

## ***Why is membership important to you?***

**Why is the AARC so important?** Without the AARC, there would be no respiratory care departments; no respiratory care educational programs; no nationally recognized NBRC credentials: the Federal Government would not have drafted the new Conditions of Participation allowing respiratory care practitioners to take verbal orders and administer medication such as oxygen and aerosols; there would not be the recognition and respect given to us by our medical sponsors; and there would be no legal recognition nor efforts towards increased legal recognition.

The AARC now offers a digital subscription for just **\$89.00** for renewing members.

FMI: Contact [normahay@hotmail.com](mailto:normahay@hotmail.com)

**Did you know you automatically become a member of the MeSRC when you join the AARC.**



### **2019 Board Members**

**PRESIDENT:** Suzan Michelle Collins

**PRESIDENT ELECT:** Kathy Roy Gosselin

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:** Sally Whitten

**SECRETARY:** Hannah Leadbetter

**TREASURER:** Don Cotta

**DELEGATE:** Daren Rainey & Kristin Dolloff

### **MEMBERS AT LARGE :**

Norma Hay

Matt Dumond

Kristin Dolloff

Ric Lewis

Sheryl Zins

Jeannette Villanueva

Kendra Cummings

Erin (Healey) Ledue

**MEDICAL ADVISOR:** Neil Duval, MD

**STUDENT LIAISON:** Adam Brown (SMCC)

## Letter from the President

Hello, My name is Suzan Michelle Collins and I am honored to serve as President of the Maine Society



for Respiratory Care (MeSRC) this year. My goals for the MeSRC in 2019 are in line with the AARC and a continuation from last years' president. The first goal is to grow membership; this provides leadership for the future of MeSRC and much needed funding to support the AARC's goals and vision for the future of Respiratory Care. Most of you who are reading this today are supporters and believers; I am asking all of you to share this message with to your fellow RCPs. We have about 680 RCPs in Maine and about 200 are AARC members. Unfortunately, this is a decline of where we were in 2015. There is a collective power in a professional organization that allows us to influence policy at the state and federal level. Our profession is stronger when we join and I'm hoping you will continue to renew your membership for years to come. Through our membership, we can help solve problems in our local healthcare settings, discover and share new best practices through the AAR-Connect, and perhaps learn about new job opportunities you may not have known exist. I would be happy to speak about the benefits of membership to anyone or group that is interested in meeting. Please visit the AARC website to join or renew your membership to the AARC. Respiratory Care is part of who you are. Please spread the word!!

My second goal is to continue to advocate for the professional advancement of Respiratory Therapists across the country. Many steps are being taken one of which is through the H.R. 2508 Breathe Act. Please see more about this bill under the Political Advocacy Contact Team section of this newsletter. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions, thoughts, concerns and/or to share accomplishments that your organization, colleagues and/or yourself have experienced.

This past year has been very exciting as we welcome the return of the KVCC Respiratory Therapy Program. It is through your support and recruiting efforts that we have the return of the KVCC program and students interested in our profession. Please continue to spread the word about our wonderful diverse profession.

The board has been very busy this year with constructing and developing our new website, updating the by-laws so that they are more in line with the needs of our society, continuing to work hard to become a financially sound organization, attempting to streamline communication and reduce expenses through development and utilization of electronic tools for voting and communication to all members, advocating for our professional growth, developing a military liaison role, and continuing to support continuing education through providing an annual conference just to highlight a few things we have been working on. All this work and more is performed by a handful of volunteers. If you are interested in participating in a committee such as the finance, education, communication or any other committee please contact us on the website. You must be an active AARC member but you do not need to be a board member to participate. Your thoughts, ideas and voices are needed and welcomed.

I may be reached through the mesrc.org website and scroll down to choose: Contact Us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzan Michelle Collins, BSRT, RRT

**The Maine Event:** This year, we had the best turn out ever at the Maine Event with over 100 attendees and about 40 representatives from equipment manufacturers, pharmaceutical industry, and community service organizations here to demonstrate the newest technology and to share practical advice from their respective fields.

I would like to recognize the following students for taking the initiative in attending the Maine Event. KVCC: Cortlynn Davis, Sean Grybos, Kacie Johnston and Seth Johnson and the SMCC Freshman Class. As well as KVCC Students: Cortlynn and Kacie and SMCC Students: Adam, Ashley, Becca, Britt, Myra and Turner who also stepped out of their comfort zone and shared their knowledge under fire by participating well in the Sputum Bowl.

I would like to take a moment to thank all the volunteers that contributed to the success of this years' Maine Event Conference. I would like to recognize a few volunteer MeSRC members that went up and beyond throughout the entire year to ensure the success of the conference: Don Cotta, Brittany Cyr, Hannah Leadbetter, Erin Ledue, and Sally Whitten. Without the dedication and teamwork of all of the volunteers throughout the entire year this event would not take place.

Suzan Michelle Collins, BSRT, RRT

## ***SAVE THE DATE!!!***

***Plan Now for the Maine Event May 20 and 21, 2020***

**Location: Beautiful Spruce Point Inn**

**Boothbay Harbor, Maine**

**Watch for more information and registration information at:**

**[www.mesrc.org](http://www.mesrc.org)**



# KVCC

## STUDENT UPDATES

Our Summer semester is nearing completion and trust me the students are ready for a little break! Three weeks off and then they return to start their third semester studying mechanical ventilation, pathology and perinatal and pediatric care. They will begin their second clinical rotation so be on the lookout! Exciting times ahead!



The college has recently purchased a Venti-Sim program which will enable us to simulate a mechanical ventilator, so the students will have the opportunity to see the interaction between the ventilator and the patient!



Several of our students were able to attend The Maine Event and participated in the Sputum bowl, taking second place! All the students that attended had a blast and have stated that they'll CERTAINLY go back!

Finally, I am VERY happy to report that we have a FULL class starting this fall and our first class will be graduating in May of 2020!!!! We're so very happy to be back!

Thank you to all of you that have offered support! We wouldn't be able to do it without you all!

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Lewis BS, RRT

Director of Clinical Education





## Southern Maine Community College

SMCC graduated 13 students this year and are full for the fall of 2019 with the potential for a waiting list, a first in a long time!

### Respiratory Therapy Program Class of 2020



#### ***2019 MeSRC Meeting Dates***

***All are Welcome!!***

***August 22, 2019***

***Maine General Medical Center***

***Classroom #2***

***Education Meeting: 1700***

***Board Meeting: 1800***

***December 4, 2019 at Dr.***

***Duval's Office***

***Educational Meeting: 1700***

***Board Meeting: 1800***

## 2018 AARC Update:

### AARC 2018 Conference Award Winners from Maine

#### ARCF Achievement Award winner

Suzan Michelle Collins, BSRT, RRT

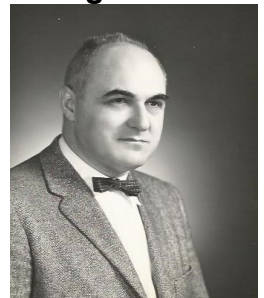
Michelle received the Dr. Charles H. Hudson Award for Cardiopulmonary Public Health. This annual award recognizes efforts to positively influence the public's awareness of cardiopulmonary health and wellness. Past recipients of this prestigious award Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Senator Frank Lautenberg, the American Lung Association and the Allergy & Asthma Network - Mothers of Asthmatics, inc, just to name a few.



### **Dr. Albert Aranson** was recognized as one of the **Legends of Respiratory Care.**

In virtually every state in the United States, there were legends of respiratory care who had an historic impact on the profession. Some of them were the first medical directors of Respiratory Therapy departments, who acted locally to initiate and develop the profession, but whose actions eventually were felt globally. Were it not for these medical directors, the profession of respiratory care might never have come to be. And so, it was with Dr. Albert Aranson, the first formally trained pulmonologist in the State of Maine, who was Maine's pioneer of both Respiratory Therapy and Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. In essence, he was the history of those fields in the State of Maine.

In 1947, immediately out of fellowship training at the Cushing VAMC in Framingham, MA, Dr. Aranson became its Chief of Pulmonary Medicine, an advancement unheard of in those days. Upon his arrival in 1949 at Maine Medical Center (MMC), the state's largest hospital, Dr. Aranson founded Maine's first Pulmonary Division, Pulmonary Function Laboratory,



and Inhalation Therapy Department (as it was called in those days). He hired Maine's first PFT tech, Virginia Charlton, and Maine's first respiratory therapist, Robert H. Miller, RRT, the first RT to become president of the NBRC and for whom the NBRC award is named. Mr. Miller was director of MMC's Respiratory Therapy Department for more than 25 years.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Dr. Aranson obtained grant money from the federal government and from the York and Cumberland County TB & Health Associations to fund projects at MMC for the study of obstructive lung diseases and the measurement of pulmonary function in health and disease, in which respiratory therapists were intimately involved. These grant monies funded expansion of the then Inhalation Therapy Department, training of respiratory therapists and pulmonary function technologists, establishment of a new Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and development of the state's first TB Clinic, which he founded in 1949 and directed until his retirement. He also created the Respiratory Therapy Department, Pulmonary Function Laboratory, and Maine's first ICU at Portland's Mercy Hospital.

Dr. Aranson was one of the first physicians in the country to use streptomycin, the first drug used for the treatment of tuberculosis (TB). As Maine's chief TB consultant, Dr. Aranson helped develop protocols for the modern antibiotic treatment of TB, as well as TB control and prevention protocols for the State of Maine Department of Health, involving RTs in the process. He served as TB consultant during his entire medical career in Maine.

Dr. Aranson had a long and prolific alliance with the American Lung Association of Maine, including involvement in anti-smoking campaigns and TB prevention and control, in which RTs participated. In the 1960s, Dr. Aranson was responsible for the removal of cigarette vending machines at MMC, a movement far ahead of his time that spread throughout the state.

**In summary**, Dr. Albert Aranson was truly a legend as Maine's pioneer of Respiratory Therapy and Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, just one piece of meaningful, consequential, and historical impact on respiratory care nationwide. Dr. Robert Aranson accepted this award on behalf of his father. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Robert Aranson join us at the Maine Event this year to share his fathers' story. Dr. Robert Aranson is a strong supporter of Respiratory Therapists having worked as a RT at MMC during his college years. He continues to advocate for the respiratory profession by our side in Washington D.C. every year, maintains his AARC membership and is a part of the National Association for the Medical Direction of Respiratory Care.

We had great representation from Maine this year.  
We saw about 19 Respiratory Therapists attend  
the Las Vegas conference and connected with  
several former Mainers.

Some of the **Maine Medical Center Respiratory  
Therapists** who attended below:



AARC Conference Key Note Speaker:

ZDoggMD!!





## ***What's Happening Around The State?***

**Lincoln Health:** Would like to recognize Mary Colcord for participating in the Trek Across Maine.



Taryn Lash shared her message with us about Mary.

[Taryn Lash](#) [June 16](#) ·

So I need to tell you about someone who is absolutely amazing. Mary did the trek across Maine... 180 miles with Brendan on her back. Mary was definitely Brendan's favorite respiratory therapist, she could always put a smile on his face. Words can't describe the emotions this has brought. We love you Mary 💙

We would like to recognize Suzan Michelle Collins for her continued advocacy work with COPD. Michelle has been working with NHLBI and HRSA on a task force regarding issues surrounding COPD in Rural America and was requested to share her knowledge from a clinician perspective via a podcast which was aired in May. Michelle also participated in the IMPACT COPD event in June in Washington D.C. where she met with Maine's Legislative Officials to speak about the issues regarding COPD, access to liquid oxygen, issues regarding home ventilators, funding for research, preventative care issues, access to medications and the H.R. 2508 Breathe Act.



### **Franklin Memorial Hospital:**

We would like to congratulate Joel Chandler in his new role as Practice Manager at LFFP/AVMAC.

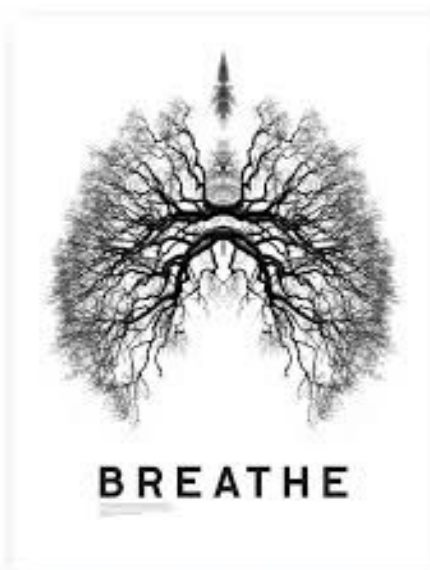
## Looking for Asthma Patients

NorthStar is looking for clients who need assistance with managing their asthma! For more information or to refer yourself, a friend, or family member, please contact Mike Senecal at 779-2400.

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's In-Home Asthma Self-Education Program is an innovative, home-based program that targets Maine adults and children whose asthma is not well controlled. The Program was developed by staff at the Maine CDC, a Certified Asthma Educator at a local public health department, and staff at an independent evaluation agency. It includes six modules that are completed in about 3 home visits.

The Program is designed to achieve the following:

1. Increased client/caregiver asthma self-management knowledge and skills,
2. Improved health outcomes for clients receiving home visits, and
3. Improved knowledge and understanding among professionals regarding appropriate asthma management practices and effective public health strategies related to asthma management.



## Political Advocacy Contact Team

Your 2019 Maine PACT Team is:

Suzan Michelle Collins, BSRT, RRT and Keith Siegel, MBA, RRT, CPFT

We are very pleased to have Representative Mike Thompson (D/CA) introduce the BREATH Act, H.R. 2508, on May 2, 2019, along with Representatives T. J. Cox, (D/CA), Mike Kelly (R/PA) and Buddy Carter (R/GA). We are super excited to add that since this bill was presented as of May 17<sup>th</sup> that Maine is well represented with both Maine Representatives have signed on to co-sponsor this bill. A big thank you to Representatives Chellie Pengree (D/ME) and Jared Golden (D/ME). My second goal is asking for your continued support for “H.R. 2508, The Better Respirations through Expanding Access to Tele-Health Act, (The BREATHE Act).”

I would like to take a moment to recognize Keith Siegel as he went up and beyond to contact and receive time to discuss the H.R. 2508 Breathe Act Bill with Representative Jared Golden’s office despite not living within his district. Receiving time with a legislative member in a district where you are not a constituent of is unheard of. Thank you Keith for taking the initiative and time to make contact with Representative Golden’s staff and ensuring that our concerns were heard. It is through your efforts that facilitated Representative Golden to co-sponsor the Breathe Act.

In summary, this legislation is a 3-year pilot that allows respiratory therapists to furnish disease management services, such as self-management education and training, demonstration/evaluation of proper inhaler techniques, smoking cessation and remote patient monitoring to Medicare beneficiaries with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Its purpose is to demonstrate the value RTs bring to the health care system and their patients through improved health outcomes and lower costs and to identify RTs as tele-health practitioners in the Medicare statute. We have come a long way but our work is not done. There is more that we will need to do over the next few months to aid in continuing the progress of this bill through the House of Representatives and then we will be seeking a bill from the Senate. The good news is that we have strong support from both Senators Collins’ and King and they are awaiting and watching the House progress. Please keep an eye on your emails as well as the MeSRC Facebook page for updates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzan Michelle Collins, BSRT, RRT

# MORE PACT NEWS

Hello Everyone:

As of today, we have 33 co-sponsors including the original three who introduced the bill with Representative Thompson. I've attached a table that shows co-sponsorship by state, so you can see immediately how well you are doing in getting co-sponsors where you live. This is an excellent start, but we still have a lot of work to do.

On July 15, our lobbyists sent a letter to all members of the House of Representatives with sign-on by 16 organizations supporting the BREATHE Act and asking for co-sponsorship. We want to take advantage of the momentum this is generating and will be planning some new initiatives very soon. We still want to gain as many co-sponsors as we can for H.R. 2508. Remember, last year we had 67 co-sponsors for the Parity Act, so we have a goal to exceed.

## **New Background Paper**

First, we will be developing a new background paper to highlight the 16 organizations that support the bill. We will also revise our messages on our TAKE ACTION page to emphasize the fact that an organizational sign-on letter has gone to all House members requesting co-sponsorship; therefore, the message will only go to the House. This time around we will have two boxes – one for respiratory therapists and one for supporters. We are hoping to have Phone2Action automatically generate "Thank You" messages for those representatives who have already signed on rather than asking for co-sponsorship. Frank is working out the details and Phone2Action has offered to monitor the Congress.gov website to track new co-sponsors.

## **Senate Grassroots Activities**

The Senate is a different story. We have learned from our lobbyists who have been meeting with key Senators that the Senate most likely will not introduce a separate companion bill. Rather, they, like the House, may include the language in our bill when the CONNECT Act is reintroduced. We do not yet know what the new bill will include, but last year's bill focused on expanded telehealth benefits, certain waivers, and remote patient monitoring, (RPM) which bodes well for inclusion of the BREATHE Act. Over 80 organizations supported the CONNECT ACT at the time it was introduced, including organizations that are part of a large Telehealth/RPM Coalition of which AARC is a member, so that is also a positive sign that we will gain additional support.

Members of the Congressional Telehealth Caucus plan to introduce a new version of CONNECT 2.0 in both the House and Senate from which provisions can be taken and added to any Medicare provisions that are part of a larger bill that is moving through Congress. Last year, in fact, several key telehealth pieces of the CONNECT Act were included as part of the Medicare Extenders bill which was passed as part of the 2018 budget process. The House is expected to reintroduce CONNECT first, most likely after the August recess, with the Senate bill expected sometime in late September/October. Since Representative Thompson is the sponsor of our bill and one of the co-chairs of the Congressional Telehealth Caucus, we have already been alerted that they will include the BREATHE Act provisions in the House bill. So, we do not need to lobby for inclusion in the House.

## **Targeted Messaging for Senate**

So, what does that mean? It means we will have a targeted grassroots campaign while Congress is in recess during the summer aimed at specific Senators identified by our lobbyists. I've included the list they have provided. Our lobbyists are already meeting with these Senators and a push by RTs in these states can help solidify the ask to include the BREATHE Act in the Senate version of the CONNECT Act. This does not mean that all the work you have done to ask for a Senate companion bill is not worthwhile. It produced a list of Senators who support the bill and that has helped us advance this issue.

As our plans materialize further, you will receive updated messages, but I wanted to give you the latest as we just learned this week about the Senate's preference to include the BREATHE Act provision into the reintroduction of CONNECT.

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Anne Marie Hummel  
Associate Executive Director  
Advocacy and Government Affairs  
Phone: 703-492-9764  
Email:  
Email:  
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Sponsor	Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	
	Co-Sponsors	Date CoSponsored
1	Rep. Cox, T. [D-CA-21]*	5/2/2019
2	Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]*	5/2/2019
3	Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-16]*	5/2/2019
4	Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	5/10/2019
5	Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	5/15/2019
6	Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	5/15/2019
7	Rep. Smith, Adrian [R-NE-3]	5/15/2019
8	Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]	5/20/2019
9	Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	5/22/2019
10	Rep. Miller, Carol D. [R-WV-3]	5/23/2019
11	Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	5/23/2019
12	Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-4]	6/3/2019
13	Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	6/3/2019
14	Rep. Rouda, Harley [D-CA-48]	6/3/2019
15	Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-11]	6/3/2019
16	Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	6/3/2019
17	Rep. Burchett, Tim [R-TN-2]	6/3/2019
18	Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	6/4/2019
19	Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	6/4/2019
20	Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	6/10/2019
21	Rep. Golden, Jared F. [D-ME-2]	6/10/2019
22	Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]	6/10/2019
23	Rep. Kim, Andy [D-NJ-3]	6/10/2019
24	Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	6/10/2019
25	Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	6/12/2019
26	Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]	6/18/2019
27	Rep. DeBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	6/27/2019
28	Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	6/27/2019
29	Rep. Balderson, Troy [R-OH-12]	7/9/2019
30	Rep. Levin, Andy [D-MI-9]	7/10/2019
31	Rep. Axne, Cynthia [D-IA-3]	7/10/2019
32	Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	7/10/2019

\* - orig. co-sponsor  
 \* - orig. co-sponsor  
 \* - orig. co-sponsor

Party	
Democratic	17
Republican	15
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>32</b>

Cosponsors by U.S. State or Territory	
California	4
New York	4
Pennsylvania	3
Iowa	2
Maine	2
Washington	2
West Virginia	2
Alaska	1
Florida	1
Georgia	1
Michigan	1
Minnesota	1
Mississippi	1
Nebraska	1
New Jersey	1
Ohio	1
Oregon	1
Tennessee	1
Texas	1
Wisconsin	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>32</b>

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE A GREAT CANDIDATE FOR THE MeSRC BOARD USE THE FORM BELOW TO NOMINATE THEM!



• Rectangular Snip



### Nominate Your 2020 MeSRC Board of Directors

**President Elect:** This is a 3 year term.

President elect year 1, President year 2, Past president year 3.  
 Serving 2020 through 2023

**Treasurer:** This is a 2 year term. Serving during 2020 & 2021

**Delegate:** This is a 4 year term. Serving 2020 through 2024

**Delegate:** This is a 2 year term. Serving 2020 through 2022  
 (position vacancy)

**Board Member at Large:** 8 positions open. (terms pending new By-Law approval from MeSRC members)

- Please go to [www.mesrc.org](http://www.mesrc.org) to place your nomination by August 31, 2019.
- All Nominees must be an AARC member in good standing.
- Only nominations made by members of the AARC will be accepted.

[www.mesrc.org](http://www.mesrc.org)

## **LOBESTERGRAM INFO**

### ***We want to hear from you!***

Share with us what is going on at your facility and/or in your community.

Please submit an article, note and/or pictures for an upcoming addition of the Lobestergram to [maine@copdfoundation.org](mailto:maine@copdfoundation.org).

Interested in participating in the development of our newsletter, please contact Michelle at [maine@copdfoundation.org](mailto:maine@copdfoundation.org).

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Targett, RRT