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## News from the Department of Medicine at the University of Vermont



From left: Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D.; Martin Blaser, M.D.; Polly Parsons, M.D.; and Sean Diehl, Ph.D. Dr. Blaser delivered the Department of Medicine's 2015 Tisdale Lecture December 4, 2015.

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## NEWS & EVENTS

[NYU MICROBIOME EXPERT MARTIN BLASER, M.D., PRESENTS TISDALE LECTURE](#)

**Martin Blaser, M.D.**, professor of medicine and microbiology and director of the Human Microbiome Program at New York University, delivered the 2015 William Allen Tisdale Lecture at Medical Grand Rounds on Friday, December 4, 2015. He presented on "Disappearing Microbiota and Modern Diseases." A member of the National Academy of Sciences and named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People, Blaser is a physician, microbiologist, and author of *Missing Microbes: How the Overuse of Antibiotics Is Fueling Our Modern Plagues*. The Tisdale Lecture Series is named for former Department of Medicine Chair William Allen Tisdale, M.D., who passed away in 2006. The series aims to enhance the Medical Grand Rounds Conference by bringing to the College of Medicine national and international leaders who are involved in relevant and cutting-edge translational research. [Read the story.](#)

### WEISS TO SPEARHEAD DEVELOPMENT OF 3D BIOPRINTER



BioTek Instruments recently donated \$10,000 to the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine to support the program's research into lung health and disease. A multi-disciplinary team will use the funds to develop a customized 3D bioprinter, allowing for the development of novel, multi-perspective approaches for studying lung airways and lung regeneration. The project will be spearheaded and jointly coordinated by **Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, Patrick Lee, Ph.D., an assistant professor in UVM's College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, and J. Tobey Clark, M.S., director of the UVM Instrumentation and Model Facility. [Read more about the project.](#)

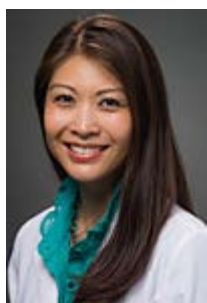
### OBESITY & METABOLISM THE FOCUS FOR NEW SYMPOSIUM



Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine Division Chief **Anne Dixon, B.M., B.Ch.**, and Professor **Benjamin Suratt, M.D.**, organized a meeting on "Obesity and Metabolism: An Emerging Frontier in Lung Health and Disease," which was held at the UVM Davis Center in October. This highly successful three-day symposium brought together international experts in the emerging field of obesity, metabolism and lung disease to foster research initiatives, guide clinical care and extend knowledge related to impacts of obesity and metabolism on respiratory health and disease. [Read more about the meeting.](#)

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### Awards & Recognition



On behalf of UVM Medical Center, **Amy Teleron, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine, accepted the Get with the Guidelines Resuscitation Gold Award from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Foundation for "sustained use of quality improvement measures in the treatment of in-hospital cardiac arrests." **Joseph Winget, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine and chair of the Resuscitation Committee, and Dr. Teleron, who directs the Code Blue Leadership Training for internal

medicine residents, were also featured in a [Vermont Business Magazine piece](#) about the achievement.

**Anne Dixon, B.M., B.Ch.**, division chief for Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, served on the Veterans Affairs Pulmonary Merit Review Panel.

**Matthew Poynter, Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, served on the grant review panel for the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute.

The following Department of Medicine faculty have been honored for their outstanding research and teaching efforts by the University of Vermont Medical Group:

- **Philip Ades, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, was named the UVM Medical Group Senior Researcher of the Year.
- **Glenn Goldman, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Dermatology, received the Continuing Medical Education Teacher of the Year Award.
- **Prema Menon, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, was awarded a two-year, \$50,000 research grant. She is principal investigator for “Improving Communication among Mechanically Ventilated Patients,” with co-principal investigator Margaret Tandoh, M.D.
- **Peter Moses, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Gastroenterology, is principal investigator for a \$50,000 research grant for “Fecal Microbiota Transplant and Oral Bacteriotherapy in Ulcerative Colitis.” Primary co-investigators include pathology resident Jessica Crothers, M.D.; GI fellows Aaron Cohn, M.D., and Mario Velez, M.D.; and Magen Phillips from UVM's Office of Sponsored Programs. Sub-investigators include Peter Callas, Ph.D., research associate professor in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences; Gary Mawe, Ph.D., professor of neurological sciences; Rebecca Wilcox, Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology; Stephen O'Donnell, M.D., assistant professor of anesthesia; and Christine Wojewoda, M.D., assistant professor of pathology and director of clinical microbiology. External sub-investigators include OpenBiome CEO Mark Smith, Ph.D.; OpenBiome CMO Zain Kassam, M.D., M.P.H.; Eric Alm, Ph.D., associate professor at MIT; and Le Thanh Tu Nguyen, graduate student at MIT.
- **Charlotte Teneback, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, received a Junior Investigator of the Year Award for her research and leadership of the Cystic Fibrosis Therapeutic Development Center and UVM Medical Center's Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program, both of which have drawn national attention.

## NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES

**Gilman Allen, M.D.**, was elected to the UVM Medical Group Patient Operations Committee.

**Jason Bates, Ph.D.**, will continue as chair of the Green Mountain Section of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers for 2016.

**Chris Holmes, M.D., Ph.D.**, is currently chair of the Hemophilia Transitions Committee. This committee is part of a national workgroup on transitions through the American Society of Hematology (ASH), in collaboration with the ACP (American College of Physicians), Pediatric to Adult Care Transition Initiative 2015.

On December 1st, 2015, **Matthew Poynter, Ph.D.**, was appointed director of UVM's Cellular, Molecular, and Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program.

## New Faculty

**Johannes Steiner, M.D.**, joined the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in November of 2015. Dr. Steiner comes to UVM after completing subspecialty training in heart failure and cardiac transplantation at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). He will spend two weeks each quarter at MGH providing care for patients on their cardiac transplantation service.



**Eswar Tipirneni, M.D.**, has joined Maria Ospina, M.D., in the Central Vermont Medical Center hematology/oncology practice in Barre, Vt. He has been hired under the new Clinical Practice Physician Pathway as one of the first physicians brought on by the UVM Medical Group at a partner institution in the UVM Health Network. Dr. Tipirneni is a full faculty member of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, while Dr. Ospina remains employed by CVMC. Dr. Tipirneni comes from the University of Massachusetts in Worcester, Mass., where he completed his residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in hematology/oncology. He was the chief fellow in 2014-15. He has authored three papers as first author, presented at various Grand Rounds and is interested in thoracic malignancies and lymphoma.



**Susanne Trost, M.D.**, recently became a faculty member in the Metabolic Bone Clinic. Dr. Trost is a board-certified endocrinologist and an attending physician at Central Vermont Medical Center. Dr. Trost graduated from the Medical School of Freiburg University in Germany. After a post-doctoral research program at the University of California, San Diego, she completed her internal medicine residency and endocrinology fellowship here at UVM Medical Center, and also served as a chief resident for the internal medicine program.

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## Research & Grants



**Chris Holmes, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, and colleagues from 12 sites across the U.S. have been awarded a national grant titled “Transition of Care for Patients with Venous Thromboembolism at ATHN Affiliated Sites” from The Joint Commission, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Pfizer, Inc. Serving as site principal investigator, Dr. Holmes and colleagues will work to improve transitions of care from the inpatient to outpatient setting for patients with newly diagnosed thrombosis. The initiative will also create the first national data set for thrombosis under the direction of the Thrombosis Committee for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network (ATHN).

**Gilman Allen, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, is a mentor for the UVM College of Engineering SEED Program. He is working with four engineering students on a project to investigate the development of a device for automated monitoring and documentation of head of bed elevation and patient position in bed.

**Lennart Lundblad, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and

Critical Care Medicine, received a grant from Syntrix Biosystem Inc, a sub-award of a Small Business Innovation Research program (SBIR) grant. In this collaboration, he will study the role of CXCR2 and IL-13 in allergy, and establish the role of new therapies targeting CXCR2 and IL-13.

**Charles MacLean, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine, is principal investigator for a grant from the Vermont Department of Health titled “Hypertension Panel Management.” This project is developing and testing quality improvement and panel management activities for hypertension in pilot primary care practice.

**Prema Menon, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, was awarded a \$40,000, one and a half-year Fostering Interdisciplinary Scholarship, Arts and Research grant from the UVM Office of the Vice President for Research. She is principal investigator for “Developing a Communication Device for Ventilated Patients” with co-principal investigators Patricia Prelock, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, dean of UVM’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and John Novotny, Ph.D., a lecturer in UVM’s College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

**Matthew Poynter, Ph.D.**, a professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, received a \$20,000 UVM/State of Vermont Ventures grant to study the inflammasome-inhibitory effects of short chain alcohols.

**Peter Spector, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, filed a new provisional patent application for “Method and System for Assessment of Catheter Tissue Contact,” on December 4, 2015.

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## House Staff News

The following house staff have received awards for their abstracts from the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Physicians. They were presented at the annual meeting in October of 2015:

- **Jonathan Wilfong, M.D.**, and **Varun Agrawal, M.D.**  
Clinical Vignette: A Novel Kidney-sparing Treatment for Oxalate Nephropathy in a Patient Status-post Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass.
- **Edward Dunbar, M.D.**, **Sherrie Khadanga, M.D.**, **Halle Sobel, M.D.**, and **Alan Howard, M.S.**, director of the Statistical Consulting Clinic at UVM’s Bailey Howe Library  
Quality Improvement Research: What is the Impact of a Community Health Team on Diabetes Management in a Resident Clinic?

The Department of Medicine is pleased to announce that several of our residents have accepted fellowships at the following institutions:

- **Katherine Menson, D.O.**: Pulmonary fellowship at UVM Medical Center
- **Jonathan Halevy, M.D.**: Cardiology fellowship at UVM Medical Center
- **Sherrie Khadanga, M.D.**: Cardiology fellowship at UVM Medical Center
- **James Enser, M.D.**: Infectious Diseases fellowship at UVM Medical Center
- **Matthias Wacker, M.D.**: Nephrology fellowship at Tufts University
- **Benjamin Solomon, M.D.**: Hematology/Oncology fellowship at University of Utah

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## Clinical News

**Steven Lidofsky, M.D., Ph.D.**, has initiated liver stiffness measurements with transient elastograph a noninvasive technique for evaluation of hepatic fibrosis for the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

**Joseph Pierson, M.D., Elizabeth Zeeck, M.D.**, and the dermatology residents are now seeing patients at the Burlington, Vt., outpatient Veterans Administration facility. This is the first dermatology care available to our local veterans.

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## Publication Highlights

**Cushman M**, Creager MA. Improving awareness and outcomes related to venous thromboembolism. *JAMA* 2015;314:1913-4.

**Krementsov DN**, Case LK, Hickey WF, **Teuscher C**. Exacerbation of autoimmune neuroinflammation by dietary sodium is genetically controlled and sex specific. *FASEB J*. 2015 Aug;29(8):3446-57. doi: 10.1096/fj.15-272542. Epub 2015 Apr 27. PMID: 25917331; PMCID: PMC4511199

**Zubarik R, Ganguly E, Vecchio J**. Celiac disease detection in hypothyroid patients requiring elevated thyroid supplementation: A prospective cohort study. *European Journal of Internal Medicine* 26 (2015) 825–829.

[See all Recent Publications \[PDF\] >>](#)

## PRESENTATIONS

**Narandra Bethina, M.D.**, taught musculoskeletal ultrasound at the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Annual Conference in San Francisco in November. Dr. Bethina continues to be a mentor to rheumatology fellows in training and rheumatologists in practice who are learning musculoskeletal ultrasound through the Ultrasound School of North American Rheumatologists (USSONAR).

**Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc.**, gave four invited lectures in on November 10, 2015, at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions in Orlando, Florida:

- “Risk Factors for Chronic Venous Insufficiency: Established and Novel.” In Cardiovascular Seminar, Chronic Venous Insufficiency: Silent and Disabling.
- “Epidemiology of Post-Thrombotic Syndrome: Who is Most at Risk?” In Cardiovascular Seminar, The Post-Thrombotic Syndrome: Incorporating Evidence and the New Clinical Guidelines
- “Women and Venous Thromboembolism: Understanding Risk.” In Plenary Session, Improving Outcomes in Women's Cardiovascular Health
- “Creating and Maintaining Ideal Health using AHA’s Simple Seven.” In Special Focus Session, Rationale and Structure of Workplace Wellness Programming.

**Shaden Eldakar-Hein, M.D.**, presented “Hard Decisions: The Challenges of Surrogate Decision Making” at the Department of Medicine Grand Rounds at Temple University School of Medicine on September 22, 2015. She also served as a panelist for a discussion of “Religious and Cultural Issues in Medical Decision-Making” at the New Hampshire-Vermont Hospital Ethics Committee Network Annual Meeting at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center on October 5, 2015.

**ChiChi Lau, M.D.**, presented “Systemic Lupus in Women” at the Women’s Health Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in September of 2015.

**Marie Sandoval, M.D.**, co-presented “EHRs and their Impact on the Patient-Provider Relationship” at the Vermont Informational Technology Leaders Summit on October 1, 2015.

**Jaspinder Sra, M.D.**, co-presented “The Connected Clinician: Challenges and Achievements, Transitioning from Fee-for-Service to Outcomes Based Payments” at the Vermont Informational Technology Leaders Summit.

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## In the Media

**Dennis Beatty, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine, was interviewed for a WCAX-TV news story in October of 2015 to discuss the importance of adult vaccinations. [Watch the news clip.](#)

Comments from **Allen Repp, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine, on what happens to the body after chewing and swallowing food or other items are featured on the *Nautilus* blog in a post about “The Case for Common Sense Gum-Control.” [Read the post](#) from January 5, 2016.

An article in Burlington, Vt. weekly *Seven Days*, titled "New Drugs Offer Vermonters Hope - For a Price," includes comments by **Doris Strader, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, regarding the Hepatitis C treatment Harvoni. The article also quoted Thomas Lahiri, M.D., professor of pediatrics, regarding a new, high-priced drug treatment called Orkambi. [Read the article](#) from the December 2, 2015 edition of the paper.

More [College of Medicine Experts In the News.](#)

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## Who Knew?



**Jason Bates, Ph.D.**, a professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, recently hosted a talk at Cold Hollow Sculpture Park with renowned sculptor David Stromeyer focused on the intersection of art and science. An invited guest for the Walking Conversations series, Bates strolled with Stromeyer and guests through the Enosburg Falls, Vt., park in October of 2015 discussing various topics related to his work as a scientist and researcher, and Stromeyer’s work as an artist. Stromeyer and Bates lingered at various sculptures – all created by Stromeyer – to consider questions about how they conceive of and carry out an idea, how their childhood interests led them to their current careers, and more.

- [Read more](#) about Bates’ visit to Cold Hollow Sculpture Park.
  - [See a photo gallery](#) from the event.
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