

FALL 2017

TheCHART

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE NEWS AND NOTES

Larner College of Medicine | University of Vermont Medical Center



Here in the Department of Medicine, we are fortunate to have so many faculty who are expert researchers and physicians as well as compassionate colleagues and caregivers. Our Department of Medicine Distinguished Clinician and Mentor Awards celebrate three faculty who embody all of these qualities. Chi Chi Lau, M.D., 2017 Distinguished Clinician awardee, was described in one nomination letter as the “bedrock of the clinical enterprise.” Gilman Allen, M.D., also a 2017 Distinguished Clinician, was lauded as a leader who has “transformed the delivery of critical care in our region.” And 2017 Mentor Award winner Cory Teuscher, Ph.D., has provided key guidance and support to dozens of trainees; his Ph.D. students have authored on average 17 publications each while in his lab, an amazing level of productivity that sets them up for later success. Congratulations to all of our award winners!

While we celebrate achievements, we are also moving ahead with several initiatives to improve communication and resource-sharing across the department.

With department faculty serving as key leaders at every level of the education continuum, we have a wealth of knowledge to draw from in planning future initiatives. Our new Education



Polly E. Parsons, M.D.
Professor and E.L.
Amidon, M.D.'32
Chair of Medicine

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1
New and Notable
- 3
Education Council
- 5
Quality Scholar
- 7
Research News
- 9
Education News
- 10
Faculty News
- 13
Meet the Scientist

Council, chaired by Kathryn Huggett, Ph.D., promises to facilitate conversation and information-sharing across all of these different programs. The goal is to learn from each other as we continue to improve the learner experience at all levels. Read more about this new council in this issue of *The Chart*.

We are also excited to welcome Amanda Kennedy, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., to our quality improvement and patient safety team. In her new role of quality scholar, she is our department's “go to” resource for faculty looking to transition their clinical projects into scholarly work. She's ready to help streamline the process and connect you to the resources you need to be successful. Along with Allen Repp, M.D., our vice chair for quality improvement and patient safety, I am confident that we can elevate the important quality improvement and patient safety work we are already doing, and share it through publications and presentations with colleagues here at UVM and across the country.

Also in this issue we are providing a round-up of Department of Medicine committees doing the important work that is the “heartbeat” of our department. Get to know more about their various missions and leadership. I hope you enjoy this fall issue of *The Chart*!

On the Cover: Kathryn Huggett, Ph.D., chairs a meeting of the Department of Medicine's Education Council.

Photo by David Seaver.

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Atherly Appointed Director of Health Services Research Center

Adam Atherly, Ph.D., has been appointed the Larner College of Medicine's first director of the health services research center and professor of medicine, effective February 1, 2018. Atherly is currently a professor of health systems, management and policy at the Colorado School of Public Health.

In this newly-created position, Atherly will be responsible for guiding the integration of the College's health services research program into a center model with research, education/training, and service components. As the director of this new center, Atherly will work with faculty engaged in health services research, as well as closely collaborate with the College's partners at the UVM Medical Center and their Jeffords Institute for Quality, the UVM Health Network, Vermont



Adam Atherly, Ph.D.

Blueprint for Health, the Vermont Department of Health, the Green Mountain Care Board, and OneCare Vermont.

Atherly holds a Ph.D. in health services research, policy and administration from the University of Minnesota, and an M.A. in economics from the

University of Washington. He joined the Colorado School of Public Health as associate professor and founding chair of the Department of Health Systems, Management and Policy in 2009 and was promoted to full professor in 2016.

Department of Medicine Awards

The following awards were presented at the faculty meeting on June 23, 2017, to celebrate outstanding clinicians and mentors from across the department. This is the inaugural year for the Distinguished Clinician Award. The Mentor Award has been granted annually since 2012.

Distinguished Clinician Award

Gilman Allen, M.D., professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Allen has transformed the delivery of critical care in our region. He is a passionate teacher, a superlative clinician, and a tireless advocate for excellence in patient care, constantly leading by example.

Chi Chi Lau, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology. Dr. Lau joined the Division of Rheumatology in 1996 and is the bedrock of the clinical enterprise. Her dedication to patient care and tireless pursuit of excellence as a clinician are two of her most outstanding qualities. Dr. Lau embodies the ideal of a “physician's physician.”

continued on page 2



From L to R: Chi Chi Lau, M.D., Benjamin Suratt, M.D., vice chair for academic affairs, and Gilman Allen, M.D.

Graduate Student or Post-Doctoral Fellow Mentor Award

Cory Teuscher, Ph.D., professor in the Division of Immunobiology. Since beginning his tenure at UVM in 2001, Dr. Teuscher has mentored three Ph.D. students, two M.D. students, one M.D. fellow, nine postdocs, and two junior faculty. Most of Dr. Teuscher's mentees have had incredible productivity while in his lab. His Ph.D. students have authored on average 17 publications each (four first-author) by completion of their degree, and his two most recent postdocs have authored on average 21 publications each during their time in the lab.



Cory Teuscher, Ph.D., at left, with Charles Irvin, Ph.D., vice chair for research



Tania Bertsch, M.D., seventh from left, with Jacob Enser, M.D., second from left, and Audree Frey, fourth from left, with Isaac Okullo, M.D., sixth from left, and his friends and family.

The Department of Medicine Around the World

The Larner College of Medicine, in collaboration with the Western Connecticut Health Network, has a robust global health program with five international partner sites. **Tania Bertsch, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics and associate dean for clinical education, and **Audree Frey**, global health program coordinator, traveled to Uganda from July 21-29, 2017, to learn more about the existing collaboration and explore expanding the partnership in medical education and research with Makerere

University in Kampala, Uganda. They utilized the homestay model that is an important part of the program, staying with Professor Isaac Okullo, M.D., deputy principal at Makerere University College of Health Sciences, and his family. Also staying with the Okullo family was **Jacob Enser, M.D.**, an infectious disease fellow at UVM Medical Center who was on a global health rotation. Bertsch's visit included meetings with department chairs at Makerere University and leaders at rural sites where students complete global health elective rotations. To learn more about the program, visit: www.med.uvm.edu/globalhealth

Education Council to Improve Information Sharing, Learner Experience

A new education council promises to help integrate teaching activities across the Department of Medicine, and promote the sharing of ideas and information to improve the learner experience at all levels.

Created in the spring of 2017, the council brings together "medical educators across the continuum" for monthly meetings focused on a particular topic of interest and updates from council members, says council chair **Kathryn Huggett, Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, assistant dean for medical education, and director of the Larner College of Medicine's Teaching Academy. Members include **Jan Carney, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate dean for public health and professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine; **David Kaminsky, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine; **Roberta O'Brien, M.D.**, outpatient medicine clerkship director and associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics; **Mark Pasanen, M.D.**,

internal medicine residency program director and associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine; and **Joseph Pierson, M.D.**, director of the Dermatology Residency Program and associate professor in that division.

With the departure of former vice chair for education **Mark Levine, M.D.**, now Vermont commissioner of health, the council is embarking on a review of the Department of Medicine to assess its wide-ranging education initiatives. The department offers two residency programs — in internal medicine and dermatology — as well as 11 fellowship programs. Faculty are also heavily involved in all levels of the Vermont Integrated Curriculum at the Larner College of Medicine. With so many education programs in place, the council serves as a clearinghouse both to share information about innovative work, and to identify gaps.

"This is a year for us to learn what we have, what we don't have, and what we need," says Huggett. "What are we doing well, and where can we improve?"

continued on page 4



Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D., at top left, shares an update on her Frymoyer Grant project with the Education Council.

Department of Medicine Education Council Members

- **Chair: Kathryn Huggett, Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, assistant dean for medical education, and director of the Larner College of Medicine's Teaching Academy
- **Jan Carney, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate dean for public health and professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine
- **David Kaminsky, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine
- **Roberta O'Brien, M.D.**, outpatient medicine clerkship director and associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics
- **Mark Pasanen, M.D.**, internal medicine residency program director and associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine
- **Joseph Pierson, M.D.**, director of the Dermatology Residency Program and associate professor in the Division of Dermatology

Since they began meeting in June, the council has hosted several education leaders, including **Majid Sadigh, M.D.**, who spoke about the Western Connecticut Health Network/Larner College of Medicine Global Health Program he directs, and **Christa Zehle, M.D.**, associate dean for students at the Larner College of Medicine, who talked about changes to the National Resident Matching Program, as well as offered advice on writing letters of recommendation. In September, **Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, visited the council to discuss a research emphasis she has developed with **Amy O'Meara, DrNP**, for medical students and doctor of nursing



David Kaminsky, M.D., is one of six members of the department's new Education Council.

practice students who are interested in pursuing biomedical research. The research emphasis, supported by a 2016 Frymoyer grant, familiarizes students with basic principles and methodologies of biomedical research, and helps them to explore potential careers in laboratory or clinical research.

As the council continues to meet, the group will turn their attention to a number of specific objectives. These include exploring faculty development opportunities to enhance the quality of teaching and increase scholarship, as well as assessing the effectiveness of existing programs, like the new Academic Half Day for residents. Ultimately, the goal is to increase the satisfaction of students and trainees at all levels, from medical students and residents to fellows and faculty.

"Representatives of our education programs are meeting in a structured and intentional way," says Huggett, adding that this can only improve the flow of information between education programs, and better integrate teaching activities across the department.

Faculty members can contact anyone on the council to ask questions or suggest agenda items for the group to consider. As the council continues to evolve, it also stands to serve as a resource for the Larner College of Medicine and UVM Medical Center, helping to identify subject matter experts, award nominees, guest speakers, or potential new graduate degrees, courses or electives.



Second-year internal medicine residents work on a quality improvement project with a faculty mentor.

Kennedy to Serve as New Quality Scholar

When it comes to quality improvement and patient safety, faculty in the Department of Medicine are constantly improving patient care through innovative processes and procedures they develop. Now, **Amanda Kennedy, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S.**, associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, is available to help turn that important work into rigorous projects ready to be published or shared with colleagues.

As the department's new quality scholar, a position created in May of 2017, Kennedy is an available point of contact for faculty looking to transition their clinical projects into scholarly work. She can help get a project off the ground and connect faculty to the resources they need to be successful, whether it is help applying for biostatistics support, navigating funding sources, or help identifying fellow researchers looking to collaborate. With a plethora of resources available between UVM and UVM Medical Center, she says that faculty often don't know where to start and may lack the time to seek out answers, especially when they're already busy caring for patients.

"Our clinical faculty work very hard at being good physicians," she says. "We want to take the good work they're doing and bring it to a level that's considered scholarly."

With a new office in the Given Building co-located with **Allen Repp, M.D.**, the department's vice chair for quality, Kennedy plans to transform the space into a hub for quality improvement

continued on page 6

"WE WANT FACULTY TO START THINKING ABOUT PUBLISHING AT THE FRONT OF A PROJECT, AND DESIGN IT TO RIGOROUSLY COLLECT DATA. OUR GOAL IS TO KEEP IT SIMPLE."

—AMANDA KENNEDY, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S.

projects and scholarly support. One near-term goal is to create a quality improvement interest group to help foster mentoring relationships and collaborations. Faculty can be a resource for each other, she says, as the same quality improvement tools and processes can often be employed across disciplines. She's also working on reorganizing and expanding her office's website to more efficiently deliver information related to scholarly work and quality improvement. And she's planning to further develop the biostatistics consultation program founded in 2016, which is designed to support junior faculty-led quality improvement projects and resident/fellow quality improvement projects, with a goal to submit to a peer-reviewed journal.



Amanda Kennedy, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., serves as the Department of Medicine's new quality scholar.

In her role as quality scholar, she wants to help faculty see the work they're doing in the clinic and the hospital through the lens of projects worthy of publication.

"We want faculty to start thinking about publishing at the front of a project," she says, "and design it to rigorously collect data. Our goal is to keep it simple."

Kennedy has already been busy transforming quality improvement and patient safety curricula for residents. Second-year residents have been working in groups with a faculty mentor on a quality improvement project over the course of one year, with a goal to present at the annual forum hosted by the Jeffords Institute for Quality and at national meetings. First-year residents learn about the fundamentals of improvement

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Goals

- Create infrastructure and resources within the department to support scholarly QI activities
- Develop faculty skills in QI methodology and cultivate a cadre of faculty experts in QI
- Enhance innovation and scholarly productivity in QI and high value care
- Align and promote collaboration in QI efforts across divisions

science, while third-year residents implement a high value care project of their choosing.

"They identify a place for improvement," she says, "and they learn to be good stewards of resources."

A pharmacist by training, Kennedy received her Pharm.D. from Northeastern University and completed her pharmacy residency at UVM Medical Center before going on to serve for two years as a health services research fellow at UVM. In 2003, she received a K08 award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and for 12 years worked with **Benjamin Littenberg, M.D.**, Henry and Carleen Tufo Professor of Medicine, on research related to medication safety in the outpatient setting. She also served as a clinical pharmacist in the Division of Rheumatology for two years, and continues to work as a pharmacist at the medical center on a per diem basis.

In her new role as quality scholar, Kennedy says she hopes to elevate the quality improvement and patient safety work faculty are already doing to a new level, and streamline the process.

"We are showcasing the work we are doing in the department," she says. "Many of our faculty are working on closing gaps in healthcare, and it's important to share what we find."

Budd Serves as Leader for NIH NERIC Conference & Leahy Visit

Ralph Budd, M.D., professor in the Division of Immunobiology, and Judith Van Houten, Ph.D., director of the Vermont Genetics Network, led the 2017 North East Regional IDeA Conference (NERIC), which drew more than 300 National Institutes of Health-funded biomedical researchers from across Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island and Delaware to Burlington from August 16-18, 2017. U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy delivered remarks on August 17. The IDeA program, which is based in the Research Capacity Building section of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, provides funding to build the infrastructure for biomedical research in smaller states like Vermont, in order to boost the careers of biomedical researchers, and grow and diversify



Ralph Budd, M.D., at left, and Judith van Houten, Ph.D., talk with U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy at the 2017 North East Regional IDeA Conference.

the biomedical workforce. The NERIC conference provides a platform for biomedical scientists to learn from colleagues about the latest research in the region in the areas of infectious diseases and immunology, neuroscience, bioinformatics, development and genetics, and cancer.

Faculty Co-Author Study on Magnesium as Treatment for Depression

Amanda Kennedy, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine; **Benjamin Littenberg, M.D.**, Henry and Carleen Tufo Professor of Medicine; and **Charles MacLean, M.D.**, professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics, were co-authors on a paper published in *PLoS One* that showed that over-the-counter magnesium appears safe and effective to treat mild to moderate depression. The team conducted an open-label, blocked, randomized cross-over trial involving



Amanda Kennedy, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S.



Benjamin Littenberg, M.D.



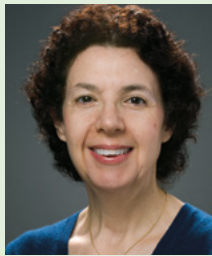
Charles MacLean, M.D.

126 adults in outpatient primary care clinics. In 112 participants with analyzable data, consumption of magnesium chloride for six weeks resulted in a clinically significant improvement in measures of depression and anxiety symptoms. These positive effects were shown quickly, at two weeks, and the supplements were well tolerated and similarly effective regardless of age, sex, or use of antidepressants, among other factors. The team also

included first author Emily Tarleton, M.S., RD, CD, a graduate student in clinical and translational science, and Christopher Daley, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry.

Grant Highlights

Bonita Libman, M.D., professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, received a Rheumatology Research Foundation Medical Student Preceptorship Award for her work with medical student Kyna Donohue '20.



Bonita Libman, M.D.

Steven Lidofsky, M.D., Ph.D., professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, is principal investigator at UVM Medical Center for an international multicenter phase III



Steven Lidofsky, M.D., Ph.D.

clinical trial for the ASK-1 inhibitor selonsertib for nonalcoholic fatty liver disease with advanced hepatic fibrosis or cirrhosis.

Rachel McEntee, M.D., assistant professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, was awarded divisional development funds to establish and pilot a training course for internal medicine residents to teach communication skills relevant to caring for medicine inpatients using active learning strategies such as role play, simulation, and focused reflection.



Rachel McEntee, M.D.

Presentations

Chi Chi Lau, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, **Sheldon Cooper, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, **Maria Sayeed, M.D.**, a fellow in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, **Amanda Kennedy, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S.**, associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, and **Joan Skelly**, research biostatistician at UVM, have an oral presentation at the National American College of Rheumatology Meeting on November 7, 2017, on their research, titled "Are We Over-Testing for Liver Enzyme Abnormalities in Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients Prescribed Methotrexate."

Kathryn Huggett, Ph.D., professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, UVM Teaching Academy director and assistant dean for medical education, presented a poster with colleagues at the Association of Medical Educators in Europe Conference in Helsinki, Finland, on August 29, 2017. It was titled "The IAMSE Medical Educator Fellowship: A novel, international program to foster educational scholarship."

Publication Highlights

Cheung KL, Zakai NA, Folsom AR, Kurella Tamura M, Peralta CA, Judd SE, Callas PW, **Cushman M**. Measures of kidney disease and the risk of venous thromboembolism in the REGARDS (Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke) study. *Am J Kidney Dis* 2017;70:182-90.

Gilbert, MP. Point/Counter: Fractures represent an under-recognized complication of diabetes. *Endocrine Today* 2017;14:13.

Rose G, Badger G, Skelly J, **MacLean CD**, Ferraro T, Helzer J. A Randomized Controlled Trial of Brief Alcohol Intervention by Interactive Voice Response. *Alcohol and Alcoholism*. 2017; 52: 335-43.

Limaye AP, **Stapleton RD**, Peng L, Gunn SR, Kimball LE, Peng L, Hyzy R, Exline MC, Files DC, Morris PE, Frankel SK, Mikkelsen ME, Hite D, Enfield KB, Steingrub J, O'Brien J, **Parsons PE**, Cuschieri J, Wunderink RG, Hotchkiss DL, Chen YQ, Rubenfeld GD, and Boeckh M. Effect of Ganciclovir to IL-6 Levels Among Cytomegalovirus-Seropositive Adults with Critical Illness: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *JAMA* 2017; 318:731-40.

Naik R, Irvin MR, Judd S, Gutierrez O, **Zakai NA**, Derebail VK, Peralta C, Lewis M, Zhi D, Arnett D, McClellan W, Wilson JG, Reiner A, Kopp J, Winkler C, **Cushman M**. Sickle cell trait and the risk of ESRD in blacks. *J Am Soc Nephrol* 2017; 28:2180-7.



Awards and Recognition

The Department of Medicine honored several fellows and faculty members for their outstanding contributions to education.

Fellow Award for Outstanding Teaching

For dedication to teaching and for creating a welcoming environment for medicine residents
Amir Azarbal, M.D.

E.L. Amidon, M.D. Award

Outstanding Teaching of the Year
Subspecialty Medicine
William Hopkins, M.D.

William Osler, M.D. Award

Outstanding Teaching of the Year
General Internal Medicine
Emily Greenberger, M.D.

The Department of Medicine is proud of the following internal medicine residents who were honored for their exemplary achievements.

The Harriet P. Dustan, M.D. Award

In recognition of acquisition of new knowledge through research performed during residency

Brendan Everett, M.D., and
Lakshmi Nambiar, M.D.

The Frank L. Babbott, M.D. Memorial Award

For idealism and integrity, education to patient care and commitment to the educational mission
Lee-Anna Burgess, M.D.

Richard Bouchard, M.D. Excellence in Primary Care Award

For providing high quality comprehensive care, for dedication as an educator of patients, medical learners and support staff and for sincere and genuine concern for patients.

Sara Rouvalis Roberts, M.D.

HOUSESTAFF NEWS

Congratulations to the Class of 2017

The Department of Medicine celebrated the graduation of an outstanding group of internal medicine residents and dermatology residents this summer. They have accepted prestigious fellowship and faculty positions at institutions across the country.



Dermatology Residents and Graduates

L to R: Alyssa Fischer, M.D.; Emily Farrell, M.D.; dermatopathology fellow graduate Elizabeth Lester, M.D.; Ivy Norris, M.D.; Mohs surgery fellow graduate Lindsey Collins, M.D.; graduate Andrew Hankinson, M.D.; graduate Michael Romano, M.D.; Corey DeWitt, M.D.; Patrick Benson, M.D.; Mohs surgery fellow graduate David Chen, M.D.



Internal Medicine Residents

L to R: Mark Pasanen, M.D.; Moussa Takla, M.D.; Erica Monfred, M.D.; Mary Ramundo, M.D.; Javaneh Tamiji, M.D.; Kevin Leadholm, M.D.; Kaitlyn Vennard, D.O.; Brendan Everett, M.D.; Lee-Anna Burgess, M.D.; Steve Jarzembowski, M.D.; Sara Roberts, M.D.; Lakshmi Nambiar, M.D.; Shea Lambirth, M.D.; Caitlin Baran, M.D.; Shaden Eldakar-Hein, M.D.; Trace Barrett, M.D.

Committee Round-Up

Faculty serve as members and key leaders on a range of committees that are central to the work of the Department of Medicine. The following is a brief look at mission statements and leadership. For a full list of committee membership, visit www.med.uvm.edu/medicine/dom-committees/

Faculty Development Committee

Mission: The committee, composed of one to two faculty members from each division, works with the vice chair for academic affairs. It serves as a forum for junior and mid-level faculty to discuss faculty development, faculty mentoring, career development and promotion, and it fosters new initiatives to support department faculty.

Chair: Benjamin Suratt, M.D., professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine and vice chair for academic affairs

Reappointment, Promotions, and Tenure Committee

Mission: Overall committee is headed by **Benjamin Suratt, M.D.**, vice chair for academic affairs. The RPT Committee is composed of three subcommittees — the Tenure Pathway and Promotions Subcommittee, the Clinical Scholar Evaluation and Reappointment Subcommittee, and the Volunteer Pathway Reappointment Subcommittee — all three participate in the spring faculty reappointment cycle. The Tenure Pathway Subcommittee meets for the fall RPT cycle to evaluate tenure track faculty for reappointment, and all faculty tracks for promotion.

Chairs: Tenure Pathway and Promotions Subcommittee — **Jason Bates, Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine; Clinical Scholar Evaluation and Reappointment Subcommittee — **Kristen Pierce, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Infectious Disease; Volunteer Pathway Reappointment Subcommittee — **Claudia Berger, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics.

Faculty Engagement Committee

Mission: Facilitate communication and interaction between all faculty in the Department of Medicine through planned events and publishing *The Chart*, among other efforts. The goal is to “open up” the department, to encourage interdivisional discourse and collaboration, and promote mentorship.

Chair: Julie Lin, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Dermatology

Medicine Grand Rounds Education Program Committee

Mission: Review the format for Grand Rounds and its speakers to ensure that it is scientifically sound, presenting up-to-date information, and helping to familiarize medical students and residents with Department of Medicine research. Review candidates nominated for the Tisdale Lectureship.

Chair: Ralph Budd, M.D., professor in the Division of Immunobiology

Medicine Operations Committee

Mission: Improve operational efficiency and cross-divisional collaboration. The committee reviews operational data, compares practices across the divisions, and advises departmental leadership regarding operational matters.

Chair: Friederike K. Keating, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Quality Assurance Committee — Medicine Health Care Service

Mission: Monitor, assess and continuously improve the quality and safety of health care provided at UVM Medical Center by reviewing, evaluating, and continuously improving the care delivered by the Medicine Health Care Service.

Chair: Allen Repp, M.D., professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine and vice chair for quality

Medicine Credentials Committee

Mission: Maintain an up-to-date policy and procedure/rules and regulations for the Medicine Health Care Service. Ensure that faculty receive appropriate initial and ongoing performance evaluations to assist the medical staff office with credentialing.

Chair: Glenn Goldman, M.D., professor in the Division of Dermatology

Research Committee

Mission: Advise the vice chair for research on decisions that impact the research endeavors of department faculty. Other topics include the development and review of policies and procedures relating to research, funding requests, new funding opportunities, changes in federal policies, dissemination of information, and setting new initiatives to enhance research activities.

Chair: Charles Irvin, Ph.D., professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine and vice chair for research

Resident Research Committee

Mission: Provide guidance and resources for residents and fellows performing scholarly research projects, as well as support their mentors. The committee selects the abstracts that are presented at Resident Research Day and Fellow Research Day, as well as selects winners of the Harriet Dustan Award and mentor awards, presented annually at the resident graduation dinner.

Chair: Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine

Scientific Integrity Committee

Mission: Advises the department chair on issues related to policies for reviewing possible scientific fraud.

Chair: Ralph Budd, M.D., professor in the Division of Immunobiology

Retirements and Appointments

Jonathan Hayden, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine and a hospitalist at UVM Medical Center, retired in June after dedicating 32 years of service to patients, students and the UVM community.



Jonathan Hayden, M.D.

Shaden Eldakar-Hein, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, has been named associate course director for Professionalism, Communication and Reflection, a year-long course in the Vermont Integrated Curriculum comprised of small, process-oriented discussion groups with a faculty preceptor once a week. The course facilitates professionalism, develops self-awareness, and helps students find a healthy approach to the emotional challenges of clinical work.



Shaden Eldakar-Hein, M.D.

Dottie Shelc, after 39 amazing years at UVM, retired as administrator for the internal medicine residency program in September. We are excited to welcome two new program administrators: **Nicole Junjulas** and **Mary Thompson**. They will be providing important support to residents and helping to ensure accreditation rules and guidelines are met.

Faculty News

In the Media

Harold Dauerman, M.D., professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, was featured in a local NBC5 news story on August 24, 2017, focused on treating heart patients with leaky mitral valves with the MitroClip device.



Harold Dauerman, M.D.

Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc., professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, was quoted in a CNN story on September 6, 2017, titled “Blood clot risk — and other problems — might be tied to how tall you are.” She commented on a study that appeared in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics* that showed that height can be an independent predictor of risk for venous thromboembolism.



Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc.



Richard Galbraith, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine and UVM's vice president for research, co-authored an opinion piece that appeared in the *Rutland Herald* and *Times-Argus* on June 3, 2017, titled “Research funding pays off.” It discusses how potential cuts to federal research funding stand to impact the University of Vermont, and details why it is important to continue to support scientific research and development.

Richard Galbraith, M.D., Ph.D.

Who Knew?

Scott Luria, M.D., associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics, has been on a lifelong quest to reach the highest points of all 50 states since 1973. He just climbed the “penultimate difficult one,” Gannett Peak of Wyoming. He optimistically looks forward to his next climb: “Only hard one left is Mount Hood in Oregon,” he says.



Scott Luria, M.D.

Meet the Scientist



JASON BOTTEN, Ph.D.

Jason Botten, Ph.D., is on a quest to develop a treatment for an infectious disease that climate change is rendering ever-more dangerous. Carried by rodents, hantavirus infects humans when they breathe contaminated dust from nests or droppings. Botten, an assistant professor in the Division of Immunobiology who has studied hantaviruses for more than 20 years, has assembled an international multidisciplinary team of virologists, clinicians, immunologists and industry partners to develop an effective therapeutic against a cardiopulmonary syndrome

caused by hantaviruses (HCPS), for which there are no FDA-approved treatment options or vaccines. It is responsible for killing roughly 40 percent of afflicted patients. With climate change bringing rodent populations into closer contact with humans, increasing the risk of infection, Botten's therapy has the potential to be a first-line antiviral for the treatment or prevention of hantavirus disease in the Americas. He received a 2017 SPARK-VT grant from UVM to help commercialize his work and move it a step closer to the marketplace.



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