Debra Leonard, M.D., Ph.D. | William Pendlebury, M.D.

Gift Honors Colody's Legacy as Pediatric Surgeon

Arnold Colody, M.D., '72, was a pioneer in the field of pediatric surgery, serving as an inspiration for generations of physicians. His memory is being honored at the UVM College of Medicine in his name with endowed chairs in pediatrics and the l ectorship in Dr. Colody's name, a naming of a bridge in front of the Department of Pediatrics in the Givin building in his honor. Dr. Colody's wife, Lilian Colody, MD,'72 has recently established the possibility through giving to the College a piece of property, in Vermont, which was sold to fund the lectureship endowment. The Arthur H. Colody, M.D., Lectureship in Pediatric Surgery, which has been bringing international experts to Vermont since 1995, will now be endowed in perpetuity thanks to the Colody family's generosity, and all who pass over the bridge to visit the Department of Pediatrics will be reminded of the legacy of Dr. Colody, who died in 2001 at the age of 77.

Alum & Faculty Member’s Gift Supports Future Medical Students

Michael Opton, M.D., '94, and members of his family have established the Upton Fellowship Scholarship through gifts totaling $100,000. Dr. Opton, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the UVM College of Medicine, has been a staff psychiatrist at UVM’s Center for Health and Well-Being since 2004. His roots at UVM run deep; his family includes four generations of UVM College of Medicine graduates dating back to the 1910s. Dr. Opton — a 2012 recipient of the Service to Medicine and Community Award from the Medical Alumni Association — continues to take an active interest in the lives of medical students as well. For over ten years he has been a member on the College’s student wellness committee, and he is faculty co-advisor for the College’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance. This endowed scholarship which honors the family legacy will help to fund the education of future Vermont medical students.

Development News

Young Alum Grants Support to College of Medicine

Although only 13 years out of medical school, Thuan Nguyen, M.D., ’02, an emergency medicine physician practicing in Arizona, has already shown a significant commitment to his alma mater. A regular contributor to the UVM College of Medicine Annual Fund, Dr. Nguyen recently pledged $125,000 over five years, prior to his planned 2014 big gift donation to the College. Dr. Nguyen’s increased support of the College — combined with other young alumni who make gifts — plays a key role in building a strong foundation for the next generation of physicians and scientists at the UVM College of Medicine.

UVM Professor of Medicine Mercedes Rincon, Ph.D., has received a $30,000 grant from the Wellington Cabot Foundation to research how the inflammatory response affects cancer recurrence and metastasis. This work follows a 2010 study using mouse models, the American Cancer Society-funded study, which showed that inflammation triggered by a biopsy of primary mammary tumors causes a drastic increase in metastases in the lungs. The latest funding will allow the research team to study how the inflammatory response affects cancer recurrence and metastasis.

Faculty & Alums Create Pathology Student Fellowship Endowment

An endowment for the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Student Fellowship will help the program continue to serve medical students in the future. Thanks to the generous giving of pathology faculty and a legion of alumni from the program. Founded in 1956, the fellowship is one of the oldest continuously running programs of its kind in the country. Follows take one year between their second and third years of medical school to learn about all aspects of pathology through working with physicians and residents at UVM Medical Center in surgical pathology, autopsy, and the blood bank, as well as in up to five elective areas. Under the leadership of Dr. Eric Debra Leonard, M.D., Ph.D., William Pendlebury, ’76, the endowment now totals just over $500,000. The goal is a $2 million endowment for the program, which would support two fellows annually.

UVM Professor of Medicine Mercedes Rincon, Ph.D.

Endowed with a $30,000 Wellington Cabot Foundation Grant, the following study was recently funded to research how the inflammatory response affects cancer recurrence and metastasis...