

FALL 2013

The chart

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

An insatiable curiosity, combined with meticulous attention to detail and infinite patience, is what makes immunobiology expert and Professor of Medicine **MERCEDES RINCON, PH.D.**, so good at what she does. Her laboratory investigations pinpoint the cellular activity that plays a role in immune system response, and have led to the identification of potential therapy targets for such diseases as flu infection, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and breast cancer. She is also internationally known for her work with transgenic mice, uncovering how certain proteins can affect drug resistance, alter the direction of an immune response, or impact the progression of diseases. At the University of Vermont College of Medicine, she brings this passion for discovery to her work every day.

I AM A DETECTIVE.

I am a biomedical researcher.



The University
of Vermont
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

www.uvm.edu/medicine



The Choosing Wisely initiative, spearheaded by Pam Stevens, R.N., Allen Mead, and Virginia Hood, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., is slated to continue with a second round of projects. [See the full story on page 6.](#)



Leading lung disease researchers from around the world attended the fifth biennial "Stem Cells and Cell Therapies in Lung Biology Conference" this summer at UVM. Read more on page 2.

in this **ISSUE**

New and Notable	2
Division Highlight: Gastroenterology.....	4
Choosing Wisely Initiative.....	6
Residents & Fellows	8
Faculty News	10
Faculty Notes.....	12
Who Knew?.....	13

There is a lot to celebrate in this fall edition of *The Chart*. We congratulate our residents and fellows who completed their programs and pass along news of where they are practicing medicine now. Several of our residents have had great success presenting research at national conferences, while others have been honored for their achievements at our annual House Staff Awards Banquet. And then, of course, our always-busy faculty members are producing research, publishing articles in leading journals, and organizing conferences on timely topics in addition to their teaching and clinical duties. For these conferences it's always exciting to welcome to campus colleagues and researchers from around the world – this summer and fall we had the opportunity to do so twice, for the fifth biennial stem cell conference, and the first obesity and metabolism conference. Both fields present distinct challenges and opportunities, and we're glad to be able to attract leading researchers to share knowledge and advance work in the field. Our feature story this issue focuses on the Choosing Wisely initiative. I'm excited to report that we've had great success with a pilot round of projects focused on improving quality of care while eliminating or reducing unnecessary tests and procedures. We modeled it on a national campaign, and we are looking forward to another round of projects. This issue also offers the chance to get to know our new residents. The "Who Knew" section features some fun facts about them – I think you'll see that they're a diverse and talented group!



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.

Submissions to this newsletter, as well as address corrections may be sent to: thechart@med.uvm.edu

or

THE CHART

UVM/Fletcher Allen Department of Medicine

Fletcher 311

111 Colchester Avenue

Burlington, Vermont 05401

Cover photo by: Raj Chawla, UVM Medical Photography



Naranda Bethina, M.D.



Amy Teleron, M.D.

WELCOME FACULTY

NARANDRA BETHINA, M.D., former fellow in the Division of Rheumatology, has joined the Division as an assistant professor.

AMY TELERON, M.D. joins Primary Care Internal Medicine as an assistant professor. She is from West Virginia University School of Medicine where she was most recently a faculty member in the inpatient and ambulatory setting.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE at-a-glance

176 Number of Faculty

190 Number of Volunteer Faculty

41 Number of Fellows

55 Number of Residents

\$18,811,095

Total Amount of UVM Research Grants Awarded, FY '13

**RESEARCH NOTABLES****Stem Cell Conference**

From July 29 to August 1, the UVM College of Medicine hosted the fifth biennial "Stem Cells and Cell Therapies in Lung Biology Conference," featuring leading lung disease researchers from around the globe. Co-chaired by UVM Professor of Medicine and lung specialist **DAN WEISS, M.D., PH.D.**, and Darwin Prockop, M.D., Ph.D., professor of molecular and cellular medicine and director of the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Scott & White Hospital, this invitation-only conference brought more than 150 participants to Burlington. The conference was supported by the NHLBI, the Alpha-1 Foundation, American Thoracic Society, European Respiratory Society, the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, the UVM College of Medicine, the Vermont Lung Center, and several industry sources.



Dan Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.

Obesity and Metabolism Conference

A conference on obesity and metabolism, organized by **BENJAMIN SURATT, M.D.**, and **ANNE DIXON, M.D.**, focused on identifying research priorities to guide patient care in this emerging field. The U.S. and the developed world are in the midst of an unprecedented epidemic of obesity, leading to major changes in the nature of common diseases. The conference connected experts in the field of obesity and lung disease with researchers in nutrition, food science and other related disciplines focused on human health to develop collaborations, foster research initiatives, guide clinical care and extend knowledge. The meeting included presentations by leaders in the field of obesity and metabolism, and obesity and lung disease, as well as discussions and poster sessions that included both senior and junior investigators.



Benjamin Suratt, M.D.



Anne Dixon, M.D.

FACULTY AWARDS & RECOGNITION

PHILIP A. ADES, M.D., has received the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR) Presidential Recognition Award.

EDWARD LEIB, M.D., received recognition for his 25 years of service to Fletcher Allen Health Care. A professor of medicine in rheumatology, he is director of the rheumatology and clinical immunology clinical unit.

BONITA LIBMAN, M.D. is celebrating her 20-year recognition of service to Fletcher Allen Health Care. She is director of the rheumatology and clinical immunology fellowship program, and is a professor of medicine in rheumatology.

DAVID SCHNEIDER, M.D., has been appointed director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI). The director of cardiology in the department of medicine and medical director of cardiology at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Schneider will succeed CVRI founding director Burton Sobel, M.D., who passed away in spring 2013.

On August 21, 2013, **CLAIRE VERSCHRAEGEN, M.D.**, was interviewed on "Across the Fence," a news show on WCAX-TV produced by UVM Extension. Verschraegen and Assistant Dean for Clinical Research Administration **KIMBERLY LUEBBERS, M.S.H.S., R.N.** presented an overview about Vermont Cancer Center clinical trials. The program provides insight into the "competitive advantage" that clinical trials provide for cancer treatment. The "Anatomy of a Clinical Trial" was explained, with emphasis on benefits for a cancer patient's treatment plan and the importance for the evolution of standards of care. Verschraegen and Luebbers discussed questions to be asked by potential clinical trial participants, and they shared informational resources regarding clinical trials.

Associate Professor **BENJAMIN SURATT, M.D.**, is now the Department of Medicine Associate Chair for Academic Affairs. In his new role Dr. Suratt's initial responsibility will be to implement the comprehensive mentoring plan developed by the Department Faculty Development Committee. He plans to work with that committee and with the College of Medicine Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs to create additional opportunities for faculty development. He will also provide guidance to faculty regarding the reappointment and promotions process to assure all faculty members develop the requisite credentials that will ultimately lead to academic promotion and success.

DANIEL WEISS, M.D., PH.D., was invited to lead the new International Society for Cellular Therapy Pulmonary Committee for a two-year term, from June 2013 to June 2015.



Philip A. Ades, M.D.



Edward Leib, M.D.



Bonita Libman, M.D.



David Schneider, M.D.



Claire Verschraegen, M.D.



Kimberly Luebbers, M.S.H.S., R.N.



Benjamin Suratt, M.D.



Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.

Gastroenterology

The eight board-certified gastroenterologists and three GI fellows in the Division of Gastroenterology perform nearly 10,000 procedures annually, receiving referrals and consults from across Vermont and northern New York. On top of this busy clinical practice, division members conduct research on a range of conditions, from hepatitis C and other liver diseases to irritable bowel syndrome and pancreatic cancer.

Key to maintaining this level of productivity is the collaborative nature of the group, says James Vecchio, M.D., division chief.

"We're a close-knit group that's very cordial," he says. "There's a very strong collegiality."

This atmosphere also contributes to an outstanding learning and teaching environment at all levels, from fellows and residents to medical students. Hundreds of candidates apply for the one fellowship slot the division offers each year, Vecchio says. The close attention and mentoring fellows receive makes it possible for them to learn advanced interventional procedures such as Endoscopic Ultrasound and Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) during the three-year program, when most programs require a fourth year to focus on these advanced procedures. Internal medicine residents complete a two-week elective in gastroenterology, and some with an interest in gastroenterology choose to pursue an individual research project in the specialty. For medical students, the division plays a key role in the College of Medicine's Vermont Integrated Curriculum. Division members host lectures and seminars on nutrition, metabolism and gastrointestinal disorders during Foundations, and they have weekly specialty Teaching Attending conferences during Clerkships.

The Department of Medicine's Choosing Wisely initiative has been another recent opportunity for the division to help educate and inform, Vecchio says. One goal of the campaign is to identify procedures that may not be useful for a particular patient.

It's important to be "doing the right procedure at the right time for the right reason," Vecchio says, and in the pilot round of projects two related to colonoscopies showed that the division is on the right track. The data showed the division is meeting guidelines for reducing colonoscopy screenings in patients over 75, and is not doing elective screening colonoscopy in patients within six months of cardiac stenting.

Division members also contribute to the education of their peers through participation in a full schedule of continuing medical education conferences and seminars, including



Members of the Division of Gastroenterology. Front row (LtoR): Gary Mawe, Ph.D.; Steven Lidofsky, M.D., Ph.D.; Richard Zubarik, M.D.; Eric Ganguly, M.D. Back row (LtoR): Doris Strader, M.D.; Jim Vecchio, M.D.; Nicholas Ferrentino, M.D.; Peter Moses, M.D.; Allen Lee, M.D.

journal clubs, a GI conference four times per month, and a once-weekly pathology conference. Division members typically attend at least one major national or international meeting per year, Vecchio says, and are often invited to present their research.

Research in the division spans a range of topics from chronic digestive conditions and liver disease to swallowing disorders and cancer. Richard Zubarik, M.D., is investigating potential biomarkers for pancreatic cancer, with a goal to make earlier diagnosis of this often-deadly cancer possible. Doris Strader, M.D., Nicholas Ferrentino, M.D., and Steven Lidofsky, M.D., Ph.D., test new therapies for hepatitis C. Finding treatable inflammatory pathways of chronic liver disease is also one basic science research focus for Lidofsky. Peter Moses, M.D., conducts translational research on serotonin signaling and gut microbiota. Eric Ganguly, M.D., researches treatments for Barrett's esophagus, a complication of gastroesophageal reflux disease. The newest division member, Allen Lee, M.D., is exploring new therapies for gastroparesis and other motility disorders. Two adjunct faculty with close ties to the department, Gary Mawe, Ph.D., professor of neurological sciences, and Andre Wright, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Animal Science, work with division members on serotonin signaling and gut microbiota respectively. Vecchio's present focus is on potential therapies for inflammatory bowel disease. Most department research is conducted with unit funds or through agreements with pharmaceutical companies or other industry, Vecchio says.

For the division's clinical work, Vecchio gives much credit to the endoscopy nursing staff and support staff of the endoscopy center. He also praises the primary care and family medicine groups the division works with on a regular basis. He points out that these doctors, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants do the diagnostic triage necessary to get patients to the appropriate specialists, a difficult but critical task.

"We often get the credit but they're the ones out in the trenches," he says. "We could not do our work and would not survive without them."



Fellows in the Division of Gastroenterology (from left to right): Nicholas Lim, M.D.; John Randles, M.D.; Mario Velez, M.D.

GASTROENTEROLOGY at-a-glance

8 Number of Division Faculty

3 Number of Fellows in the Division

4 Number of GI Conferences held per month

2011 Division named a "High Performing Specialty" by *U.S. News and World Report*



Above: Meeting age standards for bone density screening was the focus of one project for the Choosing Wisely initiative. Right: Justin Stinnett-Donnelly, M.D., M.S., played a key role in launching the Choosing Wisely initiative.

Choosing Wisely: Department of Medicine High Value Care Initiative

Hospitals and academic medical centers across the country are working hard to cut costs while maintaining or improving the quality of care patients receive. A project in the Department of Medicine is at the leading edge of this effort: The goal of the DOM Choosing Wisely initiative is to create a culture among physicians, trainees and patients that reduces the overuse and misuse of diagnostic tests and procedures.

The department's campaign draws from several national initiatives focused on cutting cost and improving value. Virginia Hood, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., was tapped by Department Chair Polly Parsons, M.D., to lead the department's work after Hood's recent service as president of the American College of Physicians, the largest medical specialty organization in the country. In 2011, the ACP launched the High Value Care Initiative, which provided clinical recommendations to help physicians deliver evidence-based care. The organization also partnered with Consumer Reports to educate patients about the benefits and potential harm resulting from common tests and procedures. In 2012, the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation introduced the Choosing Wisely campaign, a model used by the Department of Medicine and dozens of medical societies and consumer organizations.

The IOM estimates that about 30 percent of health care costs, more than \$750 billion annually,



are spent on wasted care. Hood says that education – for patients and physicians – is key to change. As guidelines are updated, and data on certain tests and procedures are gathered, physicians may not always be aware of all of the changes.

"Physicians really do want to do the right thing," she says. "You get the best results when you collect the data and tell people what is happening."

The DOM Choosing Wisely committee includes Hood, Allen Mead, the department's director, and Pam Stevens, R.N., a quality improvement specialist at the Jeffords Institute. Former resident Justin Stinnett-Donnelly, M.D., M.S., played a key role in the pilot year as well. To start, the committee canvassed department faculty and chose four measures to focus on out of dozens identified by the group. The goal was to "shine a light" on the data, Mead says, and to pinpoint ways patient care could be improved by eliminating ineffective tests and procedures.

"Provide the right data and the physicians will take of the rest," he says. "The goal is to create a process that allows for the best patient care."

Four faculty members served as champions for implementing each of the initial projects:

- Hood led a project in the Division of Nephrology focused on a certain blood test – for creatinine – in patients with end stage renal disease. Although often submitted as part of a battery of blood work, it adds no value for the patient.
- James Vecchio, M.D., Division of Gastroenterology Chief, led a project to track colonoscopy screenings in patients over 75, and in patients who had a cardiac stent placed within the past six months.
- Meeting age standards for bone density screenings was the goal of a project led by Professor of Medicine Edward Leib, M.D., in the Division of Rheumatology.
- Professor of Medicine Bonita Libman, M.D., led a project in the Division of Rheumatology to eliminate duplicate positive ANA tests, a little-used but expensive antibody test.

Results were monitored for five months, and appropriate changes were made. For example, a letter to providers detailing the latest guidelines, and a change to the request form, helped cut back on unnecessary bone density screenings. For nephrology, education and potential changes to the electronic health record system stand to help reduce the number of unnecessary tests.

One goal is to have residents and fellows involved as the next round of projects is launched, Hood says. While a third-year resident, Stinnett-Donnelly presented the department's Choosing Wisely campaign at several conferences including the American Association of Medical Colleges meeting in June of 2012.

"What we're doing here is being recognized nationally," Hood says. "We could be the model for others."



Virginia Hood, M.B.B.S., M.P.H.



Edward Leib, M.D.



Bonita Libman, M.D.



James Vecchio, M.D.

House Staff Awards from the Graduating Class of 2013



Justin Stinnett-Donnelly, M.D.



Patrick Hohl, D.O., M.P.H.

The Annual House Staff Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at The Essex. The following awards were presented:

The Harriet P. Dustan, M.D. Award—JUSTIN STINNETT-DONNELLY, M.D.: In recognition of acquisition of new knowledge through research performed during residency.

The Frank L. Babbott, M.D. Memorial Award—PATRICK HOHL, D.O., M.P.H.: For idealism and integrity, dedication to patient care, commitment to the educational mission of the Department of Medicine.

Richard E. Bouchard, M.D., Excellence in Primary Care Award—ELIZABETH HILL, M.D.: 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.

William Osler, M.D., Award—RICHARD G. PINCKNEY, M.D., M.P.H.: Outstanding Teacher of the Year General Internal Medicine.

E.L. Amidon Housestaff Teaching Award for Subspecialty Medicine—DAVID KAMINSKY, M.D.

Department of Medicine Research Mentors—DANIEL WEISS, M.D., PH.D. and DAVID SCHNEIDER, M.D.

RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

YEW-XIN TEH, M.D., 2012-13 Endocrinology Fellow, had two poster presentations at the 95th Annual Endocrine Society Annual Meeting, June 15-18, 2013, in San Francisco, CA. One was titled "Prediction of Fractures: Is Using the Lowest T-score of a Single Lumbar Vertebra Just as Good as the Composite Lumbar Spine T-score?" The second was "Evolution from Hypothyroidism to Thyrotoxicosis and Back to Hypothyroidism."

TATIANA KECK, M.D., Rheumatology Fellow, has been awarded a scholarship to attend the Seventh Annual "Mentoring in Rheumatology—Advancing the Care and Treatment of Rheumatologic Disease" from the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences at Eisenhower.



David A. Kaminsky, M.D.



Elizabeth Hill, M.D.



Richard G. Pinckney, M.D., M.P.H.



Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.



David Schneider, M.D.

Graduating Fellows – Where Did They Go?

ALI AL-ALWAN, M.D.

Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Wentworth Douglass Hospital in Dover, New Hampshire

BINH NGUYEN, M.D.

Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Hanover Hospital in Hanover, Pennsylvania

DANIEL CORREA DE SA, M.D.

Cardiology, Herrin Hospital in Herrin, Illinois

EDRESS OTHMAN, M.D.

Hematology/Oncology, Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, Massachusetts

ENKHTUYAA MUELLER, M.D.

Cardiology, Rockwood Clinic in Spokane, Washington

KENSLEY NICHOLS, M.D.

Infectious Disease, Waterbury Hospital in Waterbury, Connecticut

MANSOOR ALAM, M.D.

Hematology/Oncology, Wooster Community Hospital in Wooster, Ohio

NARANDRA BETHINA, M.D.

joined the Rheumatology Division here at UVM/Fletcher Allen

NEERAJ SARDANA, M.D.

Gastroenterology, Digestive Disease Associates in Pennsylvania

NEIL YBANEZ, M.D.

Nephrology, Northwest Indiana Nephrology

PANUPONG LISAWAT, M.D.

Nephrology, Danbury Hospital in Connecticut

YEW-XIN TEH

Endocrinology, Eastern Maine Medical Center

Recent Publications

Bernstein DB, Nguyen B, **ALLEN GB**, and **BATES JHT.** Elucidating the fuzziness in physician decision making in ARDS. *Journal of Clinical Monitoring and Computing.* 27:357–363, 2013.

Bowling CB, Booth JN III, Safford MM, Whitson HE, Ritchie CS, Wadley VG, **CUSHMAN M**, Howard VJ, Allman RM, Muntner P. Nondisease-specific problems and all-cause mortality in the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) study. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2013;61:739-46. (PMCID: PMC3656135)

Cloots, R.H.E, Sankaranarayanan, S., de Theije, C., **POYNTER, M.E.**, Terwindt, E., van Dijk, P, Hakvoort, T.B.M., Lamers, W.H., and S.E. Köhler. Ablation of Arg1 in hematopoietic cells improves respiratory function of lung parenchyma, but not that of larger airways or inflammation in asthmatic mice. In press, *American Journal of Physiology – Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology*, June 25, 2013.

Lal I, **DITTUS K, HOLMES CE.** Platelets, coagulation and fibrinolysis in breast cancer progression. *Breast Cancer Res* 2013 Jul 31;15(4):207. (PMID: 23905544)

Martin RA, Ather JL, Daggett R, Hoyt L, **LUNDBLAD LKA, SURATT BT, WEISS DJ**, Alcorn JF, and **POYNTER ME.** The endogenous Th17 response in NO2-promoted allergic airway disease is dispensable for airway hyper-responsiveness and qualitatively distinct from Th17 adoptive transfer. In press, *PLoS ONE*, August 6, 2013.

Matthay MA, Anversa P, Bhattacharya J, Burnett BK, Chapman HA, Hare JM, Hei DJ, Hoffman AM, Kourembanas S, McKenna DH, Ortiz LA, Ott HC, Tente W, Thebaud B, Trapnell BC, **WEISS DJ**, Yuan XJ, Blaisdell CJ. Cell Therapy for Lung Diseases. Report from an NIH–NHLBI Workshop, November 13–14, 2012. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, Vol. 188, No. 3, August 1, 2013: 370-375.

REPP AB and **JINDAL M** (2013) Portal vein thrombosis. In: Wiese J, Auerbach A, Glasheen J, Li J, Editors. *Clinical Decision Support: Hospital Medicine. Decision Support in Medicine.* Wilmington, DE.

Faculty Service

BONITA LIBMAN, M.D., was named a member of the American College of Physicians MKSAP 17 Rheumatology Committee.

CHARLES MACLEAN, M.D., has been appointed by the governor of Vermont to the Healthcare Workforce Group. This group is charged with implementing the Green Mountain Care Board-approved Health Workforce Strategic Plan and serving as the workforce advisory group for the State Innovation Models project.

GLENN GOLDMAN, M.D., has received the following appointments: RUC representative for the American College of Mohs Surgery, American Medical Association; Leader's Society State / Regional Chair, Dermatology Foundation; Fellowship Training Committee, American College of Mohs Surgery.

HARRY DAUERMAN, M.D., was appointed Vice-Chairman, Mission Lifeline Scientific Task Force for the American Heart Association; Member, Steering Committee for American College of Cardiology, 2013-2016.

MARIE WOOD, M.D., was appointed to the ASCO CME committee in June 2013.

MARK PASANEN, M.D., serves as governor for the Vermont Chapter for the American College of Physicians and the UVM Medical Alumni Association President.

MARTIN LEWINTER, M.D., serves as chair of the Research Committee for the Heart Failure Society of America.

MARY CUSHMAN, M.D., is a member of the National Board of Directors of the American Heart Association.

PROSPERO B. GOGO, M.D., is Governor-elect of the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Cardiology.

RICHARD GALBRAITH, M.D., PH.D., has been appointed chair of the Clinical Research Subcommittee of FASEB Science Policy Committee. He is also a member of the Research Information Subcommittee of the FASEB Science Policy Committee.

YOLANDA MAGETO, M.D., has been appointed chair of the Membership Committee for the American Thoracic Society.



Steven M. Grunberg, M.D.

IN MEMORIUM

UVM/Fletcher Allen oncologist and Professor of Medicine **STEVEN M. GRUNBERG, M.D.**, died September 22, 2013. An outstanding teacher and beloved clinician, he was recognized around the world for his contributions to the care of patients with cancer. During his 20 years at UVM, Fletcher Allen Health Care, and the Vermont Cancer Center, he became a sought-after mentor and valued colleague. Dr. Grunberg earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from Cornell University. Following a residency at the University of California, San Francisco, he completed a medical oncology fellowship at the Sidney Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, now the Dana Farber. He then joined the faculty at the University of Southern California School of Medicine in Los Angeles, where he spent 12 years before joining UVM/Fletcher Allen in 1993 as professor of medicine, director of hematology/oncology, and associate director for clinical research at the Vermont Cancer Center. Specializing in lung and head and neck cancers, he had a prolific publication record and was internationally renowned for his work. At the time of his death, Dr. Grunberg was the president of the Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC). He had an outstanding record of active participation with the National Cancer Institute clinical research network, and has chaired multiple research protocols and participated in many other clinical research studies. These studies will have long lasting and beneficial effects for cancer patients.

FEDERAL GRANTS TOTALING \$34.7 MILLION LAUNCH UVM RESEARCH CENTER, TOBACCO-RELATED STUDIES

While policymakers seek to devise the perfect healthcare roadmap, a select few researchers are focusing on a specific intersection – where health, behavior and chronic disease meet – to determine how best to reduce disease risk and prevent premature death. A new five-year, \$11.5 million Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant from the National Institutes of Health, announced September 16, has established the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health at the University of Vermont (UVM). The center, led by UVM faculty members **STEPHEN HIGGINS, PH.D.**, professor of psychiatry, and cardiologist **PHILIP ADES, M.D.**, professor of medicine, is one of only three in the nation addressing the important challenge of behavioral health from a behavioral economics perspective.



Just days after the new center's founding, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health has received a prestigious five-year, \$19.5 million Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science (TCORS) award. This new, first-of-its-kind regulatory science tobacco program is designed to generate research to inform the regulation of tobacco products to protect public health. Higgins has also received notification of a five-year, \$3.7 million NIH grant for another smoking-related study. All together, UVM has received an unprecedented \$34.7 million in federal funding to support behavior and health research.

We Edit the Journals

PHILIP ADES, M.D.

Associate Editor: *Coronary Artery Disease*
Editorial Board: *Circulation*

JASON BATES, PH.D.

Associate Editor: *Journal of Applied Physiology*
Editorial Board Member: *Journal of Clinical Monitoring and Computing*; *CRC Critical Reviews in Bioengineering*

ELIZABETH CHEN, PH.D.

Member, Editorial Board: *Methods of Information in Medicine*

MARY CUSHMAN, M.D.

Senior Guest Editor: *Circulation*
Associate Editor: *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*

HAROLD L. DAUERMAN, M.D.

Editor in Chief: *Coronary Artery Disease*
Associate Editor: *Journal of Thrombosis and Thrombolysis*

NAOMI FUKAGAWA, M.D., PH.D.

Associate Editor: *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*
Editor-in-Chief: *Nutrition Reviews*
Editorial Board: *Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry*

DHANANJAY GUPTA, PH.D.

Editorial Board: *Journal of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Obesity*

WILLIAM HOPKINS, M.D.

Associate Editor: *Coronary Artery Disease*

CHRISTOPHER HUSTON, M.D.

Editorial Board Member: *Infection and Immunity*

CHARLES IRVIN, PH.D.

Editorial Board: *American Journal Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology*
Editorial Board: *Journal Allergy Clinical Immunology: In Practice*

JACK LEAHY, M.D.

Editorial Board Member: *BetaCellsInDiabetes.org*

MARTIN LEWINTER, M.D.

Associate Editor: *Circulation*; *Coronary Artery Disease*
Editorial Boards: *Heart and Vessels*, *Experimental and Clinical Cardiology*, *Current Cardiology Reviews*, *Heart Failure Reviews*

STEVEN LIDOFKY, M.D., PH.D.

Editorial Board: *Clinical Therapeutics*

PETER MOSES, M.D.

Editorial Board Member: *The Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology (Yale)*; *The World Journal of Gastroenterology (China)*

POLLY E. PARSONS, M.D.

Editorial Board Member: *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, *CHEST*

MATTHEW POYNTER, PH.D.

Editorial Board member: *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology*

DAVID J. SCHNEIDER, M.D.

Associate Editor: *Coronary Artery Disease*
Editorial Board: *American Journal of Cardiology*

JOEL J. SCHNURE, M.D.

Editorial Board: *Coronary Artery Disease*

ALAN SEGAL, M.D.

Editorial Board: *American Journal of Physiology, Renal*

RICHARD SOLOMON, M.D.

Editorial Board: *US Nephrology*

JEFFREY L. SPEES, PH.D.

Editorial Board: *Coronary Artery Disease*

MARC D. TISCHLER, M.D.

Associate Editor: *Coronary Artery Disease*

MICHAEL J. TOTH, PH.D.

Editorial Board: *American Journal of Physiology*

DANIEL WEISS, M.D., PH.D.

Editorial Board: *American Journal of Respiratory Cell Molecular Biology*

Fun Facts about Department of Medicine Residents

Former chief resident **WILLIAM PRABHU, M.D.**, and current chiefs **SEAN MCMAHON, M.D.**, **PATRICK HOHL, M.D.**, and **JASON BARTSCH, M.D.**, were the 2013 Vermont City Marathon relay winners in their division. ▶

SUSANNA THACH, M.D.,

(PGY1) is a former figure skater and loves country music.

ESTHER CABALLERO-

MANRIQUE, M.D., (PGY1) has completed two Ironman events and several triathlons.

KATHERINE MENSON, M.D.,

(PGY1) climbed Machu Picchu without water (accidentally). She also claims to be undefeated (life-long) in Connect Four.

BENJAMIN PARKHURST, M.D.,

(PGY2) is former concert pianist state champion. He was a keyboardist in a band in medical school. Now plays for leisure and the occasional dinner party. He's a huge Mozart fan!

MATTHIAS WACKER, M.D., (PGY1) has lived in several countries and has an interest in international health. He has recently signed up for a Salsa class.

TARA SCRIBNER-METCALF, M.D., (PGY1) built a house in frozen Fairbanks, Alaska; rebuilt and lived for two years on a wooden boat in Juneau, Alaska; is an expert diesel mechanic; used to teach English in Tokyo; performed ballet at a Costa Rican National Festival of the Arts; once got lost for three days in the snowy peaks of the Pacific Crest Trail; and was chased by only two bears ever, but was once attacked by a psychotic moose in a hot tub!



Sean McMahon, M.D., Jason Bartsch, M.D., Patrick Hohl, M.D., and William Prabhu, M.D.

