The Jackson Laboratory

Dear colleague,

September has been a month full of important engagements and opportunities to share MCGI's work with broader communities. Earlier this month, Leah Graham, Ph.D., program director of MCGI, delivered a keynote presentation at the Maine Medical Association's 172nd Annual Session in Bar Harbor. Her talk, "The Maine Cancer Genomics Initiative: Redefining Precision Oncology in a Rural State," painted a realistic picture of how precision oncology is transforming cancer care while underscoring that its full impact depends on collaboration, innovative approaches to implementing evidence-based information, and education to truly benefit patients.

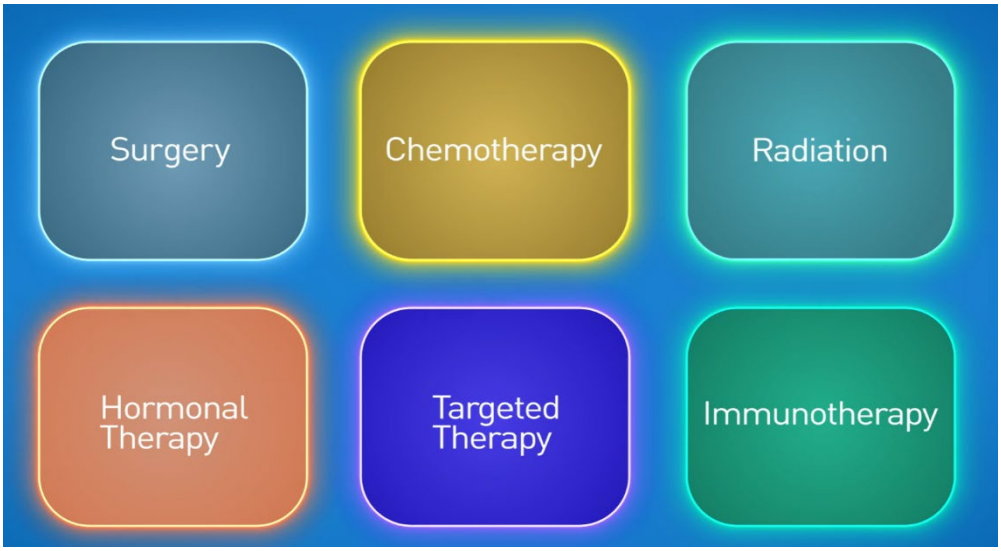
Lindsey Kelley, M.P.H., M.S., CGC, associate director of MCGI, gave a talk at the New York State Genetic Task Force meeting to showcase MCGI and precision oncology to the Northeast region. This professional forum brought together clinicians, genetic counselors, and researchers from across New York to share updates, discuss case studies, and strengthen collaboration in the delivery of genetic services.

Later this month, I will be participating in the Fall 2025 SWOG Group Meeting, where I will share MCGI's work and contribute to national conversations on precision oncology and clinical trials.

Wishing you all a happy fall season!

Sincerely,

Jens Rueter, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer, The Jackson Laboratory
Medical Director, MCGI



Making cancer treatments easier for your patients to understand

Navigating cancer and treatment decisions can feel overwhelming. To help patients, families, and caregivers better understand their options, we've created a 4-minute video that explains how today's most common cancer therapies work. More information about the video is below, and we encourage you to share this resource with your patients.

Watch now: How do cancer therapies work?

From surgery to immunotherapy, this video breaks down the science in clear, easy-to-understand language.

What patients gain:

- A simple overview of how different treatments fight cancer
- Tools to support more informed conversations with their care team
- A trusted resource patients can share with loved ones and caregivers

Patients who want to take a deeper dive can download our companion PDF, which takes a closer look at targeted therapies and provides sample questions to bring to appointments. It's a practical tool to help patients have guided conversations with their healthcare team.

Explore more patient resources: www.jax.org/patients

Continuing education opportunity - upcoming CRC precision oncology workshop

Build confidence in discussing biomarker-driven clinical trials with patients and care teams. Join us for a free educational workshop designed for clinical research coordinators, research nurses, and allied professionals. Registration is still open!

When: Thursday, September 25 | 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Where: JAX Portland at The Roux Institute
Registration: CRC Precision Oncology Workshop

What to expect:

- Biomarker Testing 101: Type and Report Interpretation **-** Review the different types of biomarker testing available and learn how to interpret reports to determine clinical trials eligibility for patients.
- Special Topics in Biomarker Testing: Explore the differences between germline and biomarker testing, how liquid biopsy results compare to tissue-based testing, and best practices for addressing patient questions.
- Snacks & Networking: Connect with peers, share experiences, and build relationships with other oncology research professionals.

Nursing continuing education (CE) credits will be offered for this workshop, pending approval. We encourage you to share this opportunity with colleagues who may benefit from attending.

Questions? Contact us at mcgi@jax.org.

Back by popular demand: Genomic tumor boards for early career researchers

Last year, we shared that the Genomic Tumor Board (GTB) training course for early career researchers would return in 2025. We're excited to confirm that the next iteration of the program is now underway.

First piloted in 2022, the course was designed to increase awareness of the cancer patient's journey and illustrate the complexity of applying genomic information to clinical decisions. It offers trainees a rare opportunity to observe the clinical translation of research in action.

> *"Input from all of these groups is important to ensure we are asking the right questions and designing informative studies that can be translated appropriately and in a timely fashion…Investment from experts in training is incredibly important for aspiring scientists. This aspect of the course was exciting to experience." – Mackenzie Callaway, Ph.D., 2023 course participant*

While translating research to practice can sometimes take decades, participants discover that applying research findings to patient care can also happen in real time. This process requires collaboration among experts from multiple fields who often speak different "languages." As the course demonstrates, the key to success lies in communicating complex information in ways that are clear and relevant for everyone involved.

> *"It strongly highlighted the importance of clinicians seeking additional information to identify therapy options, advocating for their patients, and working with experts to interpret genomic results." – Amber Habowski, Ph.D., 2024 course participant*

To learn more about the program's impact, revisit our feature article: From bench to bedside and back again: Bridging the gap for translational research success

MCGI at the 2025 Day of Hope

Join us for the 2025 Day of Hope, hosted by the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care, on Saturday, October 4 at the Augusta Civic Center. This community celebration will feature integrative therapy sessions, education booths, inspiring speakers, the Walk for Hope, health screenings, wellness activities, recipe tastings, and more.

To register, visit MaineGeneral Health's Day of Hope website.

Be sure to stop by the MCGI table in the education pavilion to meet our team and learn more about how we're supporting patients and providers through genomics in cancer care. We hope to see you there!

Educational resources

Is More Biomarker Testing Needed?

Initial biomarker results may not tell the whole story. Incomplete panels, missing key variants, or evolving clinical scenarios can limit treatment options.

Watch for Red Flags:

- Missing guideline-recommended biomarkers
- Inconclusive or partial results
- New symptoms or progression
- Emerging therapies requiring additional data
- Ensure your patients get the most informed care

Access our quick guide, Red Flags to Consider Additional Cancer Biomarker Testing, to identify when further testing may be warranted.