

SPRING 2014

# The chart

News & Notes from the Department of Medicine at the University of Vermont College of Medicine



Department of Medicine faculty are often called upon to serve on national study sections. See "We Review the Science" story on page 6.

**THE DIABETIC PATHWAY TEAM** recently received a Becoming One Award from Fletcher Allen Health Care. The Diabetic Pathway is a systematic approach to controlling hyperglycemia among patients. It has been shown to reduce long term complications, hospital stays, and overall costs. The team used evidence-based best practices to develop standardized pathways to ensure that patients with diabetes receive coordinated care. This project is the model for chronic disease management in concert with Transforming Primary Care. Endocrine Diabetes and Community Health Team Educators collaborated to use standardized diabetes educational materials and practices. The team also created a Diabetes Registry for workbench reporting from PRISM. The Diabetes Registry will serve for workbench reporting, population management, and regulatory requirements.



LEFT to RIGHT: Pam Farnham, Kathy Kinney, Alicia Jacobs, M.D., **JENNIFER GILWEE, M.D.**, Karen McKnight, Dawn Godaيرة, **TAMMY STOCKTON, JOEL SCHNURE, M.D.**, and John King, M.D.. Not pictured: Kristin Nova

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Once again we have a lot to celebrate in this edition of *The Chart*. In addition to all of the news and announcements, the feature article “We Review the Science” and the Division Highlight: Dermatology, document our continued progress and success, and demonstrate our contributions and accomplishments.

Spring is always a time of excitement and change, some of which is bittersweet. We are looking forward to welcoming new residents and fellows, while saying good-bye to our graduates. It helps to know they will flourish in their new careers. The faculty’s continued commitment to clinical care, research, education and service is in evidence as they obtain new grants, publish in high impact journals and earn prestigious recognition and awards. Highlights include new measures in the Choosing Wisely campaign; the integration of primary care and subspecialty medicine expanding beyond diabetes to include asthma and COPD, and the SPARK research program evaluating a second round of applications. The Department is also actively engaged in the development of service lines that will expand across Fletcher Allen Partners, a reorganization of support to enhance our clinical trials enterprise, and a focus on faculty development facilitated by Associate Chair for Faculty Dr. Benjamin Suratt and the Faculty Development Committee chaired by Dr. Laurie Leclair.

I could not be more proud of our faculty, staff, residents, fellows, students and alumni. It is an honor to be part of a Department with such an extraordinary work ethic and record of success!

Polly E. Parsons, M.D.

*E.L. Amidon Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine*



The **chart**



The Chart is published by the Department of Medicine of the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington, Vermont.

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or

THE CHART

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**COVER PHOTO** by Jeff Clarke. On the cover, clockwise from top:

Jack Leahy, M.D., Anne Dixon, B.M., B.Ch., Ralph Budd, M.D., Polly Parsons, M.D., and Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D.



## NEW FACULTY

**C. MATTHEW KINSEY, M.D.**, joined the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division this past fall, and has been busy establishing an interventional radiology program. This is an important new clinical program for our region which allows us to provide the most advanced care particularly for patients with lung cancer.



**MARGARET KENNEDY, M.D., M.S.C.**, arrived in November and will spend the next year staffing the inpatient hematology consult service. She completed her clinical and research fellowships here about 10 years ago and has major interests in benign hematology and thrombosis and hemostasis.



## ACP CHAPTER AWARDS

Several residents received recognition from the Vermont/New Hampshire Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP). They presented at ACP Internal Medicine 2014 on April 11-12, in Orlando, Fla.

Research: **DEVA SHARMA, M.D.** Platelet Agonists and Antagonists Selectively Regulate Release of Platelet-Derived TGF $\beta$ 1 (with Jamie E. Levis, MS, Inder Lal, M.D., and Chris Holmes, M.D., Ph.D.).

Clinical Vignette: **SAM MERRILL, M.D., BENJAMIN KEVESON, M.D.** Unwanted Party Favors: Serotonin Syndrome and Amnesia.

## Faculty Awards and Recognition

**RENEE STAPLETON, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, will receive the Jo Rae Wright Award for Outstanding Science at the American Thoracic Society's (ATS) annual meeting, which will be held in San Diego, Calif., May 6 to 21, 2014. The award recognizes Stapleton's role as a leading researcher in clinical studies in the intensive care unit and her related publications in prominent national medical journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*. This award is based on demonstrated potential for significant scientific achievement, contributions and leadership and honors the late Jo Rae Wright, Ph.D., a former ATS president, who served as dean, vice provost and professor of cell biology, medicine and pediatrics at Duke University's Graduate School.



Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D.

**RALPH BUDD, M.D.**, received the Senior Researcher of the Year Award in December of 2013 from the University of Vermont Medical Group.

**JULIE LIN, M.D.**, recently completed training and received her graduate certificate in Biomedical Informatics at Oregon Health Sciences. She is now officially board certified in clinical informatics through the American Board of Preventive Medicine.

**STEVEN GRANT, M.D.**, was named a Fellow in Hospital Medicine by the Society of Hospital Medicine. Fellowship status recognizes commitment to hospital medicine, system change, and quality improvement principles.



**THE LUNG CANCER DISCIPLINARY TEAM** received the Fletcher Allen Health Care One Team Recognition Award in appreciation of the work they do in the Lung Cancer Multidisciplinary Clinic.

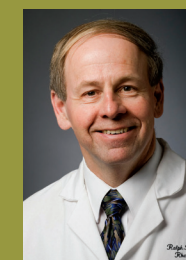
## NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES

**JASON BATES, Ph.D., D.Sc.**, has been named 2014 Chapter Chair, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, Green Mountain Section.



Jason Bates, D.Sc.,  
Professor, Pulmonary

**RALPH BUDD, M.D.**, serves as Chair for NIH U-19 study section on Autoimmunity Centers of Excellence.



Ralph Budd, M.D.,  
Professor and Division  
Chief, Immunobiology

**MARY CUSHMAN, M.D.**, joined the new Board of Directors of UVM's Cardiovascular Research Institute and was elected to the National Board of Directors of the American Heart Association.



Mary Cushman, M.D.,  
Professor, Hematology-  
Oncology

**CHRIS HOLMES, M.D., Ph.D.**, serves on the Thrombosis Committee, American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control.



Chris Holmes, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Associate Professor,  
Hematology-Oncology

## Dermatology

Members of the Division of Dermatology are experts on the largest organ in the human body: the skin. Patients receive state-of-the-art care and benefit from leading-edge research as well as professionals dedicated to teaching the next generation of physicians who will practice not only in Vermont, but around the world.

"We are involved with all facets of dermatology, from the minor to the most serious," says Professor **GLENN GOLDMAN, M.D.**, Dermatology Division Chief. "We have numerous people well-known nationally for their clinical acumen."

The newest members add to the diversity of skill and experience in the division: **LAURA MCGEVNA, M.D.**, comes to the College with a particular interest in women's dermatologic issues. She's working to develop a dermatology clinic in conjunction with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. **JOSEPH PIERSON, M.D.**, serves as the division's residency director and brings with him two decades of experience as a military physician. They join six other physicians, four physician assistants, six residents and one fellow providing expert medical and surgical dermatologic services. Vermont has one of the highest incidence rates of skin cancer in the country, so "treatment here is at the forefront," Goldman says, with all division members keenly aware of developments in the field.

Research in the division ranges from a focus on improving clinical procedures to reforming healthcare delivery systems. **JULIE LIN, M.D.**, who is trained in bioinformatics, has a leadership role in improving PRISM, the electronic medical record system at Fletcher Allen Health



Dermatology Division Chief  
Glenn Goldman, M.D.

Care. She is also developing telemedicine pilot projects. Dr. Goldman and his surgical fellows have collaborated with the Divisions of Pulmonary Medicine, the Department of Surgery, and the UVM biomechanical engineering programs on research focused on skin closure tension in certain flap designs used for surgical incisions. This work has been accepted for presentation for the prestigious Tromovich award at the upcoming meeting of the American College of Mohs Surgery.

The division serves a wide geographic range: Over 25,000 patients annually seek services from all over Vermont, northern New York, and New Hampshire. In addition to a busy clinical practice at Fletcher Allen and an outreach clinic at Ticonderoga, N.Y., the division conducts a free clinic at the Community Health Center of Burlington, offering a range of services to anyone in need, including many patients from the local refugee resettlement community. Division members are often called upon for television and radio interviews educating the public about sun avoidance, proper use of sunscreen, and a variety of other issues related to skin care and cancer prevention. They're also frequent guests for educational programs such as Community Medical School and Community Rounds, two collaborative efforts of the College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen.

The division's expertise in connective tissue diseases, cutaneous lymphoma, Mohs

### DERMATOLOGY at-a-glance

2,178 Mohs surgery cases in 2012-13

200+ Applications per residency slot

28,500 Expected number of clinic patients in 2013-14



FRONT ROW (L TO R): Elizabeth Lester, M.D.; Jamie Alpert, M.D.; Ryan Rogers, M.D.; Jeremy Hugh, M.D.

MIDDLE ROW: Aelayna Meyer, M.D.; Anne Klein, P.A.; Christine Weinberger, M.D.; Julie Lin, M.D.; Debra Roseman, P.A.; Laura McGevna, M.D.; Andrew Tegeder, M.D.; Elizabeth Zeeck, M.D.

BACK ROW: Christine Sowle, P.A.; Glenn Goldman, M.D.; Todd Holmes, M.D.; Richard Callahan, P.A.; Christopher Yelverton, M.D.; Joseph Pierson, M.D.

surgery (a common treatment for certain types of skin cancer), surgical reconstruction, and management of high-risk tumors is an indicator of the top-quality patient care offered. This also generates a high level of interest from students looking to learn from experts in these areas. For the Division's residency program, about 400 applications are received each year for the two available slots. The program's small size allows residents to gain broad experience in medical and surgical dermatology. Residents also take on teaching responsibilities and are expected to present research at local and national meetings. The one-year fellowship program offers comprehensive training for dermatologists seeking advanced competence as a dermatologic surgeon, including extensive experience with facial reconstruction and Mohs Surgery.

The division's reach extends to foreign countries: In recent years dermatologic surgeons have come from Australia, Romania, and Chile for observational experience with the Division. Division members also go abroad to share their knowledge and perform surgical procedures. Goldman says his dermatology

team is one of several across the country who are making that commitment to international work. Having worked in Australia and Chile, Goldman recently visited Romania to perform surgeries and train physicians. Goldman and **TODD HOLMES, M.D.** both plan volunteer trips to South Africa in 2014 and 2015, where there are only three providers equipped to do Mohs Surgery. Goldman's upcoming fellow will be tasked by the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery to develop rigid criteria for international training programs in dermatologic surgery.

"We're training people to continue this work," Goldman says, with a goal to create programs that are self-sustaining.

Whether back in Burlington or around the world, Goldman says the Division of Dermatology prides itself on providing "the highest quality care available" while maintaining a deep commitment to the education of new physicians in the field.

"We have sent our [residents and fellows] off to practice in all areas of dermatology" Goldman says. "They are treating patients across the country."

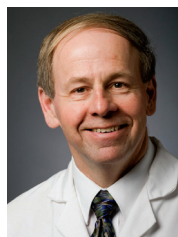


## We Review the Science

Every year, Department of Medicine faculty fan out across the country to help make important decisions about millions of dollars worth of research funding. Through service on study sections for programs affiliated with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as private foundations and professional organizations, faculty give back to the scientific community and help to shape the future of science.

"Faculty are chosen for their expertise," says Department Chair Polly Parsons, M.D. "They have to be nationally-known, and we have many faculty who are called upon to serve." The following are a handful of faculty who are serving on national study sections:

✱ Professor **RALPH BUDD, M.D.**, Immunobiology Division Chief, has a history of study section service that spans two decades, including seven chairperson appointments over the years. With 24 years of

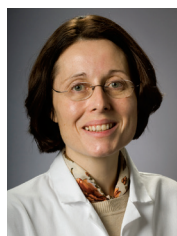


Ralph Budd, M.D.

continuous funding to his credit, and grants totaling more than \$50 million, Budd is often called upon for his expertise in immunobiology. He has reviewed grants for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, and National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, as well as the National Arthritis Foundation and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Merit Review Board for Immunology. He encourages junior faculty to get involved in study sections as early as possible.

"You see what a successful grant looks like," he says. "It's an honor to be asked."

✱ Professor **ANNE DIXON, B.M., B.Ch.**, Director of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, is a member of the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) review panel for the Patient-Oriented and Career Enhancement Award for Stem Cell Research. The panel reviews applications for three awards - K23, K24, and K25 - that support specific career objectives for researchers. Her second commitment is with the Veterans Affairs Merit Review Panel for Pulmonary. She's also an ad hoc reviewer for numerous other groups.



Anne Dixon, B.M., B.Ch.

Dixon's service on study sections - ten over the past decade - has helped her to refine her own grant writing practices, and has underscored for her the importance of developing writing skills.

"It's important to be able to communicate," she says. "If a grant isn't written well, there's the potential for great scientific ideas to fall by the wayside."

✱ Professor **JACK LEAHY, M.D.**, co-director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism, has nearly two decades of experience serving on study sections. He's recently served as an ad hoc reviewer for the NIH



Jack Leahy, M.D.

Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology Study Section, having served as a permanent member

on Metabolism and Cellular Aspects of Diabetes and Obesity study sections for many years. He is currently on the Research Grant Review Panel for the American Diabetes Association. Dr. Leahy's research has focused on the mechanisms underlying diabetes, in particular how the insulin secreting pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell functions in health and disease. There is "nothing more valuable for a young scientist" than doing study section work, he says, especially when it comes to understanding how funding decisions are made and using that to improve grant writing skills.

✱ **E.L. Amidon** Professor and Department of Medicine Chair **POLLY PARSONS, M.D.**, serves on the Scientific Advisory Council for the NHLBI. The council plans for new initiatives and makes final funding recommendations for all NHLBI grant programs. The 18-person council includes a number of physician-scientists as well as



Polly Parsons, M.D.

Emphasis Panels and organizations including the Scientific Council of the Francis Families Foundation and the American Thoracic Society.

✱ **RENEE STAPLETON, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, is on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the American Thoracic Society (ATS), an international organization with over 15,000 members.



Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D.

The committee provides oversight for the grant review process, and is charged with forming Scientific Review Groups for the ATS' grant programs. Last year - Stapleton's first year on the committee - she met with peers in Chicago to review grant applications. Although it's time consuming work that requires diligent attention to detail, it's also very rewarding.

"It's nice to contribute to the scientific mission," she says. "It's a good way to give back."

An expert on acute lung injury and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Stapleton has also been called into service for the NHLBI. In December of 2013, she served on a study section reviewing grant applications to the PETAL Network (Prevention and Treatment of Acute Lung Injury). Acute Lung Injury remains a troubling problem in critically ill populations, affecting roughly 200,000 patients annually in the U.S. alone. The PETAL Network provides long-term grant funding for research on its pathophysiology and clinical treatment options.

“It's an honor to be asked.”

RALPH BUDD, M.D.

policy makers and members of the business community. This "broad-based" council is helpful, Parsons says, when faced with decisions about a wide range of research related to heart, blood vessel, lung and blood diseases. In the past, Parsons has served on the Clinical Trials Review Committee for the NHLBI, as well as several Special

## Grant Highlights

**DANIEL WEISS, M.D., Ph.D.**, is the principal investigator for a 2013-2015 Sponsored Research Project from United Therapeutics Inc. It includes \$167,833 in direct funding for "Decellularization and recellularization of pig lungs as xenogeneic scaffolds."

**ALLEN LEE, M.D.**, received an award titled: "The Role of Inflammation, Immune Activation and Altered Serotonin Signaling in the Pathogenesis of Functional Dyspepsia" from the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society (ANMS) Research Council.

**RALPH BUDD, M.D.**, is the recipient of a Lupus Research Institute grant: RIG-I Regulation Interferon Signature in SLE.

**MERCEDES RINCON, Ph.D.**, is the recipient of an NIH-R21 grant: Regulation of mitochondrial function in T cells.

**GURPREET SINGH LAMBA, M.D.** and **ROBERT KELM, Ph.D.** received a VCC/Lake Champlain Cancer Research Organization (LCCRO) Pilot Award for "Role of Purine-Rich Element Binding Proteins in the Pathogenesis of High-Risk AML."

**KIM DITTUS, M.D., Ph.D.**, received a VCC/LCCRO Pilot Award for "Impact of a Behaviorally Based Weight Loss and Exercise Intervention on Brain Function of Breast Cancer Survivors."

**STEVEN ADES, M.D., M.P.H., JAN NICKLAS, Ph.D., VERNON WALKER, Ph.D.**, and **MARK PLANTE, M.D.C.M.**, received a VCC/LCCRO Pilot Award for "Mitochondrial Mutations and Aggressiveness of Prostate Cancer."

**MARIE WOOD, M.D.**, is principal investigator for a VCC Program Grant titled "MicroRNAs as Predictors of Breast Cancer Development in High Risk Women."

**MARC GREENBLATT, M.D.**, is principal investigator for a VCC Program Grant titled "Pathways and Economics of Implementing New Technologies in Hereditary Colon Cancer Syndromes."

**CHRIS HOLMES, M.D., Ph.D.** received an LCCRO J. Walter Juckett Scholars Award for "Platelet Phenotype Change in Women with Breast Cancer."

## Victoria Buffum Endowment Fund

The Victoria Buffum Endowment was funded through the personal philanthropy of Victoria Buffum, a cancer patient treated at Fletcher Allen who died from the disease in 2002, at age 58. The following faculty have received awards:

**KIM DITTUS, M.D., Ph.D.**, for "Earlier Intervention in Oncology Rehabilitation."



**SUSAN LAKOSKI, M.D.**, for "Exercise Therapy Education and Nutritional Direction after Venous Thromboembolism."



## UVM REACH AWARDS

The following Department of Medicine faculty have received UVM REACH Awards, which provide seed money to support larger applications for external funding:

- **THOMAS JETTON, Ph.D., DHANANJAY GUPTA, Ph.D.**, and **MERCEDES RINCON, Ph.D.** (with Jane Kraft, Ph.D. and Alexander Wurthmann, Ph.D.) received a REACH award for "Studying the Role of Dairy-Derived Bioactive Lipids as a Nutritional Intervention Targeting the Pathogenesis of Diabetes Mellitus."
- **MERCEDES RINCON, Ph.D.** received a REACH award with Christopher Landry, Ph.D., for "A New Inhalable Treatment for Allergic Asthma."

## PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Peel AB, Thomas SM, **DITTUS K**, Jones LW, **LAKOSKI SG**. Cardiorespiratory Fitness in Breast Cancer Patients: A Call for Normative Values. *J. Am. Heart Association* 2014; 3:e000432; originally published January 13, 2014.

Chen HH, Anstrom KJ, Givertz MM, Stevenson LW, Semigran MJ, Goldsmith SR, Bart BA, Bull DA, Stehlik J, **LEWINTER MM**, Konstam MA, Huggins GS, Rouleau JL, O'Meara E, Tang WH, Starling RC, Butler J, Deswal A, Felker GM, O'Connor CM, Bonita RE, Margulies KB, Cappola TP, Ofili EO, Mann DL, Dávila-Román VG, McNulty SE, Borlaug BA, Velazquez EJ, Lee KL, Shah MR, Hernandez AF, Braunwald E, Redfield MM. Low-dose dopamine or low-dose Nesiritide in acute heart failure with renal dysfunction: The ROSE acute heart failure randomized trial. *JAMA*. 310:3533-3543, 2014.

Bramwell KK, Ma Y, Weis JH, Chen X, Zachary JF, **TEUSCHER C**, Weis JJ. Lysosomal  $\beta$ -glucuronidase regulates Lyme and rheumatoid arthritis severity. *J Clin Invest*. 2014 Jan 2;124(1):311-20. Epub 2013 Dec 16. PMID: 24334460 / PMCID: PMC3871255.

Sateriale A, Roy N, **HUSTON C**. SNAP-Tag Technology Optimized for Use in *Entamoeba histolytica*. *PLOS* Vol. 8, Issue 12. December 2013

Soliman EZ, Safford MM, Muntner P, Khodneva Y, Dawood FZ, **ZAKAI NA**, Thacker EL, Howard VJ, Howard G, Herrington DH, Cushman M. Atrial fibrillation and the risk of myocardial infarction. *JAMA Intern Med* 2014;174:107-14.

**WOOD ME**, Kadluek P, Pham TH, Wollins DS, Lu KH, Weitzel JN, Neuss MN, Hughes KS. Quality of Cancer Family History and Referral for Genetic Counseling and Testing Among Oncology Practices: A Pilot Test of Quality Measures As Part of the American Society of Clinical Oncology Quality Oncology Practice Initiative. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014 Feb 3. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:24493722 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher.]

Corey K, Cook D, Bekker J, Mugnaini E, **LIN JH**. A case of refractory sézary syndrome with large-cell transformation responsive to brentuximab vedotin. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2014 Feb 1;150(2):210-2. doi: 10.1001/jamadermatol.2013.5741. PMID:24352253

Lichon V, **GOLDMAN G**. Treatment of nonmelanoma skin cancer. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2013 Dec 9-23;173(22):2096. doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2013.10429. PMID:24322470

**HOLMES TE**. Crescentic apical triangle island pedicle flap for repair of the medial upper lip. *Dermatol Surg*. 2013 May;39(5):784-8. doi: 10.1111/dsu.12096. Epub 2013 Jan 17. PMID:23331853

**HOLMES CE**, Bambace NM, Lewis P, Callas PW, **CUSHMAN M**. Efficacy of a short course of complex lymphedema therapy or graduated compression stocking therapy in the treatment of post-thrombotic syndrome. *Vascular Medicine*. Volume 19 Issue 1 February 2014 pp. 42 - 48.

## MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The University of Vermont has announced a new Master of Public Health program, a collaborative graduate program between the College of Medicine, the Graduate College at UVM, and Continuing and Distance Education. The new 42-credit online master's degree program was approved by the UVM Board of Trustees in February and is now open for fall 2014 admission. Professor **JAN CARNEY, M.D., M.P.H.**, the College's associate dean for public health, is the program director for the new Master of Public Health, which is the first online public health graduate program in Vermont, as well as the UVM Certificate of Graduate Study in Public Health. Graduate students accepted into the M.P.H. program will have the opportunity to explore current public health and health policy issues while gaining a strong foundation in population health sciences.



## HOUSE STAFF – PUBLICATIONS

**SHARMA D, BRUMMEL-ZIEDINS KE, BOUCHARD BE** and **HOLMES, CE**. Platelets in Tumor Progression: A Host Factor that Offers Multiple Potential Targets in the Treatment of Cancer. *J Cell Physiol*. 2013 Dec 20. doi: 10.1002/jcp.24539

**MCMAHON S**, Kikut J, **PINCKNEY R, KEATING F**. Feasibility of stress only rubidium-82 PET myocardial perfusion imaging. *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology* 2013 Aug 17

**LICHON V, GOLDMAN G**. Treatment of nonmelanoma skin cancer. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2013 Dec 9-23;173(22):2096. doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2013.10429. PMID:24322470

## REGIONAL/NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

**VANESSA LICHON, M.D.**, the most recent graduate of the Dermatology fellowship program, will be presenting her flap tension vector research at the upcoming American College of Mohs Surgery meeting in competition for the Tromovich award.

Resident **DAMON HOUGHTON, M.D.**, presented "Validation Of Medical Inpatient Venous Thrombosis Risk Assessment (MITH) Score" at the Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society in Stowe, Vt., in November of 2013. He also presented "Prediction of Hospital Acquired Venous Thrombosis in Cancer Patients using the MITH Score" at the American Society of Hematology in New Orleans in December of 2013.

**MARY CUSHMAN, M.D., CHRIS HUSTON, M.D., ALLEN REPP, M.D.,** and **NEIL ZAKAI, M.D.**, with residents **DAMON HOUGHTON, M.D.**, and **SAMUEL MERRILL, M.D.**, and Hematology-Oncology fellow **JOHN WINTERS, M.D.**, and colleagues presented a poster session "Clostridium Difficile As a Risk Factor For Hospital-Acquired Venous Thrombosis in Medical Inpatients" at the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting in New Orleans in December of 2013.



## Long-time Course Director Honored at Foundations Course Awards

This year's Foundations Awards ceremony celebrated the many accomplishments of UVM Associate Professor **WILLIAM HOPKINS, M.D.**, (above, with second-year students), who stepped down as Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Renal Systems (CRR) Course Director after eight years in the role. Beloved by students for his approachable demeanor and teaching style, he's garnered many Foundations awards over the years, and this year was no exception. He won from the Class of 2016 the Outstanding Foundation Course Award for CRR, as well as the Foundations Course Director Award, and the Dean Warshaw Integration Award, given to the faculty member who best exemplifies the spirit of the Vermont Integrated Curriculum (VIC). His nine-week CRR course – during year two of the Foundations level of the VIC – has won accolades from students many times over the years for its design and the comprehensiveness of its content.

## Student Publications

College of Medicine student **BENJAMIN EARLE '16** co-authored an article published in *Stem Cells* titled "Endogenous Distal Airway Progenitor Cells, Lung Mechanics, and Disproportionate Lobar Growth following Long-Term Post-Pneumonectomy in Mice." Co-authors on the study include Professor Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor Lennart Lundblad, Ph.D., and Associate Professor Gilman Allen, M.D.



Benjamin Earle '16



Amanda Peel '15

College of Medicine student **AMANDA PEEL '15** was first author of an article titled "Cardiorespiratory Fitness in Breast Cancer Patients: a Call for Normative Values" in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*. Assistant Professor Susan Lakoski, M.D., Assistant Professor Kim Dittus, M.D., Ph.D., and colleagues from Duke Cancer Institute were co-authors on the paper.

Faculty members in the Department of Medicine also collaborate with UVM undergraduates on research and publications. Recent articles include:

**SHANNON LI**, Minara Aliyeva, Nirav Daphtary, Rebecca A. Martin, Matthew E. Poynter, Shannon F. Kostin, Jos L. van der Velden, Alexandra M. Hyman, Christopher S. Stevenson, Jonathan E. Phillips and Lennart K.A. Lundblad. *Am J Physiol - Lung*. 2014 306(2):196-206.

Kaminsky DA, Knyazhitskiy A, **SADEGHI A**, Irvin CG. Assessing maximal exercise capacity: peak work or peak oxygen consumption? *Respir Care*. 2014 Jan;59(1):90-6. PMID: 23777656.



## 2014-2015 Tisdale Speakers Announced

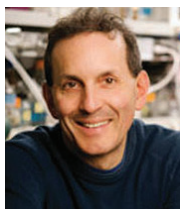
The Department of Medicine is looking forward to hosting the following Tisdale Speakers during the 2014-15 academic year. The Tisdale Lecture Series is named for our previous department chair William Allen Tisdale, M.D. Dr. Tisdale came to Burlington in 1965 as Chair of the Department of Medicine, a position he held until 1974. The Tisdale Lecture Series was founded in his honor in 1995.



Curtis Harris, M.D.

**CURTIS HARRIS, M.D.**, Chief of the Lab of Human Carcinogenesis, National Cancer Institute (Host: Marc Greenblatt, M.D.)

The outstanding scientific contributions of Dr. Harris to the fields of molecular carcinogenesis and molecular epidemiology of human cancer, has placed him at the international forefront. His research on environmental carcinogenesis, cancer risk factors and molecular genetics of human carcinogenesis, p53 and microRNA pathways, has significantly impacted the field of cancer risk assessment and our understanding of the molecular pathogenesis of human cancer.



Dan Drucker, M.D.

**DAN DRUCKER, M.D.**, University of Toronto (Host: Jack Leahy, M.D.)

Dr. Drucker studies a family of hormones produced in the pancreas, gastrointestinal tract and brain that regulate the absorption of nutrients and their conversion to energy. His lab develops analogues of pharmaceutical compositions that mimic and enhance the ability of these hormones to regulate these functions. These analogues have real potential to lead to new and better treatments for diseases such as diabetes and obesity that afflict millions of people worldwide.



Rafi Ahmed, Ph.D.

**RAFI AHMED, Ph.D.**, Emory University (Host: Sean Diehl, Ph.D.)

Dr. Ahmed is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a world-renowned immunologist. He has made numerous seminal contributions in the study of vaccines, immunological memory, immune response to viral infections, and the metabolic regulation of lymphocytes.

who  
KNEW?



**BEN LITTENBERG, M.D., DANIEL WEISS, M.D., Ph.D., LENNART LUNDBLAD, Ph.D., and GERALD DAVIS, M.D.**, performed with the Burlington Civic Symphony Orchestra at the Elley-Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont. The program included Copland's *Third Symphony*, Mozart's *Posthorn Serenade in D (K. 320)* and Marconi's *Concert Overture*.

**DANIEL WEISS, M.D., Ph.D.**, is the founder and president of the Northwest Mahler Festival, established 1995 in Seattle, and the Green Mountain Mahler Festival, founded in 2002 in Burlington. Both are registered 501c-3 non-profit organizations dedicated to providing opportunities for local area musicians to experience large romantic works of turn of the century composers.

### in the MEDIA

**CHARLES IRVIN, Ph.D.**, was one of three experts featured in a Med Page Today Hot Topics video, published Jan. 16. Irvin and colleagues discussed what they thought would be the most important clinical development in asthma in 2014.



**MARIE WOOD, M.D.**, commented on risk factors for ovarian cancer in young women for a March 6 story on WCAX-TV's Health Watch. Fletcher Allen's familial cancer program contributed to a large-scale study she discussed.



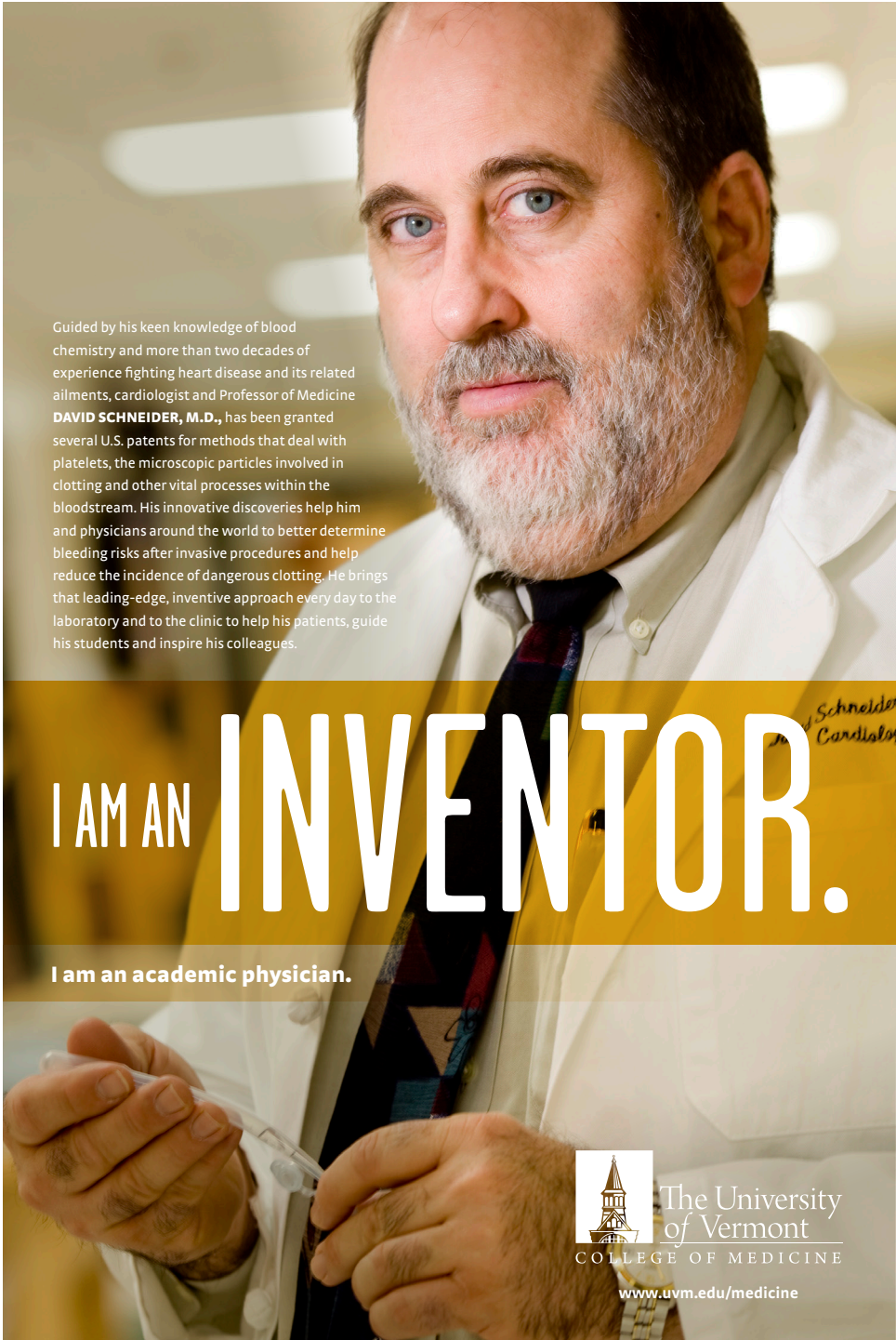
**JASON BOTTEN, Ph.D.**, is working with LabTV on a new video series supported by the NIH and Google. The profiles, to be shot by a UVM filmmaker, will focus on young investigators aged 36 and under.



**CHARLES MACLEAN, M.D.**, discussed the shortage of primary care doctors in rural Vermont and the U.S. for a segment that aired on ABC-22 Jan. 30.





A portrait of David Schneider, M.D., a middle-aged man with a grey beard and blue eyes, wearing a white lab coat over a light-colored shirt and a dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting. A yellow horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'I AM AN INVENTOR.' and 'I am an academic physician.'

Guided by his keen knowledge of blood chemistry and more than two decades of experience fighting heart disease and its related ailments, cardiologist and Professor of Medicine **DAVID SCHNEIDER, M.D.**, has been granted several U.S. patents for methods that deal with platelets, the microscopic particles involved in clotting and other vital processes within the bloodstream. His innovative discoveries help him and physicians around the world to better determine bleeding risks after invasive procedures and help reduce the incidence of dangerous clotting. He brings that leading-edge, inventive approach every day to the laboratory and to the clinic to help his patients, guide his students and inspire his colleagues.

# I AM AN INVENTOR.

**I am an academic physician.**



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