

# VERMONT MEDICINE

THE ROBERT LARNER, M.D. COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

FALL 2018

## Six Weeks in Uganda

Larner students find a deeper understanding of medicine across cultures.

ALSO FEATURED: • PASSIONATE PARASITOLOGIST • HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH



## PROFILE IN GIVING

# A Commitment to Improving and Integrating Care

As a clinical urologic oncologist and cancer researcher, **Scott Perrapato, D.O., FACS**, helps patients fight cancer through surgery, chemotherapy, and other cutting-edge treatments available at the UVM Medical Center and UVM Cancer Center. **Tracy Perrapato, D.O.**, Scott's wife, is a family medicine physician skilled in the osteopathic fields of cranial sacral and biodynamic therapies, and a master of Reiki, a therapy that harnesses the energy of the human body to heal and restore. Together, the Perrapatos have created an integrative therapies fund for the UVM Cancer Center. The gift of \$100,000 provides three years of seed funding for patient access to hands-on care such as massage therapy, acupuncture, mindfulness training, Healing Touch, Reiki therapy, and yoga.

"This fund is vital because it directly impacts a patient's healing and improves quality of life during difficult therapies," says Scott Perrapato. "Given the fast pace of medicine in our current climate, these therapies help the patient's mind, body and spirit heal in a caring and supportive environment."

In addition to their giving to the UVM Cancer Center, the Perrapato family also recently honored Scott's parents through the creation of the **Ruth and Carmine Perrapato Endowed Lecture in Urologic Oncology** at UVM's Larner College of Medicine. The \$100,000 endowment brings leading researchers and practitioners to Burlington each year to help ensure community practitioners, UVM Cancer Center researchers, and medical center residents continue to stay up-to-date on the newest developments in the field.



Scott Perrapato, D.O., FACS, and Tracy Perrapato, D.O.

To join the Perrapatos and others in supporting the UVM Cancer Center Integrative Therapies Fund: [UVMHealth.org/CancerCenter/IntegrativeTherapies](http://UVMHealth.org/CancerCenter/IntegrativeTherapies)

For information about how you can support the work of the UVM Larner College of Medicine and its affiliates, please contact the Medical Development and Alumni Relations Office.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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## Infectious Enthusiasm

Pathologist Bobbi Pritt, M.D.'01 saw "beautiful things" the first time she saw a slide of human tissue. She's followed those sights to become an authority on parasites and vector-borne diseases.

BY CAROLYN SHAPIRO



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FEATURE

## Six Weeks in Uganda

Medical students Katherine Callahan '21 and Christina Dawson '21 arrived in Kampala, Uganda, not quite sure what to expect. They returned to Vermont six weeks later with a deeper understanding of medicine across cultures, and what it means to be a physician.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID SEAYER  
TEXT BY ERIN POST



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Adam Atherly, Ph.D., leads the new UVM Center for Health Services Research to identify new solutions for improving patient care.

BY ERIN POST

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## WEB XTRAS



[www.med.uvm.edu/vtmedicine](http://www.med.uvm.edu/vtmedicine)

Find a link to the online version of *The Red Wheelbarrow*.

See more photos of Uganda and read an interview with photographer David Seaver.

Read more about faculty engaged in health services research.



THE ROBERT LARNER, M.D.  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

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Carole Whitaker

EDITORIAL & CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
Edward Neuert

MANAGING EDITOR  
Erin Post

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Jennifer Nachbur, Carolyn Shapiro

ART DIRECTOR  
Ann Howard

CONTRIBUTING  
PHOTOGRAPHERS  
Raj Chawla, Andy Duback,  
David Seaver

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FROM THE DEAN

My first few weeks as dean of Larner College of Medicine have been a whirlwind. Never before have I experienced such energy and enthusiasm, or such a warm welcome. My fortuitous arrival during the week of reunion and homecoming allowed me to accelerate my connection with this wonderful University of Vermont community.

In my first ten days on campus, two significant events took place that underscored this institution’s commitment to the missions of education, research, and patient care.

The first of those events was the White Coat Ceremony for our Class of 2022. These students began their studies two months prior, and were already immersed in the active learning experiences of the Vermont Integrated Curriculum. But this ceremony marked an important turning point for the class — the beginning of their role as clinical learners, and as members of patient care teams. I was moved, as I sat on the stage at Ira Allen Chapel, by what I saw happening before my eyes: row upon row of students clad in street clothes were transformed into medical professionals as they donned this symbolic garment, and as they recited the physician’s oath.

Of course a white coat does not magically transform anyone. But wearing the coat is a highly visible, outward representation of an acceptance of responsibility as one joins the medical profession. These students may or may not routinely wear a white coat in their future careers; but throughout the rest of their days at the College, and throughout the rest of their lives, the members of the Class of ’22 will never shed their responsibility for the welfare of their patients and the tenets that our oath provides. We wear that forever, as all physicians do.

The second recent major event was a celebration of the College’s research mission. On October 11, UVM’s fifth NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence, the Translational Global Infectious Disease Research Center, was announced at a press conference in our Hoehl Gallery. I was already impressed by the close proximity of the various colleges and schools of the University. This multi-million dollar, multidisciplinary research grant highlighted the advantage of the relationships among this University’s researchers, wherever their “home base” might be. Such collaboration across campus, in this case among the Larner College of Medicine, the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is critically important in today’s research environment.

In the months ahead, I plan to meet many more members of the Larner community and listen to your aspirations for our College. It is a tremendous honor to serve as the dean of this great institution and I look forward to the many opportunities before us to contribute to education, clinical care and research in Vermont and beyond.

RICHARD L. PAGE, M.D.  
Dean, The Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine  
at The University of Vermont



NIH Names Langevin  
Director of National  
Center for  
Complementary and  
Integrative Health

Helene Langevin, M.D., has been named director of the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH). She was, until recently, a visiting professor of neurological sciences at the Larner College of Medicine. As NCCIH director, Langevin will oversee the federal government’s lead agency for scientific research on the diverse medical and health care systems, practices, and products that are not generally considered part of conventional medicine.

Langevin comes to NIH from the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, jointly based at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She has served as director of the Osher Center and professor-in-residence of medicine at Harvard Medical School since November 2012. From 1996 to 2012, she served as a full-time faculty member in the Department of Neurological Sciences at the Larner College of Medicine.

As the principal investigator of several NIH-funded studies, Langevin’s research interests have centered on the role of connective tissue in low back pain and the mechanisms of acupuncture, manual, and movement-based therapies. Her more recent work has focused on the effects of stretching on inflammation resolution mechanisms within connective tissue.



Helene Langevin, M.D.

\$12.3 MILLION GRANT ESTABLISHES  
UVM TRANSLATIONAL GLOBAL  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER

A \$12.3 million grant joins together two traditionally distinct groups of scientists to develop innovative approaches to prevent and control infectious disease in a new Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at UVM, the Translational Global Infectious Disease Research Center (TGIR), announced October 11.

The research initiative will leverage UVM expertise in the Larner College of Medicine, the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to develop strategies for decreasing the burden of infectious diseases, particularly in low-income countries. This is the fifth COBRE grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that the Larner College of Medicine has secured over the past 17 years.

The TGIR-COBRE aims to bridge the gap between the biologic and quantitative data fields of biomedical research by developing institutional strengths in global infectious disease research and supporting the research careers of outstanding junior



Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D., principal investigator of the TGIR-COBRE, director of the Vaccine Testing Center and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, speaks at the October 11 announcement.

faculty in this field. “Effective responses to infectious disease burdens and threats must capitalize on new technologies and analytical tools,” says **Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D.**, principal investigator of the TGIR-COBRE, director of the Vaccine Testing Center and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. “Together our TGIR-COBRE team can harness the opportunities of our combined areas of expertise and that of “big data” to improve health of global populations.” Co-principal investigators on the TGIR-COBRE are **Jason Bates, Ph.D., Sc.D.**, professor of medicine, and **Christopher Huston, M.D.**, professor of medicine.

Med Schools, Teaching Hospitals:  
Valued Institutions

A recent survey from the Association of American Medical Colleges revealed a strongly positive perception of medical schools and teachings hospitals amongst respondents, and a recognition of the value these institutions add to patient care.

highest  
favorability  
ratings

• Medical schools and teaching hospitals both achieved their highest favorability ratings in 20 years — 72% and 69%, respectively.

92%

• 92% of those surveyed said that medical schools are doing an “excellent” or “good” job in training doctors in medical knowledge — a 7% increase from 2010 findings.

seven  
out  
of 10

• Seven out of 10 voters surveyed believe that teaching hospitals provide added value for patients over other types of hospitals. The top cited: 1) more people weighing in on diagnoses, 2) their expertise in educating and training new doctors, and 3) providing the latest information and cutting-edge techniques.

\*From “What Americans think about medical schools and teaching hospitals,” by AAMC President and CEO Darrell Kirch, M.D., AAMC News, July 31, 2018





Stephen Higgins, Ph.D.

## UVM CENTER ON BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH RECEIVES \$11.7 MILLION GRANT TO CONTINUE RESEARCH ON UNHEALTHY LIFESTYLE PATTERNS

An \$11.7 million Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant renewal to the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health (VCBH) will support another five years of research on addressing and better understanding the unhealthy behaviors that negatively impact health and cost the U.S. healthcare system billions of dollars. The funding comes from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Led by **Stephen Higgins, Ph.D.**, director of the VCBH and professor of psychiatry and psychological science, the grant focuses on increasing understanding of the mechanisms underpinning vulnerability to unhealthy behavior and developing effective behavior-change interventions, with the end goal of establishing a productive, stand-alone center of research excellence in biomedical research. The VCBH has already made considerable progress in this area during its first five years. Higgins and the UVM COBRE faculty and collaborators have published an impressive 185 peer-reviewed publications in the area of behavior and health in the past five years, garnered nearly \$60 million in additional external grant funding, and have established a successful early-career faculty mentoring program.

## A Trio of College Researchers Receive SPARK VT Funding

Three Larner College of Medicine researchers have been awarded 2018 SPARK VT grants by the UVM Offices of the Provost and Vice President for Research. SPARK VT, a University-wide program designed to cultivate faculty entrepreneurship and technology commercialization, features a panel of distinguished and successful entrepreneurs who critically evaluate projects presented by selected researchers from across the University. Those judged to be most meritorious receive start-up funding and milestone evaluation by the panel.

The 2018 SPARK VT recipients are:

- UVM Associate Professor of Medicine **Jason Botten, Ph.D.** [1], for Development of monoclonal antibodies for treatment of hantavirus disease in North America.
- UVM Professor of Medicine **Peter Spector, M.D.** [2], for Seeing Atrial Fibrillation through a Clearer Lens.
- UVM Professor of Medicine **Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.** [3], for Development of Tissue-Specific Bioinks for Regenerative Medicine.



## UVM Launches Emergency Medicine Residency Program

UVM has created a new emergency medicine residency program, with its inaugural class of six residents slated to arrive in July of 2019. Directed by UVM Associate Professor of Surgery **Richard Bounds, M.D., FACEP, FAAEM**, the three-year program is primarily based at UVM Medical Center but also includes rotations at Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh, N.Y., and Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin. The vision for the program combines training at a nationally-recognized academic medical center with deep experience providing emergency care in a resource-limited environment. To this end, residents will receive advanced training and leadership opportunities in key areas of emergency medicine including rural emergency medicine, wilderness medicine, point-of-care ultrasound, EMS medical direction, and global health.



Richard Bounds, M.D.



## MONTGOMERY HONORED WITH 2018 OUR COMMON GROUND AWARD

**Erin Montgomery**, coordinator of faculty development, graduate education, and postdoctoral training for the Larner College of Medicine, has been selected as a recipient of a 2018 President's Our Common Ground Award. She was recognized at an awards breakfast being held at the University of Vermont on June 20, 2018. The Our Common Ground Staff Award recognizes UVM staff members who exemplify the qualities of Our Common Ground, the statement of aspirations and shared values for the UVM community: Respect, Integrity, Innovation, Openness, Justice, and Responsibility. This award honors the extraordinary contributions and the significant impact the award recipients have made on the University. Montgomery, who has worked at UVM since 2004, was nominated for the award by members of the UVM Postdoctoral Association. Each recipient receives a trophy, a prize of \$1,000 and is recognized on a permanent plaque.



## PARSONS LEADS AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY, NAMED ATS FELLOW WITH 3 UVM COLLEAGUES

University of Vermont E.L. Amidon Chair of Medicine **Polly Parsons, M.D.** [1], was installed as president of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) during the organization's 2018 International Congress, held in San Diego, Calif., May 20 to 23, 2018. The position is a one-year term. In addition, Parsons and three Larner College of Medicine colleagues, including **Jason Bates, Ph.D., Sc.D.** [2], **Anne Dixon, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.** [3], and **Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D.** [4], were inducted as the inaugural class of ATS Fellows at the event. With a mission to improve health worldwide by advancing research, clinical care, and public health in respiratory disease, critical illness, and sleep disorders, the ATS has more than 15,000 physicians, research scientists, and nurses and other allied healthcare professionals among its members. The Fellow designation — ATSF — is a mark of distinction for ATS members who have demonstrated dedication to the Society and made significant contributions to the fields of pulmonary, critical care, and/or sleep medicine.



## KING ELECTED CHAIR OF FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS

UVM Professor of Medicine **Patricia King, M.D., Ph.D.**, was elected chair of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) at the organization's 106th annual meeting in Charlotte, N.C., on April 28, 2018. King, who served as the FSMB chair-elect from 2017-18, will have a one-year term as chair. The FSMB Board of Directors is composed of leaders from the field of medical regulation that are passionate about protecting the public and serving their communities. By serving on the board of directors, individuals have the opportunity to help drive the strategy and direction of a nationally respected organization with a critical role in healthcare. A former chairwoman of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice, King has served as a member of the FSMB board since 2003 and is the 2014 recipient of the FSMB's John H. Clark, M.D., Leadership Award.

## WOOD NAMED FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

UVM Professor of Medicine **Marie Wood, M.D.**, was named a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology at the organization's annual meeting, held June 1 to 5, 2018 in Chicago, Ill. The distinction recognizes ASCO members for their extraordinary volunteer service, dedication, and commitment to ASCO. Wood, who joined the UVM faculty in 1997, is director of the UVM Cancer Center's Familial Cancer Program and founder and principal investigator of the High Risk Breast Program. In addition to her service on four ASCO committees, she is also an active member of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project and has been a Fellow of the American College of Physicians since 2010.



# Diving into the Data: Admissions Research Wins Award

How do years of life experience affect a medical school applicant’s performance during the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) process? Do gender differences come into play?

In research led by Teaching Academy Director of Education Program Outcome Analysis **Alison Howe, M.S.**, a team dove into three years of data to begin to suss out answers to these important questions, work that resulted in a major poster prize from the Northeast Group on Educational Affairs (NEGEA), one of four regional groups from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The project also laid the groundwork for more research to come.

The goal is to continually assess and better understand outcomes as the College is now in its fifth year using the MMI, says Associate Dean of Admissions **Janice Gallant, M.D.** A tool that is backed by evidence and employed by medical schools nationwide, the MMI at the Larner College of Medicine includes a series of six-minute interviews with nine people. Through contemplating different scenarios and interacting with a range of interviewers, the College has the opportunity to assess a student’s readiness for medical school through the lens of the core personal competencies identified by the AAMC. These competencies include qualities like a sense of ethical responsibility, a capacity for improvement, and an ability to communicate effectively with patients. Although previous studies have demonstrated that female applicants tend to perform better than male applicants on the MMI overall, this study is one of the first to look at how life experience correlates with gender and MMI outcomes.

The admissions research team analyzed MMI scores from a three-year cohort of 1,795 applicants to the College. They found that “years since undergraduate degree” was associated with higher MMI scores, particularly in female applicants. This suggests that “females are more likely to transform experience into traits that are assessed during the MMI.” Another possible conclusion is that “gender differences in interpersonal skills are enhanced by experience.”

“We want to continue to serve our applicant pool well and reduce bias,” says Howe. “The MMI assesses those non-cognitive traits and levels of professionalism that we want in our medical students.”



“WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR APPLICANT POOL WELL AND REDUCE BIAS.” — ALISON HOWE, M.S.

For **Gayathri Prabhakar, M.D.’18**, who has served as a volunteer for admissions since her first year, the research opens up interesting new questions to explore, including whether the type of experience applicants gain in between their undergraduate degree and medical school makes a difference in the application process.

“The trend is to take time off between undergrad and medical school,” she says. “What do the different experiences that people have mean for them?”

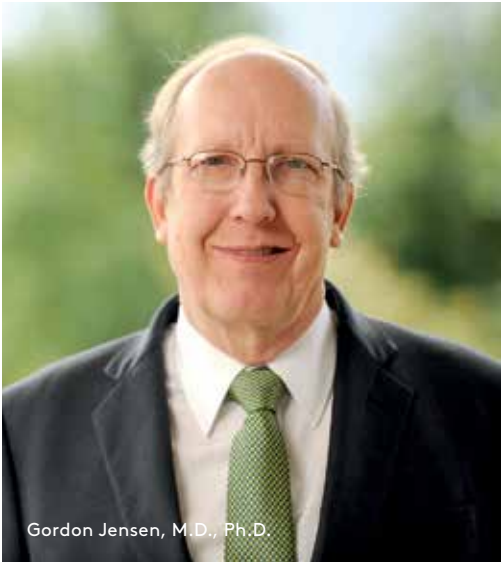
The poster was one of two to receive a 2018 Excellence in Medical Education Award at the NEGEA annual meeting, held this year at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.\*

The admissions research team, which includes admissions staff as well as Teaching Academy and Admissions Committee leaders, plans to build on the study’s results. Next they’ll be looking at MMI interviewer and applicant gender dyads to determine whether different combinations have any correlation with MMI scores.

\* Howe AK; Greene LA; Prabhakar G; Jewkes CR; McElhinney E; Barlow RD; Rosen L; Gallant J; Huggett K. Impact of Gender and Years of Experience on Multiple Mini Interview Scores at the UVM Larner College of Medicine.

## PLANTE AND COLLEAGUES SAY HIGH RATINGS DON’T MEAN BLOOD PRESSURE APP WORKS

UVM Assistant Professor of Medicine **Timothy Plante, M.D.’11**, is co-author of a report published in the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association* that argues that unregulated mobile health app use could give people a false sense of security, leading to dire health consequences. The researchers analyzed 261 user ratings and reviews for a mobile app claiming to change the iPhone into a blood pressure monitor. They found that the Instant Blood Pressure app received an average of four out of five stars and positive reviews, despite a previous study by the research team published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* showed that four out of five times someone with high blood pressure used the app, they received falsely reassuring, non-elevated results. The app was withdrawn from the market in July 2015. The report’s authors call for medical professionals to be more skeptical of apps that don’t have scientific studies backing them, and warn members of the public that just because an app has been endorsed by a health care professional doesn’t mean it works.



Gordon Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.

## UVM RESEARCH DEAN CO-AUTHORS GLOBAL CRITERIA FOR DIAGNOSING MALNUTRITION

Senior Associate Dean for Research **Gordon Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.**, co-led with **Tommy Cederholm, M.D., Ph.D.**, a professor at Uppsala University in Sweden, a major report that provides a global, consensus scheme for diagnosing malnutrition in adults in clinical settings. Titled “The GLIM Criteria for the Diagnosis of Malnutrition — a Consensus Report from the Global Clinical Nutrition Community,” the report was published in the *Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition* and *Clinical Nutrition* after more than two years of work by the Global Leadership Initiative on Malnutrition (GLIM) working group. Adoption of global consensus criteria will allow for comparison of malnutrition prevalence, interventions, and outcomes throughout the world.



## VACCINE TESTING CENTER A SITE FOR NEW NIH LIVE, ATTENUATED ZIKA VACCINE TRIAL

Vaccinations have begun in a first-in-human trial of an experimental live, attenuated Zika virus vaccine developed by scientists at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. The trial will enroll a total of 28 healthy, non-pregnant adults ages 18 to 50 at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Immunization Research in Baltimore, Md., and at the Vaccine Testing Center at the Larner College of Medicine. NIAID is sponsoring the trial. UVM Associate Professor of Medicine **Kristen Pierce, M.D.**, is a co-investigator for the Phase 1 clinical trial.



Vikas Anathy, Ph.D.



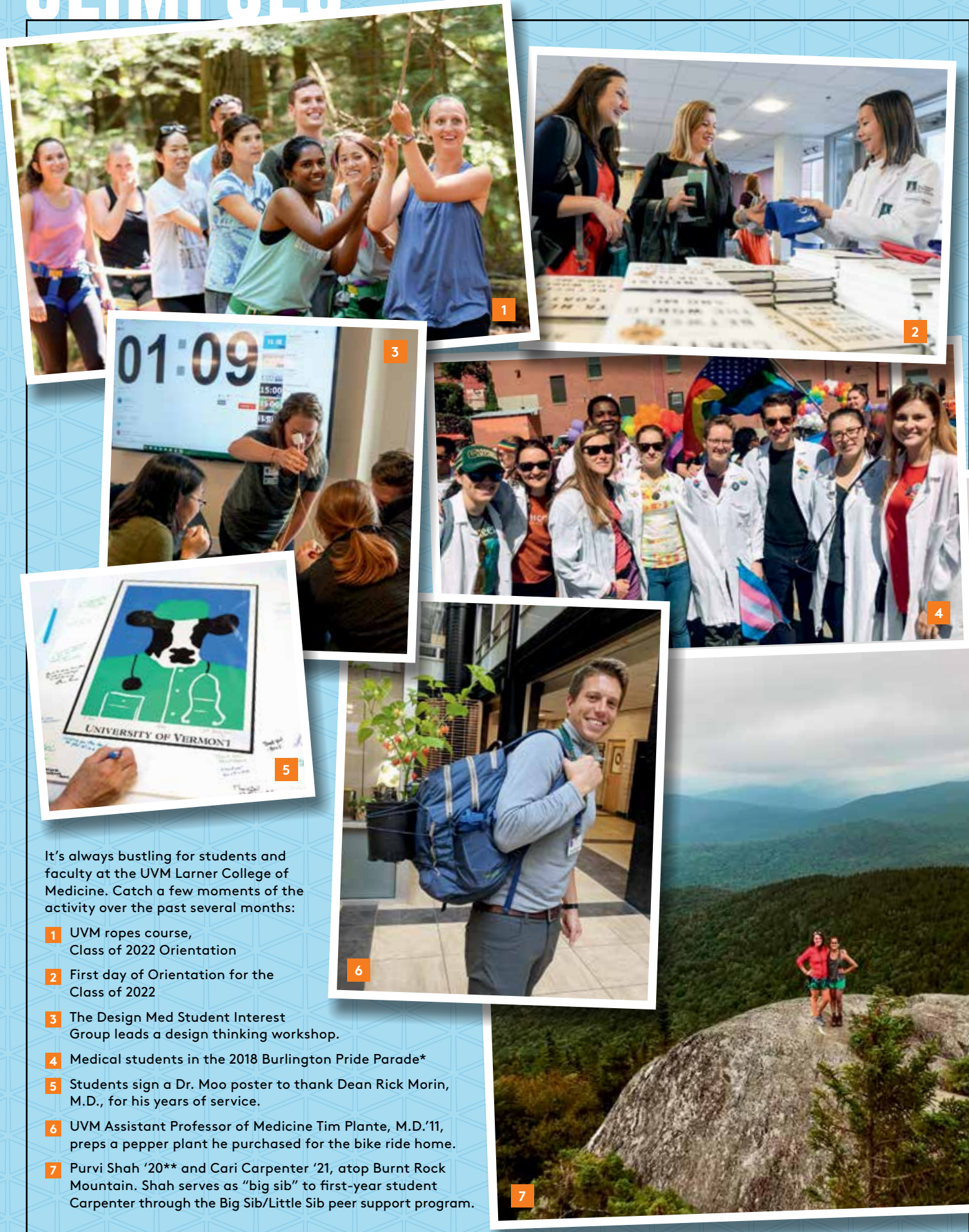
Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Ph.D.

## JANSSEN-HEININGER, ANATHY & TEAM’S STUDY DEMONSTRATES POTENTIAL LUNG FIBROSIS THERAPY

UVM Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine **Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Ph.D.**, is senior study author and UVM Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine **Vikas Anathy, Ph.D.**, is first author for a publication in *Nature Medicine* that demonstrates a novel biological therapeutic candidate for regressing pulmonary fibrosis in a difficult-to-treat preclinical model of the disease.

The research provides much-needed hope for the roughly 150,000 Americans suffering from this devastating condition. This study focused on an enzyme called glutaredoxin-1 — or GLRX — which researchers believe has potential as a therapeutic agent for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Janssen-Heininger, Anathy and colleagues are inventors on a patent for GLRX, granted to the University of Vermont.





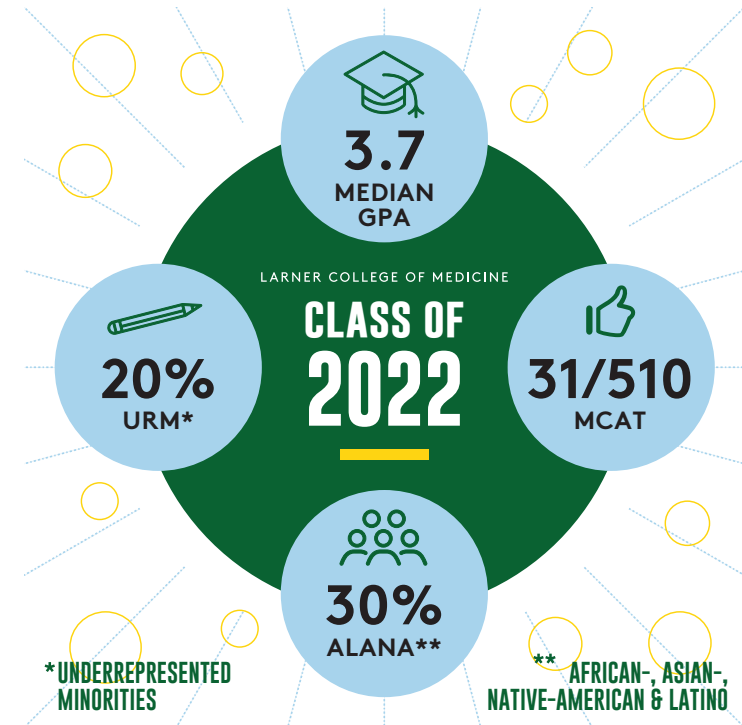
It's always bustling for students and faculty at the UVM Larner College of Medicine. Catch a few moments of the activity over the past several months:

- 1 UVM ropes course, Class of 2022 Orientation
- 2 First day of Orientation for the Class of 2022
- 3 The Design Med Student Interest Group leads a design thinking workshop.
- 4 Medical students in the 2018 Burlington Pride Parade\*
- 5 Students sign a Dr. Moo poster to thank Dean Rick Morin, M.D., for his years of service.
- 6 UVM Assistant Professor of Medicine Tim Plante, M.D.'11, preps a pepper plant he purchased for the bike ride home.
- 7 Purvi Shah '20\*\* and Cari Carpenter '21, atop Burnt Rock Mountain. Shah serves as "big sib" to first-year student Carpenter through the Big Sib/Little Sib peer support program.

\*Photo courtesy Rose Martin '22 \*\* Photo courtesy Purvi Shah '20

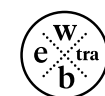
## Welcome, Class of 2022

Whether it's a passion, life experience, vocation or fate that brought them here, the first day of medical school is a major milestone for future doctors. The Class of 2022 arrived on campus August 13 to participate in their first course — Orientation — and begin the process of filling their brains with the people, places and information that will support their journey to earning an M.D. over the next four years.

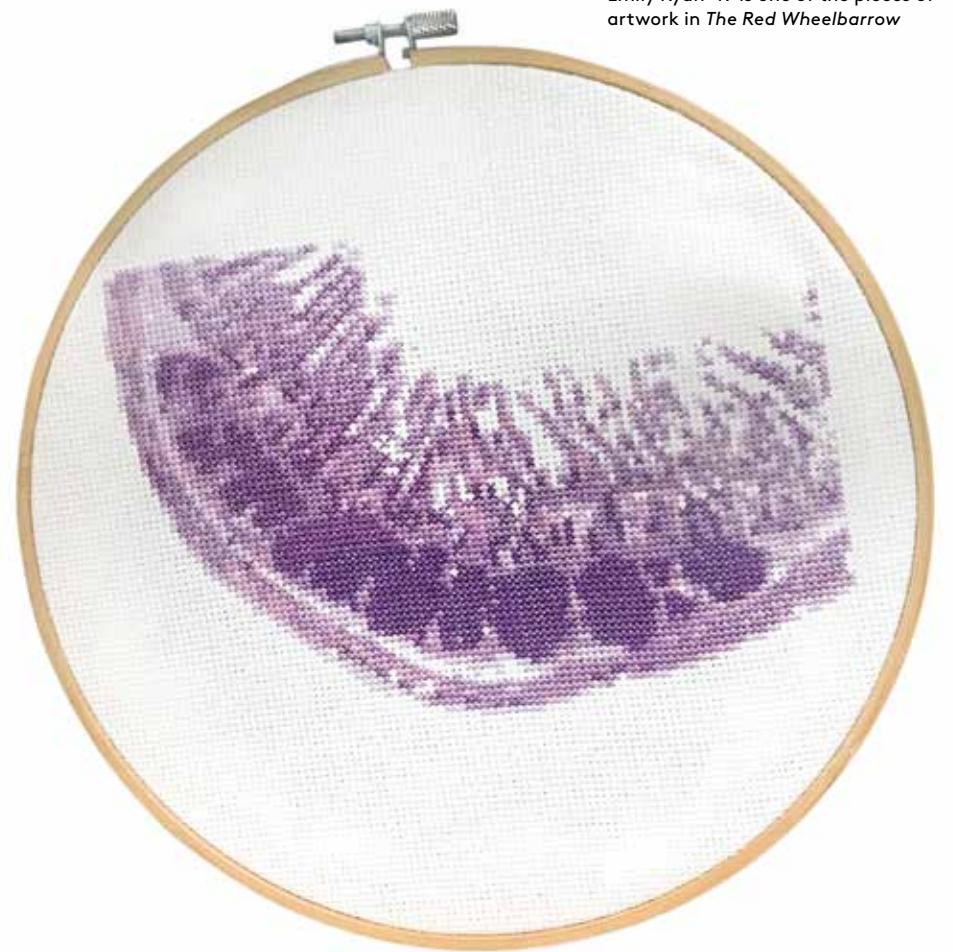


## 'THE RED WHEELBARROW' CELEBRATES LITERARY AND VISUAL ARTS

Named after physician William Carlos Williams' famous poem, *The Red Wheelbarrow* is an annual publication featuring visual and literary art from Larner College of Medicine students, alumni, faculty and staff. Lead editor Collin York '20 compiled essays, poetry, photographs, and paintings — even images of string art and cross-stitch — for a 2018 journal that showcases the breadth of talent in the College community.



Find a link to the online version of *The Red Wheelbarrow*. Go to [www.med.uvm.edu/vtmedicine](http://www.med.uvm.edu/vtmedicine)



Cross-stitch of a pathology slide by Emily Ryan '19 is one of the pieces of artwork in *The Red Wheelbarrow*



# Empowering Residents to Improve Health Equity

In the 19th century, there may have been no more consequential biomedical scientist than Rudolph Virchow. His scientific research at a molecular level has had a profound impact on modern medicine even today, more than 150 years later.

For me, however, it is his work in social medicine that has made a lasting impression on my understanding of the responsibilities clinicians have to the health of their society. Virchow could have been content with his contributions to pathology and molecular biology, but he had the wisdom to recognize the powerful social, economic and political factors that influence the manifestation of disease. He started a weekly newspaper called Medical Reform to highlight how socioeconomics affect health disparities. The newspaper’s banner famously declared “physicians are the natural attorneys of the poor.” His 1848 report on a typhus outbreak in Upper Silesia remains a landmark public health investigation that highlighted the role of poverty, famine, and political corruption as root causes of the outbreak.

A deep body of literature has shown that race, gender, income level, sexual orientation, disability status, and insurance status have a profound impact on one’s experience of health and healthcare in the United States. Recent outbreaks such as Ebola and Zika reflect the extent to which health systems in the developing world lack the capacity to not only respond to health crises, but to provide basic medical care worthy of people’s inherent dignity.

As clinicians, we have a unique vantage point from which we can understand how these social and systemic factors impact our patients. We hear their stories and experience their tragedies. And yet, most often, we have not been trained to understand what we can do about it.

Medical education can empower future health professionals to meaningfully improve health equity. We can teach students and residents about topics in social medicine, and help them develop advocacy skills to work at a social and systemic level to improve health outcomes. Perhaps even more importantly, it can give trainees the opportunity to reflect on their values and their professional identity and ask them what role they would like to play in fixing the injustices that are rooted in our healthcare system.

My current institution, Cambridge Health Alliance, has made social medicine and research-based health advocacy a core component of the internal medicine residency program. The required, longitudinal curriculum emphasizes experiential learning. We have described this course in a paper published in *Academic Medicine* and a news article in *STAT News*. Our goals in the course are to 1) clarify and develop the values that brought residents to train in a residency program hosted in a safety net health system, 2) explore the role physicians can play in improving systemic health equity, 3) improve knowledge of topics in health equity, social determinants of



health and health policy, 4) develop skills in research methodology, leadership and health advocacy, and 5) provide mentorship and role modeling to support career development that may incorporate health advocacy. Residents work on a year-long research-based health advocacy project that gives them a real time experience of physician advocacy at a systemic level.

Not only have the projects resulted in robust scholarship (such as a project on the impact of the Affordable Care Act on individuals with chronic disease that was published in the Annals of Internal Medicine), they have given residents an opportunity to translate their research findings into policy recommendations. Residents also learn community organizing skills that were developed by Harvard Kennedy School Professor Marshall Ganz.

## A DEEP BODY OF LITERATURE HAS SHOWN THAT RACE, GENDER, INCOME LEVEL, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DISABILITY STATUS, AND INSURANCE STATUS HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON ONE’S EXPERIENCE OF HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Course evaluations suggest that our course helps residents reconnect with the idealism that made them want to pursue a calling in medicine. We hope that the course can help heighten their sense of self-efficacy, supporting them as they realize the power they have to make change in what often feels like a dysfunctional and unfair healthcare system.

Rudolph Virchow provides us with a remarkable example of a physician who always asked what role he could play in improving people’s lives, especially those who were marginalized in their community. If we truly care about solving the vexing healthcare problems of our time, we must find the answers in the idealism and passion of our students and residents. As medical educators, we owe them the opportunity to not only learn about these challenges that face us, but to equip them with the training they need to become meaningful change agents.

*Gaurab Basu, M.D.'10, M.P.H. is an instructor at Harvard Medical School and a primary care physician at Cambridge Health Alliance.*

## LaMantia Invested as Inaugural Holly and Bob Miller Chair in Memory and Aging

Vermont philanthropists **Holly** and **Bob Miller** have made a \$6 million gift to UVM to permanently endow three faculty positions. On August 21, 2018, **Michael LaMantia, M.D., M.P.H.**, was invested as the inaugural **Holly and Bob Miller Chair in Memory and Aging**, and **Rosemary Dale, Ed.D., A.P.R.N.**, was invested as the first **Holly and Bob Miller Professor in Nursing Leadership**. LaMantia is a nationally-recognized expert in the



(L to R): Bob Miller, Robert Gramling, M.D., Holly Miller, Michael LaMantia, M.D., M.P.H., and Rosemary Dale, Ed.D., A.P.R.N.

care of older adults, particularly those with cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer’s Disease and other dementias. Dale is chair of the Department of Nursing in the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences. A third faculty position will address clinical practice in nursing.

## New Endowed Scholarship Supports Future Pediatricians

In honor of his 50th reunion, pediatrician and Burlington, Vt. native **Todd Gladstone ’63, M.D.’68**, has established a \$50,000 endowed scholarship through his estate plan to benefit Larner College of Medicine students with an interest in pediatrics. **The Gladstone Family Endowment** builds on a long history of support: the Connecticut-based pediatrician serves as Class Agent, and has been a faithful donor to the College for over four decades.



Todd Gladstone '63, M.D.'68

## Recent Estate Gifts Benefit Students with Financial Need

- A gift from **Eunice Marie Simmons ’45, M.D.’49**, established an endowed \$600,000 scholarship fund to benefit Vermonter students with financial need. A native of Montpelier, Vt., Dr. Simmons graduated as valedictorian of her medical school class in 1949. She opened a solo practice in San Diego, Calif., and was the first female doctor affiliated with Mercy Hospital. She died May 5, 2017, at the age of 93.
- **John Curran, M.D.’31**, and his wife, **Margaret Curran**, created the **College of Medicine Class of 1931 Scholarship Fund** with a \$650,000 gift through a trust. The endowed fund will benefit medical students with financial need in perpetuity. Dr. Curran practiced family medicine in Northampton, Mass., from 1933 until his retirement in 1969. He was a member of The Cooley Dickinson Hospital staff for 39 years and a past president of the hospital.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE Medical Development & Alumni Relations Office  
(802) 656-4014 | [medical.giving@uvm.edu](mailto:medical.giving@uvm.edu) | [www.med.uvm.edu/alumni](http://www.med.uvm.edu/alumni)

# Campaign News



The Campaign for The University of Vermont

## Fund in Honor of Mark H. Beers, M.D.’82 Brings International Experts to Campus

The UVM Center on Aging and the Larner College of Medicine’s Geriatric Medicine program recently hosted two international experts in geriatrics with support from a fund established in memory of **Mark H. Beers, M.D.’82**. Horst Vollmar, M.D., M.P.H., professor of medicine and chief of the Department of General Medicine at Rohr University Bochum, and Mary Austrom, Ph.D., the Wesley P. Martin Professor of Alzheimer’s Education and Associate Dean for Diversity Affairs at the Indiana University School of Medicine, delivered a presentation titled “Caring for Caregivers and Transitions from Hospital to Home.” Dr. Beers, who passed away from diabetes-related complications in 2009, had an impressive career in geriatrics. He is best known for establishing the “Beers Criteria,” the definitive list of medications that elderly patients should avoid, and for his role as editor-in-chief of the Merck Manuals. The **Mark H. Beers, M.D.’82 Fund in Geriatrics** was established by his husband, Stephen Urice, with additional support from his sister, Jacqueline Beers Herbsman.

## Wong Named First Berta Pi-Sunyer Williams ’58 Professor

**Cheung Wong, M.D.**, was invested as the inaugural **Berta Pi-Sunyer Williams ’58 Endowed Professor** on June 8, 2018. Berta Pi-Sunyer Williams graduated from UVM in 1958 with a degree in nursing and was a long-time employee of the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont (now UVM Medical Center). Following her passing in 1992, her family was inspired by her courage in facing her own illness to establish an endowed fund in her memory to support education, research, and patient services related to women’s health care. This past year, Larry Williams Jr. (UVM ’82) and his family and friends raised additional funds to bring the endowment to the \$1 million professorship level. A dedicated educator, Dr. Wong holds leadership positions in Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology, and is associate dean of Continuing Medical and Interprofessional Education.



Marking his investiture as the first Berta Pi-Sunyer Williams ’58 Endowed Professor, Dr. Cheung Wong is joined by UVM President Tom Sullivan.