

Research Exchange



"Grafton Pond's View of Mt. Cardigan"
by Troi Perkins

Rooted in Resilience: Summer 2025 at the NNE CO-OP PCBRN

Like the quiet waters of Grafton Pond, the CO-OP holds steady in changing times.

Inside this issue, you'll find highlights from national presentations, Learning Tour visits, and workgroups driving progress in climate health and beyond.

This season brought new members, deeper partnerships, and strong representation at the NAPCRG PBRN Meeting. These milestones are possible because of the dedication of our members and staff, as well as the relationships built over time that we continue to nourish.

Our Call for Abstracts for the 46th Annual Meeting is now open. We invite you to contribute your work, join us in shaping research that remains rooted in connection, and gather with us in January to strengthen the network we have built together.

As we look ahead, our shared commitment will ensure the CO-OP continues to adapt, innovate, and lead in advancing primary care research in our communities.

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NAPCRG PBRN:
Resilience in Research

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CO-OP Member Spotlight

Elisabeth Wilson, MD, MPH, MS-HPed is Chair of Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth Health and Geisel School of Medicine. Prior to this role, Dr. Wilson served as Chair of Family Medicine at Maine Medical Center and Vice Chair of Education in Family and Community Medicine at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). She obtained her MD and MPH (public health and health professions education) from Tufts University School of Medicine, her MS-HPed from the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of the Health Professions, Boston, and completed her residency as well as a three year fellowship in primary care research at the University of California, San Francisco. Her areas of focus include workforce diversity, health equity, community engagement, and health professions education.



Elisabeth B. Wilson, MD, MPH, MS-HPed

Q

When you became Chair of Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth, what drew you to actively support and invest in the CO-OP's work advancing community-based primary care research across Northern New England?

The CO-OP is one of the things that attracted me to Dartmouth in the first place. I participated in the CO-OP annual conferences when I was working in Maine and was impressed by with the quality of research being done in our regional, as well as the culture of collaboration and camaraderie. To me, the CO-OP represents the best of what we do in Family Medicine.

A

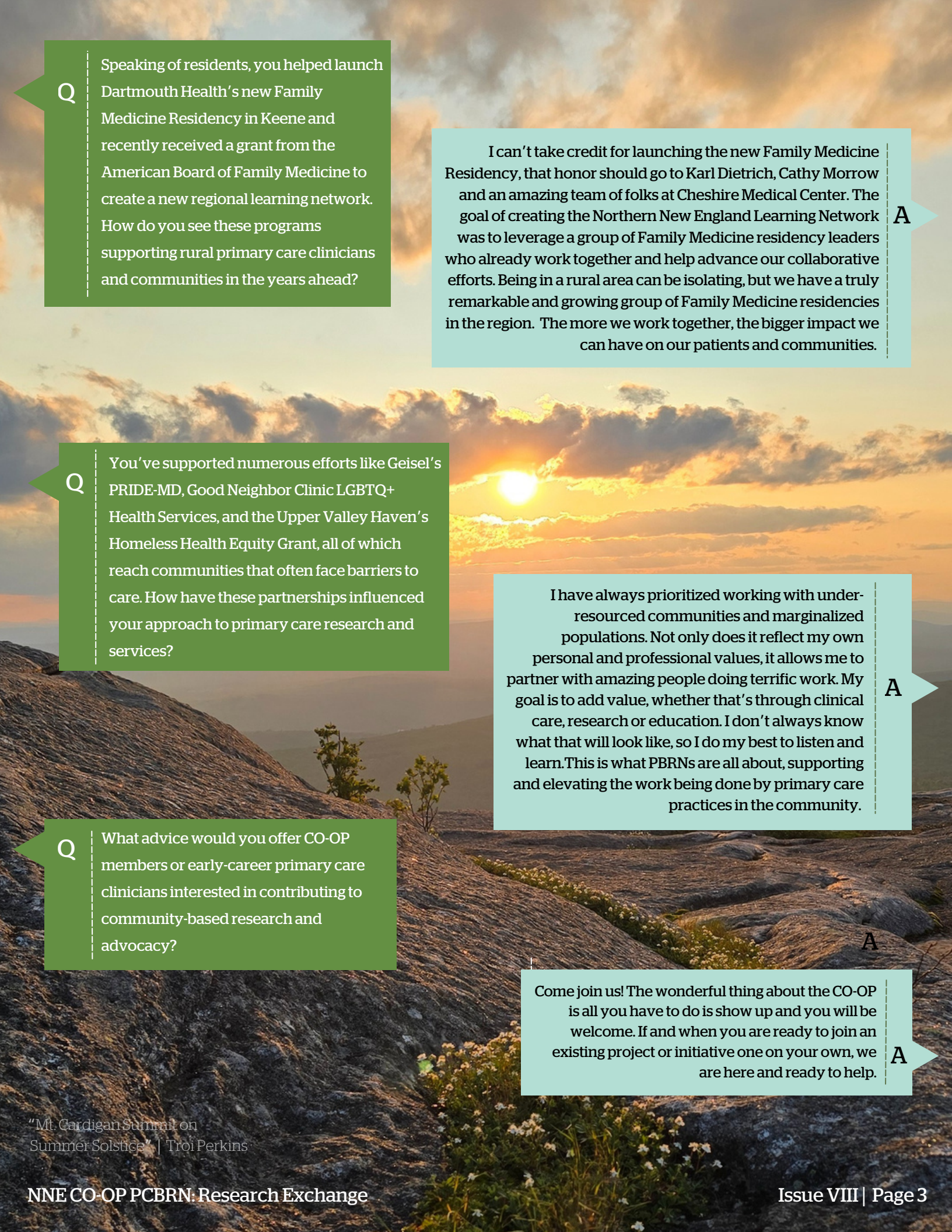
Q

It's clear to those who work with you how much care you put into mentoring students, residents, and faculty. What inspires your ongoing commitment to training the next generation of community-engaged primary care leaders?

I think of it as a ripple effect. If I can support others to succeed, then what we do together will have a greater impact.

A

"Charlie, Beth's Pup and CFMed's Unofficial Mascot" | Troi Perkins



Q

Speaking of residents, you helped launch Dartmouth Health's new Family Medicine Residency in Keene and recently received a grant from the American Board of Family Medicine to create a new regional learning network. How do you see these programs supporting rural primary care clinicians and communities in the years ahead?

A

I can't take credit for launching the new Family Medicine Residency, that honor should go to Karl Dietrich, Cathy Morrow and an amazing team of folks at Cheshire Medical Center. The goal of creating the Northern New England Learning Network was to leverage a group of Family Medicine residency leaders who already work together and help advance our collaborative efforts. Being in a rural area can be isolating, but we have a truly remarkable and growing group of Family Medicine residencies in the region. The more we work together, the bigger impact we can have on our patients and communities.

Q

You've supported numerous efforts like Geisel's PRIDE-MD, Good Neighbor Clinic LGBTQ+ Health Services, and the Upper Valley Haven's Homeless Health Equity Grant, all of which reach communities that often face barriers to care. How have these partnerships influenced your approach to primary care research and services?

A

I have always prioritized working with under-resourced communities and marginalized populations. Not only does it reflect my own personal and professional values, it allows me to partner with amazing people doing terrific work. My goal is to add value, whether that's through clinical care, research or education. I don't always know what that will look like, so I do my best to listen and learn. This is what PBRNs are all about, supporting and elevating the work being done by primary care practices in the community.

Q

What advice would you offer CO-OP members or early-career primary care clinicians interested in contributing to community-based research and advocacy?

A

Come join us! The wonderful thing about the CO-OP is all you have to do is show up and you will be welcome. If and when you are ready to join an existing project or initiative one on your own, we are here and ready to help.

A

"Mt. Cardigan Summit on
Summer Solstice" | Troi Perkins

NAPCRG PBRN: Resilience in Research

Troi Perkins, MEM, MF

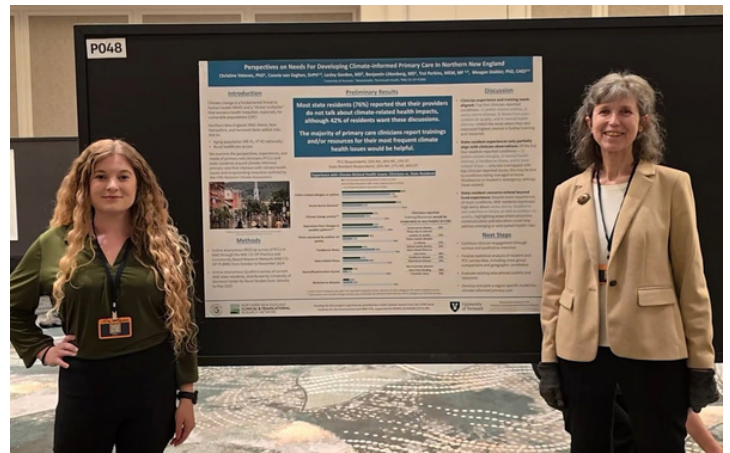
Research Project Manager | NNE CO-OP PCBRN

This year's NAPCRG PBRN Meeting in Reston, Virginia, reflected the strength and adaptability of the practice-based research network community during a period of significant change in the research landscape. Federal funding cuts, policy uncertainty, and increased scrutiny of research activities have challenged primary care research efforts across the country. Yet, the sessions and conversations in Reston made clear that the PBRN community is meeting these challenges with creativity, collaboration, and resolve.

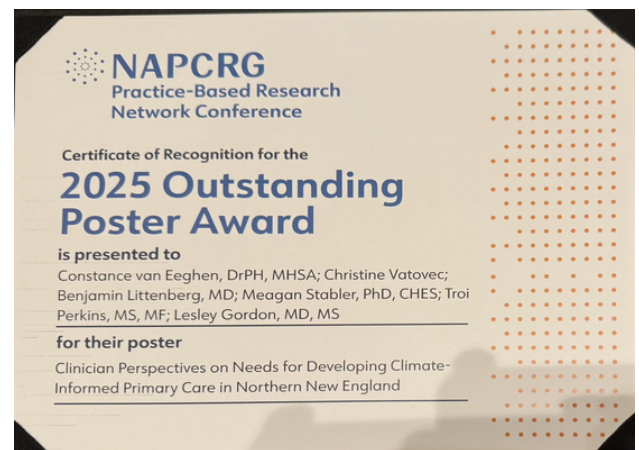
The CO-OP was well represented, with posters, oral presentations, and workshops that sparked meaningful dialogue and built connections across regions. Two CO-OP posters were selected for the highly competitive Poster Walk, spotlighting them amid the wide range of presentations showcased.

Paula Hudon, DNP, RN, presented *A Consolidated Study Approach: The NNE Provider Insights Participatory Engagement (NNE PIPE) Survey*, which showcased a streamlined, participatory model for engaging rural primary care clinicians in research (seen in the photo below). Attendees praised the survey's ability to capture valuable insights while minimizing respondent burden, noting its potential as a replicable model for other PBRNs.

Also featured in the Poster Walk, Connie van Eeghen, DrPH, MHSA, and I presented



Clinician Perspectives on Needs for Developing Climate-Informed Primary Care in Northern New England, a project emerging from the CO-OP's Climate Health Research Workgroup (see photo above). The poster drew steady engagement and sparked cross-country conversations on how climate change is shaping patient care. This work was honored with NAPCRG PBRN's Best Poster Award, recognizing its relevance, originality, and potential impact (see photo below).



The CO-OP's presence extended to the oral presentation podium as well. Neil Korsen, MD, MS, presented *A Card Study of Long COVID in Primary Care – A Partnership Between Two PBRNs*, offering early findings from Colorado practices and outlining the next phase of data collection across Northern New England. Maureen Boardman, APRN, FNP, ARNP, co-presented AHRQ PBRN Online Registry Updates and Sustainability for Registry Maintenance, which detailed the nationwide effort to update and modernize AHRQ's web-based registry of PBRNs. The session underscored how robust

network metrics are essential to tracking the shifting PBRN landscape, a point echoed later in the AHRQ Plenary. There, AHRQ leaders emphasized that data just like our CO-OP's membership profiles and Learning Tour metrics are highly valuable for understanding the scope and reach of PBRNs, as well as for justifying continued funding.

In addition to the poster presentation, I also co-presented the workshop *New Era of PBRNs: Beyond Research; Driving Innovation and Action* alongside colleagues from four PBRNs across the U.S (see photo below). The session highlighted the evolving role of PBRNs in capacity-building, quality improvement, and community engagement, and provided attendees with strategies to strengthen infrastructure and sustainability.

Together, these contributions showed our CO-OP's commitment to research is relevant, collaborative, and resilient. At a time when funding and policy shifts risk narrowing the scope of primary care research, our work remains rooted in partnerships between clinicians, researchers, and communities. I saw firsthand in Reston what is possible when networks adapt and stay true to their mission.

As the broader research environment continues to face uncertainty, the NAPCRG PBRN Meeting reminded me that our collective strength is found not only in the studies we complete but also in the connections we build and the actions we inspire.



“Together, these contributions showed our CO-OP's commitment to research is relevant, collaborative, and resilient.”

53rd NAPCRG Annual Meeting: Accepted Presentations*

Workshop

- **“Applying a Developmental Stages Framework to Your Practice-Based Research and Learning Network”**, Kristin Boman, MPH; Diego Garcia-Huidobro, MD, PhD; Marah Aqeel, MS; Troi Perkins, MEM, MF
- **“CASFM PBRN Workgroup: The Art of Top-Down Research in Primary Care Settings”**, Kristin Boman, MPH; Meagan Stabler, PhD, CHES; Kimberly Fulda, DrPH; Alexander Singer, MD, CCFP, CCFP, FCFP

Oral Presentations

- **“AHRQ PBRN Online Registry Updates and Sustainability for Registry Maintenance”**, Maureen Boardman, APRN, FNP, ARNP; Aimee Eden, PhD, MPH; Oneyda Arellano, BS, PMP, CHES; Caroline Lind, MBA, MPH; Masuma Rahman, BS, MPH; Jean C. O'Connor, DrPH, JD

Posters

- **“Patient and Clinical Perspectives to Improve HCV Screening Among Perinatally Exposed Infants and Children in Primary Care”**, Meagan Stabler, PhD, CHES; Paula Hudon, DNP, RN; Timothy Burdick, MD, MSc, MBA
- **“A Shared Care Model for Rural Maternity Care”**, Maureen Boardman, APRN, FNP, ARNP; Julie Braga.
- **“Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care: Secondary Analysis of Primary Care Activities and Patient Reported Outcomes”**, Constance van Eeghen, DrPH, MHSA; Benjamin Littenberg, MD; Levi Bonnell; Jennifer Jewiss; Alexandra Turner, MEd; Juvena Hitt, MPH; Laura-Mae Baldwin, MD, MPH; Jennifer O'Rourke-Lavoie, BS; Noorin Damji; Jessica Clifton; Gail Rose, PhD; Lisa Natkin, PhD; Kairn Kelley, PhD

* A second call is currently ongoing as of printing



CO-OP Learning Tour Ventures into the Bay State

Paula Hudon, DNP, RN
*Research Project Manager,
NNE CO-OP PCBRN*

Building on strong partnerships across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont and with an established Learning Tour approach, the CO-OP’s most recent road trip headed south into Massachusetts. Through a collaborative agreement with the Tufts CTSI, the CO-OP replicated its Learning Tour for Tufts affiliated primary care practices to encourage research engagement. Various private, community health center, and residency settings were targeted for this collaboration.

Our Goal?

The Tufts Primary Care Learning Tour site visits are intentionally exploratory—designed to listen, learn, and connect. Building relationships with leadership and practice teams, introducing awareness to practice-based research networks, and learning about each site’s strengths,

priorities, and barriers to research were key to supporting future engagement.

How Did it Work?

Outreach began with cooperation by leadership of Tufts CTSI, MaineHealth, and the CO-OP. Primary care sites were prioritized to connect with from February to April. This collaboration has added eight more visits and allowed us to engage directly with forty-six more clinicians and staff across five different primary care practices.

Highlights

More than half of the sites we invited were visited. Eighty percent of the sites participated in the CO-OP’s practice site survey that helps describe the primary care practices and their interests

and environment for engaging in practice-based research. Visits have already led to increased engagement in practice-based research, completed return visits, a collaborative grant submission, and a submission from our Massachusetts partners to the CO-OP’s 46th Annual Meeting.

Connections Made

Our collaboration in Massachusetts underscores the value of relationship-centered, community-informed research engagement. By combining efforts with our established approach of Learning Tour visits, the CO-OP and Tufts CTSI are building a learning community poised to pursue meaningful research—together.





The CO-OP will gather in Stowe, Vermont, from January 23-25, 2026, for our 46th Annual Meeting. This year's theme, "Advocacy in Action: Shaping Primary Care at Every Level", will guide sessions that showcase member-led research, spark collaboration, and explore how advocacy can shape the future of primary care. Whether you are [submitting an abstract](#) or planning to join us for the discussions, we look forward to connecting in the heart of winter in northern New England.

46TH ANNUAL NNE CO-OP PCBRN MEETING

"Advocacy in Action: Shaping Primary Care at Every Level"

January 23-25, 2026 | Stowe/Flake Mountain Resort & Spa, Stowe, VT



Call for Abstracts Now Open

➤ LIGHTNING TALKS
➤ POSTERS

➤ ORAL PRESENTATIONS
➤ WORKSHOPS



VISIT: <https://redcap.link/46COOP>

Submit by Aug. 31, 2025



Upcoming Conferences

- Sept. 7-10: 2025 International Conference: Lyme Borreliosis and Other Tick-Borne Diseases, Mayo Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Sept. 19, Women's Health and Cancer Conference, UVM, Burlington, VT (Hybrid)
- Sept. 24, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Dartmouth Implementation Science Symposium, Hanover, NH
- Nov. 4-5, 2025 NERHA Annual Conference, Groton, CT
- Nov. 13-14, VNPA 2025 Annual Conference, Stowe, VT
- Nov. 14, MERGE Conference, Augusta, ME
- Nov. 21-25, 53rd Annual NAPCRG Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- Jan. 23-25, 46th Annual NNE CO-OP PCBRN Meeting, Stowe, VT



Continued Learning

CO-OP staff engage in workgroups across the Northeast, fostering learning and connecting members with resources and opportunities offered by partner organizations.

Here is a list of upcoming seminars and talks provided by those partnering organizations:

- **Aug 21, 6:00 - 7:00 PM**, NH Healthy Climate "Prochlorococcus & the Importance of the Ocean's 'Invisible Forest' to the Planet & You" by Steven Miller (Virtual)
- **Sept. 9, 6:00 - 7:00 PM**, NH Healthy Climate, Green Space & Health: Environmental Cardiology Insights, by Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar (Virtual)
- **Sept. 18, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**, Project ECHO at Dartmouth Health, "Primary Care for People Living with Dementia ECHO", Every third Thursday of the month until Feb. 19, 2026 (Virtual)
- **Sept. 26, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**, 6th Annual Dartmouth Health Arts and Humanities in Medicine Symposium: "Broad Strokes: Arts and Humanities in Medicine" by Todd Frazier (Virtual)





NERHA 2025

Annual Fall Conference

Rural Health in a Changing World

Mystic Marriott | Groton, CT | Nov. 4-5



The Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity
at Dartmouth Health invites you to our

RURAL HEALTH EQUITY FALL "UNCONFERENCE"

OCTOBER 1, 10AM-4PM
MONTSHIRE MUSEUM, NORWICH, VT

MERGE ²⁰²⁵ CONFERENCE

Delivering Interprofessional Medical Education

DATE: November 14th, 2025

LOCATION: Augusta - MaineGeneral Medical Center



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. AMY MADDEN
HealthReach Community
Health Centers



PLENARY SPEAKER
DR. SARAH HALLEN
iPACE Principal Investigator



www.mergecollaborative.org

