WANTED: STUDENT WELLNESS

Help students face the new and unique challenges of today with a gift to the College of Medicine Fund.

A global pandemic, economic uncertainty, and social and political upheaval—today’s students need your help. Your gifts will enhance wellness activities, tutoring, advising, peer support, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, and psychological services. It will also provide scholarships, travel and research grants, white coats, and more.

Give online at: go.uvm.edu/studentsbwell

President's Corner

Omar Khan, M.D.’03
President
UVM Medical Alumni Association

University of Vermont Medical Alumni Association
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Kevin McKee, UVM Foundation
A Note of Thanks

In this ongoing series, Vermont Medicine shares a note of thanks from a student for the support they’ve received from alumni.

Jhaimy Fernandez ’21 sends her gratitude for the William C. Street, M.D. ’59 and Lorraine Hassan-Street Endowed Scholarship:

Dear Alumni,

Thank you for supporting my medical school education. My name is Jhaimy Fernandez and I'm a third-year medical student currently on my OB/GYN clerkship. I was born in Los Angeles to Mexican immigrant parents and I am the first in my family to attend medical school. I chose to attend Larner College of Medicine because of their commitment to teaching us to provide holistic care. Whether that be recommending yoga, breathing exercises or acupuncture in addition to pharmacologic interventions, I enjoy having a holistic education. Plus, I enjoy practicing yoga as well. I hope to become a primary care physician for underserved communities and incorporate holistic care in my practice.

It’s hard to believe I’m halfway through my third year in medical school. Medical school has continually broken me down and built me back up. This molding process has taught me patience, self-control, and understanding. Medical school has broken me down and built me back up. It’s hard to believe I’m halfway through my third year in medical school. Medical school has continually broken me down and built me back up. This molding process has taught me patience, self-control, and understanding.

Thank you once again for your generous contribution and opportunity to become the person I’m meant to be. Thank you for supporting my medical school education. My name is Jhaimy Fernandez and I’m a third-year medical student at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine because of their commitment to teaching us to provide holistic care. Whether that be recommending yoga, breathing exercises or acupuncture in addition to pharmacologic interventions, I enjoy having a holistic education. Plus, I enjoy practicing yoga as well. I hope to become a primary care physician for underserved communities and incorporate holistic care in my practice.

Sincerely,

Jhaimy Fernandez

A City United

Justin Genziano, M.D. ’17, found himself at the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020 as an anesthesiology resident at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. The following is his reflection on that intense time, which was first published on the Larner College of Medicine blog.

IT HAS BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE the pandemic crept into our lives here in New York City. Back in March, I steered myself for a waking nightmare after hearing about the dire situation faced in Wuhan, then Italy, then Seattle. A wisp of contagion slowly drifting across the globe. There was no crash of a tidal wave, like we expected. Indeed, the influx of patients slowly and steadily increased. As we intubated more and more patients, the need for more ICU space also increased. We outfitted our operating rooms into ICUs to meet this need. Providers and staff from all over our institution mobilized to treat patient after patient, many hungry for air. As anesthesiologists, our expertise in critical care and airway management became essential assets. We supported our patients and did the same for each other. Day by day, somehow this incredible task became manageable.

New York City really is something else. This city is a living thing, mostly moody, and never predictable. But during this difficult time, I watched its generosity blossom. Most of us rely on public transportation to get around, especially to and from work. But soon that became a risk factor in and of itself. We were supported by ride-hailing and car rental companies that helped provide us transportation for work. Local restaurants all around the city, hurting themselves, kept us fed day and night, body and soul. That 7 p.m. roll call heard around the city applauding the work and sacrifice of those of us on the front line is a bittersweet balm after a rough day. We did not go into medicine seeking thanks. We did it because we love to help. Sometimes this recognition is overwhelming, even embarrassing. But as I look outside my window, I see couples on roof tops halleloo-ing, horn players heralding anthems, and little kids banging pots and pans with their families—all watching and listening to a city united, not just for the front line, but for each other. It is not just for me. They need it, too.

As the numbers recede, our work continues. Normal will never be what it was several months ago, and it will still be a while yet before we know what “normal” will even look like. In the meantime, we have this opportunity to take a deep breath and reflect. One of our attendings, at a recent meeting, stated that we will come out of this as the world’s experts in managing COVID-19. It is a somber accolade. However, it means we are well-positioned to help. That same mission that guided our decision to become physicians holds firm—even in a pandemic.
MEDICAL REUNION 2020—WE DID IT

Even a worldwide pandemic could not keep UVM medical alumni from joining together virtually to see old friends and teachers, and share fond memories of the place where their medical careers began. Over the course of the first ten days of October, alumni from across six decades took part in Zoom webinars, meetings, recorded tours, and award recognitions, using technology to overcome distance and share each other’s company again. And overcome it they did: this “virtual” reunion attracted over 50 percent more alumni participants than most past in-person events.

“It’s not over yet!
Many of the reunion sessions are viewable online. See what all the excitement was about at go.uvm.edu/medreunion

✓ Reconnect.
✓ Remember.
✓ Celebrate!

“I know this is not how you imagined your 50th celebration and would prefer to be on campus today—I know I certainly would prefer that we were coming together in person. But, like good physicians, we are doing what is best for our patients and our communities and staying physically distanced.”

Dean Richard L. Page, M.D., speaking at the Class of 1970 50th Medallion Ceremony
DEVELOPMENT NEWS

PETERTON NAMED INAUGURAL GOLDMAN PROFESSOR

Thomas Peterson, M.D., chair of the Department of Family Medicine, has been invested as the inaugural Morris Goldman ’29 M.D.’32 Professor of Family Medicine. The ceremony was the first of its kind to be held remotely, via Zoom, on August 13, 2020.

Harriet Goldman and Michael Kaplan established the professorship in honor of Dr. Goldman’s late father, Dr. Morris Goldman, a member of the UVM class of 1929 who went on to receive his medical degree in 1932. As a Jewish man, Morris Goldman was always deeply grateful to UVM for helping him achieve his dream of becoming a physician at a time when very few medical schools accepted students without regard to race, creed, or religion. He went on to a career as the quintessential family physician.

“I’m very proud to represent Dr. Morris Goldman and his contributions to healthcare. His example is an inspiration and in alignment with modern family medicine. Dr. Goldman provides a vision and a North Star for us all.” – Thomas Peterson, M.D.

Like Morris Goldman, Peterson has dedicated his medical career to caring for multiple generations of families. He has twice been voted Family Practice Teacher of the Year and was honored as Family Physician of the Year in 2003 by the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians.

COLLEGE CELEBRATES LIFE OF JEFFREY SCHUMACHER, M.D.’74

The Larner College of Medicine community has come together to honor the memory of alumnus Jeffrey Schumacher, M.D.’74, through contributions to a fund created by his family to benefit the Department of Pediatrics. Over 80 households—including many classmates—have given to the Schumacher Family Endowed Fund in Pediatrics since Dr. Schumacher’s death on May 26, 2020, with gifts totaling over $40,000. The fund, founded by the Schumacher family, supports students, residents, faculty, and faculty “in their personal wellness, in the continued care, research and education at the UVM Medical Center, the UVM Larner College of Medicine and the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences, for a total of over $25 million.

End-of-Year Giving At a Glance

Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, more than 9,000 donors made gifts to support clinical care, research and education at the UVM Medical Center, the UVM Larner College of Medicine, and the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences, for a total of over $25 million.

TANDOH APPOINTED GAMELLI GREEN AND GOLD PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Margaret A. Tandoh, M.D., associate professor of surgery and associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, was invested as the inaugural Richard L. Gamelli, M.D.’74 Green and Gold Professor in Surgery during a virtual ceremony on September 22, 2020.

Established by Richard Gamelli, M.D.’74, and his wife Mary, this professorship honors his accomplished 40-year medical career and aims to support the work of Dr. Tandoh and her colleagues in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Gamelli earned a medical degree from UVM, completed a five-year surgical residency at what is now the UVM Medical Center and was an attending surgeon caring for burn patients at the medical center for 11 years, serving as vice chair of surgery, mentoring countless medical students and residents, and conducting research. His burn care expertise led him to a distinguished career at Loyola University Chicago, where he served as senior vice president and provost of Health Services, the Robert J. Freeark Professor of Surgery, and director of the Burn Center at Loyola University Medical Center before retiring as professor emeritus in 2014.

Known for her extraordinary commitment to the local, regional and global community, Dr. Tandoh has dedicated her medical career to acute care surgery and the treatment of trauma and burn patients. She serves as the medical director of the Burn Program at the UVM Medical Center. A member of both the Advisory Council and the Learning Environment and Professionalism Committee, Dr. Tandoh also serves on the New England Surgical Society Task Force on Diversity in Surgical Leadership and was appointed to the Vermont Medical Board in 2019.

College celebrates life of Jeffrey Schumacher, M.D.’74

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The University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine Medical Development & Alumni Relations Office (802) 656-4014 | medical.giving@uvm.edu | med.uvm.edu/alumni

AT A GLANCE

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FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE

The Summer 2020 Flashback drew a great number of responses from alumni in classes from the late 1970s. There was a wide range of suggestions for the students in the photo. The consensus seems to be that Class of ’79 members Tom Boduch, Sally Shulman, and Tom Harrington, along with Jim Senacqau from the Class of ’80, are the students in the foreground. There were thoughts that the instructor could be Dr. Roy Korson, but most respondents voted for his being Dr. Jackson Clemmons (Dr. Clemmons was featured in the Summer 2019 Vermont Medicine when he received an honorary degree from UVM).

Thanks to alumni Tom Boduch, Cynthia Christy, Michael Hermana, Jim Jarvis, Jon Keller, David Little, Gerard Nuovo, Dorrie Pante, and Marge Sproul for their contributions.

We’re guessing the lecture was over, or not yet begun, in this photo that seems to have been taken in the “new” Hall A that existed on the second floor of Given from 1968 till the early 2000s. Is that person in front meditating on all the knowledge he’s just ingested? And who are his classmates?

Send your thoughts to erin.post@med.uvm.edu and we’ll include them in the next issue of Vermont Medicine.
Robert D. Wakefield

Robert D. Wakefield was stationed in Baumholder, Germany. Following a brief stint at the U.S. security during the trials. Following sessions of the Nuremberg trials, Crane was transferred to Carswell bomber wing with the responsibility of conducting crash investigations. He achieved the rank of professor at the University of Kentucky. He earned his bachelor's degree from Albertus Magnus College in 1961 and his M.S. and Ph.D. in pharmacology from the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1970. He was transferred to Watertown, Mass., to begin a hybrid occupation of medical practice and hospital administration at Mid-Maine Medical Center, eventually serving as its president. He also became a key figure in the development of the Methadone Detoxification Program at St. Francis. Dr. Granai, 71, died June 28, 2012, in Boston, Mass., of cardiac arrhythmia.

Dr. Granai was a pioneer in the field of anesthesia. He served as president of the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine and as president of the International Tracheostomy Registry. He was also named a Distinguished Alumni of the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Neil F. Most, 87, died on December 13, 2012, in Manhattan, of complications from cardiac disease. Dr. Most was a pediatric cardiologist in the Hartford and then assistant professor of psychiatry and medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He served as the medical director of the Alcohol Treatment Center at the VA Hospital in New London, Conn. He was a key figure in the development of the Methadone Detoxification Program at St. Francis. Dr. Granai, 71, died June 28, 2012, in Boston, Mass., of cardiac arrhythmia.

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August 10, 2020
7:59 A.M.
Students in the Class of 2024 wait in a physically-distanced line outside of the Larner College of Medicine to begin their first day as medical students. While Orientation had a different look and feel this year, the poignancy of the moment was no less impactful.
14 **The Red Wheelbarrow**

The Larner College of Medicine’s yearly literary and visual arts journal, *The Red Wheelbarrow*, showcases the talents and insights of people associated with an institution dedicated to the science and art of medicine.

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20 **The Covid-19 Pivot**

As the COVID-19 pandemic began its march across the globe in the spring of 2020, Larner physicians and scientists quickly adapted their investigations to focus on diagnostics, therapies and basic science research.

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26 **On Track**

As co-principal investigator of the GeoSentinel Surveillance Network, Davidson Hamer, M.D.’87, has been at the front line of tracking the spread of COVID-19 and coordinating a response to the pandemic.