonderful life together. So many of my friends and family experiences are connected to MMC and my choice to move here and take a position at MMC.

Tom: I was covering a door knob with KY jelly so my co-workers would not be able to open their office door and Dr Cox caught me. I was so focused on covering the door knob that I didn't realize he was behind me until I heard him say in that loud voice of his "Thomas, what are you doing?"

What will you miss most?

Joanne: The people I work with and the connections you make here. I will miss the patients I care for and being part of a team where your opinion about patient care matters. I will really miss the R4 (Richards Wing, 4th floor) Pulmonary Unit and working with some of the best RNs at MMC. This is a challenging area to work, but I always enjoyed this patient population and the RNs who worked there.

I will also miss the elderly population I worked with the most. I love the elderly patients and their stories. I could spend hours talking with them as they shared their life experiences with me. It was an honor to be part of their care and hear those stories.

Tom: I'll miss the people I work with the most. I've spent years with co-workers who are my friends and I will miss seeing them. I will also miss saying "No" to a physician and watching them wonder if I'm serious or not.

What advice would you give to the next generation?

Joanne: I would tell them to get involved, follow your heart, and always do what is best for your patients. The years will go by quickly and there is lots for you to learn

and lots you will forget. Every day you can learn something new in health care, so learn and grow.

Tom: I would tell them to continue their education and get their Bachelor's degree. The field is changing and they need to continue to grow and learn.

What are you going to do with your free time?

Joanne: I currently volunteer and offer pet therapy for a variety of nursing homes and for Androscoggin Home and Hospice in Auburn. I'll continue to volunteer and I may even start my own business. I love working with dogs and I'd love to start a business where I can support them.

Tom: I purchased a condo at Sunday River, so in the winter I will be skiing as much as possible. In the summer, I'll work on projects around the house and work in my garden.

Joanne and Tom, we wish you both the best in your retirement. We will miss your dedication to our patients and how much you'd advocate on their behalf, we will miss your work ethic, your common sense approach to patient care and life, and we will certainly miss the friendship, the great stories, and all the laughs. So as you enter this next chapter in your life, we offer you the words of Henry David Thoreau, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined".

EMMC News

In May I assumed the position of manager of respiratory medicine, a staff of 45 that includes two PFT technicians.

The first few months I felt like I was breathing through a straw but with ample resources and an understanding staff I eventually caught my breath and began to effectively put initiatives into motion. Having worked here since 1987 I knew what the department and its staff needed. They are on fire about the changes happening and are very engaged, morale is very high. I have also become a new member of the board of directors for MSRC. I look forward with great ambition to assist in any way I can. Thank you all.

Joe Isgro
Manager Respiratory Medicine
EMMC

Why did you decide to become a Respiratory Therapist?

I'd never win a contest or an accolade as to why I chose to be a respiratory therapist. Truth be told, it was sheer accident.

Setting: 1978.... Freeport Maine, both of my parents were L.L. Bean employees for MANY years. I worked at Beans every summer throughout high school in the cafeteria or manufacturing center. My dad could not understand why I wanted to go to college.....after all... I had a standing offer to be employed with 'their' company. I said, "But dad, I want to be a school teacher!" He said, "That's absurd! There are no jobs and no money in teaching.(still the case, unfortunately) If you're not going to work for the best company in the state you're gonna be a nurse!"

Literally the next day I went to my Health Occupations Teacher, a new class being offered to seniors who had most of their required credits, and told her what my dad said. She handed me a catalog and I flipped through it and saw.....Inhalation Therapy/Respiratory Therapist. I said, "I'm gonna do that!" I had NO clue what THAT was. Job shadowed at Mid Coast Hospital(aka Regional Memorial Hospital) with an IT and he was not known as an RT and there were NO computers!! At the time SMTC was not accredited so I could not get federally qualified loans. So I went to Boston, Newbury College and trained at Beth Israel. I had the best instructors. One told us.... "If you always put the patient first and never hold back on a question, you will be the best clinician you could possibly be!"
Thank you, Gloria Morris!

Well, today I have the best job I could ever imagine, with autonomy, top of the line providers and clinical support, providing data driven innovative quality care and benefits beyond what I ever dreamed. I made the right choices dad and more importantly, the right choices were made for me!

I'm honored to be a Respiratory Therapist, to be in such a noble profession. Thank you to my friends, family and colleagues and most importantly to God for walking me through this path!

Rhonda Vosmus, RRT, NPS, AE-C
Asthma COPD Resource Specialist
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“People of excellence go the extra mile to do what's right.” — [Joel Osteen](#),

One of our own needs our help!!!

By
Keith Siegel, BS, RRT, CPFT



I have been called a respiratory geek, and I proudly wear that title. I love what I do, and have always wanted to do it. In fact, I am the only person I know whose future life goals in his high school yearbook said “respiratory therapy”. So in the summer of 1980, when I was 18 years old, I heard about a respiratory therapist working at the old Camden Community Hospital, and I got up my courage and introduced myself to him and asked him to tell me about the RT profession. That RT was Jack Higgins. Jack was so warm and kind to me, so encouraging and so enthusiastic about the career choice I made. All through RT school, Jack cheered me on and convinced me that I had what it took to be a good RT.

Little did I know that summer day in 1980 when I introduced myself to Jack that it was the beginning of a beautiful 35-year friendship. Jack became my first mentor, my dear friend, and one who has always shared my passion for the work we do and the patients we serve. You could say he is a charter member of my respiratory geek club! In fact, I have never met a person who is so dedicated to providing high-quality patient care. Jack gives his patients his personal cell phone number. He spends his days off volunteering at

the local free clinic. And every year, he accompanies me to Washington, DC to advocate for our respiratory patients. Jack is a tireless and selfless individual who has dedicated his life to making life better for others. And he always does it with a smile and a kind word.

Now it’s time to pay back all of Jack’s decades of selfless giving. You see, my lifelong friend, mentor and colleague has been diagnosed with Stage IV glioblastoma, a very severe and aggressive type of brain cancer. And because Jack changed jobs five months before he was diagnosed, he missed out on qualifying for short- or long-term disability by a month. **So here’s where you all can help...**A Go Fund Me site has been set up to help raise money for Jack and his wife while he is out of work undergoing treatment for this devastating disease. Any amount you can give would be incredibly helpful. Here is the link to Jack’s Go Fund Me page”

<http://www.gofundme.com/jackhiggins>

I want to thank all of you in advance for helping out our most deserving friend and colleague. I guarantee you that if the tables were turned, Jack would be the first in line to help!

Keith Siegel, BS, RRT, CPFT
Delegate

"Detours lead you exactly where you need to be."

"People with good intentions make promises. People with good character keep them."

"One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say."

"But if we have the energy of compassion and loving kindness in us, the people around us will be influenced by our way of being and living."



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