

Research can be rewarding at EMMC

Research. For some, it is a word that conjures up images of late nights at the library and hastily thrown together reports for Mr. Smith's history class. At EMMC however, research has a different meaning. No more does the word connote long, boring essays on Napoleon's fateful follies in Russia; instead, it means new and exciting medical discoveries that change the way people think about the healthcare field.

Clinical research in hospital settings is something even full-time physicians can take part in, says **Dr. Alan H. Wiseman**, director of research at Northeast Cardiology Associates (NECA) in Bangor. Dr. Wiseman has conducted research for nearly 20 years, and has seen first-hand the impact research can have on improving patient care. With a full load of patients, his time is limited, but, he says, being a Principal Investigator (PI) does not have to be time consuming, given the proper research infrastructure. "In terms of actual PI input, it really depends on how much support you have. Our research program has an excellent and highly-skilled research staff, which allows Principal Investigators to focus on interactions with patients. The PI has to do a relatively minor amount of paper work".

Research can be extremely valuable, helping to serve the patient population. For example, NECA is currently involved in the *FAME* study, which is exploring a method to help avoid unnecessary procedures. This research may "really change practice", says Dr. Wiseman.

Dr. Wiseman also feels that the PIs as well as the surrounding community benefit from research. For PIs, it "really keeps our interest alive in new areas, and we all take pride in seeing something we've done published. Research brings in new thoughts to the area, new opportunities, new medicines, and it is good for teaching residents and medical students."

EMMC's Clinical Research Center is in the process of building a strong research infrastructure to support trials within the EMMC community. All EMMC staff interested in becoming a PI are encouraged to help make EMMC a leader in research.