

SPRING 2012

The chart

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



Division of Hematology/Oncology Profile



Internal medicine resident Samreen Raza, MD (center) consults with Oncology Clinical Pharmacist Ryan Daley, PharmD.

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It was a challenge to get this edition of The Chart finalized because we had to keep updating the drafts-and we still couldn't include all the accomplishments. In this issue we have two feature articles: the Hematology-Oncology Division and the Dermatology Residency and Fellowship Program. The success of the faculty, fellows and residents continues to be amazing with new clinical programs, research grants, publications, presentations and national recognition. Their interests and contributions outside of work are equally impressive – be sure to read the “Who Knew” section. In the last newsletter we highlighted our Faculty Showcase, featuring six Department of Medicine faculty and their roles in education, research and service. I am very pleased to note the showcase received an Bronze Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District I, and we look forward to extending the Showcase project to other faculty in the near future. The publication of this newsletter also coincides with a complete revision of our UVM College of Medicine website. Visit www.uvm.edu/medicine to read even more about the department.



Polly E. Parsons, MD

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

The chart

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or

THE CHART

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On the cover: Claire Verschraegen, MD and medical student Michael Boggs care for patient Larry Roberts.

Cover photo by: Raj Chawla, UVM Medical Photography

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Mireille Anawati, MD
Assistant Professor, Primary
Care Internal Medicine



Ryan Clouser, DO
Assistant Professor, Pulmonary
& Critical Care Medicine



Garth Garrison, MD
Assistant Professor, Pulmonary
& Critical Care Medicine



Dhananjay Gupta, PhD
Assistant Professor
Endocrinology



Andreas Koenig, PhD
Research Associate
Immunobiology



Emiliano Mugnaini, MD
Assistant Professor
Hematology/Oncology



Charlotte Teneback, MD
Assistant Professor, Pulmonary
& Critical Care Medicine

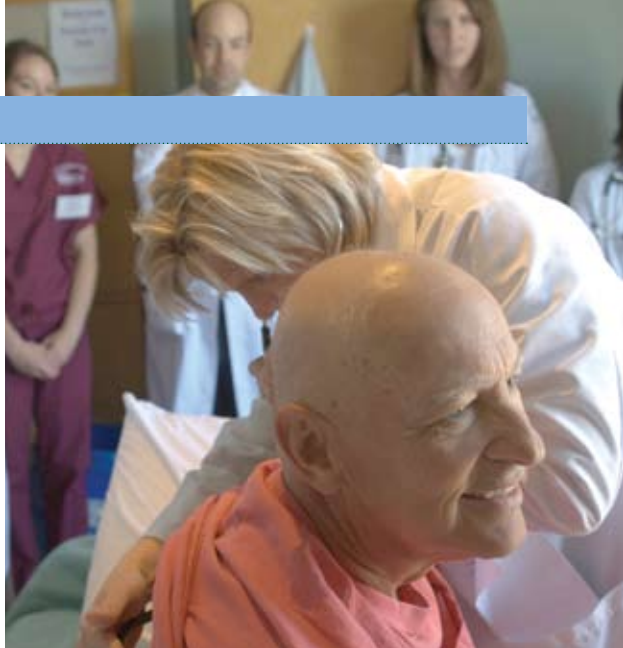


Christopher Yelverton, MD
Assistant Professor
Dermatology



Mia Hockett, MD
Assistant Professor
Primary Care Internal Medicine

Also:
Haitham Nsour, MD
Assistant Professor
Pulmonary & Critical Care
Medicine
James Trice, MD
Assistant Professor
Rheumatology



Department Faculty Make Top Doctors

The 2011 Annual Top Doctors list from Vermont and northern New York includes seven physicians from the Department of Medicine. This annual list, compiled by *U.S. News and World Report* in a survey of 10,000 specialists and review of data from almost 5,000 hospitals, recognizes physicians nominated by their peers, and highlights those who are ranked within the top 1 percent (marked by asterisk) nationally.

ENDOCRINOLOGY

Muriel Nathan, MD, PhD

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

Steven Grunberg, MD* and Claire Verschraegen, MD*

NEPHROLOGY

Virginia Hood, MD and Richard Solomon, MD

PULMONOLOGY

Polly Parsons, MD*

RHEUMATOLOGY

Sheldon Cooper, MD

Specialty areas ranked as "High Performing" included **GASTROENTEROLOGY** and **NEPHROLOGY**, indicating that their performance was competitive with nationally ranked U.S. News Best Hospitals.

FACULTY NEWS

Now in its eighth edition, *Kelley's Textbook of Rheumatology* has long been considered the bible of rheumatology and is the largest-selling text in the field. Edited by **RALPH BUDD, MD**, and five other senior editors, the textbook was recently translated into Chinese.



At the American Medical Informatics Association 2011 Annual Symposium, **ELIZABETH CHEN, PhD**, received a Distinguished Paper Awards for co-authoring *A multi-site content analysis of social history information in clinical notes*. Dr. Chen and Ben Littenberg, MD, also presented a poster, *Assessing disease co-occurrences using association rule mining and public health data sets*. The AMIA Annual Symposium is the world's most comprehensive annual meeting on biomedical and health informatics.



TIM CHRISTIAN, MD, has completed his MPA at Harvard and has been accepted as a senior fellow in the Business and Government Center at the Kennedy School. He will resume his clinical efforts with imaging and participate in the new consult service.

MERCEDES RINCON, PhD, was invited by the National Institutes of Health to serve as a member of the Cellular and Molecular Immunology – A Study Section, Center for Scientific Review through June 30, 2017. Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors.



DANIEL WEISS, MD, PhD, was named the American Lung Association (ALA) National Volunteer of the Week for the week of November 28, 2011. Weiss is a volunteer member of

the ALA Scientific Advisory Committee and serves as chair of the ALA Basic Science Peer Review Committee. His volunteer work has been influential in helping the ALA in improving lung health – the organization's core mission.

MARY CUSHMAN, MD, MSc, presented at the American Heart Association's 2011 Scientific Sessions. The study followed 17,820 adults without vascular disease for 4.6 years.

Cushman and research colleagues analyzed the impact of the American Heart Association's Life's Simple 7 behavioral/lifestyle plan risk of death, showing that even a small change would go a long way in improving cardiovascular health and reducing deaths.





Front row: Drs. Marie Wood, Barbara Grant, Mary Cushman, Julian Sprague, Claire Verschraegen, Steven Grunberg. Middle row: Drs. Farrah Khan, Patti O'Brien, Neil Zakai, Kim Dittus, Chris Holmes. Back row: Drs. Marc Greenblatt, Steven Emmons, Steven Ades. Not shown: Dr. Emilio Mugnaini.

Hematology and Oncology

The commitment to excellence is evident throughout the Hematology/Oncology Division. The same faculty who work with patients to determine a diagnosis, identify the best treatments or support the end of life experience are also conducting innovative, world-class research and teaching the next generation of physicians and health care professionals.

That's the primary reason why Claire Verschraegen, MD, MS, FACP, new chief of hematology/oncology, accepted her current position. And her approach for achieving her vision depends on maximizing that excellence. This includes facilitating patient communication and treatment in a more cohesive way through the expansion of the unit's disease-specific multidisciplinary clinics, as well as increasing the number of research grants in the unit. "I'm trying to empower people to be the best they can be," she says.

A board-certified oncologist specializing in the treatment of rare cancers and new anticancer drugs and treatments for solid tumors, Verschraegen joined UVM in June 2011 as professor of medicine and interim director of the Vermont Cancer Center, and in November 2011, was named the Irwin H. Krakoff, MD, Endowed Green & Gold Professor.

The Hematology/Oncology leadership team includes Marie Wood, MD, hematology/oncology deputy director; Steven Grunberg, MD, clinics director; Steven Ades, MD, inpatient director; Mary Cushman, MD, hemostasis section director; Julian Sprague, MD, PhD, fellowship program director; and Marc Greenblatt, MD, PhD, Grand Rounds director.

LINKING IMPROVED PATIENT CARE WITH RESEARCH DISCOVERIES

The Division, which features 16 faculty physicians, six fellows, seven nurse practitioners, and a postdoctoral associate, is focused on improving care for patients, working together to identify

better ways to prevent disease, treat patients more effectively, diagnose patients' disease earlier, and prevent relapse. Plans are underway to expand the current multidisciplinary clinics to help reach these goals. Wood is leading this restructuring effort.

The new structure focuses on tumor-type subspecialty "pods" that include a physician, nurse team and health team, along with a patient scheduler, who work together at the same time. All patient information recorded in the electronic health record PRISM will also be used for hematology/oncology outcome research. "This approach will facilitate communication and treatment in a more cohesive way," says Verschraegen.

A renovation of the current Hematology/Oncology outpatient space in the Ambulatory Care Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care is underway, with completion targeted for April 2012. In December 2011, Grunberg began piloting a support team model for the multidisciplinary clinic with lung, head and neck cancer patients, working with a single medical assistant and nurse on all cases. If successful, the approach will be applied to the entire multidisciplinary clinic.

"In order to provide the best care possible to our patients, clinical and scientific colleagues need to communicate consistently about how to address the problems that are preventing better care," says Verschraegen. "That can happen at every level – diagnostic, prevention, survivorship, population science – not just with treatment," she adds.

The Division is currently recruiting for physician-scientists who specialize in malignant hematology, benign hematology, breast cancer, genitourinary malignancies and drug development. Assistant Professor Emiliano Mugnaini, MD, PhD, a specialist in hematologic malignancies who recently joined UVM/Fletcher Allen, splits his time between clinical care and basic/translational research.

In January 2012, the Vermont Cancer Center held its first scientific retreat. Over seventy Cancer Center members with various specialties participated. These basic science and clinical investigators teamed together and were charged with pursuing specific cancer research themes to enhance the portfolio of the Vermont Cancer Center. "I will support these teams with pilot and bridge funding to help attract federal funding, in order to build up the program, especially in the area of translational research," says Verschraegen. This retreat was extremely successful in bringing various areas of expertise together to solve some common clinical issues that cancer patients face, such as coagulation problems during treatment, rehabilitation after chemotherapy, and other important areas, such as survivorship after a cancer journey or basic understanding of the cancer cell.

ENSURING A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE WITH EDUCATION

The Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program, which recruits two new physicians for three years of subspecialty training each year, provides fellows with full-time academic appointments in the Department, multiple

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HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY at-a-glance

24,506 Number of clinic visits
\$1,307,896 External research funding
139 Clinical protocols opened
80 Peer-reviewed journal publications

Statistics from FY2011



Anne Dixon, MD

Obesity and Asthma

A recent study by **ANNE DIXON, MD**, and colleagues published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* looked at how obesity and weight loss – or bariatric – surgery affect asthma control, airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR), and markers of asthmatic inflammation. The findings that asthma in obese individuals is due to a combination of the effects of weight on airway function, and metabolic changes in fat affecting the airways has set Dixon and colleagues on a new path to identifying a treatment for obese asthmatics. Department coauthors on the study include **DAVID KAMINSKY, MD**, **LAURIE WHITTAKER-LECLAIR, MD**, **JAYANTHI GARUDATHRI, MS**, **DANIELLE RAYMOND, BS**, **MATHEW POYNTER, PhD**, and **CHARLES IRVIN, PhD**.



Daniel Lustgarten, MD, PhD

Lustgarten Participates in Multi-center PREVAIL Trial

DANIEL LUSTGARTEN, MD, PhD, is the site principal investigator for a Phase 3 clinical trial called PREVAIL – Prospective Randomized Evaluation of the Watchman LAA (Left Atrial Appendage) Closure Device In Patients with Atrial Fibrillation Versus Long Term Warfarin Therapy – which is examining the effectiveness of a new device that could reduce the need for blood thinners and reduce severe stroke risk for patients with atrial fibrillation. UVM/Fletcher Allen is in the top six enrolling centers out of 42 centers participating in PREVAIL and is the only study site north of Boston. UVM/Fletcher Allen aims to enroll about 40 participants in PREVAIL and follow them for five years.



Renee Stapleton, MD, PhD

Stapleton Receives \$683,532 K23 Grant

RENEE STAPLETON, MD, PhD, was awarded a four-year, \$683,532 K23 award from the NHLBI to investigate the pharmacologic behavior and to perform a phase I dose-finding study of zinc in patients with severe sepsis. K23 awards are directed for mentored career development for patient-centered research, providing research funding and protected time to further career development through expert mentoring and a specific educational plan. Dr. Stapleton will use this funding to conduct translational research on nutrition and pharmaconutrients in critically ill patients with sepsis, a syndrome that is common in critical illness and has an enormous public health impact.

SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES IMPACT OF OBESITY EPIDEMIC ON LUNG DISEASE

Leading U.S. and international researchers in obesity and lung disease gathered in Stowe for the Fall 2011 Pulmonary Research Group Symposium, titled "Obesity: A Modifier of Immunity and Inflammation in the Lung." The event was co-organized by UVM faculty members **BENJAMIN SURATT, MD**, **ANNE DIXON, MD**, and **LENNART K.A. LUNDBLAD, PHD**. At the symposium, experts from around the world reviewed the current state of knowledge pertaining to the effects of obesity on immunity and inflammation in the lung, with the goal of identifying priorities for new research in this field.

RESIDENTS PRESENT

The Department was well represented at the American College of Physicians Vermont Chapter Meeting in Fall 2011, with a number of residents presenting posters:

ANISH AMIN, MD; Nathaniel Thompson, MD; Martin Lewinter, MD

MOHAMED-ALI BABI, MD;
JUSTIN STINNETT-DONNELLY, MD

DAN COLLINS, MD; Rebecca Wilcox, MD; Muriel Nathan, MD; Richard Zubarik, MD

EMILY GLICK, MD; **CARL HENDERSON, DO**;
John Fitzgerald, MD

ELIZABETH NIMMICH, MD; **ANNE BANTLE, MD**

MITCHELL NIMMICH, MD;
PATRICK HOHL, DO, MPH

WILLIAM PRABHU, MD; Jeff Coppage MD; Timothy Fries MD

SAMREEN R RAZA, MD; Paul Slavik, MD

JUSTIN STINNETT-DONNELLY, MD;
Stephanie Mariorenzi; Abigail Trutor, MBA

RESEARCH NOTABLES

The joint efforts of Nephrology and Cardiology have brought two national clinical trials to UVM/Fletcher Allen:

- BOSS – the largest trial of high dose bicarbonate therapy for the prevention of acute kidney injury in patients undergoing cardiac catheterization. National PI's are **RICHARD SOLOMON, MD** and **HAROLD DAUERMAN, MD**.

- SIMPLICITY-HTN2: a multicenter trial for catheter-based renal nerve ablation for the treatment of refractory hypertension.



Richard Solomon, MD



Harold Dauerman, MD

Two research teams received 2011 Investigator-Initiated Research Awards from the UVM Medical Group. Grants are awarded to projects that will enhance multidisciplinary and multi-departmental projects and comes with a two-year, \$50,000 grant funded by Fletcher Allen.

MURIEL NATHAN, MD, PhD, and

surgery colleague Daniel Bertges, MD, received a grant to conduct a controlled quality improvement project designed to test the effect

of aggressive perioperative insulin

management on both perioperative glucose control, and short-term infectious complication in both diabetic and non-diabetic subjects undergoing peripheral vascular surgery.



Muriel Nathan, MD, PhD

MARIE WOOD, MD, and surgery

colleague Brian Sprague, PhD, received a grant to study the relationship between inflammation and increased breast density in a population of women at increased

risk for breast cancer, along with the ability to stratify patients based on body mass and menopausal status.



Marie Wood, MD



Dr. Harold Dauerman

Latest Treatments for Cardiac Catheterization Patients

In February 2012, cardiologists **HAROLD DAUERMAN, MD**, and **JOSEPH SCHMOKER, MD**, led a team of specialists in replacing the aortic valves of two patients with severe aortic stenosis. UVM/Fletcher Allen is one of a select group of clinical sites participating in a new clinical trial for this common heart disease, evaluating the safety and effectiveness of a new technology that enables aortic valve replacement without traditional open-heart surgery.

Many patients with severe aortic stenosis are unable to receive surgical valve therapy. For patients at high-risk for open-heart surgery, this trial will study the efficacy of a less-invasive, percutaneous treatment option. Every high risk patient who is considered for the clinical trial will be evaluated by a comprehensive Heart Team including interventional cardiologists and cardiac surgeons.

This clinical trial aims to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of the Medtronic CoreValve®

System, an investigational technology that enables aortic valve replacement without the need for traditional open-heart surgery (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation – TAVI). This system allows access to the diseased aortic valve via a femoral artery in the leg and does not require heart-lung bypass.

“There is significant need for a new treatment option for patients with aortic stenosis, and it is enormously rewarding that we can be part of evaluating this new treatment option,” said Dr. Dauerman. “Because open-heart surgery is the most commonly available treatment option for these patients, and because the risks of surgery can be significant for many patients, the medical community is enthusiastic about the less-invasive option for these patients.”

In the U.S., the CoreValve System will not be commercially available until the successful completion of this clinical trial and approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Recent Publications

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DIENZ O, Rud JG, Eaton SM, Lanthier PA, Burg E, Drew A, Bunn J, **SURATT BT**, Haynes L, **RINCON M**. Essential role of IL-6 in protection against H1N1 influenza virus by promoting neutrophil survival in the lung. *Mucosal Immunol*. 2012 Feb 1.

DIXON AE. Long-acting β -agonists and asthma: the saga continues. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2011 Dec 1;184(11):1220-1.

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Ghany MG, Nelson DR, **STRADER DB**, Thomas DL, Seeff LB; American Association for Study of Liver Diseases. An update on treatment of genotype 1 chronic hepatitis C virus infection: 2011 practice guideline by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. *Hepatology*. 2011 Oct;54(4):1433-44.

KAMINSKY DA, **MARCY T**, Dorwaldt A, **PINCKNEY R**, DeSarno M, Solomon L, Hughes, J. Motivating smokers in the hospital pulmonary function lab to quit smoking by use of the lung age concept. *Nicot and Tob Research* 2011 Nov;13:1161-66.

MARTINO JL, **STAPLETON RD**, Wang M, Day AG, Cahill NE, **DIXON AE**, **SURATT BT**, Heyland DK. Extreme Obesity and Outcomes in Critically Ill Patients. *Chest* 2011 Nov;140:1198-206.

Mega JL, Braunwald E, Wiviott SD, Bassand JP, Bhatt DL, Bode C, Burton P, Cohen M, Cook-Bruns N, Fox KAA, Goto S, Murphy SA, Plotnikov AN, **SCHNEIDER D**, Sun X, Verheugt FWA, Gibson M. Rivaroxaban in Patients after an Acute Coronary Syndrome. *N Engl J Med*. 2012; 366:9-19

Sinclair N, **LITTENBERG B**, Geller B, Muss H. Accuracy of Screening Mammograms in Older Women. *AJR – Am J Roentgenology* 2011 Nov; 197(5):1268-73.

STINNETT-DONNELLY JM, **THOMPSON N**, Habel N, Petrov-Kondratov V, **CORREA DE SA DD**, **BATES JH**, **SPECTOR PS**. Effects of electrode size and spacing on the resolution of intracardiac electrograms. *Coron Artery Dis*. 2012 Mar;23(2):126-32.

Ye H, **CHEN ES**. Attribute Utility Motivated k-anonymization of datasets to support the heterogeneous needs of biomedical researchers. *AMIA Annu Symp Proc*. 2011;2011:1573-82. Epub 2011 Oct 22.

ZUBARIK R, **GANGULY E**. The Rosemont criteria can predict a pain response to pancreatic enzyme supplementation in patients with suspected chronic pancreatitis undergoing Endoscopic Ultrasound. *Gut and Liver* 2011 December; 005(04): 521-526.

2011 CLASS OF FELLOWS

The most recent graduates of our fellowship programs have moved on to research, additional training and/or clinical practice.

CARDIOLOGY

PHILLIP ANDERSON, MD, Orlando, FL

NEIL AGRAWAL, MD, Oklahoma City, OK

JOACHIM MUELLER, MD, Berlin, VT

DERMATOLOGY

CHRISTOPHER YELVERTON, MD

Joined the faculty at UVM/Fletcher Allen

GASTROENTEROLOGY

SRINIVASAN SUBRAMANIAN, MD

Salem Endoscopy Center and Salem Health
Salem, OR

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

NADIA BAMBACE, MD

Stem Cell Transplantation Fellowship
McGill University, Montreal, Canada

MASANORI MORI, MD

Palliative Care Physician at Seirei Hamamatsu
General Hospital, Ikyoku, Shizuoka, Japan

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

CINDY NOYES, MD

Joined the faculty at UVM/
Fletcher Allen

NEPHROLOGY

AIZED IMTIAZ, MD, Chicago, IL

LU HUBER, MD, Berlin, Germany

PULMONARY

JENNY MARTINO, MD

Southwest Washington Medical Center
Vancouver, WA

PREMA MENON, MD

Post-Doc Fellowship, Fletcher Allen

KRISHNENDU BHADRA, MD

Memorial Hospital, Chattanooga, TN

RHEUMATOLOGY

LYNDA TILLUCKDHARRY, MD, Trinidad

Foundations Awards

Students in the College of Medicine's Class of 2014 held a celebration and awards reception January 27, 2012 to mark their completion of Foundations, the first of three levels in the Vermont Integrated Curriculum. **WILLIAM HOPKINS, MD**, was honored with the *Foundations Course Director Award* and the *AMSA Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching*, and **CARDIOVASCULAR, RESPIRATORY AND RENAL SYSTEMS**, directed by Dr. Hopkins, garnered the award for *Outstanding Foundations Course*.

ALAN RUBIN, MD, was selected as the Graduate Medical Education Teacher of the Year by the UVM Medical Group for his contributions as a teacher, mentor and role model for residents and medical students. The UVM Medical Group recognition award carries a \$1,500 cash award and a \$6,000 block grant.

GME Spotlight: Dermatology Residents and Fellows

The residency and procedural dermatology fellowship programs train exceptionally qualified physicians, and recently received a five-year AC-GME residency review cycle with no citations. The Division increased the number of residents this past year to two per year. Continuing an excellent employment track record, four recent graduates are in private practice in general dermatology and three have gone on to complete fellowships in procedural dermatology and begin their careers in academic medicine. Dr. Todd Holmes joined the faculty here at UVM/Fletcher Allen, and Dr. Melissa Pugliano-Mauro has started a new Mohs surgery unit in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh. The Division also hosts residents from other institutions for rotations in subspecialty areas of dermatology, especially in surgery, in which Dr. Goldman is a preceptor for the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery.

On average, 250 applications are received for residency spots annually, and approximately 40 applications are received for the single

procedural dermatology fellowship slot. Residents and fellows present regularly at local and regional meetings, and in the last three years the procedural dermatology fellows have been first author on two major studies published in the dermatologic surgery literature. This year, residents were involved in several local skin screenings. Procedural dermatology fellow Dr. Ani Tajirian is the video editor of a major textbook of flap reconstruction surgery being authored by Dr. Goldman. Next year, the fellow will pursue a study of loop coil MRI for cutaneous tumors and join Dr. Goldman and Dr. Holmes in performing strain/tension experiments on flap repairs in a porcine model.

Shown below, from left to right.

LAURA MCGEVNA, MD, PGY-3

RYAN ROGERS, MD, PGY-2

ELIZABETH ZEEK, MD, PGY-2

ANI TAJIRIAN, MD, Procedural Dermatology Fellow

JUDY WONG, MD, PGY-4, Chief resident



Tisdale Lecture

The Tisdale Lecture Series is named for former Department chair William Allen Tisdale, MD. Dr. Tisdale graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1951 and after serving as a medical officer in the Korean conflict, completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. He went on to complete a research fellowship at Yale University, where he became Instructor in Medicine and received the Francis Gilman Blake award for excellence in teaching in 1959. He returned to Harvard as instructor and research fellow, followed by a brief stint as professor of medicine and director of medical education at Dartmouth Medical School. He came to Burlington in 1965 as Chair of the Department of Medicine, a position he held until 1974. He was honored as Teacher of the Year in 1985 and was awarded Professor Emeritus upon his retirement in 1994. The Tisdale Lecture Series was funded in his honor in 1995, and Dr. Tisdale remained active with the Department until his death in November 2006.

The goal of the Tisdale Lecture Series is to enhance the Medical Grand Rounds Conference by bringing national and international leaders who are involved in relevant and cutting edge translational research. There should be a particular emphasis on the translational component, demonstrating the bench-to-bedside or bedside-to-practice aspect of the work.

In September, the Tisdale Lecture featured Dr. Sharon Rounds from Brown University speaking on mechanisms of lung vascular injury in conditions causing pulmonary hypertension and acute lung injury, and in October Dr. Nancy Brown spoke on hypertension, the renin angiotensin aldosterone system, fibrinolysis, and ACE-associated angioedema.

This year's series closed in March 2012 with Elaine Ostrander, PhD, Chief and Senior Investigator of the Cancer Genetics Branch and Head of the Comparative Genetics Section at the NIH National Human Genome Research Institute, who spoke on gene mapping of the inheritance of complex traits.



Tisdale Lecturer Nancy Brown, MD, attends morning report with residents during her October 2011 visit.



On April 12, 2012, a reception was held to highlight Dr. **BARBARA GRANT**'s research in lymphoma and hematologic malignancies and its significance in the treatment and care of patients. Two of Dr. Grant's young patients spoke eloquently about their illness, treatment and remission, and the importance of bringing innovative new treatments to patients in Vermont. Colleagues and collaborators also praised Grant's excellence as a physician, researcher, educator and advocate. Grant, who will retire later this year, is shown (at left, center) with fellow physician scientists Joseph Antin, M.D., Chief of the Stem Cell Transplantation Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (far left), and John Leonard, M.D., Richard T. Silver Distinguished Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Weill Cornell Medical College.



TOP DOG

Kasey the otter hound, owned by **JOEL SCHNURE, MD**, won Third Place in the hound group at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club dog show at Madison Square Garden. Kasey went on to win three Best in Shows, tops at the time for otter hounds.



STAR WARS REIMAGINED

In 2009, Internet users were invited by Star Wars fan Casey Pugh to remake "Star Wars: A New Hope" into a fan film, 15 seconds at a time. Contributors were allowed to recreate scenes from Star Wars however they wanted, and fans voted on their favorites, which were then compiled into a film. **GILMAN ALLEN, MD**, makes his directorial debut at marker 1:48:30 in the YouTube video "Star Wars Uncut: Director's Cut", which has been viewed 2.4 million times.

in the NEWS

DECEMBER 2011

Men's Health

Best Cities for Men

The benefits of top-ranked Burlington were touted by **JAMES VECCHIO, MD**, including the new electronic medical record, which will hopefully further boost rates of preventive care.

JANUARY 2012

National Medical News

POLLY PARSONS, MD,

representing the American Thoracic Society on the national task force of the Critical Care Societies Collaborative, was quoted as the group issued recommendations to reduce mortality and improve patient care in the nation's

ICUs, including that research in the field become less fragmented and better account for patient heterogeneity and the complexity of critical illness.

VIRGINIA HOOD, MBBS,

president of the American College of Physicians, was quoted as the group issued a sixth edition of its ethics

manual, the first rewrite since 2005. The revised manual, published in ACP's flagship *Annals of Internal Medicine*, offers new guidance on longstanding issues such as end-of-life care, physician-industry relations, and ethics in medical research.



Hematology/Oncology — continued from page 5

opportunities to gain experience in the clinical and research arenas, and membership in the VCC. Among the available research training experiences is the hemostasis and thrombosis track, which is supported by a National Institutes of Health training grant.

The weekly VCC Grand Rounds program,

led by Greenblatt, is undergoing reorganization. In the near future, the educational sessions, currently held Tuesday mornings at 8 a.m. in the Reardon Room on the third floor of the Medical Education Center, will take place in a larger space to accommodate a greater number of faculty and staff with a clinical and/or scientific interest in cancer from across the university.



I AM A WARRIOR.

*Chris Holmes, M.D., PH.D.
Hematology/Oncology*

I am a physician scientist.

Actively engaged in the war on cancer, Associate Professor of Medicine **CHRIS HOLMES, M.D., PH.D.**, is investigating how the three trillion platelets in our blood, which aid with clotting, can be coaxed to act as anti-cancer agents. She and her team of researchers have published an encouraging study showing that preventing platelets from releasing proteins may inhibit cancer cells from spreading, and are now looking at anti-platelet and aspirin therapy as weapons to help in this important fight. She brings that determination and unwavering commitment to her patients every day, and is an inspiration to her students and faculty colleagues at the University of Vermont College of Medicine.



The
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