

MaineHealth

MaineHealth Local Health Systems

Franklin Community
Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the MaineHealth Family

MaineHealth Accountable
Care Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates

MaineGeneral Health
New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth Neither For Nor Against LD 129, "Resolve, To Direct the University of Maine System to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Public Allopathic Medical School in Penobscot County" Thursday, February 2, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Sarah Calder, Senior Government Affairs Director at MaineHealth, and I am here today to testify Neither For Nor Against LD 129, "Resolve, To Direct the University of Maine System to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Public Allopathic Medical School in Penobscot County."

I want to take the opportunity today to share with the Committee that, while Maine does not have a state-sponsored medical school, we do have two Maine-based medical school programs, including the *Maine Track* program, that are dedicated to addressing the shortage of physicians, particularly in rural Maine.

In 2008, Maine Medical Center (MMC) partnered with the Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) to start a program designed to serve Maine students close to home. At the time, Maine ranked 49th in the rate of residents who entered medical school. The TUSM-MMC *Maine Track* program, based on the highly successful program in Washington State, was founded with three goals in mind:

- To address the shortage of physicians in Maine, and particularly physicians in our rural areas;
- To make available access to high quality and affordable medical education for Maine's best and brightest students; and
- To develop an innovative curriculum focused on rural medicine and community-based education to best meet the needs of our state.

The unique MMC-TUSM partnership offers a rigorous training program that exposes students to rural clinical practice from day one and provides students firsthand experience providing care in local communities throughout the state including such towns as Madison, Caribou, Belfast, Wiscasset, Richmond, and Norway. Most importantly, in an effort to ensure that Maine students have access to medical education at a cost on par with that of a state school, Maine Medical Center guarantees that at least 20 Maine students in each class receive scholarships of \$25,000 per year, totaling more than \$2 million each year. The scholarships have been raised through the generosity of private donors, local companies, and, very importantly, the Doctors for Maine's Future scholarship program, which was created by the 124th Maine Legislature and, more recently, received a

\$2 million investment in the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan passed by the 130th Legislature.

Additionally, the program is accessible. We are very proud to offer a *Maine Track* Early Assurance Program for sophomores at Bates College, Bowdoin College, Colby College, and all University of Maine campuses. Additionally, The MMC-TUSM acceptance rate last year for Mainers into the *Maine Track* was 47%. For those from away, our acceptance rate was only 17%. This compares very favorably to TUSM's overall acceptance rate of approximately 4% and the average national acceptance rate of approximately 5.5%.

It is clear that our student selection process, curriculum, and scholarship opportunities are critically important in producing local physicians:

- The number of medical school applications from Maine residents has almost tripled since the program began in 2009.
- From the 10 classes of *Maine Track* alumni to date, 64 (or 45%) are now practicing in Maine (while others continue postgraduate training or are serving in the military).
- The Maine Track Class of 2026 includes 40 students—24 of these students grew up in Maine.
- To date, 362 physicians over 10 classes have graduated from the Maine Track Program. 233 were from Maine.

One last point I would like to raise is that states' residency slots have been limited by funding to support graduate medical education from the Federal government. MaineHealth has been able to increase the number of resident and fellowship positions through our own resources, recognizing this as a solution to our physician workforce needs. Given this limitation, we work collaboratively with the UNE's College of Osteopathic Medicine and the *Maine Track* program to ensure that Maine-trained students have priority access to the limited number of residency slots available. This is important because according to the Association of American Medical Colleges' 2022 Report on Residents, more than half (55.2%) of the individuals who completed residency training from 2012 to 2021 are practicing in the state where they did their residency training. According to this same report, Maine has the 14th highest retention rate of residents in the nation.

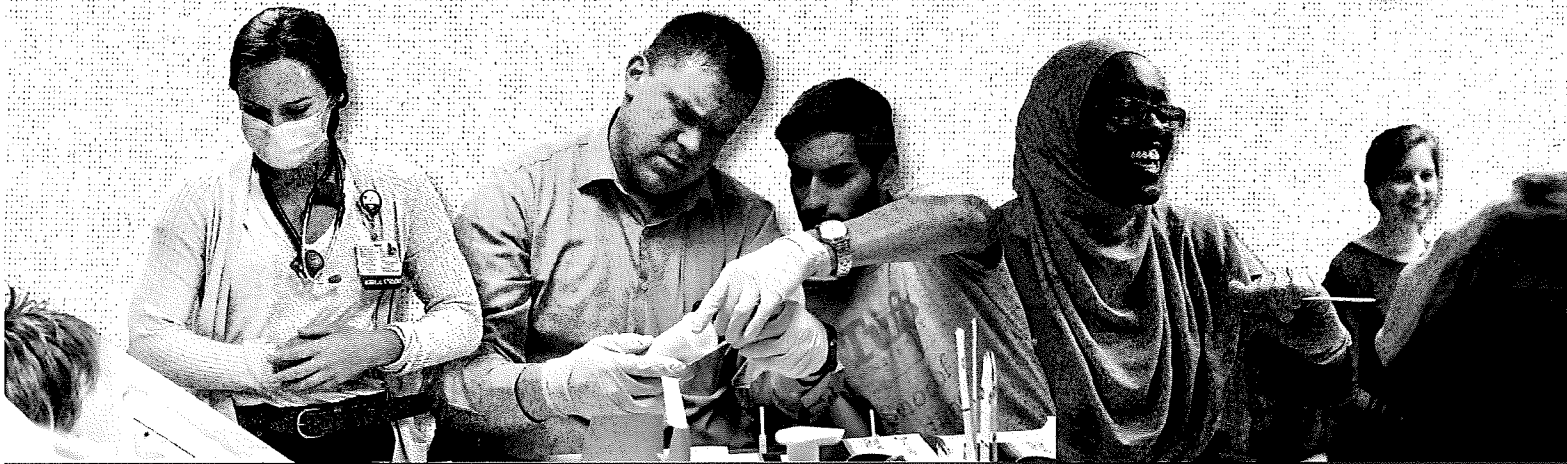
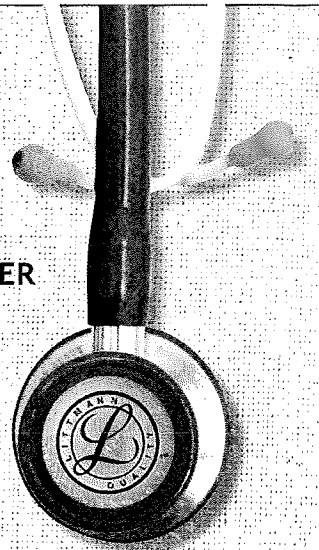
The outcomes of the *Maine Track* and UNE College of Osteopathic Medicine programs – practicing in primary care, practicing in a rural community, and practicing in an underserved area – are critical as we look to grow and maintain access to care for your constituents throughout Maine.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

TUFTS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE— MAINE MEDICAL CENTER

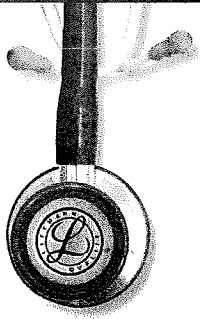
Maine Track Program

Undergraduate Medical Education Teaching Partnership



2022 Program Report

The Tufts University School of Medicine – Maine Medical Center Maine Track Program was founded with three primary goals in mind: to address the shortage of doctors in Maine; to offer Maine's brightest students the financial means to pursue a career in medicine; and to develop an innovative curriculum focused on community-based education.



A Maine Track Milestone: Trailblazing Program Graduates 10th Class of Physicians

After a pandemic-related hiatus, 2022 saw a return of the Maine Track Alumni Reunion event. In October, alumni gathered at Rising Tide Brewing Company in Portland to reconnect and reflect. At this year's reunion, an important milestone was recognized: there are now 10 classes of Maine Track graduates!

The Maine Track Class of 2013 was particularly well represented at reunion, since 14 physicians – 44% of the Class of 2013 – are now practicing medicine in Maine. Here is a look at where these graduates are practicing:

- **Kathleen Brennan, MD** is practicing Family Medicine at Maine Medical Partners – Falmouth Family Medicine in **Falmouth**
- **Allison Buttarazzi, MD** is practicing Internal Medicine at InterMed, P.A. in **Portland**
- **Matthew Buttarazzi, MD** is practicing Internal Medicine as a Hospitalist at Maine Medical Center in **Portland** and Stephens Memorial Hospital in **Norway**
- **Marya Goettsche Spurling, MD** is practicing Family Medicine at Skowhegan Family Medicine – Redington Fairview General Hospital in **Skowhegan**
- **Lindsey Hathaway, MD** is practicing Medical Oncology and Hematology at Maine General Hospital in **Augusta**
- **Jason Hine, MD** is practicing Emergency Medicine at Southern Maine Health Care in **Biddeford**

- **Janessa Leger, MD** is practicing Emergency Medicine at Maine Medical Center in **Portland**, St. Mary's Hospital in **Lewiston**, and Stephens Memorial Hospital in **Norway**
- **Megan McBrady, MD** is practicing Family Medicine at InterMed Yarmouth Health Center in **Yarmouth**
- **Amanda McDonough, MD, MPH** is practicing Obstetrics and Gynecology at Southern Maine Health Care in **Biddeford**
- **Kelly Pizzo, MD** is practicing Internal Medicine at Portland Gastroenterology in **Portland**
- **Spencer Powers, MD** is practicing Internal Medicine at Maine Medical Partners in **Portland** and Stephens Memorial Hospital in **Norway**
- **Michael Sighinolfi, MD** is practicing Internal Medicine (Gastroenterology) at St. Joseph Healthcare in **Bangor**
- **Chadwick Szylvian, MD, MPH** is practicing Family Medicine at Eastern Maine Medical Center in **Bangor**
- **Holly Thro, MD** is practicing Family Medicine and Psychiatry at Pen Bay Medical Center in **Rockport**

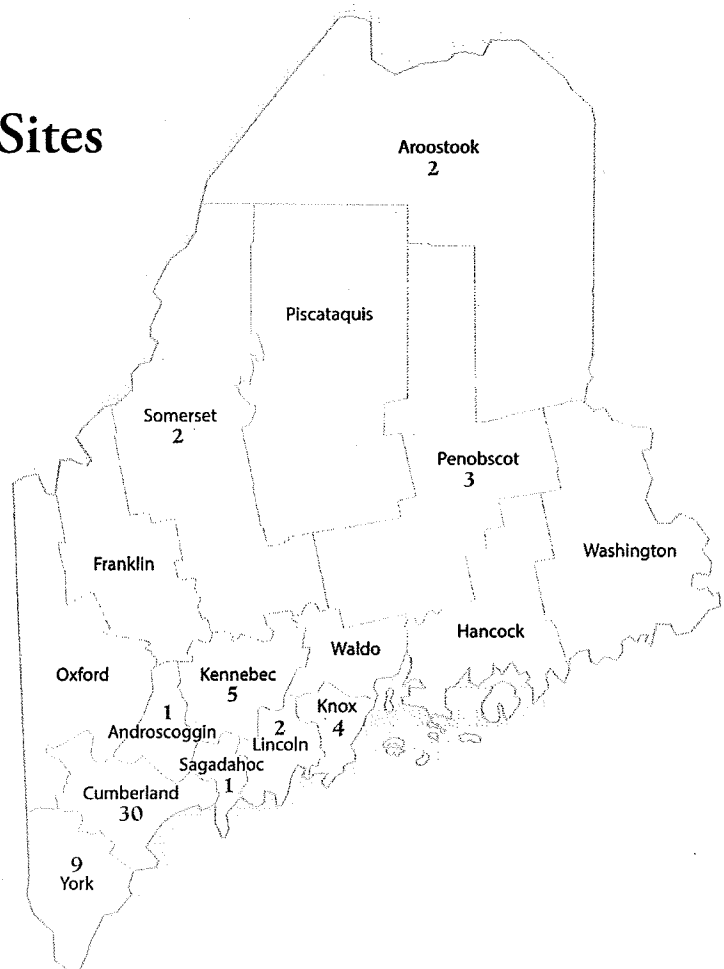
"I really feel that the Maine Track is building a strong community of alumni who are very supportive of students. I cannot wait to become a part of this community and guide students like me toward their career goals and aspirations."

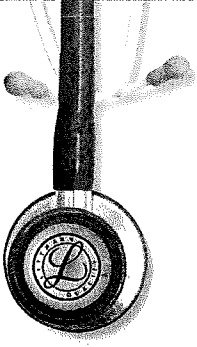
– Michael McCann, Maine Track Class of 2023, Hometown of Winslow

Maine Track Alumni 2022 Maine Practice Sites By County

Maine Track by the Numbers

- To date, **362** physicians over 10 classes have graduated from the Maine Track Program
- **27%** of Maine Track graduates have matched to Maine Medical Center for their residency training
- **47%** of all Maine Track graduates have chosen a specialty related to primary care (family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics)
- **45%** of alumni who have completed training report they are now practicing in Maine





Since Maine does not have a public medical school, Maine-based students who want to become doctors must go out of state for their education. This means that Maine students pay more, whether for out-of-state tuition at a public medical school or for standard tuition at a private school (like Tufts University). The high cost of tuition can discourage Maine students from pursuing medicine as a career path; for those who do, lower-paying specialties in primary care are often overlooked because of their overwhelming student debt.

Scholarship support for Maine students is critical to help offset this financial disadvantage and make medical school more fiscally feasible for Maine's brightest and best. Thanks to the generous support from grants, individual and corporate donors, and state funding, \$2 million in scholarship funding is awarded to Maine Track students each year. Twenty students in each Maine Track class are given an annual scholarship of \$25,000, which significantly reduces their overall tuition costs.

To date, scholarships have been awarded to a total of 281 Maine Track students. The substantial financial support from scholarships continues to open doors for Maine students, allowing them to learn and serve in the communities that helped raise them.

The following new and renewed named scholarships were awarded to 20 students in the Class of 2026:

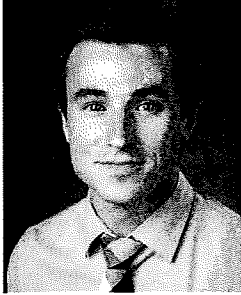
Doctors for Maine's Future Program (supporting 5 students)
Richard & Rakia Hatch Endowed Scholarship Fund (supporting 2 students)
Bingham Scholarship Fund
Betty & Joseph Stocks, MD and Family Maine Track Scholarship Fund
Donald L. McDowell Endowment Fund
Bud Higgins Endowed Scholarship Fund
Spectrum Healthcare Partners Endowed Scholarship Fund
George and Marie Bing-You Endowed Scholarship Fund
Burke Family Endowed Scholarship Fund
Bob & Dottie King Endowed Scholarship Fund
Bacow Endowed Scholarship Fund
Richard Engel, MD Endowed Scholarship Fund
Peter W. Bates, MD Endowed Scholarship Fund
Marr-Anderson Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund
Cate & Richard Gilbane Maine Track Scholarship Fund

The Impact of Maine Track Scholarships:



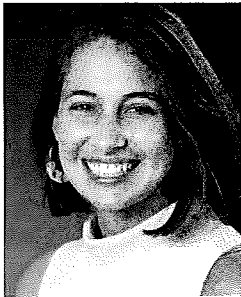
"With increasing demands on the healthcare system, the need for training competent, well rounded physicians is so important, now more than ever. Your contributions make it more feasible for student like myself with a small town Maine upbringing to pursue a career in medicine and make an impact on the future of healthcare in Maine. You really have helped make my dreams a reality, and for that I will be forever grateful."

– Molly Caron, MD, Maine Track Class of 2022, Hometown of Holden



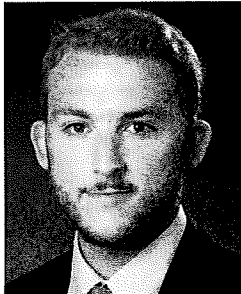
"I graduated medical school with a medical degree and a residency in my dream specialty. I am forever grateful for the support this scholarship has provided me, which has allowed me to focus on my schoolwork during these four years. You have done this state and so many future physicians a great service, and I am looking forward to the future when I can pay this service forward."

– Ketch Cowan, MD, Maine Track Class of 2022, Hometown of Rockland



"Thank you so much for supporting my education and the education of so many other Mainers! My patients love hearing that I grew up in a town close to them and I am so glad to know that more and more patients will get to hear this with the support of these scholarships."

– Allyson Redhunt, Maine Track Class of 2023, Hometown of Gorham

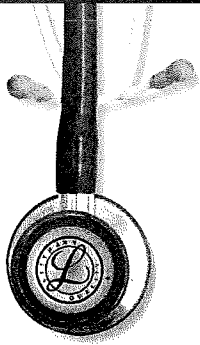


"I would like to send my most sincere gratitude to my benefactors because their contribution to my medical education has given me something that is very rare these days: peace of mind. Instead of my attention being spent worried about the finances of medical school, you have allowed me to concentrate on my education and succeed in my clerkships. This will undoubtedly make me a better physician one day."

– Robert Hallinan, Maine Track Class of 2023, Hometown of Boothbay Harbor



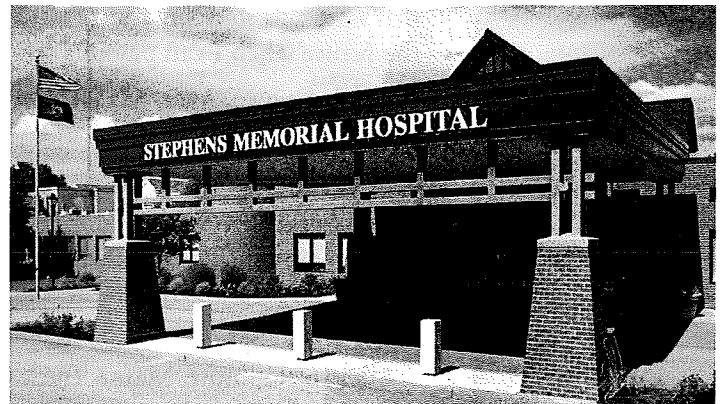
Kaitlyn Jodoin, Betty and Joseph Stocks, MD and Family Maine Track Scholar in the Maine Track Class of 2026, pictured with scholarship benefactors Peter Stocks and Betty Stocks at the 2022 Victor A. McKusick, MD Lecture



The Maine Track is a unique program for students committed to pursuing a career in rural medicine. The program's community-based curriculum reflects the wide-ranging skills and knowledge required of rural physicians, offering exceptional learning opportunities in a variety of environments throughout all 4 years of medical school.

Maine Track Orientation Preceptorship

Maine Track students are exposed to rural healthcare during their first few days of medical school orientation. This unique learning opportunity allows students to experience the practice of rural medicine firsthand. As part of orientation, students are placed at healthcare teaching sites from Kittery to Fort Kent and North Conway to Machias, where they spend two days learning from physicians about the challenges and rewards of rural healthcare. This experience also introduces students to current health issues in Maine and local social determinants of health that they are likely to encounter as future physicians.



Interclerkship Week

During their third year, Maine Track students begin hands-on clinical training and practice with patients through clerkships. Maine Track clerkships span the state of Maine: some students participate in the more traditional block rotation through departments within Maine Medical Center, while others complete the Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) at a rural hospital.



Because students' clerkship experiences are so vastly different, Maine Track faculty have introduced into course curriculum an opportunity for all third year students to gather and debrief. Interclerkship Week is an innovative course that requires students to leave their clinical clerkships at the midpoint and come back together as a class to review issues they are experiencing in their clerkships. Topics introduced during the first year and second year curriculum – including health care systems, the patient experience, personal/professional development, and population health – are reintroduced, and students benefit from applying their clinical experiences to these concepts which are integral to the delivery of healthcare.

To date, roughly 80 students have received the Interclerkship Week programming. Students have reported positive impacts on their understanding of Maine-based impacts to health care outcomes, on their personal wellness when being able to gather and reflect with peers, and on their ability to address the many "non-medical" aspects of their patients' care that frequently impact outcomes.

TUSM MMC Program Maine Track

Undergraduate Medical Education Teaching Partnership

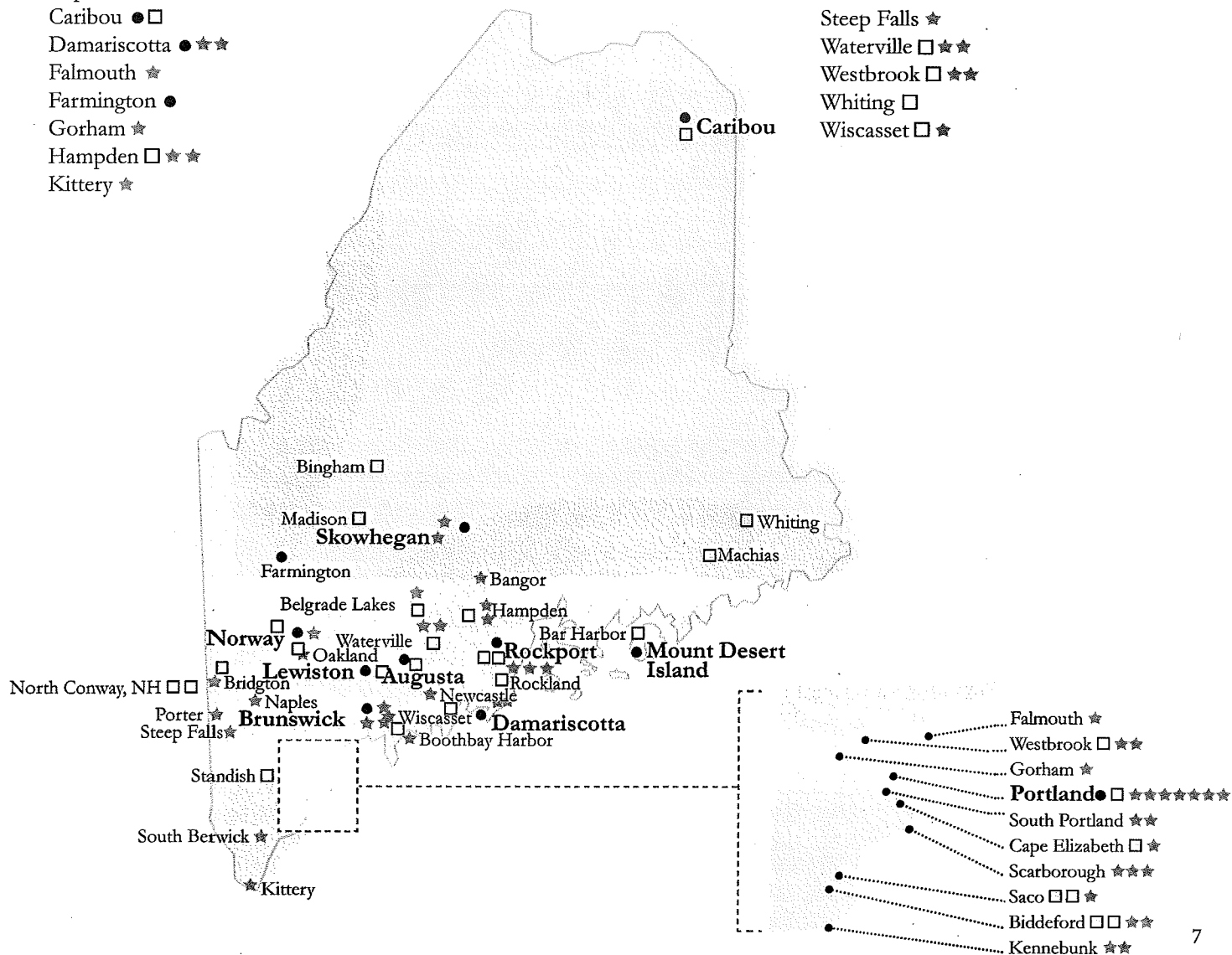
2022 Teaching Sites

- LIC Sites
- Orientation Sites
- ★ CAP Sites

Augusta ● □
 Bangor ★
 Bar Harbor □
 Belgrade Lakes □ ★
 Biddeford □ □ ★ ★
 Bingham □
 Boothbay Harbor ★
 Bridgton □ ★
 Brunswick ● ★ ★ ★
 Cape Elizabeth □ ★
 Caribou ● □
 Damariscotta ● ★ ★
 Falmouth ★
 Farmington ●
 Gorham ★
 Hampden □ ★ ★
 Kittery ★

Lewiston ● □
 Machias □
 Madison □
 Mount Desert Island ●
 Naples ★
 Newcastle □ ★
 North Conway, NH □
 Norway ● □ □ ★
 Oakland ★

Porter ★
 Portland ● □ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 Rockland □
 Rockport ● □ □ ★ ★ ★
 Saco □ □ ★
 Scarborough ★ ★ ★
 Skowhegan ● ★ ★
 South Berwick ★
 South Portland ★ ★
 Standish □
 Steep Falls ★
 Waterville □ ★ ★
 Westbrook □ ★ ★
 Whiting □
 Wiscasset □ ★





Maine Track Class of 2022

The Maine Track Class of 2022 was the 10th class to graduate, adding 46 new physicians to the Maine Track alumni community. 13 members of the Class of 2022 remained in Maine for their residencies, the next phase of their training. 12 members of the Class of 2022 matched to one of 15 highly competitive residency programs at Maine Medical Center. One member of the Class of 2022 matched to the Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine Program, based in Augusta, Maine.



Maine Track Class of 2026

The Maine Track Class of 2026 includes 40 students—24 of these students grew up in Maine. All 40 have demonstrated an interest in practicing rural medicine by enrolling in the Maine Track, which will immerse them in rural, community-based learning for the next four years.

TUSM MMC MAINE TRACK PROGRAM

For more information or to support a student in the Maine Track Program, please visit our website at www.mmc.org/mainetrack or contact the Maine Medical Center Philanthropy Department at (207) 662-2669.

TUSM-MMC Maine Track Program

Class of 2026

Nicholas Baker New Rochelle, NY Temple University	Eva Farkas Pittston, ME Columbia University in the City of New York	Elizabeth Janitz Plymouth, MI Vassar College	Krisandra McNichol Rockland, ME Colby College
Samantha Barry Freeport, ME Colby College	Annikka Gallandt Orono, ME Macalester College	Kaitlyn Jodoin Gorham, ME University of Maine	<i>Doctors for Maine's Future Program Scholar</i> Ella Millard Boston, MA Boston College
Donald L. McDowell Endowed Scholar	<i>Doctors for Maine's Future Program Scholar</i>	Betty & Joseph Stocks, MD and Family Maine Track Scholar	Burke Family Endowed Scholar
Jane Branch Orrington, ME College of the Holy Cross	Porter Galvin Harpwell, ME Ithaca College	Michaela Jordan West Baldwin, ME Fordham University	Hadley Mae Falmouth, ME Bates College
Cate & Richard Gilbane Maine Track Scholar	Richard Engel, MD Endowed Scholar	Richard & Rakia Hatch Endowed Scholar	Bacow Endowed Scholar
Paula Caras Saco, ME Connecticut College	Zackary George Aspen, CO University of Denver	Wyatt Kilburn Cumberland, ME Johns Hopkins University	Emma Patterson Denver, CO Bates College
Aishwarya Chandrasekar Scarborough, ME Northeastern University	Grace Gile Alfred, ME Simmons University	David Long South Paris, ME University of Massachusetts – Lowell	Justin Ramos Skowhegan, ME Princeton University
<i>Doctors for Maine's Future Program Scholar</i>	<i>Doctors for Maine's Future Program Scholar</i>	Molly Mann Camden, ME Wellesley College	Bingham Scholar
Taylor Choate Nashua, NH Bowdoin College	Louisa Goldman St. Louis, MO Colby College	Bud Higgins Endowed Scholar	Sophie Smith Bethesda, MD Middlebury College
Anna Deck Brunswick, ME Tufts University	Jamie Gullikson Dennmark, ME Northeastern University	Jack Marcucci Altamont, NY State University of New York College at Oswego	Sierra Soghikian Bedford, NH Bowdoin College
George & Marie Bing-You Endowed Scholar	Hanna Gutow Castine, ME Swarthmore College	Angela Martell Hudson, NH University of New Hampshire – Durham	Theodora Stanley Guilford, CT Northeastern University
Abigail DeSchiffart Cherryfield, ME The University of Utah	Julia Hurchings-Sakaue Scarsdale, NY Colby College	Finn McGarghan Charlotte, VT Tufts University	Olivia Stockdy Cumberland, ME Bates College
<i>Doctors for Maine's Future Program Scholar</i>	Richard & Rakia Hatch Endowed Scholar	Morgan McKeown Scarborough, ME Trinity College	Jordan Zajac North Granby, CT Colby College
Owen Doane South Portland, ME University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	Ellis Iacono Barrington, RI University of Rhode Island	<i>Spectrum Healthcare Partners Endowed Scholar</i>	
Bob & Dottie King Endowed Scholar			
Chanya Elkins Morgantown, WV University of Pittsburgh			