



Lobstergram

The Official Newsletter of the Maine Society for
Respiratory care

March 2020

Letter from the President

Greetings fellow respiratory therapists!



Your MeSRC has been busy this past year! We had a very successful Maine Event last May at the lovely Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay Harbor. We had a strong attendance with a record number of vendors, which has helped us to become better financially sound as an organization. We have updated our by-laws to make them more relevant to our state's needs. We have a new and much improved website, and we actively post updates on our Facebook page for you all to see.

Things in 2019 did not all go smoothly. We made the decision to join the AARC in our efforts to move to electronic voting. Despite our efforts to spread the message, many RTs did not get the message. Because of this, the Board voted to go back to paper nominations and voting for this year while we actively seek out a better way to conduct this vitally important process. We are excited about this year and plan to focus much of our attention on communication. As you all know, Maine is a large geographical state with respiratory therapists spread out over great distances. Because of this, we need to rely on electronic means to reach everyone. I encourage you all to routinely check out our website at mesrc.org and to follow us on Facebook. To help us connect, we are planning to announce where we will be gathering for food and spirits throughout the year. Our first social gathering will be on March 19th at Margaritas in Auburn at 6:00. So grab a fellow RT (or two) and come join us for some fun!

As always, strength is in numbers so please support your State and National professional organization by joining the AARC. The Maine Event 2020 will be on May 20th and 21st at the Spruce Point Inn again this year and we are excited to share that Doctor Boogie is back to play for us the night of the 20th! So bring your dancing shoes and we hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Kathy Roy-Gosselin MA, RRT

Updates from SMCC

As the SMCC faculty team catch our breath from undergoing our recent ten-year re-accreditation process with CoARC, we would like to say a BIG thank you to all our current students, graduates, advisory board members, medical director, and preceptors for participating in the interviews and contributing to a very successful visit. We could not have achieved such good merits without your continued support and dedication to this program. The work you all do helping us to educate, and prepare future generations of respiratory therapists is greatly valued, and appreciated by program faculty, and our wonderful students.

One of our major continuing concerns is the ongoing workforce shortage of Respiratory Therapist within the state. The healthcare work-force shortage is a complex problem, and a result of multiple factors; the rapidly aging population of our state, the increasing acuity of illness among our patient's, and the largest generation of retiring professionals to name a few. Recruitment of talented individuals into our profession is critical. We have worked hard to collaborate with our advisory board members to promote, and draw potential students into the profession. The last two years our program applicant rate has improved. We believe this is in large part due to all of our recruitment efforts. We currently are close to having our 20 seats for fall 2020 filled. Please keep up the good work you are all doing to recruit talented individuals to our profession. As you all experience day to day in your role, our work is challenging, and important. It not only requires skills and knowledge, but also the ability to critically think over various dynamic and diverse clinical settings. RRT's must also keep abreast of constantly evolving equipment and technology advancements. It is critical we recruit the right students into our seats if we are to achieve success and not have significant attrition. Our mission continues to be to create an educational environment that fosters critical thinking, the development of clinical competence, and the promotion of the Respiratory Care profession.

We have a robust and enthusiastic senior cohort who are actively being recruited from all over New England. These seniors are out in specialty rotations in the critical care units during clinical time, and are focusing on preparation for successful board testing here in the classroom. They are a fantastic group, and we are excited for you all to get to know them, as they will soon be graduating and transitioning out into the work force.

Our freshman cohort have hit their stride after a challenging first semester in the program. They are currently focusing on fundamentals in the classroom practicing assessment skills, airway management principals, and set point mechanical ventilation. They are also excited to hit the clinical world this semester!

We have recently redesigned our curriculum to keep pace with the rapidly changing medical and technological advances. We will now have two full semesters of Mechanical Ventilation instruction. Mechanical vent 1 will cover nomenclature, and modalities in the set point targeting scheme. It will also cover NIV principles. Mechanical vent 2 will cover all other advanced targeting scheme modalities, and advanced monitoring concepts. We have also added a Clinical Ethics in Respiratory Care course that will be case based instruction over the topics of intercultural communication, healthcare literacy, palliative and end of life care.

Updates from SMCC

Educational Opportunities

We want to remind everyone about our existing articulation agreement with the University of Southern Maine that enables a relatively seamless transition from successful completion of our program into acceptance at USM in their B.S. in Health Sciences program. Many of our recent graduates have taken advantage of this opportunity and have gone on to earn their Baccalaureate degree. Colby Sawyer College is now offering a R.R.T. to B.S. in Respiratory Therapy.

The Respiratory Therapy department at Wentworth Douglass Hospital will be hosting Kettering National Seminars for a Comprehensive Respiratory Review seminar on May 26, 27, 28, 2020 in Dover, New Hampshire - provided we receive a minimum of 12 registrations. This program will fully prepare you to pass the Therapist Multiple Choice and Clinical Simulation Exams (CRT/RRT). If interested in this opportunity, please register by March 12, 2020. A deposit of \$85 is required to complete your registration. Participant balance due will be determined by the number of registrations we receive by this deadline and will be due at least 7 days prior to the start of the course. This program is approved by the AARC for 22.66 hours of CE credit. Contact Christopher Price @ Donald.Price@wdhospital.org if you have any questions!

Respectfully submitted,

SMCC faculty



Updates from KVCC

Kennebec Valley Community College is back in session! Our seniors are completing their FINAL clinical rotation and are preparing feverishly for the licensure exams! PHEW! This accelerated class was WORK!

We have 13 returning freshman, spending this semester focusing on cardio-pulmonary diagnostics and therapeutic modalities of care. They're excited for clinicals and amazingly eager to learn.

We have enough applications for the program that the possibility of a waiting list is real! We're also looking forward to hosting the MeSRC meeting later this year!

Respectfully submitted,

KVCC faculty

MeSRC Student Liaison Update



My name is Adam Brown, SMCC senior RT student, and I have had the unique opportunity to serve as the Student Liaison to the Maine Society for Respiratory Care for the year of 2019. The Student Liaison position has allowed me many opportunities to augment my education in respiratory care, which I will soon describe. But first, here are a few updates from SMCC:

The SMCC senior class consists of 14 determined students. As our final semester of school begins, the reality of approaching graduation has begun to set in, with board testing review sessions for the spring semester already on the calendar. 13 out of the 14 seniors have accepted positions as Respiratory Care Trainees at hospitals such as: Maine Medical Center, Central Maine Medical Center, Mercy, and Southern Maine Healthcare. The Respiratory Care Trainee position allow students to work in hospitals while they are completing their senior year and perform routine therapies and tasks such as delivering inhaled medications, airway clearance therapy, patient education, and assembling equipment like ventilators and code carts. The senior students (including the author) are all very much looking forward to jump starting their respiratory careers with experience in this position. The SMCC freshman class is heading into the spring semester with 10 students and will be starting their first round clinical rotations.

In early November the AARC hosted their winter House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. I was fortunate to have my application accepted by the HOD Student Mentorship Program and MeSRC able to send me to the meeting. During HOD I shadowed our state delegates (Daren Rainey, Kristin Dolloff and guest board member Sheryl Zins) and observed the motion passing process as well as several guest presentations. One presentation of particular interest to the students and instructors was from the NRBC. NRBC announced the addition of an ethics section to the 2020 board exams, and that on screen calculators will be available during the exam (which was followed by applause!). The HOD Student Mentorship Program hosted a total of 30 students this year, some from small programs of 8 students and others from very large schools. My experience at HOD was rounded out with meeting the AARC President and observing part of an AARC Board of Directors meeting. HOD was followed by the 2019 AARC Congress, which had over 7,000 pre-registered attendees, hundreds of classes, and a vendor exhibit like I had never before seen.

Looking back at my experience as Student Liaison I am happy to have seen all that goes into running a state respiratory care society and what occurs at the level of the AARC HOD. Observing to our state and national AARC delegates discuss matters such as telehealth inclusion bills, progress of the Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapist (APRT) position, push for a Bachelor's of Science degree, and planning the Maine Event state conference has made for a fantastic supplement to my school work. I would like to give a huge thank you to the MeSRC for having me as a student this past year and facilitating so many opportunities!

Adam Brown

Surrounding Hospital Updates!

Maine Medical Center

Currently, Maine Medical has four certified Respiratory Therapist that are also ECMO specialists caring for the VA/VV ECMO patients! The Plan is to train all Registered Respiratory Therapists who are interested! Our current ECMO Specialist are listed below:

Jeff Brown, Greg Lavertu, John Liechty, Jim Hatch

After 35 years at MMC, our very own Sally Whitten retired as the Director of the Respiratory Therapy Department. The Respiratory Therapy Department now has a new Director Terry Comiskey. Terry comes to Maine Medical from New York with experience from all over the country!

The Respiratory Therapy Departments night shift supervisor Steve McGrath retired after 40 years in the field and Maine Medicals very own Greg Lavertu was hired to replace Steve as the night shift supervisor!

Maine Medical Center has continued to hire students interested in working as a student Respiratory therapist!

A big Congratulations to Deb Igo and Kim Kingsley for having their abstract accepted by the AARC in the elite category. They presented their work at the November 2019 Congress.

Maine Respiratory Therapists Are Getting Some Attention!



Maine's very own Respiratory Therapist Jason Kopp at The Pentagon!



Maine's very own Keith Seigal receiving the Fellowship Award at The AARC Congress awards ceremony! He has now added FAARC to his credentials!

Come Join Us!

If you're a Respiratory Therapist in the state of Maine please come and join us for dinner and drinks once a month to stay connected! Location to be announced each month!

3/19/2020 at 6:00 PM

Margaritas in Auburn!

Address: 180 Center St, Auburn, ME 04210



The Maine Event!

Don't forget to register for our annual conference held at the Spruce Point Inn, Boothbay Harbor, ME!

SAVE THE DATE!

Plan now for the Maine Event!

May 20 & 21,
2020

Join us at our annual
Conference and keep up
with the Respiratory
Community! The
conference will be held at
the Beautiful Spruce Point
Inn, Boothbay Harbor, ME.

Online Registrations will be
available on
www.mesrc.org



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