Seeler’s Gift to Scholarship Fund Supports Students Specializing in Primary Care

Ruth Seeler, M.D.’62, continues her commitment to medical education at the UVM Larner College of Medicine with a $2 million gift to the scholarship fund she established 17 years ago bringing its current value to $500,000. The fund has a storied history of supporting students in achieving their dream of becoming a doctor. The Andrea Seeler M.D.’62 Scholarship, awarded annually to a third- or fourth-year student specializing in primary care, has to date awarded nearly $150,000 to 22 recipients.

To ensure the fund meets that need into the future, in September of 2018, Seeler committed $2 million in her estate plan to be added to the scholarship fund. The college estimates the bequest will enable it to increase scholarship awards to primary care students by approximately $90,000 annually. Once the bequest is realized, the Seeler Scholarship will be in the top five largest scholarships for the Larner College of Medicine.

Seeler’s commitment to her medical alma mater runs deep. She was president of the UVM Medical Alumni Association Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, and was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998. In 2007, she was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998. In 2007, she was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998. In 2007, she was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998. In 2007, she was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998. In 2007, she was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998. In 2007, she was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998. In 2007, she was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998. In 2007, she was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998. In 2007, she was presented the Service to Medicine Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Class of Medical Students, she is currently the highest UVM medical alumni honor. She received the A. Bradley Soule Award, and Community Award in 1998.

Seeler’s commitment to medical education at the UVM Larner College of Medicine continues her history of supporting students in achieving their dream of becoming a doctor. The Andrea Seeler M.D.’62 Scholarship, awarded annually to a third- or fourth-year student specializing in primary care, has to date awarded nearly $150,000 to 22 recipients.

For information about how you can support the UVM Larner College of Medicine, please contact the Medical Development and Alumni Relations Office.
In the third week of April this College lost its namesake, Robert Larner, M.D., a member of the Class of 1942. A proud Burlington native — a product of the city’s Old North End — Dr. Larner was the first member of his family to go to college when he came “up the hill” to UVM in the fall of 1936.

Dr. Larner’s undergraduate and medical degrees were funded in large part by scholarships, and he never forgot how important that assistance was in completing his education and starting him on his chosen career.

For more than three decades, students at this College have benefited from Dr. Larner’s philanthropy. And the entire alumni community has benefited too. Bob was deeply committed to developing what he called “the culture of giving back.” He structured the Lerner Loan Fund to encourage further giving from others, and to this date more than 1,500 alumni donors have joined in contributing to the fund, which has directly aided more than 1,500 medical students — a cycle of growth that will continue in the future.

In the last several years, Bob became increasingly interested in the changes taking place in medical education. He and his wife, Helen, gave us broad support in our efforts to incorporate “active learning” into our medical curriculum. This June, more than 600 medical educators from across the world will gather in Burlington to discuss these changes at the 10th annual International Medical Science Educators Conference. In this issue you will see a rich and meaningful career caring for our patients.” said fellow alumni John Tampos, M.D.54, speaking at the dedication: “Bob knew that there were thousands of other alumni with that same experience. So he fostered the Lerner Loan Fund, and structured it to encourage other alumni to get involved and contribute. Bob was keenly interested in nurturing what he called “the culture of giving back,” for he knew that we alumni owe so much to this place, and that the way to repay that debt was to pay it forward to the next generation of physicians. His generosity was extraordinary.”

“Dr. Larner’s vision was always to support medical students through their important journey in medical school,” said Tom Sullivan, UVM president. “He wanted to ensure that his investment would help them achieve greatness in the practice of medicine. His financial support and personal relationships reached thousands of medical students here at UVM and well beyond. We will cherish this Bob’s wonderful support of our medical students and his love of the University of Vermont.”

On September 23, 2016, in recognition of a commitment to supporting medical education that brought the Lerner Family Giving to the College of Medicine to $10 million, the trustees of the University of Vermont announced the naming of The Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at The University of Vermont — the only medical school in the nation named for an alumnus.

For more than three decades, students — a cycle of growth that will continue in the future.

In its clinical form, that education is available to our students in a wide range of settings. I am pleased to share the news that the State of Connecticut has approved our application for licensure of a branch campus in partnership with Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN). Establishing an accredited branch campus with WCHN will allow a cohort of our medical students the option to complete their entire clinical experience (Clerkship and Advanced Integration) in Connecticut.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of our colleagues at WCHN, including the support and leadership of Dr. John Murphy, President and CEO, and Dr. Jonathan Fink, Director of Medical Education. The faculty at Danbury and Norwalk will be champions for medical education and our students, and we look forward to expanding the curriculum and student support systems already in place. In this issue you will find a collection of essays by students who have taken part in our Global Health program that is in conjunction with WCHN by Dr. Majid Sadigh — just one eloquent indicator of the importance of this educational connection.

College Dedicates, Remembers Robert Larner, M.D. ’42

Members of the University and Larner College of Medicine communities gathered for the College’s Holcomb Gallery on April 28 to formally dedicate the College. It was an occasion that also marked the passing of the College’s namesake, Robert Larner, M.D. ’42, who died the previous week, on April 20, at his home in Woodland Hills, Calif., at age 99. Larner family members from across the country were also in attendance.

“Dr. Larner was a Vermont native who never forgot his roots, and never ceased being grateful for the start in life that he found at UVM,” said Frederick Minton, M.D., dean of the College.

Robert Larner was born January 27, 1918 in Burlington, Vt., the seventh child of a Russian immigrant and his wife. He attended the public schools of Burlington, and became a state champion debater in high school. Scholarship money he won through debating allowed him to become the first member of his family to attend college. He entered the University of Vermont in 1936, and received his B.S. degree in 1939 and his M.D. from the UVM College of Medicine in 1942.

He served as a medical corporal in World War II, and later built a successful internal medicine practice and a substantial real estate portfolio in the Los Angeles area.

“Here on this hill, we found our vocation in life. Our opportunities to have a rich and meaningful career caring for our patients,” said fellow alumnus John Tampos, M.D.54, speaking at the dedication: “Bob knew that there were thousands of other alumni with that same experience. So he fostered the Lerner Loan Fund, and structured it to encourage other alumni to get involved and contribute. Bob was keenly interested in nurturing what he called “the culture of giving back,” for he knew that we alumni owe so much to this place, and that the way to repay that debt was to pay it forward to the next generation of physicians. His generosity was extraordinary.”

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Janssen-Heninger receives inaugural NHLBI Outstanding Investigator Award

Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Yvonne Janssen-Heninger, Ph.D., has been named one of the inaugural recipients of the Outstanding Investigator Award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI). This prestigious award provides more than $900,000 in annual funding for a total of roughly $6.3 million over the course of seven years. The NHLBI Outstanding Investigator Award is designed “to promote a scientific productivity and innovation by providing long-term support and increased flexibility to experienced Program Directors (PDs)/Principal Investigators (PIs) who are currently PDs/PIs with at least two NHLBI R01-equivalent awards and whose outstanding record of research demonstrates their ability to make major contributions to their field, build and direct research.” Janssen-Heninger says this award will allow her to focus on two major projects: reducing rare genetic cardiovascular risk, and developing new, patient-friendly tools for understanding and treating rare inherited blood disorders.

CUSHMAN NAMED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF NEW INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON THROMBOSIS AND Haemostasis

Rachel Cushman, Ph.D., M.B. B.Ch., has been named the inaugural Editor-in-Chief of the Thrombosis and Haemostasis (THST) journal, in partnership with John Wiley and Sons, Inc., announced the launch of the Society’s new open access journal, Research and Practice in Thrombosis and Haemostasis (RPTH) journal, which will publish in conjunction with the ISTH. The new journal aims to “elevate the conversation around hemostasis, thrombosis, and vascular biology” and “emphasize the current era of inter-disciplinary scientific discovery and the need for tools of knowledge dissemination.” Cushman says, “Catalyzing on its open access and online-only format, RPTH will provide unrestricted access to scientific results from around the globe on ‘living pages’ and free online for the public to access and download.”

LEWIS R. FIRST, M.D., RECEIVES 2017 KIDDER OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Lewis R. First, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, has been named by the University of Vermont College of Medicine as the 2017 recipient of its George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award. The Kidder Award honors one faculty member for excellence in teaching and extraordinary contributions to the enrichment of the academic environment. He is the recipient of the American Heart Association’s National Award for Education and the American Academy of Pediatrics’ national award for education in family medicine.

LENNON STERLING RECOGNIZED AS AAAS FELLOWS

University of Vermont Cancer Institute director Jan Lennard, Ph.D., and former UVM President Lewis R. First, M.D., have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in recognition of their contributions to science, innovation, education, and scientific leadership. The two Larimer College of Medicine professors of bacteriology were presented with official certificates and pins at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston in February. Both Stein and Lian joined the UVM faculty in 2011. Stein’s research focuses on the regulation of gene expression in yeast cells and during the prokaryotic/eukaryotic differentiation transition. Stein’s research involves several areas, including combinatorial control mechanisms for sexual development, characterization of the platelet giant pseudopod resulting from mutation of a bone related gene, and cell cycle biology in the bone marrow.

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Sadigh Named Inaugural Trefz Family Global Health Endowed Chair at Western CT Health Network

A personal experience with human suffering as a child in war-torn Iran instilled a passion for caring for people in Majid Sadigh, M.D., who knew at a very young age he wanted to become a physician. In the 32 years since he came to the U.S. as a refugee, he has dedicated much of his life to fighting HIV/AIDS worldwide and provided care to Ebola patients in Liberia, well known for his humanity and propensity to attribute success to his colleagues. So when Sadigh was inducted as the 2017 inductee for the Teaching Academy at the Larner College of Medicine was inducted during the Larner College of Medicine, for which WCHN serves as a clinical training partner. Thanks to Sadigh’s tireless efforts the WCHN Global Health Program currently offers clinical training opportunities at partner sites in five countries, including Connecticut and one of only a few hospital-based endowed global health chairs in the nation.

Established with a generous gift from Christian J. and Eva W. Trefz of Westport, Ct., the endowed chair advances the work of the UVM/WCHN joint Global Health Network (WCHN) Global Health Program has expanded to provide medical residents, students and faculty with hands-on learning opportunities to experience global health systems and to better understand public health issues and the impact of globalization on vulnerable populations. WCHN is the network organization for Norwalk, Danbury and New Milford Hospitals and affiliated organizations. The endowed chair is the first of its kind in the State of Connecticut and one of only a few hospital-based endowed global health chairs in the nation.

Sadigh, speaking at a global health lecture at the College.

Teaching Academy Inducts New Members

The newest members of the Teaching Academy at the Larner College of Medicine were inducted during a ceremony at the Snow Season Retreat in December. A total of 38 new members were recognized in three different member categories during the induction ceremony.

Karen Leonard, M.D., Associate Professor, Pediatrics; Sarah McCarthy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Neurological Sciences; Stephen Morana, D.P.M., Assistant Professor, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation; Julie Phillips, M.D.,’94, Assistant Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences; Constance van Eggen, Dr.P.H., Assistant Research Professor, Medicine; Richard Worts, M.D., Associate Professor, Radiology.

Master Teacher

Lee Rosen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Psychiatry.

Member

Sally Herschorn, M.D., Associate Professor, Radiology; Robert Horioumis, M.D., Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology.

Foundation Board of Directors. He and his wife Dr. are longtime Norwalk Hospital Hospital. The Teaching Academy in Global Health is the eighth endowed chair at WCHN.

The WCHN Global Health Program has expanded to include collaborative training opportunities for students and faculty at Norwalk Hospital, as well as the UVM Larner College of Medicine, for which WCHN serves as a clinical training partner. Thanks to Sadigh’s intransigence and determination, the Global Health Program currently offers clinical training opportunities at partner sites in five countries, including the Dominican Republic, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Russia, and Vietnam.

LITENBERG & CHOPAN’S STUDY FINDS ASSOCIATION BETWEEN EATING HOT PEPPERS AND DECREASED MORTALITY

Like spicy food? If so, you might live longer, say Larner College of Medicine researchers, who found that consumption of hot and/or spicy peppers is associated with a 15 percent reduction in total mortality – primarily in deaths due to heart disease – among a large prospective study published recently in PLoS ONE. The new study by Henry and Camden Taylor, professors of Psychiatry; Benjamin Litenberg, M.D., and medical student Mustafa Chopan, ’17, used National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (NHANES) III data collected from more than 16,000 Americans who were followed for up to 23 years, and examined the total mortality risk of this participants according to their red chili pepper consumption. "Because our study adds to the generalizability of previous findings, it is possible that the results might become a dietary recommendation and/or fuel further research in the field of clinical trials," says Chopan.

TO ALTERNATIVE LUPUS TREATMENT APPROACH DIMENSIONAL DIA

One new drug has become available outside the past 50 years for the estimated 1.5 million Americans and five million-plus people worldwide suffering from lupus, but new research has identified a previously unknown mechanism involved in the immune response that could provide an alternative therapy target. Using a chronic autoimmune disease, it is marked by elevated levels of type II interferon, a substance naturally secreted by immune cells in response to viral infections. The origin of the interferon signature in lupus has remained a mystery for years. With working to solve this enigma, researchers, including Iwona Buskiewicz, Ph.D., and Andreas Koenig, Ph.D., assistant professors of psychiatry; and Nicholas Allgailer, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry; Nicholas D’Alberto, associate graduate student; Kalpya Chaudhuri, chief psychology research student; Scott Mackey, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry; Philip Speckler, M.A., NIH postdoctoral fellow in the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health; Hugh Orrivan, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry; Alessandro Petti, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology; and Bader Chaker, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow in psychiatry.

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Novel dimensional approach uncovers biomarker for inattention

Research for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) occur in reported 11 percent of U.S. school-aged kids. But clinicians still don’t fully understand the underlying causes of this common condition. Now a biomarker may be on the horizon, thanks to a new approach that provides evidence of a relationship between brain structure and dimensional measures of ADHD symptoms. The study’s results were first reported in an online article in Biological Psychiatry in March. Using data from the European-based IMAGEN study, researchers, including Matthew Albaugh, Ph.D., from the Larner College of Medicine, took multiple informant assessments for example whether or not dimensional measures of ADHD symptoms and brain imaging data showed new light on the root cause of ADHD’s symptoms, including hyperactivity and impulsivity. Their work represents the largest structural imaging study to date on ADHD symptoms in adolescents. In addition to Albaugh, study collaborators from UVM include Catherine Orr, Ph.D., postdoctoral associate in psychiatry; Robert At tailor, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry; Nicholas Allgailer, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry; Nicholas D’Alberto, associate graduate student; Kalpya Chaudhuri, chief psychology research student; Scott Mackey, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry; Philip Speckler, M.A., NIH postdoctoral fellow in the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health; Hugh Orrivan, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry; Alessandro Petti, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology; and Bader Chaker, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow in psychiatry.

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TO ALTERNATIVE LUPUS TREATMENT APPROACHреализует ключевую роль в митохондриальной системе и лучше понимают биологические проблемы и их влияние на глобализацию в уязвимых популяциях. WCHN является крупнейшим медицинским факультетом, который предоставляет возможность для обучения ученикам и преподавателям с практическим опытом работы на пять стран, включая Коннектикут и одну из немногих больничных научных центров.

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Student Launches Innovation Fund

Medical students see a lot of the health care system—the good, the bad and the ugly—during their training, and their fresh perspectives sometimes lead to the identification of a need and a potential solution. But without sufficient support, an idea for an innovative technology to improve health care falls flat. Medical student Al Marchese ’19 has established a system for bringing these ideas to fruition—he’s leading an initiative, called the Catamount Innovation Fund, which links innovation and entrepreneurship to the practice of medicine, among other industries.

During his first year of medical school, Marchese recognized a need to connect medical students with healthcare entrepreneurs and to foster a space for future medical professionals to think creatively about new, groundbreaking ideas that could significantly improve health care. This is where the idea for a student fund was born.

In the fall of 2017, the Catamount Innovation Fund will open its “doors” to UVM undergraduate and graduate students seeking to collaborate with and invest in current student entrepreneurs and inventors, as well as recent alumni. With approval from UVM President Tom Sullivan and Vice President for Research Richard Gabraith, and collaboration with numerous other students, including Andrew Datasz ’19, an undergraduate in economics, Marchese is now preparing to raise capital for the fund and to form an innovation team for the 2017-18 academic year. He notes that no previous finance or business experience is required to become a part of the team, just a willingness to think creatively about the future of innovative health care technologies.

Class of 2019 Celebrates Foundations Completion

Plaques, applause, Clerkship Survival Kits and the first ever Larner College of Medicine white coats were among the highlights of the Class of 2019’s Foundations Awards Ceremony this spring semester. The event—a welcome late January break for second-year medical students—housed viewing in the UVM Medical Licensing Examination Step 1 Exam—marked the completion of the Foundations level of the Vermont Integrated Curriculum and recognized the students’ next phase of their education—clinical clerkships.

Foundations Director Paula Tracy, P.B.L.A., led the event where awards were announced.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Jenna Bodnar, M.D.’16
Nicholas Field, M.D.’16
Jamas Levins, M.D./M.S.

Best Support Staff Non-Teaching Award

Kiersten Halquist, Student Service Coordinator, Office of Student Medical Education

Student standardized patient Award

Deb Lyons

Foundations Course Award

Nutrition, Metabolism and Gastrointestinal System

Foundations Course Director Award

Rebecca Wicke, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Director, Nutrition, Metabolism and Gastrointestinal System

Foundations Teaching Award

Ellen Black, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Neurological Sciences

Above and Beyond Award

Ellen Black, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Neurological Sciences (This award recognizes the faculty member who went above and beyond the call of duty to help the students in their learning objectives.)

Outstanding Foundations Course Award

Martin Bloomfield, M.D./M.S., former cardiac surgeon who practiced at Lenox Hill in New York City, has provided two grants to the Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont. The gifts—one to support creative cancer research and the other to bring leading cardiovascular thinkers to campus—honor both his lifetime of work at the front lines of heart health and the CVRI’s mission to reduce the incidence, morbidity, and mortality of heart and vascular diseases through improving prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

A $1 million bequest will create a fund to support early career investigators as they work to build a research program. The Martin Bloomfield, M.D./M.S., Early Career Professorship is unique in its focus on faculty who are at the beginning stages of their career. An increasingly competitive funding environment, this early support can be pivotal as faculty establish themselves and secure grant funding. The two-year award goes to a researcher at the assistant professor level and within the first five years of faculty appointment. Bloomfield has generously decided to provide the current funding of his future bequest, thus allowing the CVRI to bolster this $450,000 award in a junior investigator in 2017.

A $250,000 gift from Bloomfield supports two existing visiting professorships that honor beloved faculty connected to the CVRI. The Sobel Visiting Professorship pays tribute to Barnett C. Sobel, M.D., the founding director of CVRI, and the Aport Visiting Professorship is named for Norman Aport, Ph.D., professor and chair of UVM’s Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics from 1966 to 1995. Both professorships bring world-renowned researchers to campus for distinguished lecture and multi-day series of interactions with trainees and junior investigators.

This campaign will bolster UVM’s ability to move mountains now and for years to come—through the students we educate, the discoveries we make and the impact we have on Vermont and the world.

Bloomfield Supports Early Career Investigators, Visiting Professorships

Martin Bloomfield, M.D./M.S., a retired cardiologist who practiced at Lenox Hill in New York City, has provided two grants to the Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont. The gifts—one to support creative cancer research and the other to bring leading cardiovascular thinkers to campus—honor both his lifetime of work at the front lines of heart health and the CVRI’s mission to reduce the incidence, morbidity, and mortality of heart and vascular diseases through improving prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

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Residency Matches for the College of Medicine Class of 2017

Stage, where Class of 2018 students randomly selected for students, delivered the Match envelopes to the course director for Cardiovascular, Renal and Respiratory Ph.D., included UVM Provost Other speakers and special guests at the event we wish you all the best as you take this next big step.” said Dean "This is a big moment …for you, and a big moment for all of us at the College who have helped you prepare for it. We share your love of medicine …your dedication to your profession … and we wish you all the best as you take this next big step.” — Dean Rick Morin "This is a big moment for you, and a big moment for all of us at the College who have helped you prepare for it. We share your love of medicine — your dedication to your profession — and we wish you all the best as you take this next big step." — Dean Rick Morin