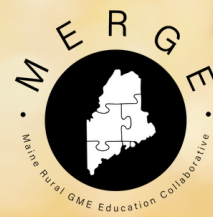


OCTOBER 2023

MERGE News

The Quarterly Newsletter for the MERGE Collaborative



VOLUME 3

THE FIRST ANNUAL MERGE CONFERENCE

October 27th is just around the corner and we hope that you can join us for the first annual MERGE Conference. This day of speakers and expert panels will address important issues in rural graduate medical education. Highlights include a presentation on diversity, equity, and inclusion within our rural spaces and a panel discussing the challenges of workforce



University of Maine, Wells Conference Center

development in rural Maine. The event is being hosted as part of the larger Symposium for Biomedical Science and Engineering at the University of Maine – Orono. Register here for the Symposium and join us on Friday, October 27th at the Wells Conference Center.

FIRST MERGE ROTATIONS COMPLETE

In July 2023, Dr. Rachel Heuer of Maine Medical Center completed the first MERGE rotation. She traveled to Franklin Memorial Hospital for the Internal Medicine rotation with Dr. Steve Goss. In the fall of 2023 residents from around the state will be completing the psychiatry, hospitalist, and addiction medicine rotations.



Dr. Steve Goss of Franklin Memorial Hospital and resident Dr. Rachel Heuer of Maine Medical Center

THANK YOU BOYNE RESORTS

MERGE residents can now enjoy a complimentary lift ticket to one of the Boyne-operated ski mountains in Maine. That includes world-class locations such as Sugarloaf, Sunday River, and Pleasant Mountain. Not a bad way to spend a day off after a rural rotation in Maine!



Newsletter Highlights

The First Annual MERGE Conference

Ski Tickets for Residents

Elective Rotation Spotlight: Jackman Community Health Center

A Message from Dr. Annie Derthick, Central Maine Medical Center Family Medicine Residency

New MERGE Rotations

Family Medicine in Blue Hill, ME

Family Medicine / Emergency Hybrid in Jackman, ME

Carceral Medicine with the Maine State Department of Corrections

To see all rural elective offerings, visit our website here



ELECTIVE ROTATION SPOTLIGHT: JACKMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Jackman is a small town in rural Somerset County surrounded by 250,000 acres of pristine woodlands. While the beautiful outdoors is a great draw, the closest hospital is over an hour away. To best support the community, Jackman Community Health Center, a member of Penobscot Community Health Centers of Bangor, has developed a 24/7 care model that integrates its primary care facility with the local paramedic team. Daytime shifts are covered by Dr. Patricia Doyle. Evening and overnight care is provided by the paramedics facilitating access to emergency physicians at St. Joseph Hospital in Bangor through telehealth technology.

This rotation offers two opportunities for residents. By day, residents can work with Dr. Patricia Doyle on community health needs. By night, the resident would be housed in the paramedic facility and be exposed to emergency medicine and telehealth with St. Joseph's emergency physicians. For residents particularly interested in rural telehealth, this rotation offers the option of spending two weeks at in the emergency department at St. Joseph's in Bangor to be on the receiving end of the telehealth calls with the emergency physicians there. This innovative model for rural care would be a great experience for any resident interested in creative solutions for rural residents. To learn more, contact MERGE through our website [here](#).



Jackman Community Health Center is part of Penobscot Community Health Centers, based in Bangor, ME

A Message from Dr. Annie Derthick, Central Maine Medical Center Family Medicine Residency

Rural residents often have a more difficult time getting their mental health care needs met. There are chronic shortages of mental health professionals available in rural communities, and rural residents can often not afford to travel the long distances required to access care. For those who are able to access care close to home, many experience stigma and worry about confidentiality in communities where everyone knows one another and there are few alternatives.

Many of the MERGE Collaborative rural rotations offer resident physicians opportunities to learn critical mental health-related medical skills such as psychiatry and addiction medicine in the context of the community in which they occur. These rotations are available to all resident trainees in the state, so there is potential for pediatricians, family physicians, obstetricians, and internists, for example, to build knowledge they can apply to future practice, hopefully in one of the communities they train in.

