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



A summer scene outside the Larner Medical Education Center at the College of Medicine.

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### OUTPATIENT MEDICINE CLERKSHIP GARNERS STUDENT AWARD

Medical students in the Class of 2016 recently presented the Best Clerkship Award to the Outpatient Medicine Clinical Clerkship, directed by **Roberta O'Brien, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine. O'Brien received the recognition at the annual Student Clinician Ceremony, when the members of the rising fourth-year class



honor their teachers and mentors.

### NEW DIRECTOR OF CANCER SERVICES AT UVM MEDICAL CENTER



**Katie Michaud** has been appointed as the new Director of Cancer Services at The University of Vermont Medical Center. Michaud comes to the position with a wealth of experience: She held a number of positions at Maine General Medical Center in Augusta, including health educator, specialty physician practice administrator, and administrator director for Oncology Services. Most recently she served as director of oncology at Gwinnett Medical Center in north Georgia. Michaud has a B.S. in Community Health Education and a master's degree in Public Administration.

### TWO FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE 2015 SPARK-VT FUNDING



A team led by **Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.** (at left), a professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, has been awarded SPARK-VT funding to further research on a lung sealant "patch" he and engineer Rachael Oldinski, Ph.D., are developing. **Claire Verschraegen, M.D.**, (far left) a professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, also received funding as part of a team looking at a new family of compounds called cymaquinones that disrupt autophagy, a process cancer cells

use to develop drug resistance. [Read more.](#)

### UVM TO HOST STEM CELL CONFERENCE

Leading lung disease researchers from around the globe will be coming to campus July 27 to 30 to participate in the 10th anniversary and sixth meeting of the "Stem Cells, Cell Therapies and Bioengineering in Lung Biology Conference." Co-developed by **Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, the conference has become an important resource for funding organizations and top researchers in the field. [Read more and see the conference agenda.](#)

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### Awards & Recognition

**Steven Ades, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, has been elected to serve on the UVM Faculty Senate, Financial & Physical Planning Committee, for a three-year term (2015-2018).

**Shaden Eldakar-Hein, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal

Medicine, had her thesis accepted to complete her master's degree in bioethics.

**Allen Repp, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine, served as guest editor for the April 2015 issue of *Hospital Medicine Clinics*. (Repp AB. The exponential times. *Hospital Medicine Clinics*. April 2015; 4(2): A9-A10)

All Primary Care Internal Medicine (PCIM) sites have now been recognized as **Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Homes**, thanks to the strong leadership of the Medical Group Educators and the staff at each location. Adult Primary Care Williston and Adult Primary Care South Burlington received their official scores in April, 2015. This represents the highest level of certification by the NCQA and is a significant accomplishment in the face of progressively more rigorous recognition standards.

### NATIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP ROLES

- **Ralph Budd, M.D.**, will be reviewing abstracts for the National American College of Rheumatology (ACR) meeting in the category of T Cell Biology.
- **Nicole Hynes, M.D.**, is a UVM team leader for the TRACTION project, which is being conducted by the Brigham and Women's Hospital.
- **Charles Irvin, Ph.D.**, is now an NIH CTSA study section review member.
- **David Kaminsky, M.D.**, has been selected as the Vice Chair for the American Thoracic Society Proficiency Standards for Pulmonary Function Laboratories Committee.
- **Amanda Kennedy, Pharm.D.**, has joined the faculty of the Academic Detailing Training Program through the National Resource Center for Academic Detailing based in Boston, Mass.
- **Mark Levine, M.D.**, was elected a member of the American College of Physicians (ACP) Board of Regents.
- **Polly Parsons, M.D.**, has been elected American Thoracic Society Secretary-Treasurer for the 2015-16 term. Dr. Parsons will assume the role as president for the 2018-19 term.
- **Marie Wood, M.D.**, was elected to the Board of Trustees for the Alliance Foundation.

### UVM MEDICAL CENTER AWARDS

- **Muriel Nathan, M.D., Ph.D.**, received the VISION Award, which recognizes staff members and physicians who embody the UVM Medical Center's vision and strive for excellence in quality care and service for patients, their families, and their co-workers.
- **Emily Parenteau, APRN**, received the Academic Care Award for her "integral" role in the success of the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Program's approach to evidence-based care.

### DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE HOUSE STAFF AWARDS

- Frank L. Babbott, M.D. Memorial Award: **Markus Digerмени, M.D.**
- Osler Teacher of the Year Award: **Florian Foerg, M.D.**
- Harriet P. Dustin, M.D. Research Award: **Jonathan Halevy, M.D.**
- E.L. Amidon Teacher of the Year Award: **William Hopkins, M.D.**
- R.E. Bouchard Award: **Lynn Pesta, M.D.**

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### Education News



**Kathryn Huggett, Ph.D.**, has been appointed the inaugural Assistant Dean and Director of the Teaching Academy at the College of Medicine. Dr. Huggett, who was selected after a national search, will also be appointed Professor of Medicine and Pathology and will begin her new role on September 1. She joins UVM from the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Neb., where she has served as Assistant Dean for Medical Education since 2010 and Director of Medical Education Development and Assessment since 2004.

**Steven Ades, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, organized and hosted the Northeastern Genitourinary Oncology Symposium on May 1-2, 2015, at the Hilton Hotel in Burlington. The conference is a collaboration between UVM Medical Center, McGill University and Norris Cotton Cancer Center, focusing on prostate, bladder, kidney and testicular cancers.

Rachel Carlson '18 has received a fellowship from the American College of Rheumatology to work in the lab of **Ralph Budd, M.D.**, a professor in the Division of Immunobiology, this summer.

**Alison Landrey, M.D.**, and **Jason Gramling, M.D.**, both assistant professors in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine, organized the Second Annual Primary Care Resident retreat on June 12, 2015. It was hosted by **Halle Sobel, M.D.** Among many highlights, **Jennifer Gilwee, M.D.**, **Charles MacLean, M.D.**, and **Alan Rubin, M.D.**, served as panelists for a discussion of primary care careers.

**Edward Leib, M.D.**, a professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, is conducting two projects with medical students. They include "Trabecular Bone Score in Kidney Transplant Patients," with Murtaza Bharmal '18, and "Effect on Trabecular Bone Score on Women on Aromatase Inhibitors for Breast Cancer," with Jeanne Gosselin '16.

Eight faculty members are serving as mentors for students who have been awarded summer research fellowships from the UVM College of Medicine. The faculty/student pairs are:

- **Jason Bates, Ph.D.** (Andrew Seong '18)
- **Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc.** (Christina Cahill '18)
- **Anne Dixon, M.D.** (Elaine Wang '18)
- **Virginia Hood, M.D.** (Lisa Wang '18)
- **Christopher Huston, M.D.** (Liam Donnelly '18)
- **Matthew Poynter, Ph.D.** (Michael Chung '18)
- **Richard Solomon, M.D.** (Brittany Rocque '18)
- **Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.** (Aniruddha Bhattacharyya '18)

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## Research & Grants



**Markus Meyer, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, is principal investigator for a research project grant from the NIH titled "Sarcolemmal Calcium Extrusion Defect in Patients with Diastolic Dysfunction," with subtotal direct costs of \$1.25 million.

**Jason Bartsch, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine,

and resident **Rachel McEntee, M.D.**, were awarded a Frymoyer Scholarship for their proposal, “Rapid Response Team Simulation: Teaching Interprofessional Communication and Clinical Reasoning to Improve Patient Care.”

**David Kaminsky, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care, received the UVM 2015 REACH Award for Ventilation Heterogeneity and its Association with Lung Cancer.

**Bonita Libman, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, received two Rheumatology Research Foundation grants for two Medical Student Clinical Preceptorships (\$500 each).

**Charles MacLean, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine, is principal investigator for Vermont Department of Health sponsored research worth \$44,439. Projects are titled: “Improve the quality of prescribing among health care providers (specifically specialty care and dentistry) with a long-term goal of reducing unintended negative health outcomes among patients,” and “Improving Opioid Prescribing: Sustainable Solutions for Vermont.”

**Benjamin Suratt, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care, with Matt Wargo, assistant professor in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, were awarded a grant for mouse modeling of obese *Pseudomonas pneumonia*.

**Cory Teuscher, Ph.D.**, a professor in the Division of Immunobiology, and **Dimitry Kremontsov, Ph.D.**, research associate, received a \$450,000 grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

**Dan Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.**, a professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care, received a grant for optimizing functional recellularization of acellular human lung scaffolds as well as a DOD grant for development of a novel alginate-based pleural sealant.

**Rui Yang**, a graduate student in the lab of **Mercedes Rincon, Ph.D.**, a professor in the Division of Immunobiology, received a \$23,000 Careers in Immunology Fellowship from the American Association of Immunologists.

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## House Staff News



Internal medicine resident **Lynn Pesta, M.D.**, has been awarded the Gold Honor Society Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award by the Class of 2016. This is given to residents who display excellence in teaching and demonstrate humanism in the care of the patient and in teaching our medical students. Pesta graduated from Western Michigan University in 2006 with a B.S. in Biological Sciences, and earned her medical degree in 2012 from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Mich.

An abstract from chief resident **Samreen Raza, M.D.**, was accepted for poster presentation at the 2015 AAMC Integrating Quality: Improving Value through Clinical Transformation, Education and Science Meeting. This work was submitted with chief residents **Heather Shenk, M.D.**, and **Samuel Merrill, M.D., Ph.D.**, along with **Amy Teleron, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine.

The second annual Battle of the Firms resulted in a tie between the **Landrey Firm** and **Sobel Firm!** This just-for-fun competition requires that each of the five internal medicine resident

“firms” – groups of residents paired with a faculty firm leader in the resident clinic – work together to answer questions based on the ambulatory medicine curriculum. Points are amassed over the course of the year. To the winners go the spoils – the choice of a “theme” for a celebratory meal. (The theme this year was the Spanish Caribbean).

## NEW RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

The Department of Medicine is pleased to welcome our new fellows and residents! We have a talented and motivated group joining us, including 15 fellows in nine specialties, and over 25 new residents, including nine from UVM.

### Fellows

- *Cardiology*: Imran Alkhalil, M.D.; Amir Azarbal, M.D.; David Cleary, M.D.; Samvit Tandan, M.D., Ph.D.
- *Dermatology*: Kendra Lesiak, M.D.
- *Endocrinology*: Juan Pablo Perdomo Rodriguez, M.D.
- *Gastroenterology*: Ovais Ahmed, M.D.
- *Hematology/Oncology*: Bhargavi Pulluri, M.D.; Purva Sharma, M.D.
- *Infectious Disease*: Porntip Kiatsimkul, M.D.
- *Nephrology*: Paul El Azoury, M.D.; Alison Fitzgerald, M.D.
- *Pulmonary*: Enuh Hill, M.D.; Radhika Parikh, M.D.
- *Rheumatology*: Syeda Maria Sayeed, M.D.

### Residents

#### PGY-1 Categorical

Sarah Gillett, M.D. (*University of Vermont*)  
Caitlin Greenberg, D.O. (*University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine*)  
Heather Hassett, D.O. (*University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine*)  
SarahElena Kozakewich, M.D. (*Albany Medical College*)  
Lauren Miller, M.D. (*Drexel University*)  
Gatha Nair, M.D. (*University of Arizona*)  
Hang Ng, M.D. (*University of Vermont*)  
Anthony Provenzano, M.D. (*Wayne State University*)  
Vishal Shah, M.D. (*University of Vermont*)  
Kelsey Sheahan, M.D. (*University of Vermont*)  
Ross Stemmler, M.D. (*Florida State University*)  
Umer Syed, M.D. (*Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University*)  
Kathleen Whitbread, M.D. (*University of Buffalo*)  
Abdelbasat Zerguine, M.D. (*Meharry Medical College*)

#### PGY-1 Preliminary

Patrick Benson, M.D., Dermatology (*University of Vermont*)  
Corey DeWitt, M.D., Dermatology (*Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth*)  
Aaron Dunham, M.D., Neurology (*University of Arizona*)  
Julia Hobson, M.D., Dermatology (*University of Vermont*)  
Thomas Johnson, M.D., Radiology (*University of North Dakota*)  
Kara Landry, M.D., Neurology (*University of Vermont*)  
Fatemah Sobhani, M.D., Neurology (*Isfahan University of Medical Sciences*)  
John Taylor, M.D., Neurology (*University of Vermont*)

**Preliminary Anesthesia Shared with**

**Dermatology**

## **Surgery**

Lindsey Belk, M.D. (*Medical University of South Carolina*)

Patrick Fagan, D.O. (*Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine*)

Marielle Lopes, M.D. (*Oregon Health and Sciences University*)

Corey Sheahan, M.D. (*University of Vermont*)

Emily Farrell, M.D. (*University of Buffalo SUNY*)

Alyssa Fischer, M.D. (*University of Louisville*)

Ivy Irene Norris, M.D. (*Albert Einstein*)

## **Chief Medical Residents**

Marie Burnett, M.D. (*University of Vermont*)

Jonathan Halevy, M.D. (*University of Pittsburgh*)

Rachel McEntee, M.D. (*University of Vermont*)

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## **Publication Highlights**

**Ades S, Kumar S, M A, Goodwin A, Weckstein D, Dugan M, Ashikaga T, Evans M, Verschraegen C, Holmes CE.** Tumor Oncogene (KRAS) Status and Risk of Venous Thrombosis in Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer. *J Thromb Haemost.* 2015 Mar 24. Doi:10.1111/jth.12910 [Epub ahead of print] PMID:25809746

**Borofsky JS, Bartsch JC, Howard AB, Repp AB.** Quality of interhospital transfer communication practices and association with adverse events on an internal medicine hospitalist service. *J Healthc Qual.* 2015 Mar 25. [Epub ahead of print]

**Kirkpatrick BD, Durbin AP, Pierce KK, Carmolli MP, Tibery CM, Grier PL, Hynes N, Diehl SA, Elwood D, Jarvis AP, Sabundayo BP, Lyon CE, Larsson CJ, Jo M, Lovchik JM, Luke CJ, Walsh MC, Fraser EA, Subbarao K, Whitehead SS.** Robust and Balanced Immune Responses to All 4 Dengue Virus Serotypes Following Administration of a Single Dose of a Live Attenuated Tetravalent Dengue Vaccine to Healthy, Flavivirus-Naive Adults. *J Infect Dis.* 2015 Mar 22. pii: jiv082. [Epub ahead of print]

**Krementsov DN, Case LK, Hickey WF, Teuscher C.** Exacerbation of autoimmune neuroinflammation by dietary sodium is genetically controlled and sex specific. *FASEB J.* 2015 Apr 27. pii: fj.15-272542. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 25917331.

**Lakoski S, Willis B, Barlow C, Leonard D, Gao A, Radford N, Farrell S, Douglas P, Berry J, DeFina L, Jones L.** Midlife cardiorespiratory fitness, incident cancer, and survival after cancer in men the cooper center longitudinal study. *JAMA Oncology* 2015, Mar 26.

**Lustgarten D, Crespo E, Arkhipova-Jenkins I, Lobel R, Winget J, Koehler J, Liberman E, Sheldon T.** His Bundle pacing vs. Biventricular pacing in CRT patients – A Cross over Design Comparison. *Heart Rhythm* 2015 12(7).

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

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Tania Bertsch, M.D.**

“Narrative/Reflection Writing,” UVM College of Medicine Faculty Development

- Workshop, co-led with Foundations Level Curriculum Coordinator Aaron Hurwitz, M.Ed., March 2015.
- **Zail Berry M.D., and Isaura Menzies, M.D.**  
“Changing Models of Nursing Home and Community Care” panel discussion with Judy Peterson, president and CEO of the Visiting Nurses Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties, Vermont Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Geriatrics Conference, April 2015.
  - **Zail Berry, M.D.**  
“The Final Chapter: End-of-Life Decisions and Care,” Community Medical School lecture series hosted by the UVM College of Medicine and UVM Medical Center, March 2015.
  - **Jaina Clough, M.D.**  
“How Palliative Care and Hospice Can Help You Live Better,” UVM Healthsource Class, April 2015.  
“End Stage Dementia: What Hospice Can Offer,” discussion moderator, 2015 UVM Gerontology Symposium, March 2015.  
“Treatment Decisions in Advanced Illness,” Vermont Ethics Network Spring Conference, April 2015.
  - **Anne Dixon, M.D., and Ben Suratt, M.D.**  
Co-Chairs, "Scientific Symposium Development of Pulmonary Disease in Obesity: The Interface Between Metabolism, Microbiome and Immunity." International Conference, American Thoracic Society, Denver, CO
  - **Rosy Hill, M.D., and Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc.**  
“Promoting Health in Elders,” Vermont Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Geriatrics Conference, April 2015.
  - **William Hopkins, M.D.**  
“The Right Ventricle in Eisenmengers,” 8th International Neonatal & Childhood Pulmonary Vascular Conference, San Francisco, March 2015.
  - **Charles Irvin, Ph.D.**  
SCITS-NIH Team Science Meeting in Washington, DC.
  - **David Kaminsky, M.D.**  
Co-Chair, Session 4: "Emergent and Multiscale Behavior: Still on Track for the Next Biological Revolution? Flow-Volume Underworld Meeting," Woolcock Institute, Sydney, Australia.  
Chair and Faculty, Post Graduate Course 26. Master Physiology Class – "Advanced Topics in Pulmonary Function and Exercise Testing." 2015 International Conference, American Thoracic Society, Denver, CO.  
Co-Chair, "Scientific Symposium: Listening to the Silent Zone of the Lung in Asthma," 2015 International Conference, American Thoracic Society, Denver, CO.  
"Small Airway Physiology: Why Should We Care?" 2015 Flow-Volume Underworld Meeting, Woolcock Institute, Sydney, Australia, March 2015.  
"Small Airway Physiology: Why Should We Care?" 2015 Thoracic Society Australia New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting, Goldcoast, Australia, March 2015.  
"Lung Mechanics in Asthma: It's Not Just Bronchoconstriction." Respiriology Conference, Concord Hospital, Sydney, Australia, March 2015
  - **Benjamin Littenberg, M.D.** and CTS graduate student **Kairn Kelley**  
“Test-Retest Reliability and Associations of Dichotic Listening Test Scores,” American Auditory Society Scientific and Technology Meeting, Scottsdale, Ariz., March, 2015.
  - **Benjamin Littenberg, M.D.**  
“The Discovery of Insulin,” Green Mountain Chapter of the American Chemical Society, April 2015.
  - **Abbas Raza**, a graduate student in the lab of **Cory Teuscher, Ph.D.**  
"Sex specific regulation of CNS autoimmunity by signaling lymphocyte activation



molecule (SLAM) locus," poster presentation, Ninth Annual OSSD meeting, Stanford University, April 2015.

- **Charlotte Teneback, M.D.**

Invited to lead a workshop on Continuous Process Improvement in Research at the Spring meeting of the Cystic Fibrosis Therapeutics Development Network in Washington, DC on April 19-21.

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## In the Media



An online first study published in March, 2015, in *JAMA Oncology* by **Susan Lakoski, M.D., M.S.**, assistant professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, and colleagues reported the benefits of midlife fitness in terms of cancer risk in men. Media coverage of the study included articles in [Time](#) and [Men's Journal](#).

On May 29, 2015, **Marie Wood, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, was interviewed on WCAX-TV for a story titled "Study: Family history not linked to breast cancer survival." [Watch the segment.](#)

Many faculty have contributed to the UVM Medical Center blog over the past year on topics related to ten different specialties. Writers have included **Glenn Goldman, M.D.**, a professor in the Division of Dermatology; **Alan Segal, M.D.**, an associate professor in the Division of Nephrology; and **Marc Tischler, M.D.**, an associate professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. [See a full list of blog posts and links \[PDF\].](#)

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

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## Who Knew?



It is not surprising that **Charles MacLean, M.D.**, born and raised in Canada, is an avid skater. What most people don't know is that he enjoys looking for natural ice on ponds and lakes and uses different equipment – like Nordic skates, and a windsurfer board - to travel distances on ice. As a result, Dr. MacLean purposefully braved the ice cold water last March (with a dry suit) to participate in a clinic and test his self-rescue skills. If you want to take up a new sport next winter, Dr. MacLean is always looking for new friends to go play on the ice!

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## Educational Opportunities

This fall, General Internal Medicine-Research (GIM-R) faculty will be teaching a number of courses of interest to Department of Medicine faculty, fellows, staff and students. Tuition is free for UVM faculty and staff. Please contact Sylvie Frisbie ([Sylvie.Frisbie@uvm.edu](mailto:Sylvie.Frisbie@uvm.edu); 802-656-4560) or Ben Littenberg, M.D., ([Benjamin.Littenberg@uvm.edu](mailto:Benjamin.Littenberg@uvm.edu)) for more information. [See a list of courses \[PDF\].](#)

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