

MERGE News



Photo: Maine Solar System Model - Presque Isle, ME

RURAL OBSTETRICS ON THE NORTHERN BORDER Seeking Rural OB Provider Feedback For GME Training

In 2024, the MERGE Collaborative was awarded \$667,330 from the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish new rural obstetric training intensives. An important first step of this initiative is to understand the real and perceived barriers to training Ob/Gyn and Family Medicine residents in obstetrics in a rural setting. Dr. Jeannette Andrews of MaineHealth Stephens Hospital in Norway, ME devised an IRB-approved needs-assessment survey for rural OB providers. Said Dr. Andrews, "This survey asks important questions about how engaged OB providers are with training the next generation of physicians and certified nurse midwives. We hope that the information provided will provide insights as to how we can better expose resident physicians to rural OB clinics."

OB Providers are Invited to Take This Survey!

[Click This Link
To Access The
Survey](#)



This survey is open to any ob/gyn physician, family medicine physician, or certified nurse midwife practicing obstetrics in a rural setting. The survey focuses on states in Northern New England, but is open to providers around the country. We ask the support of the MERGE network to share this survey with any OB provider working in a rural setting. Questions about the opportunity can be sent to MERGE Program Manager, David McLellan, at david.mclellan@mainehealth.org.

Newsletter Highlights

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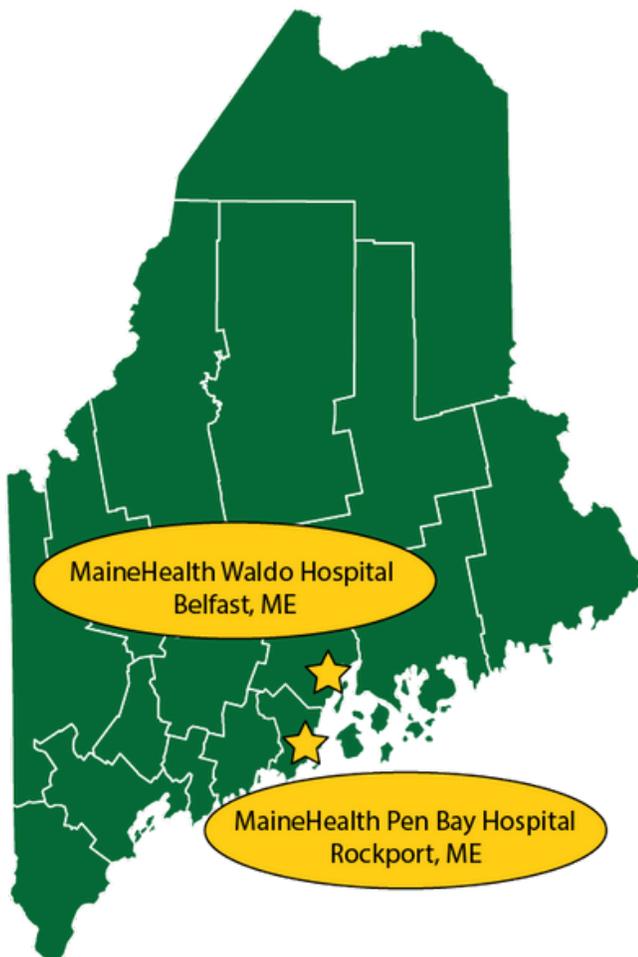
MERGE Rotation Specialties

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



SPOTLIGHT: HOSPITALIST ROTATION AT MAINEHEALTH PEN BAY HOSPITAL AND WALDO HOSPITAL

In a rotation that provides “two for the price of one,” residents participating in this hospitalist rotation get to experience hospitalist medicine in both Rockport and Belfast, ME. Led by Dr. Elizabeth Carson, this rotation splits its time between MaineHealth Pen Bay Hospital and MaineHealth Waldo Hospital. Both sites provide a unique experience for inpatient care in a community hospital setting.



Rotation director Dr. Elizabeth Carson (left) and visiting Eastern Maine Medical Center resident Dr. Ryan Ahn (right)

Two residents completed this rotation between January and March 2025. Highlights for the residents included the mix of autonomy and supervision while being able to take ownership of the patient care. Dr. Katherine Loomba from the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Internal Medicine Residency said, “Pen Bay is a great rotation because of the friendly staff, diversity of cases/acuity, and ability to do more hands-on learning. There was excellent teaching about navigating resources in a community setting as well as teaching about the technical aspects of procedures such as central lines and thoracenteses.”

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

MOST NORTHWARD SIGNUP

Congratulations to the MERGE preceptors at Aroostook House of Comfort in Presque Isle, ME for getting their first MERGE resident signed up for this May! This will mark the furthest northward location for MERGE participation. Supporting northern Maine is a priority for the MERGE Collaborative and we will continue to promote the available rotations in Fort Kent, Presque Isle, and Houlton.



Aroostook House of Comfort, Presque Isle, ME

MERGE CONFERENCE 2025 KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

This year's MERGE Conference will take place on November 14th at MaineGeneral Medical Center in Augusta. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Amy Madden, Chief Medical Officer for HealthReach Community Health Centers. Dr. Madden will begin the conference with her talk, "Building Teams to Care for Communities." Registration information will be available in June 2025. We hope to see you there!

Dr. Amy Madden of HealthReach Community Health Centers will be the MERGE Conference 2025 Keynote Speaker



UPCOMING MAINE RURAL HEALTHCARE EDUCATION GRAND ROUNDS

- March 14th, 12:00, **Evidence-Based Strategies to Improve Learning and How to Implement Them in Medical Education** presented by Annie Derthick, PhD, Director of Behavioral Science, Central Maine Medical Center Family Medicine Residency
- April 11th, 12:00, **Multimodal Training and Mentorship for Forensic Evaluations in Asylum Medicine** presented by Mary White, MD, Physician Evaluator for the Human Rights Clinic of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

All presentations are virtual and accessible from http://bit.ly/Maine_Rural_Healthcare_Education

More information about our Grand Rounds speakers can be found on our website at: <https://mergecollaborative.org/maine-rural-healthcare-education-grand-rounds/>



Annie Derthick, PhD (left) and Mary White, MD (right) will present the next two grand rounds.