The Maine Medical Center
Tufts University School of Medicine
Maine Track Program
The Maine Medical Center Tufts University School of Medicine Maine Track Program was founded with three primary goals in mind: to address the shortage of doctors in Maine, especially in our rural areas; 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. This unique partnership offers a rigorous training program focused on the needs of Maine while also giving students firsthand experience providing care in local communities throughout the state. This approach creates more than just a pipeline of new physicians; it lays the foundation for a future where every Mainer has access to excellent medical care.
“My dream is to provide care to Maine’s island communities as a traveling doctor.”

Growing up as the daughter of a lobsterman on an island of only 75 residents, Marya knows firsthand the challenges of living in a remote location and the deep sense of community that comes from that experience. She chose the Maine Track Program because of the unique structure of a curriculum focused on rural medicine and the opportunity to complete clinical rotations here in Maine. This one-of-a-kind education will provide her with important connections as she looks to build her own practice.

Marya Spurling | Class of 2013

HOMETOWN: Little Cranberry Island

SCHOLARSHIP: Doctors for Maine’s Future Program

UNDERGRADUATE: Gordon College
“Maine reminds me of the courage my parents displayed when they decided on a different future. It is this same courage that has inspired me to persevere and continue my path into medicine.”

Patty Olszynski | Class of 2013

Patty Olszynski escaped from communist Poland, settling in Maine when she was just 8 years old. Living here has defined her life in ways she never could have imagined. She has a deep passion for all that Maine has to offer and an abiding gratitude for the opportunities provided to her family as immigrants. It is this devotion that is driving Patty to pursue a career in medicine so she can give back to the state she loves.
“I have always called Maine home—even when I lived in other places. It is a great joy for me to help aspiring physicians and give back to my community.”

Selma Pluznick | *Leadership Donor*

After losing her husband, Oscar, to cancer, Selma Pluznick was determined to help other Maine families deal with this devastating disease. She did so by helping MMC purchase the first brachytherapy equipment in the state for targeted high-dose radiation treatment. Selma also knows firsthand the importance of having a highly qualified and caring physician. She established the Selma Pluznick Endowed Scholarship Fund to ensure other Mainers have the same opportunity for high-quality care.
“We must act now if we are to impact the future of healthcare in Maine for the next generation.”

As leaders of the largest physician-owned practice in Maine, Dave Landry and Dan Landry understand the demanding journey of becoming a doctor—especially the financial barriers that exist for students from Maine who choose this calling. They also know the challenges of filling vacancies due to the physician shortage. Realizing the many benefits of the MMC-Tufts partnership and how it will help their own practice, Spectrum was among the first medical groups to fully endow a scholarship fund for a Maine student in the program.
This program makes it possible for me to come home.”

Chad Szylyvian | Class of 2013

Being a 3rd generation Mainer means you have deep roots in the state. Being the first in your family to graduate from college means you are a source of pride for every generation preceding you. But Chad didn’t stop there. Since he was in high school, he dreamed of pursuing a career in medicine. Cost was a substantial barrier though, one that led him to seriously consider different career paths. Through the Maine Track Program, Chad was able to receive essential scholarship support that has allowed him to pursue his dream.

HOMETOWN: Brewer
SCHOLARSHIP: Doctors for Maine’s Future Program
UNDERGRADUATE: Boston College
“The people of rural Maine made me who I am. Giving back to them as a physician will be one of the most satisfying and rewarding feelings in my life.”

Janessa Nason  |  Class of 2013

Born and raised in Millinocket, Janessa has developed a deep appreciation for her home state and its close-knit communities. Having a nurse for a mother, Janessa saw firsthand the positive impact medicine has on rural areas. While this background inspired her to pursue being a doctor, she is convinced that without financial assistance provided through a Maine Track scholarship, this dream would not have been possible.
“Janet and I named our scholarship for my parents for all they did to help me get where I am in my career and to honor parents everywhere who sacrifice so their children can achieve their dreams.”

Bob and Janet Bing-You exemplify commitment to the Maine Track Program. As head of the Department of Medical Education at Maine Medical Center, Bob was instrumental in the development and implementation of the MMC-Tufts partnership. He is also a facultymember in the program, providing hands-on training and mentoring to students. Bob and Janet are philanthropic supporters as well, creating an endowed scholarship to ensure that resources are always available for aspiring physicians from Maine.
“The shortage of physicians in Maine has reached a crisis, particularly for rural hospitals. The Maine Track Program will address this challenge and bring talented new physicians to our community.”

Dr. David Dixon | Faculty Member

For close to 50 years, David Dixon has dedicated his career to improving the quality of rural healthcare—locally as the chief medical officer of Franklin Memorial Hospital, regionally as an advisor on medical education to the state of Maine and the New England Council on Rural Health, and nationally as a leader of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Rural Practice Project. A true champion for the cause, Dr. Dixon was an early principal in the development of the Maine Track Program.

HOMETOWN: Strong
EDUCATION: Tufts University School of Medicine Class of 1961
How you can help: The Maine Track Program is a unique and visionary way to cultivate a generation of new physicians for Maine. But to fully achieve our vision, we need the help of generous individuals like you with an interest in providing scholarship support to talented Maine students. Please consider joining us in this effort and helping to ensure access to excellent medical care exists for every person living in Maine, no matter where they call home.

Dr. Peter Bates, Chief Medical Officer at Maine Medical Center/Academic Dean of the MMC.TUSM 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 MMC Development Department at (207) 662-2669.