COVID-19 President_UMS Scientific Advisory Board Webpage

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UMS Scientific Advisory Board

The UMS Scientific Advisory Board, established by University of Maine System Chancellor Dan Malloy, was formed to stay fully abreast of fast-breaking scientific and medical developments in areas relevant for universities and the COVID-19 pandemic, including vaccine development, diagnostic and serology testing, antiviral treatments, transmission mitigation, contact tracing, and others. The board meets with the UMS Planning Group twice a week.

The team has provided evidence-based information on the COVID-19 pandemic in briefs for the Chancellor and serves as an expert resource to the 2020 Safe Return Planning Committee to discuss science-based approaches to safely welcome students, faculty, staff and the public back to our universities. The team has also presented to the Maine Legislature and other groups, including UMaine Faculty Senate Representatives and the UMaine IPR Research-Continuation Task Force.

Members of the UMS Scientific Advisory Board

Melissa Maginnis (lead)
Assistant Professor of Microbiology, University of Maine
Maginnis Biography

Caitlin Howell
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, University of Maine
Howell Biography

Sara Huston
Associate Research Professor: Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, University of Southern Maine
Huston Biography

Kristy Townsend
Associate Professor of Neurobiology, University of Maine
Townsend Biography

Robert Wheeler
Associate Professor of Microbiology, University of Maine
Wheeler Biography

Joan Ferrini-Mundy (chair)
President of the University of Maine
Ferrini-Mundy Biography

News and information

- UMaine aids Bangor Public Health by providing vetted coronavirus research updates (April 6, 2020)

Reports and presentations

- COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Board Legislation Presentation (May 27, 2020)
- The Maine Question podcast looks at why viruses go viral (April 19, 2020)

Media citations

- Maginnis preview BioME COVID-19 webinar featuring Maginnis (May 28, 2020)
- WABI, WVII interview UMaine professors, students about vetting information for Bangor Public Health (April 13, 2020)
- Maginnis talks with WABI about origins of coronavirus names (March 27, 2020)
- BDN speaks with Maginnis about how to teach kids about COVID-19 (March 19, 2020)