

MERGE News

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FAMILY MEDICINE FOCUSED

Family Medicine is the most popular rotation offered within the MERGE Collaborative. And no wonder with four great family medicine residency programs in Maine. Rural family medicine rotations provide a great opportunity for residents to connect with a community and develop meaningful relationships with patients. MERGE FM rotations can be found in Blue Hill, Dover-Foxcroft, Sangerville, Farmington, Norway, Jackman, Rockport, and Bar Harbor. <https://mergecollaborative.org/rural-resident-training/>.

MAKING IT BIG ON THE SMALL SCREEN

Did you have the chance to see our new promotional video? If not, you can see it [HERE!](#) Please spread the word and let your networks know about this program. Thank you for the entire team at [Black Fly Media](#) for their development of this video. Thank you also to our “on camera talent” from Bridgton Hospital, Farmington Family Medicine, and Blue Hill Hospital for showcasing their MERGE preceptors and residents. You have all made rural Maine look as beautiful as ever.

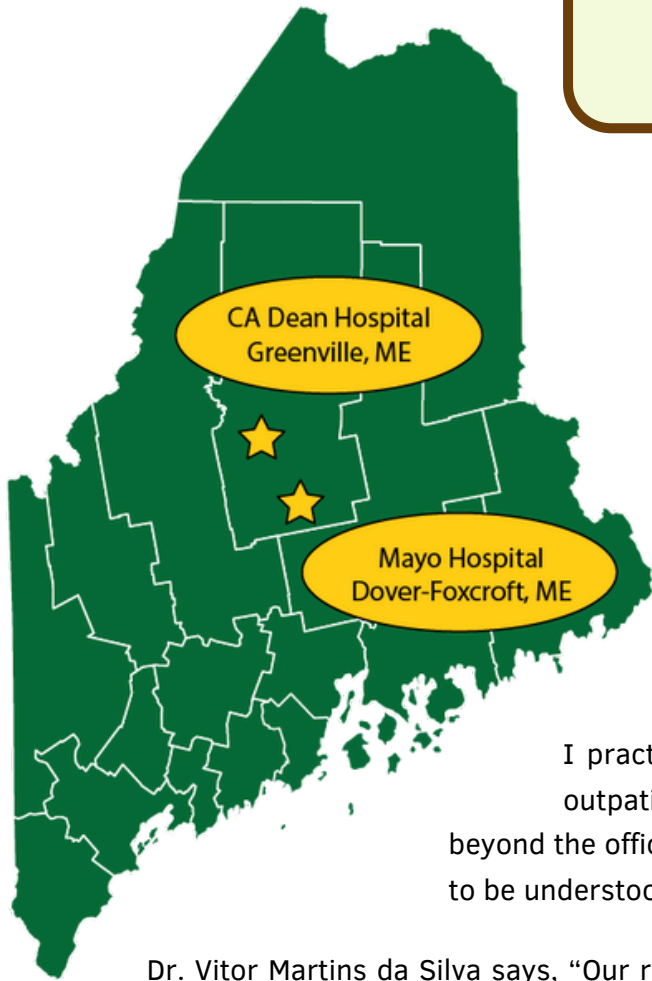
MERGE Rotation Specialties

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Emergency Medicine
- Psychiatry
- Addiction Medicine
- Carceral Medicine
- Geriatrics/Hospice
- OB/GYN
- Pediatrics
- Cardiology
- General Surgery
- Anesthesiology



PHOTO: Videographer and owner of Black Fly Media, Jason Nelson, gets footage of a Life Flight landing at Bridgton Hospital.

SPOTLIGHT: FAMILY MEDICINE IN PISCATAQUIS COUNTY



In the Highlands of Maine, about 10 minutes apart from one another, sit two new MERGE Family Medicine rotations hosted by Northern Light Health. One, located in Dover-Foxcroft at Mayo Hospital, is a traditional Family Medicine rotation led by Dr. Vitor Martins da Silva. The other, led by Dr. Kristin Hartt, is a Family Medicine rotation with an additional focus on obstetrics. Dr. Hartt is based at Northwoods Health Clinic in Sangerville but oversees deliveries at Northern Light Mayo Hospital.

Dr. Kristin Hartt says, “Rural medicine gives us a chance to use all of our physician skills, managing an underserved population who often cannot make it to specialist care in a timely fashion or at all.

I practice full scope family medicine, from birth to death, inpatient to outpatient, and the small-town nature allows us to connect with patients beyond the office. Rural healthcare is its own special niche of medicine and needs to be understood and appreciated, no matter where you eventually practice.”

Dr. Vitor Martins da Silva says, “Our rotation in Dover-Foxcroft offers plenty of opportunity to adapt to any resident’s interests. We have patients with very diverse pathology, which is an excellent educational experience not only to train in “bread and butter” Family Medicine but also management of lesser common diagnoses with limited specialist support (often none). There is also a lesser culture of hospitalization in the area, and residents will learn skills in the management of higher complexity patients on an outpatient basis.”

These locations from Greenville (CA Dean Hospital) to Dover-Foxcroft (Mayo Hospital) are gateways to the beauty of rural Maine. Greenville sits on the shores of Moosehead Lake, one of the largest lakes in New England and supports a robust tourism industry. Dover-Foxcroft boasts Sebec Lake, Peaks-Kenny State Park, and is only a 1-2 hour drive to Mount Katahdin. MERGE rural elective rotations offer the opportunity to learn from experienced physicians in a rural setting, while also enjoying all of the natural beauty that Maine has to offer.



PHOTO: A sunrise over Moosehead Lake, Piscataquis County, Maine. Credit: Getty Images

Those interested in this rotation can reach out to MERGE Program Manager Dave McLellan at david.mclellan@mainehealth.org

MAINE RURAL HEALTHCARE EDUCATION GRAND ROUNDS

Our education grand rounds series was launched in January of this year and has continued to gain traction. The next two scheduled presentations are:

- May 10th, 12:00 PM, Structural Competency and Migrant Farmworker Health presented by Dr. Cheryl Seymour of the Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency
- June 14th, 12:00 PM, Integrating Addiction Care into Healthcare Provider Education presented by Eva Quirion, NP, PhD from the University of Maine

All presentations are virtual and accessible from [http://bit.ly/Maine Rural Healthcare Education](http://bit.ly/Maine_Rural_Healthcare_Education)

Future topics and presenters for 2024 will be announced soon. Please reach out to us with any requests or suggestions for future topics and speakers.



Cheryl Seymour, MD (Left) and Eva Quirion, NP, PhD (right) will lead the next two Maine Rural Healthcare Education Grand Rounds



This QR Code will connect directly to all Grand Rounds sessions.

A Message from Tom Gearan, MD – Associate DIO, Maine Medical Center



Much as the arrival of spring brings a sense of renewal after another challenging Maine winter, the last quarter of the academic year is a time of significant change for the GME programs in our state. Program leaders and faculty are busy reflecting on the state of their programs through the process of program evaluation, and will consider new approaches as they get busy making schedules for the new academic year. Our residency graduates are preparing for the next steps in their careers, whether it be additional

fellowship training or their first job as an attending physician. Our incoming interns are completing the final weeks of medical school and eagerly anticipating their first rotation of residency coming in July. For everyone involved in our GME programs, we hope that our MERGE rotations offer an unforgettable experience during their residency, providing valuable exposure to the practice of rural medicine and lasting memories of time spent in communities throughout our beautiful state.