

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

Summer 2013



Deb Kutzko, APRN (left), David “Curt” Curtis, Chris Curtis, and Christopher Grace, M.D., gather at the HIV Comprehensive Care Clinic’s 25th Anniversary Event at Fletcher Allen on June 27, 2013.

[CALENDAR OF EVENTS, IN THE NEWS, AND CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

NEWS & EVENTS

HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Care Clinics 25th Anniversary

On June 27, 2013, National HIV Testing Day, Fletcher Allen Health Care honored the work of Christopher Grace, M.D., University of Vermont professor of medicine, Deborah Kutzko, A.P.R.N., nurse practitioner, and the team of providers that make up the HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Care Clinics (CCC), at a 25th anniversary event.

The HIV/AIDS CCC program was established in 1987 at the former Medical Center Hospital of Vermont (now Fletcher Allen) in Burlington, and by 1996, grew to include four clinics across the state, located in Burlington, Rutland, Brattleboro, and St. Johnsbury. The CCC began receiving Ryan White CARE Act funding from the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration in 1994.

The June 27, 2013, Burlington Free Press features a front-page Vermont section [article](#) highlighting the CCC’s work, including quotes by Grace and Kutzko. In addition, Fletcher Allen posted an [“In Service to Medicine”](#) piece on its website. You can also read more about the HIV/AIDS CCC in [Vermont Medicine](#).

UVM Certificate of Graduate Study in Public Health Program Launched

UVM Certificate of Graduate Study in Public Health: Addressing Healthcare Redesign and Promoting Population Health

The University of Vermont recently launched the [online Certificate of Graduate Study in Public Health](#) in the College of Medicine, Department of Medicine. Medical and graduate students, health professionals, public health professionals and healthcare researchers can enroll in the 18-credit, 100 percent online graduate program. Since the program announcement, more than 30 applicants have applied, with a variety of health care and public health backgrounds. The online format provides flexibility for learners and gives faculty the opportunity to employ innovative and engaging teaching methods. Trained across the field of public health and drawing from different departments and colleges at UVM and the Vermont Department of Health, faculty for this new online certificate challenge students to develop skills to:

- Practice in a changing health care environment that requires accountability for the health of entire populations and skills to prevent illness and promote health
- Engage in public health practice, with knowledge and skills needed for effective participation in work of government public health agencies or non-profit health-related organizations
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in foundation population health sciences in preparation for further graduate study in public health and related fields

For a detailed description, please see a complete article and video in [UVM IMPACT](#), the newsletter of the UVM Graduate College.

For questions or additional information, contact [Jan K. Carney M.D., M.P.H.](#), Associate Dean for Public Health and Professor of Medicine.

Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer (VTAAC)

Kim Dittus, M.D., and **Susan Webber** are co-chairing the Quality of Life Workgroup thru Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer (VTAAC). This workgroup has four target areas: Wellness, Survivor Care Plans, Education, and Data.

The VTAAC is a statewide partnership of cancer survivors, advocates, public health and health care professionals working together to reduce the impact of cancer on all Vermonters. Created in 2005, VTAAC is responsible for putting the Vermont Cancer Plan into action by preventing overlap and directing resources to where they matter most in our state. The activities of VTAAC are focused on reaching the ultimate goal: Reducing the burden of cancer in Vermont. Here are some statistics that inform VTAAC's work:

- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Vermont
- Each year, more than 3,000 Vermonters are diagnosed with cancer
- More than 31,000 Vermonters are living with a current or previous cancer diagnosis

Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Faculty Present At The American Thoracic Meeting

The **Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Division** had a very strong showing at the annual international meeting of the American Thoracic Society. Faculty chaired a number of key scientific symposia, and faculty, fellows and trainees presented their research in many prominent venues. **Yolanda Mageto, M.D.** hosted the society's Diversity Forum, an annual forum to recognize and foster the careers of minorities within the society. **Anne Dixon, M.D.** hosted the women's forum, and **Polly Parsons, M.D.**

served on a panel of four prominent women to discuss career advancement for women in in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine and science.

Dermatology Goes International

Todd Holmes, M.D. and **Glenn Goldman, M.D.** have become involved in volunteer international work for dermatologic surgery through the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery. Working with a mentor from the ASDS, they have developed and are formalizing an international listserv for reconstructive advice in dermatologic surgery.

Recent Faculty Promotions

Anne Dixon, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. –Professor (tenured)
Eric Ganguly, M.D. –Associate Professor
David Kaminsky, M.D. - Professor (tenured)
Patricia King, M.D. - Associate Professor
Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D. – Professor (tenured)
Joel Schnure, M.D. – Professor
Doris Strader, M.D. – Professor
Jose Teixeira, Ph.D. – Research Assistant Professor
Neil Zakai, M.D. – Associate Professor, with Tenure
A.K.A. Tarikuz Zaman, Ph.D. – Research Assistant Professor
Richard Zubarik, M.D. – Professor

Recognition and Awards

HOUSE STAFF AWARDS FROM THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013

Justin Stinnett-Donnell, M.D. - The Harriet P. Dustan, M.D. Award - In recognition of acquisition of new knowledge through research performed during residency.

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

David A. Kaminsky, M.D. - E.L. Amidon, M.D. Award - Outstanding Teacher of the Year Subspecialty Medicine.

Richard G. Pinckney, M.D., M.P.H. - William Osler, M.D. Award Outstanding Teacher of the Year General Internal Medicine.

Elizabeth Hill, M.D. - Richard E. Bouchard, M.D. Excellence in Primary Care Award - 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.

Kim Dittus, M.D., was chosen as a recipient of The Vision Award. The Vision Award recognizes staff members and physicians that embody the Fletcher Allen Vision and strive for excellence in quality care and service for our patients, their families, and their co-workers. Awards are given four times a year.

Marie Wood, M.D. received the Hosking Award (which recognizes distinguished outstanding lifetime achievement in chosen field of work) at the William Smith College Athletic Awards Banquet.

Mary Cushman, M.D. was elected a member of the National Board of Directors of the American Heart Association (AHA). She currently serves as president of the Vermont Board of the AHA Founder's Affiliate. [Read more>>](#)

Elizabeth Chen, Ph.D. was invited to be a member of the editorial board for *Methods of Information in Medicine*.

Steve Ades, M.D., Gilman Allen, M.D., Jaina Clough, M.D., Steve Grant, M.D., Isaura Menzies, M.D., Joel Schnure, M.D., and Joe Winget, M.D. were named to the OneCare Vermont Clinical Advisory Board. [Read more >>](#)

RESEARCH MENTOR AWARDS

The Department of Medicine Research Mentor Award for mentorship of a resident or fellow was recently presented to **David Schneider, M.D.**, Cardiology.

The Department of Medicine Research Mentor Award for mentorship of a post doc or graduate student was recently presented to **Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.**, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

Each was nominated by a research protégé and recognized at the DOM annual meeting for his outstanding contribution to the research and teaching missions. Their nominations represent hours of unseen and often under-appreciated work and dedication to advocating for and furthering the career of a research protégé. The award was established in 2012 and the first recipient was Chris Holmes in Hematology/Oncology for mentorship of a resident or fellow. Nominations were solicited and we had a fantastic and talented pool of possible recipients, speaking to the robust depth and breadth of research in the DOM.

[Read More for Additional Recognition and Awards](#)

Publication Highlights

Palvinskaya T, Antkowiak M, Burg E, Lenox CC, Ubags N, Cramer A, Rincón M, Dixon AE, Fessler MB, Poynter ME, Suratt BT., Effects of acute and chronic low density lipoprotein exposure on neutrophil function. *Pulm Pharmacol Ther.* 2013 Aug;26(4):405-11.

Parsons JP, Hallstrand TS, Mastronade JG, **Kaminsky DA**, Rundell KW, Hull JH, Storms WW, Weiler JM, Cheek FM, Wilson KD, Anderson SD; ATS Subcommittee on Exercise-induced Bronchoconstriction. An official ATS clinical practice guideline: Exercise-induced bronchoconstriction. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2013; 187(9):1016-27.

Carlson AL, **Marney AM**, Anderson SR, **Gilbert MP**. Bilateral Adrenal Incidentalomas: A Case Report and Review of Diagnostic Challenges. *Case Rep Endocrinol*, vol. 2013, Article ID 953052, 4 pages, 2013. doi:10.1155/2013/953052.

Gupta D, Leahy AA, Monga N, **Peshavaria M, Jetton TL, Leahy JL**. PPAR γ and its Target Genes are Downstream Effectors of FoxO1 in Islet Beta-cells: Mechanism of Beta-cell Compensation and Failure. *J Biol Chem.* 2013 Jun 20. [Epub ahead of print]

Holmes TE. Crescentic apical triangle island pedicle flap for repair of the medial upper lip. *Dermatol Surg* 2013;39:784-8.

Mossman BT, Shukla A, Heintz NH, **Verschraegen CF**, Thomas A, Hassan R: New insights into understanding the mechanisms, pathogenesis, and management of malignant mesotheliomas. *Am J Pathol.* 2013 Apr;182(4):1065-77. Doi: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2012.12.028. Epub 2013 Feb 8.

Wood ME, Flynn BS, Stockdale A: Primary care physician management, referral, and relations with specialists concerning patients at risk for cancer due to family history. *Public Health Genomics*. 2013;16(#):75-82. Doi: 10.1159/000343790. Epub 2013 Jan 17.

Barkun, Alan N. MD, Adam, Viviane MSc, Martel, Myriam, BSc, **Moses, Peter L. MD** Partially covered self-expandable metal stent versus Polyethylene stent for malignant biliary obstructions: A cost-effectiveness analysis. Accepted for publication: *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*- July 2013

[Read More for Additional Recent Publications](#)

Research & Grants

Hematology/Oncology Division Faculty Members Present at American Society of Clinical Oncology:

The work of **Marie Wood, M.D.** and **Susan Lakoski, M.D.** was highlighted at the recent ASCO meeting. Dr. Wood, Director of the Familial Cancer Program, presented her study assessing family history-taking and referral for genetic counseling and testing: [Read more >>](#)

Dr. Lakoski presented the results of a prospective 20-year study showing that a high level of cardiovascular fitness in middle age reduces men's risk of developing and dying from lung and colorectal cancer, two of the most common cancers affecting men. [Read more >>](#)

Marc Greenblatt, M.D. and **Marie Wood, M.D.** were speakers at the Pre-ASCO Conference on Genetics and Genomics for the Practicing Clinician.

Mary Cushman, M.D., **Neil Zakai, M.D.**, **Chris Holmes, M.D.**, and **Susan Lakoski M.D.**, attended the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) Congress in Amsterdam recently and gave eight presentations. **Kristine Alexander, Ph.D.**, post doctoral student in the department also attended. [Read More](#)

Two faculty members have recently been awarded grants from Medtronic, Inc.:

Annis Marney, M.D. for her project entitled: *"The Utility of Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) in Detecting Cardiac Autonomic Neuropathy (CAN) and its Impact on Glucose Variability and Cardiac Function in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Heart Failure"*.

Markus Meyer, M.D. for his project entitled *"Pacing-Mediated LV Remodeling for the Treatment of Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction"*.

David Kaminsky, M.D. was recently award a grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for his project entitled: *"The Efficacy of Pranayama in COPD"*.

New Research Projects and Collaborations

Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D. and her colleagues in the Vaccine Testing Center received \$1.9M in funding for a project sponsored by PaxVax entitled, "A Phase II Randomized Double Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Efficacy Trail of a Single Dose of Live Oral Cholera Vaccine Candidate, PXVX0200 CVD 103-HgR Strain, in Preventing Cholera following Challenge with Vibrio Cholera O1 El Tor Inaba 10 day or 3 months after Vaccination," Start/End date: 6/03/2013-6/20/2016.

Mary Cushman, M.D. and colleagues have started a second in home visit for over 20,000 participants nationwide in the REGARDS cohort. They have been observing these participants since enrollment in 2003-2007 for stroke, cognitive decline and other health outcomes. The laboratory in Colchester is receiving blood and urine samples on each participant, which they will use to classify cardiovascular and stroke risk factors, and for further studies addressing scientific questions or interest.

WHO KNEW?

In June members of the division of dermatology traveled to Bucharest, Romania, where they participated in an educational conference and surgery mission with colleagues from several institutions around the United States. Glenn Goldman, M.D. and his surgery fellow Vanessa Lichon, M.D. lectured to approximately 80 dermatologists at the main University in Bucharest. In addition, with the assistance of histotech Susan Cushing, they performed several complex surgeries to remove and reconstruct advanced nonmelanoma facial skin cancers. Mohs surgery is in its infancy in Romania, with only three providers performing a limited number of procedures. This was a highly rewarding experience, and several of the Romanian physicians will visit Fletcher Allen Health Care in the fall as observers.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



- [UVM College of Medicine](#)
- [Fletcher Allen](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- [Grand Rounds Schedule](#)
- [Fletcher Allen Events](#)
- [UVM Events](#)

MEDICINE IN THE NEWS:

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

- [On National HIV Testing Day - Vermont Clinic Marks 25th Anniversary](#)

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

- [U.S. News Top Doctors](#)

CONTACT US:

Department of Medicine
University of Vermont/Fletcher
Allen Health Care
111 Colchester Avenue,
Fletcher 311
Burlington, VT 05401
Phone:(802) 847-4950
Fax:(802) 847-5368

- [View our Newsletter Archives](#)
- [Send Division Updates](#)
- [Send Feedback](#)