

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

Summer 2014



Last three fellows in Endocrinology with newly appointed interim Fellowship program director Matt Gilbert at the annual meeting of the Endocrine Society in Chicago.

Right to left Madhi Alvi, Dr Gilbert, Susmitha Garapati and Yew Xin Teh

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

### NEWS & EVENTS

#### Passing of The Torch in Rheumatology

**Dr. Ed Leib** stepped down from his position as Chief of Rheumatology as of July 1, 2014 and became an Emeritus Professor of Medicine. Dr. Leib joined the faculty in 1984 and became division chief in 2011. He is an outstanding teacher, clinician and clinical investigator recognized nationally and internationally as an expert on the use of bone densitometry in the diagnosis of osteoporosis. In addition to publishing landmark studies on densitometry standards, he was a charter member of the International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD) and has served in numerous other leadership roles within that organization, most recently Chair of the Education Council. He received the ISCD Clinician of the Year award, the Paul Miller award for service and was recognized by The Department of Medicine house staff as the Teacher of the Year.

We are fortunate that Dr. Leib isn't leaving entirely as he will continue to provide clinical care and teach part-time.

**Dr. Bonita Libman**, Professor of Medicine, has agreed to serve as the interim chief of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology as we continue our national search for a division

chief. Dr. Libman is recognized as an outstanding clinician and teacher. She has served as the Program Director for the fellowship in Rheumatology since 2009 and the program has thrived under her leadership. For the past five consecutive years she has received a competitive award from the American College of Rheumatology to support fellowship training and recently she was awarded a grant from the Rheumatology Research Foundation to support medical student research. She has contributed to education at a national level through her membership on the American College of Rheumatology In-Training Examination Item Writing Committee and the Subcommittee on Medical Student and Resident Recruitment. At FAHC/UVM her contributions include serving as the Chair of the Medical Records Committee and elected member of the Medical Executive Committee.

In addition to serving as the interim division chief, Dr. Libman will continue in her role as the fellowship program director with the assistance of Dr. Narandra Bethina.

### **Other News**

The next Governor of the VT Chapter of the American College of Physicians is **Jan Carney, MD, MPH**. Dr. Carney is well-known to many of you, given her long-standing commitment to the health of Vermonters. After attending Middlebury College as an undergraduate, she went on to obtain her MD at the University of Cincinnati, followed by residency in Internal Medicine here at the University of Vermont. Given her interest in health policy, she then went off to the Harvard School of Public Health, where she received her MPH. Shortly thereafter, she returned to Vermont as the Commissioner of Health, a position she held for 14 years. Currently, she is a Professor of Medicine at UVM, where she also serves as Associate Dean for Public Health.

In April, **Patricia King, MD** was elected to the Federation of State Medical Boards Board of Directors and received the John H. Clark Award, recognizing exemplary leadership, commitment and contributions in advancing the public good at the state medical board level. Full story at <http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/?Page=news&storyID=18573&category=comall>

**Mary Cushman, MD, MSc** was awarded the American Health Association's Council on Epidemiology and Prevention Distinguished Achievement Award at the Council's annual meeting in San Francisco on March 28-31, 2014. The award was given in recognition of Dr. Cushman's many years of volunteer leadership service to the Council and to the American Heart Association.

**Timothy Tourville**, who earned a PhD in Clinical and Translational Science in 2012, received the 2014 Doctoral Dissertation Awards from the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Research and Education Foundation during the NATA 65<sup>th</sup> Clinical Symposia & At Expo held in June in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 2014 College of Medicine Marathon Team raised more than \$18,000 for VCC's Steps to Wellness. The marathon was held on Sunday, May 25, 2014.

### **SPARK Highlighted at the NIH**

At the 2014 NISBRE/IDeA Symposium a session was devoted to SBIR/TechTransfer/SPARKVt. **Dr. Mercedes Rincon** presented and was subsequently invited to co-chair an NIGMS/NIH/DHHS Workshop: Finding ways to foster SBIR/STTR applications from IDeA States later this summer.

## **Welcome New Residents and Fellows**

### **PGY-1 – Residents**

#### **Categorical**

Trace Barrett -Albany Medical College  
Lee-Anna Burgess -University of Queensland, Australia  
Brendan Everett -Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson  
Steven Jarzembowski -George Washington University  
Shea Lambirth -University of Kentucky  
Kevin Leadholm -Albany Medical College  
Erica Monfred -University of Maryland  
Lakshmi Nambiar -Royal College of Surgeons Ireland  
Sara Roberts -Pennsylvania State University  
Moussa Takla -University of Connecticut  
Javaneh Tamiji -Royal College of Surgeons Ireland  
Rosannah Velasquez -Baylor College of Medicine  
Kaitlyn Vennard -NY Institute of Tech College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Ann VoTouro University-California College of Osteopathic Medicine

#### **Preliminary**

Barbara Decker -St. George's University (Neurology)  
Price DeHay -USF Health Morsani (Radiology)  
Brendan Fulmer -Tulane University (Anesthesia)  
Marcus Hook -University of Kansas (Radiology)  
David Lorance -Tulane University (Neurology)  
Nicholas Phillips -University of Vermont (Neurology)  
Jeremy Porter -University of Hawaii (Anesthesia)  
Jaelyn Thiessen -Oregon Health & Science University (Radiology)

#### **Preliminary Anesthesia shared with Surgery**

Bradley Jones -University of Oklahoma  
Joshua Melito -Lincoln Memorial U of DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Joshua Stopak -University of Nebraska  
William Tharp -University of Vermont

#### **Chief Medical Residents**

Samuel Merrill -Washington University  
Samreen Raza -Imperial College – United Kingdom  
Heather Shenk -University of Vermont

#### **Dermatology**

Andrew Hankinson - Pennsylvania University College of Medicine

Michael Romano - University of Massachusetts Medical School

### **Fellows**

Abernethy, Abraham - Case Western Reserve University

Cohn, Aaron - University of Chicago

Hohl, Patrick - FAHC - Internal Medicine Residency

Howe, Nicole - University of South Florida Dermatology Residency

Jarugula, Sahithi - University of Utah

Keveson, Benjamin - FAHC - Internal Medicine Residency

Leclair, Timothy - FAHC - Internal Medicine Residency

McMahon, Sean - FAHC - Internal Medicine Residency

Rambod, Mehdi - Texas Tech University Health Sciences

Rehman, Hibba Tul - Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

Ruades, Jose Ignacio - Danbury Hospital, Danbury, Connecticut

Sharef, Sadik - University of Arizona

Spiess, Krystine - FAHC - Internal Medicine Residency

Susarla, Sree - Steward Carney Hospital

Thottan, Anna - St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Brighton, Massachusetts

### **GUEST OR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

May 2-4, 2014 VCC 16th Annual Stowe Weekend of Hope: “Ultimate Survivor: A Culinary and Exercise Book Camp for Cancer Survivors”. Participants from the Hematology/Oncology Division included **Kim Dittus, MD, PhD, Patricia O’Brien, MD** and **Marie Wood, MD**

**Benjamin Littenberg, MD:** Visiting Professor, Research Centers at Minority Institutions Program, School of Medicine and School of Health Professions, Medical Sciences Campus, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, March 2014

**David Kaminsky, MD** - Lung Mechanics in Asthma: It’s Not Just Bronchoconstriction; and Nuances, Insights and Trivia from the PFT Lab. Pacific Northwest Regional Respiratory Care Conference, Spokane, Washington, April 13, 2014.

**Anne Dixon, MA, BM, BcH:** Obesity and Asthma, April 9 2014, Medicine Grand Rounds, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

### **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

This month, **Shaden Eldakar-Hein, MD** finished her Masters in Bioethics at the Alden March Bioethics Institute at Albany Medical College – her thesis project was the development of an ethics curriculum for medicine residents.

**Halle Sobel, MD** was accepted into the Reynolds Geriatric Faculty Development Longitudinal Scholar Program at Mount Sinai – where her work will include development of a geriatric education series for the ambulatory resident clinic.

**Vanessa Lichon, MD** won the Distinguished Theodore Tromovich award from the American College of Mohs Surgery at the annual meeting in May. This was given for her research on tension vectors in rotation flap surgery in an in vivo pig model.

**Ben King**, CMB graduate student in Dr. Jason Botten's group, received a prestigious Chateaubriand Fellowship from the French Embassy (<http://www.chateaubriand-fellowship.org/>).

The General Internal Medicine Division wishes to congratulate **Richard Voogt** and **Alex Friend** who were awarded the Master of Science in Clinical Translational Science (Research Management track) on May 19, 2014. **Ross Colgate** (researcher/analyst in Infectious Disease) was recently admitted to the Doctoral program in CTS.

**Ryan Clouser, MD** is now Board Certified in Neurocritical Care

**Dan Weiss, MD** was named Chief Scientific Officer to the Executive Committee of the International Society for Cellular Therapy.

### **PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Al-Alwan A**, Ehlenbach WJ, **Menon PR**, Young MP, **Stapleton RD**. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation among mechanically ventilated patients. *Intensive Care Med* 2014;40:556-63. doi: 10.1007/s00134-014-3247-2.

Buskiewicz IA, **Koenig A**, Roberts B, Russell J, Shi C, Lee SH, Jung JU, Huber SA, **Budd RC**. c-FLIP-Short Reduces Type I Interferon Production and Increases Viremia with Cocksackievirus B3. *PLoS One*. 2014 May 9;9(5):e96156. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0096156. eCollection 2014. PMID: 24816846 / PMCID: PMC4015977

**Chen ES**, Sarkar IN. Mining the electronic health record for disease knowledge. *Methods Mol Biol*. 2014;1159:269-86. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939-0709-0\_15. PubMed PMID: 24788272.

**GB Allen**, V Miller, C Nicholas, S Hess, MK Cordes, JB Fortune, J Blondin, T Ashikaga, M Ricci. A multitiered strategy of simulation training, kit consolidation, and electronic documentation is associated with a reduction in central line-associated bloodstream infections. *Am J Infect Control* 2014; 42 (6):643-648. doi:10.1016/j.ajic.2014.02.014

**Goldman GD**. Reconstruction of the nasal infratip, columella and soft triangle. *Dermatol Surg* 2014 in print

John C. Wang; Didier Carrié; Monica Masotti; Andrejs Erglis; David Mego; **Matthew Watkins**; Paul Underwood; Dominic J. Allocco; Christian W. Hamm [CRT-152 Nine-Month Primary Endpoint Results of the Omega Study: Clinical Outcomes After Implantation of a Modern Platinum Chromium Bare Metal Stent](#)This new info on clinical trials and the OMEGA stent trial that was named a Top ten abstract at Cardiovascular Research Technologies (CRT 2014).

**Lim N**, DeSarno N, **Lidofsky SD**, **Ganguly EK**. 2014. Hospitalization for variceal

hemorrhage in an era with more prevalent cirrhosis. *World J Gastroenterol.* (in press).

Miller J, Peng Z, Wilcox R, Evans, M, **Ades S, Verschraegen C.** Absence of Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase Translocation in Signet Ring Cell Carcinoma of the Upper Gastrointestinal Tract. *Gastrointest Cancer Res* 2014 March;7(2):39-41. PMID:24799969

**Nathaniel C. Thompson • Justin Stinnett-Donnelly • Nicole Habel • Bryce Benson • Jason H. T. Bates • Burton E. Sobel • Peter S. Spector,** Improved spatial resolution and electrogram wave direction independence with the use of an orthogonal electrode Configuration. *J Clin Monit Comput* (2014) 28:157–163 April 2014

Schwartz MD, Valdimarsdottir HB, Peshkin BN, Mandelblatt J, Nusbaum R, Huang AT, Chang Y, Graves K, Isaacs C, **Wood M,** McKinnon W, Garber J, McCormick S, Kinney AY, Luta G, Kelleher S, Leventhal KG, Vegella P, Tong A, King L. Randomized noninferiority trial of telephone versus in-person genetic counseling for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 2014 Mar 1;32(7):618-26. doi: 10.1200/JCO.2013.51.3226. Epub 2014 Jan 21.

Wall EH, Case LK, Hewitt SC, Nguyen-Vu T, Candelaria NR, **Teuscher C,** Lin CY. Genetic control of ductal morphology, estrogen-induced ductal growth, and gene expression in female mouse mammary gland. *Endocrinology.* 2014 Apr 7:en20131910. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 24708240

[Read More for Full List of Recent Publications](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES

Registration is open for all fall courses in Clinical Translational Science. In addition to our popular courses in Designing, Conducting and Analyzing CTS Research, a one –time Special Topics course will be offered called: Assessing Diagnostic Technology. For 2014-15, the Cell to Society topic is coronary artery disease. For info, contact GIMR at (802) 656-4560.

## NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS

**Christopher Huston, MD** and **Kovi Bessoff** have filed for a patent entitled: Compositions and methods for treating cryptosporidiosis (file date 11/14/2013)

## RECENT GRANT AWARDS

**Karen Fortner, PhD** was awarded an NIH R21 grant (\$150,000) “T Lymphocyte Homeostasis in Obesity” (6/1/14-5/31/16)

First year med student **Nazey Gulec** has received a \$3,000 UVM Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship and will work in **Dr. Lennart Lundblad’s** laboratory this summer studying “Inhibition of mast cell induced lung inflammation by modulating IL-33 signaling”

#### VCC/LCCRO Pilot Project and Awards:

- “Skeletal muscle adaptations that contribute the fatigue in breast cancer patients”,  
**Michael Toth, PhD** and **Kim Dittus, MD, PhD**
- The DNA repair landscape of discordant sibling pairs of women from Hereditary Breast Cancer Families, **Marie Wood, MD** and Joann Sweasy, PhD

**Dan Weiss, MD** - Unrestricted research award from Athersys Inc., Cleveland: \$35,000

**Bonita Libman, MD** received a Rheumatology Research Foundation Medical Student Research Preceptorship in the amount of \$4000, in collaboration with **Dr. Mercedes Rincon** and medical student **Sarah Kelso** for a project on Rheumatoid Arthritis and IL-6.

**Dr. Edward Leib** received a UVM COM summer grant, as well as a grant from the Rheumatology Research Foundation.

#### IN THE MEDIA

**Jen Gilwee, MD** (along with John King, MD from Family Medicine) was interviewed by David Goodman on “The Vermont Conversation” on May 21st about the Vermont Blueprint for Health. You can listen to a recording of the program at <http://vtconversation.dgoodman.net/>

**Mary Cushman, MD, MSc** March 17, 2014: Radio Media Tour for the American Society of Hematology, DVT Awareness Month. Appeared on several radio shows around the country.

**Claire Verschraegen, MD** and **Gary Stein, PhD** appeared on “Across the Fence” on May 6th to talk about the Vermont Cancer Center and what it means to have a comprehensive cancer center here in Vermont.

**Margaret Kennedy, M.D.** – was interviewed with reporter Courtney Kabot for 6:00 p.m. news, WPTZ on March 21, 2014 - story on deep vein thrombosis (DVT) as March is National Deep Vein Thrombosis Awareness month.

**Patti O’Brien, MD** and Julie Dumas, PhD were guests on UVM/WCAX’s “Across the Fence” television program to discuss chemo brain – April 2014.

**Gil Allen, MD** was interviewed on WCAX news on June 17th regarding Sepsis Mortality at FAHC and new Sepsis Alert <http://www.wcax.com/story/25801860/how-many-deaths-are-tied-to-sepsis>

**David Kaminsky, MD** was referenced in the Burlington Free Press (May 25, 2014) in an article about how much carbon dioxide runners produce during the marathon.

**Charles Irvin, PhD** was recently interviewed for *Medpage Today* interview [website](#)

Everydayhealth.com, Jun 19

**Doris Strader, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Medicine, commented on new developments in

Hepatitis C treatments.

<http://www.everydayhealth.com/health-report/hepatitis-c-living-well/hepatitis-c-treatment-innovation-cure-rates.aspx>

MedPage Today, May 8

**Anne Dixon, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.**, Professor of Medicine and Director of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, commented on a research abstract recently presented at the annual American Psychiatric Association meeting that focused on a link between asthma and suicide.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/APA/45670>

WCAX-TV, May 9

**Prospero Gogo, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine, commented on the FDA announcement that an aspirin routine may be unnecessary for some cardiac patients.

<http://www.wcax.com/story/25476629/fda-says-daily-aspirin-isnt-for-everyone>

*Burlington Free Press*, May 25

**David Kaminsky, M.D., and Peter Moses, M.D.**, Professors of Medicine, were interviewed regarding oxygen consumption, CO<sub>2</sub> production, and methane production by marathon runners. <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/local/2014/05/25/marathon-hasten-climate-change/9564955/>

WCAX-TV, May 27

**W. Kemper Alston, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine, commented on the preparations being taken by Fletcher Allen Health Care in response to a potential MERS outbreak.

<http://www.wcax.com/story/25621473/vt-prepared-for-potential-mers-pandemic>

WCAX-TV, June 12

**Joshua Farkas, M.D.**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, shared the story of a dramatic case of H1N1 to help illustrate the importance of the flu vaccine.

<http://www.wcax.com/story/25763002/flu-fight>

WPTZ-TV, June 26

This "Health Beat" segment featured technology and research co-developed and led by **Peter Spector, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine and Fletcher Allen cardiac electrophysiologist.

[More In the Media](#)

### **NATIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP ROLES**

**Gil Allen, MD** - Appointed to Critical Care Assembly Program Committee, American Thoracic Society

**Jason Bates, PhD** - Appointed Deputy Editor of the Journal of Applied Physiology

**Elizabeth Chen, MD**, Member, Awards Committee, American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Member, Membership and Outreach Committee, American Medical



Informatics Association (AMIA)

**Mary Cushman, MD, MSc** participated in the American Heart Association Voices for Healthy Kids Policy Research Summit. Raleigh, NC. June 2014

**Mary Cushman, MD, MSc** became Immediate Past President of the American Heart Association Vermont Board of Directors.

**Mary Cushman, MD, MSc** appointed as Member of the American Society of Hematology Media Experts Subcommittee.

**Charles Irvin, PhD** chaired a recent National IDeA Meeting in Washington DC with 730 attendees and 417 abstracts.

**Charles Irvin, PhD** - Editorial Board - Journal of Chronic Obstructive Disease

**Polly Parsons, MD** elected to the Association of Professors of Medicine Council

**Dan Weiss, MD** - Head, Pulmonary Committee, International Society for Cell Therapy

#### WHO KNEW?

Three out of five women physicians in the Infectious Diseases Unit have played hockey / field Hockey (**Dr. Kristen Pierce** plays women's field hockey. **Dr. Mary Ramundo** has played field hockey and ice hockey. **Dr. Beth Kirkpatrick** played ice hockey).

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