Six Weeks in Uganda

Larner students find a deeper understanding of medicine across cultures.

Also Featured: • Passionate Parasitologist • Health Services Research
A Commitment to Improving and Integrating Care

As a clinical urologic oncologist and cancer researcher, Scott Perrapato, D.O., FACS, helps patients fight cancer through surgery, chemotherapy, and other cutting-edge treatments available at the UVM Medical Center and UVM Cancer Center. Tracy Perrapato, D.O., Scott’s wife, is a family medicine physician skilled in the osteopathic fields of cranial sacral and biodynamic therapies, and a master of Reiki, a therapy that harnesses the energy of the human body to heal and restore. Together, the Perrapatos have created an integrative therapies fund for the UVM Cancer Center. The gift of $100,000 provides three years of seed funding for patient access to hands-on care such as massage therapy, acupuncture, mindfulness training, Healing Touch, Reiki therapy, and yoga.

“This fund is vital because it directly impacts a patient’s healing and improves quality of life during difficult therapies,” says Scott Perrapato. “Given the fast pace of medicine in our current climate, these therapies help the patient’s mind, body and spirit heal in a caring and supportive environment.”

In addition to their giving to the UVM Cancer Center, the Perrapato family also recently honored Scott’s parents through the creation of the Ruth and Carmine Perrapato Endowed Lecture in Urologic Oncology at UVM’s Larner College of Medicine. The $100,000 endowment brings leading researchers and practitioners to Burlington each year to help ensure community practitioners, UVM Cancer Center researchers, and medical center residents continue to stay up-to-date on the newest developments in the field.

For information about how you can support the work of the UVM Larner College of Medicine and its affiliates, please contact the Medical Development and Alumni Relations Office.
My first few weeks as dean of Larner College of Medicine have been a whirlwind. Never before have I experienced such energy and enthusiasm, or such a warm welcome. My fortuitous arrival during the week of reunion and homecoming allowed me to accelerate my connection with this wonderful University of Vermont community.

In my ten days on campus, two significant events took place that underscored this institution's commitment to the missions of education, research, and patient care. The first of those events was the White Coat Ceremony for our Class of 2022. These students, who had spent their studies two months prior, and were already immersed in the active learning experiences of the Vermont Integrated Curriculum. But this ceremony marked an important turning point for the class — the beginning of their role as clinical learners, and as members of patient care teams. I was moved, as I sat on the stage at Ira Allen Chapel, by what I saw happening before my eyes: row upon row of students clad in street clothes were transformed into medical professionals as they donned this symbolic garment, and as they recited the physician's oath.

Of course a white coat does not magically transform anyone. But wearing the coat is a highly visible, outward representation of an acceptance of responsibility as one joins the medical profession. These students may or may not routinely wear a white coat in their future careers; but throughout the rest of their days at the College, and throughout the rest of their lives, the members of the Class of '22 will never shed their responsibility for the welfare of their patients and the tenets that our oath provides. We wear that forever, as all physicians do.

The second recent major event was a celebration of the College’s research mission. On October 11, UVM’s fifth NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence, the Translational Global Infectious Disease Research Center, was announced at a press conference in our Hoehl Gallery. I was already impressed by the close proximity of the various colleges and schools of the University. This multi-million dollar, multidisciplinary research grant highlighted the advantage of the relationships among this University’s researchers, wherever their “home base” might be. Such collaboration across campus, in this case among the Larner College of Medicine, the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is critically important today in research environment. In the months ahead, I plan to meet many more members of the Larner community and listen to your aspirations for our College. It is a tremendous honor to serve as the dean of this great institution and I look forward to the many opportunities before us to contribute to education, clinical care and research in Vermont and beyond.

NIH Names Langevin Director of National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

Helene Langevin, M.D., has been named director of the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH). She was, until recently, a visiting professor of neurological sciences at the Larner College of Medicine. As NCCIH director, Langevin will oversee the federal government’s lead agency for scientific research on the diverse medical and health care systems, practices, and products that are not generally considered part of conventional medicine.

Langevin comes to NIH from the Other Center for Integrative Medicine, jointly based at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She has served as director of the Other Center and professor-in-residence of medicine at Harvard Medical School since November 2012. From 1996 to 2012, she served as a full-time faculty member in the Department of Neurological Sciences at the Larner College of Medicine.

As the principal investigator of several NIH-funded studies, Langevin's research interests have centered on the role of connective tissue in low back pain and arthritis, and movement-based therapies. Her more recent work has focused on the effects of stretching on inflammation resolution mechanisms within connective tissue.

Med Schools, Teaching Hospitals: Valued Institutions

A recent survey from the Association of American Medical Colleges revealed a strongly positive perception of medical schools and teaching hospitals among respondents, and a recognition of the value these institutions add to patient care.

• Seven out of 10 voters surveyed believe that teaching hospitals provide added value for patients over other types of hospitals. The top cited reasons are: 1) more people weighing in on diagnoses, 2) their expertise in educating and training new doctors, and 3) providing the latest information and cutting-edge techniques.

• Medical schools and teaching hospitals both achieved their highest favorability ratings in 20 years — 72% and 69%, respectively. 92% of those surveyed said that medical schools are doing an “excellent” or “good” job in training doctors in medical knowledge — a 7% increase from 2010 findings.

*From “What Americans think about medical schools and teaching hospitals,” by AAMC President and CEO Darrell Kirch, M.D., AAMC News, July 31, 2018
UVM Launches Emergency Medicine Residency Program

UVM has created a new emergency medicine residency program, with its inaugural class of six residents slated to arrive in July of 2019. Directed by UVM Associate Professor of Surgery Richard Bounds, M.D., FACEP, FAAEM, the three-year program is primarily based at UVM Medical Center but also includes rotations at Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh, N.Y., and Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin. The vision for the program combines training at a nationally-recognized academic medical center with deep experience providing emergency care in a resource-limited environment. To this end, residents will receive advanced training and leadership opportunities in key areas of emergency medicine including rural emergency medicine, wilderness medicine, point-of-care ultrasound, EMS medical direction, and global health.

Montgomery Honored with 2018 Our Common Ground Award

Erin Montgomery, coordinator of faculty development, graduate education, and postdoctoral training for the Larner College of Medicine, has been selected as a recipient of a 2018 President’s Our Common Ground Award. She was recognized at an awards breakfast being held at the University of Vermont on June 20, 2018. The Our Common Ground Staff Award recognizes UVM staff members who exemplify the qualities of Our Common Ground, the statement of aspirations and shared values for the UVM community: Respect, Integrity, Innovation, Openness, Justice, and Responsibility. This award honors the extraordinary contributions and the significant impact the award recipients have made on the University. Montgomery, who has worked at UVM since 2004, was nominated for the award by members of the UVM Postdoc Association. Each recipient receives a trophy, a prize of $3,000 and is recognized on a permanent plaque.

PARSONS LEADS AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY, NAMED ATS FELLOW WITH 3 UVM COLLEAGUES

University of Vermont E.L. Amidon Chair of Medicine Polly Parsons, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.A.S.C.P., was installed as president of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) during the organization’s 2018 International Congress, held in San Diego, Calif., May 20 to 23, 2018. Her term as president is a one-year term. In addition, Parsons and three Larner College of Medicine colleagues, including Jason Bates, Ph.D., Sc.D., [2], Anne Dixon, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. [3], and Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D. [4], were inducted as the inaugural class of ATS Fellows at the event. With a mission to improve health worldwide by advancing research, clinical care, and public health in respiratory disease, critical illness, and sleep disorders, the ATS has more than 15,000 physicians, research scientists, and nurses and other allied health professionals among its members. The fellowship designation — ATS — is a mark of distinction for ATS members who have demonstrated dedication to the Society and made significant contributions to the fields of pulmonary, critical care, and/or sleep medicine.

KING ELECTED CHAIR OF FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS

UVM Professor of Medicine Patricia King, M.D., Ph.D., was elected chair of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) at the organization’s 106th annual meeting in Charlotte, N.C., on April 28, 2018. King, who served as the FSMB chair-elect from 2017-18, will have a one-year term as chair. The FSMB Board of Directors is composed of leaders from the field of medical regulation that are passionate about protecting the public and serving their communities. By serving on the board of directors, individuals have the opportunity to help drive the strategy and direction of a nationally respected organization with a critical role in healthcare. A former chairwoman of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice, King has served as a member of the FSMB board since 2005 and is the 2014 recipient of the FSMB’s John H. Clark, M.D., Leadership Award.

WOOD NAMED FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

UVM Professor of Medicine Marie Wood, M.D., was named a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology at the organization’s annual meeting, held June 1 to 5, 2018 in Chicago, Ill. The distinction recognizes ASCO members for their extraordinary volunteer service, dedication, and commitment to ASCO. Wood, who joined the UVM faculty in 1997, is director of the UVM Cancer Center’s Familial Cancer Program and founder and principal investigator of the High Risk Breast Program. In addition to her service on four ASCO committees, she is also an active member of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project and has been a fellow of the American College of Physicians since 2010.
WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR APPLICANT POOL WELL AND REDUCE BIAS.” — ALISON HOWE, M.S.

For Gayyathi Prabhakar, M.D./’18, who has served as a volunteer for admissions since her first year, the research opens up interesting new questions to explore, including whether the type of experience applicants gain in between their undergraduate degree and medical school makes a difference in the application process.

“The trend is to take time off between undergrad and medical school,” she says. “What do the different experiences that people have mean for them?”

The poster was one of two to receive a 2018 Excellence in Medical Education Award at the NEGEA annual meeting, held this year at the Zacker School of Medicine at Hofstra/ Northwell.*

The admissions research team, which includes admissions staff as well as Teaching Academy and Admissions Committee leaders, plans to build on the study’s results. Next they’ll be looking at MMI interviewer and applicant gender dyads to determine whether different combinations have any correlation with MMI scores.

* Howe AK; Greene LA; Prabhakar G; Jawes CK; McKeever E; Botler RD; Rosen L; Qudabe J; Nuggert K. Impact of Gender and Years of Experience on Multiple Mini Interview Scores at the UVM Larner College of Medicine.

VACCINE TESTING CENTER A SITE FOR NEW NIH LIVE, ATTENUATED ZIKA VACCINE TRIAL

Vaccinations have begun in a first-in-human trial of an experimental live, attenuated Zika virus vaccine developed by scientists at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. The trial will enroll a total of 28 healthy, non-pregnant adults ages 18 to 50 at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Immunization Research in Baltimore, Md., and at the Vaccine Testing Center at the Larner College of Medicine. NIAID is sponsoring the trial. UVM Associate Professor of Medicine Kristen Pierce, M.D., is a co-investigator for the Phase 1 clinical trial.

PLANTE AND COLLEAGUES SAY HIGH RATINGS DON’T MEAN BLOOD PRESSURE APP WORKS

UVM Assistant Professor of Medicine Timothy Plante, M.D./’11, is co-author of a report published in the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association that argues that unregulated mobile health app use could give people a false sense of security, leading to dire health consequences. The researchers analyzed 261 user ratings and reviews for a mobile app claiming to change the iPhone into a blood pressure monitor. They found that the Instant Blood Pressure app received an average of four out of five stars and positive reviews, despite a previous study by the research team published in JAMA Internal Medicine showing that four out of five times someone with high blood pressure used the app, they received falsely reassuring, non-eliminated results. The app was withdrawn from the market in July 2015. The report’s authors call for medical professionals to be more skeptical of apps that don’t have scientific studies backing them, and warn members of the public that just because an app has been endorsed by a health care professional doesn’t mean it works.

JANSEN-HEININGER, ANATHY & TEAM’S STUDY DEMONSTRATES POTENTIAL LUNG FIBROSIS THERAPY

UVM Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Ph.D., is senior study author and UVM Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Vikas Anathy, Ph.D., is first author for a publication in Nature Medicine that demonstrates a novel biological therapeutic candidate for regressing pulmonary fibrosis in a difficult-to-treat preclinical model of the disease.

The research provides much-needed hope for the roughly 150,000 Americans suffering from this devastating condition. This study focused on an enzyme called glutaredoxin-1 — or GLRX — which researchers believe has potential as a therapeutic agent for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Janssen-Heininger, Anathy and colleagues are inventors on a patent for GLRX, granted to the University of Vermont.

RESEARCH NOTEBOOK

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Welcome, Class of 2022

Whether it’s a passion, life experience, vocation or fate that brought them here, the first day of medical school is a major milestone for future doctors. The Class of 2022 arrived on campus August 13 to participate in their first course — Orientation — and begin the process of filling their brains with the people, places and information that will support their journey to earning an M.D. over the next four years.

‘THE RED WHEELBARROW’ CELEBRATES LITERARY AND VISUAL ARTS

Named after physician William Carlos Williams’ famous poem, The Red Wheelbarrow is an annual publication featuring visual and literary art from Larner College of Medicine students, alumni, faculty and staff. Lead editor Collin York ’20 compiled essays, poetry, photographs, and paintings — even images of string art and cross-stitch — for a 2018 journal that showcases the breadth of talent in the College community.

Find a link to the online version of The Red Wheelbarrow. Go to www.med.uvm.edu/vtmedicine

Cross-stitch of a pathology slide by Emily Ryan ’19 is one of the pieces of artwork in The Red Wheelbarrow.
Empowering Residents to Improve Health Equity

In the 19th century, there may have been no more consequential biomedical scientist than Rudolph Virchow. His scientific research at a molecular level has had a profound impact on modern medicine even today, more than 150 years later.

For me, however, it is his work in social medicine that has made a lasting impression on me and an understanding of the responsibilities physicians have to the health of their society. Virchow could have been content with his contributions to pathology and molecular biology, but he had the wisdom to recognize the powerful social, economic and political factors that influence the manifestation of disease. He started a weekly newspaper called Medical Reform to highlight how socioeconomic factors affect health disparities. The newspaper’s banner famously declared “physicians are the natural attorneys of the poor.” His 1848 report on a typhus outbreak in Upper Silesia remains a landmark public health investigation that highlighted the role of poverty, famine, and political corruption as root causes of the outbreak.

A deep body of literature has shown that race, gender, income, sexual orientation, disability status, and insurance status have a profound impact on one’s experience of health and healthcare in the United States. Recent outbreaks such as Ebola and Zika reflect the extent to which health systems in the developing world lack the capacity to not only respond to health crises, but to provide basic medical care worthy of people’s inherent dignity.

As clinicians, we have a unique vantage point from which we can understand how these social and systemic factors impact our patients. We hear their stories and experience their tragedies. And yet, most often, we have not been trained to understand what we can do about it.

Medical education can empower future health professionals to meaningfully improve health equity. We can teach students and residents about topics in social medicine, and help them develop advocacy skills to work at a social and systemic level to improve health outcomes. Perhaps even more importantly, it can give trainees the opportunity to reflect on their values and their professional identity and ask them what role they would like to play in fixing the injustices that are rooted in our healthcare system.

My current institution, Cambridge Health Alliance, has made social medicine and research-based health advocacy a core component of the internal medicine residency program. The required, longitudinal curriculum emphasizes experiential learning. We have described this course in a paper published in Academic Medicine and a news article in STATNews. Our goals in the course are to 1) clarify and develop the values that brought residents to train in a residency program hosted in a safety net health system, 2) explore longitu-
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Course evaluations suggest that our course helps residents reconcile with the idealism that made them want to pursue a calling in medicine. We hope that the course can help heighten their sense of self-efficacy, supporting them as they realize the power they have to make change in what often feels like a dysfunctional and unfair healthcare system.

Rudolph Virchow provides us with a remarkable example of a physician who always asked what role he could play in improving people’s lives, especially those who were marginalized in their communities. If we truly care about solving the vexing healthcare problems of our time, we must find the answers in the idealism and passion of our students and residents. As medical educators, we owe them the opportunity to not only learn about these challenges that face us, but to do real work with the training they need to become meaningful change agents.

LaMantia Invisted as Inaugural Holly and Bob Miller Chair in Memory and Aging

Vermont philanthropists Holly and Bob Miller have made a $6 million gift to UVM to permanently endow three faculty positions. On August 21, 2018, Michael LaMantia, M.D., M.P.H., was invested as the inaugural Holly and Bob Miller Chair in Memory and Aging. and Rosemary Dale, Ed. D., A.P.R.N., was invested as the first Holly and Bob Miller Professor in Nursing Leadership. LaMantia is a nationally-recognized expert in the care of older adults, particularly those with cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer’s Disease and other dementias. Dale is chair of the Department of Nursing in the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences. A third faculty position will address clinical practice in nursing.

New Endowed Scholarship Supports Future Pediatricians

In honor of his 50th reunion, pediatrician and Burlington, Vt. native Todd Glodstone ’65, M.D./’68, has established a $50,000 endowed scholarship through his estate plan to benefit Larner College of Medicine students with an interest in pediatrics. The Glodstone Family Endowment builds on a long history of support: the Connecticut-based pediatrician serves as Class Agent, and has been a faithful donor to the College for over four decades.

Recent Estate Gifts Benefit Students with Financial Need

- A gift from Eunice Marie Simmons ’45, M.D./’49, established an endowed $600,000 scholarship fund to benefit Vermonters with financial need. A native of Montpelier, Vt., Dr. Simmons graduated as valedictorian of her medical school class in 1949. She opened a solo practice in San Diego, Calif., and was the first female doctor affiliated with Mercy Hospital. She died May 3, 2017, at the age of 93.

- John Curran, M.D. ’71, and his wife, Margaret Curran, created the College of Medicine Class of 1931 Scholarship Fund with a $650,000 gift through a trust. The endowed fund will benefit medical students with financial need in perpetuity. Dr. Curran practiced family medicine in Northampton, Mass., from 1933 until his retirement in 1969. He was a member of The Cooley Dickinson Hospital staff for 39 years and a past president of the hospital.

Wong Named First Berta Pi-Sunyer Williams ’58 Professor

Cheung Wong, M.D., was invested as the inaugural Berta Pi-Sunyer Williams ’58 Endowed Professor on June 8, 2018. Berta Pi-Sunyer Williams graduated in UVM in 1958 with a degree in nursing and was a long-time employee of the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont (now UVM Medical Center). Following her passing in 1992, her family was inspired by her courage in facing her own illness to establish an endowed fund in her memory to support education, research, and patient services related to women’s health care. This past year, Larry Williams Jr. (UVM ’82) and his family and friends raised additional funds to bring the endowment to the $1 million professorship level. A dedicated educator, Dr. Wong holds leadership positions in Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology, and is associate dean of Undergraduate Medical and Interprofessional Education.
It was love at first sight.

Bobbi Pritt, M.D.’01, was drawn to pathology the minute she looked through a microscope at slides of human tissue. “I thought they were just beautiful,” Pritt recalls today. “In tissue pathology, we use all these stains. So there were these brilliant pinks and purples, blues, reds—beautiful colors—and I thought it was very pretty, I liked the structure of the tissue. It kind of got back to my artistic side, I guess. It’s a very visual field.”

It might seem odd that a woman of science—and one of the foremost experts in parasites and diseases carried by ticks and mosquitoes—would highlight the visual artistry of her field over the technical aspects. Pritt, though, has taken a unique approach to medicine from the start and a somewhat circuitous route to her successful career.

A pathologist and microbiologist who graduated from the Larner College of Medicine in 2001, Pritt is now director of the Clinical Parasitology Laboratory and co-director of Vector-Borne Diseases Laboratory Services at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Mayo’s lab is among the largest clinical parasitology laboratories in the world, serving as an international reference center, and testing patient specimens from all 50 states and across the globe.

Pritt’s early interest in art threads throughout her career trajectory. It spurs her imaginative outlook, innate curiosity and hunger for discovery.

In the past decade, Pritt has gained international recognition for leading teams that found two never-before-identified bacterial organisms carried by ticks that sickened patients in Wisconsin and Minnesota. These pathogens differ from the one that’s best known as the source of Lyme disease, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the most common tick-transmitted bacteria in the United States.

The discovery of these new organisms began with a little boy who presented at the Mayo Clinic; physicians couldn’t figure out why he was so sick. They ordered several tests, including a specialized assay that Pritt offered in her lab to distinguish between different species of bacteria. Unexpectedly, the test came back positive with an unusual result. This prompted Pritt to investigate further, within two months, state health departments and the federal Centers for Disease Control helped identify five more patients who had the same organism. This team of investigators eventually proved that the patients were sick from a new organism, which was named *Borrelia mayonii* in honor of the Mayo brothers who founded Mayo Clinic.

The buzz around this latest discovery, described in a paper in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* in 2016, spurred further investigations by other labs. Commercial developers contacted Pritt to see if their tests could detect the new culprit, which fortunately responds to the same drug to treat Lyme, doxycycline.

“That was the goal,” Pritt says. “We wanted to get the news out there so that people knew about it, so that physicians would think of it when they were seeing patients that were sick with something and they didn’t know what the patients had.”

Christopher Paddock, M.D., a pathologist and rickettsiologist who also specializes in tick-borne diseases at the CDC in Atlanta, knew of Pritt and her work before he met her in person in 2011 on the way to a conference they were both attending in Greece, where she presented the findings on the first discovered organism, *Ehrlichia muris* eauclairensis. She has since collaborated frequently with Paddock, and her eagerness to share samples and information is critical, he says.

“Her background and interest are exceptionally important in terms of her discovery of new agents,” Paddock says. “There’s just not a lot of expertise out there, and she’s one of the few people who has that expertise.” Paddock is a member of the department that published with Pritt on the new *Ehrlichia* organism in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.
Pritt thrives on the constant variability of her work. Besides overseeing her labs, she teaches and publishes. She communicates with colleagues all over the world about new pathogens, new methods to detect them and new places getting diseases they hadn’t seen before, such as the Latin American outbreak of Zika virus — previously seen primarily in Africa.

She keeps a close watch on other mosquito-borne illnesses such as dengue fever, malaria, yellow fever and chikungunya. And occasionally she serves as an expert on nasty topics such as parasitic worms found in fish, as she did for a recent story in the Washington Post.

Pritt often needs to develop tests that don’t exist to identify ailments that pop up in patients, as she’s doing now for Zika.

“If there aren’t good tests on the market, I have to develop tests that will exist,” she says. “But I’m on the phone with their physician, and I’m trying to explain. A center like Mayo Clinic provides expertise in something you see only every three years. It’s hard to maintain a level of expertise, because there are so many different things along,” says Pam Gibson, M.D.’89, who worked as an administrative assistant in the laboratory medicine at UVM.

“Bobbi is a great example of someone who found a field that really excites her, and she’s been wildly successful in that field as a result,” says MacPherson, who mentored Pritt in residency.

In the field of microbiology, Bobbi is a rock star,” says Bruce MacPherson, M.D.’67, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at UVM, citing the words of one of Pritt’s fellow pathology residents at UVM.

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“The coloring book illustrates Pritt’s artistic renditions of parasites submitted by readers. They included parasitic decorated cakes, parasite-decorated Easter eggs, a parasite Halloween costume, a crocheted parasite on a red blood cell, and even a song entitled “Home in the Gut,” to the tune of “Home on the Range.”

Pritt uses a range of social media to reach her audience, mostly fellow artists and educators who often use her cases in classrooms. Her regular visitors will often discuss their own work and other trade-related ideas. “Probably one of my professional accomplishments I’m most proud of is creating this awesome little community of people who write in every week and read my cases,” Pritt says. “I’ve met all these people from around the world that share a common interest.”

In 2016, Pritt won an Early Achievement Award from the UVM Medical Alumni Association, recognizing physicians early in their careers for outstanding academic contributions through community or medical service.

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“In the field of microbiology, Bobbi is a rock star,” says Bruce MacPherson, M.D.’67, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at UVM, citing the words of one of Pritt’s fellow pathology residents at UVM.

“Bobbi is a great example of someone who found a field that really excites her, and she’s been wildly successful in that field as a result,” says MacPherson, who mentored Pritt in residency.

“They include parasite-decorated Easter eggs, decorated cakes, and a crocheted parasite on a red blood cell. Even a song entitled “Home in the Gut,” to the tune of “Home on the Range.”

Pritt posts a photo, and readers from around the world weigh in on what the parasite-in-question might be. The conversation is often lively and detailed, and there’s a familiarity to the exchange that reminds her back and forth like old friends.

Pritt has cultivated this community of passionate parasitologists and eager microbiologists for over 10 years; she recently surpassed 500 “Cases of the Week,” with some posts generating upwards of 20 comments. A searchable archive dates back to 2007, allowing readers to take a deep dive into puzzling cases. In posting the answer for each Case of the Week, Pritt often offers detailed information about the organism, providing important learning opportunities for students, parasitologists and curious readers.

Read more and take a guess on the Case of the Week:

http://parasitewonders.blogspot.com/
On June 29, 2018, medical students Katherine Callahan ’21 and Christina Dawson ’21 arrived in Kampala, Uganda, not quite sure what to expect. They returned to Vermont six weeks later with a deeper understanding of medicine across cultures, and what it means to be a physician. In their weekly reflections, they write about feeling lost, frustrated, and out of place. They worry about their lack of medical knowledge, and question their ability to help patients in any meaningful way. As they work through the learning curve and the inevitable frustrations, they also forge deep bonds with patients and providers at St. Stephen’s Hospital. They witness births, and also their first patient deaths. They care for patients at a rehabilitation home, help at an anti-retroviral clinic for HIV patients, and scrub in on surgeries.

Perhaps most importantly, they gain from the Ugandan physicians and healthcare providers they work with a framework to better understand healthcare on a global scale. They witness resourcefulness and commitment in the hospital wards and in the community on a daily basis, while at the same time they experience the systemic challenges and socioeconomic inequalities that impact patients’ and providers’ lives. Although there are no easy answers, students come home ready to advocate for patients on a global scale.

Key to the success of the global health program is the integration of faculty alongside students: Mariah McNamara, M.D., an emergency medicine physician and assistant professor of surgery at the Larner College of Medicine, accompanied students for the summer rotation, as did Paul Bachman, M.D., a geriatrician at clinical partner Hudson Headwaters Health Network. Sharon Sukhdeo, M.D., a resident at Norwalk Hospital, also participated in the trip.

“During their first global health rotation I see students find inspiration for their identity as physicians. I have no doubt that what they have experienced will make them better doctors. Their curiosity and humanity bring hope for a better future.” — Mariah McNamara, M.D.
Callahan, Dawson, McPhamara and others welcome Samuel Luboga, M.Med., Ph.D., back from a trip to London with a festive song before dinner at his home. In addition to serving as a medical doctor and priest with the Anglican church of Uganda, Luboga and his family host medical students in the Global Health Program. The homestay model provides students an opportunity to connect with community in a deeper way: Dawson and Callahan visited the Luboga’s farm one weekend, and also had the chance to participate in an introduction ceremony, an engagement party for a new bride and groom.

Rocky Kisekka, M.D., known to all as Dr. Rocky, reviews an X-ray with Dawson and Callahan outside of the hospital, where the light is better to interpret results. Dr. Rocky, an orthopedic surgeon, proved to be a frequent presence and key teacher for students.

Students work on a quality improvement project for St. Stephen’s Hospital related to compliance with Uganda Ministry of Health HIV Guidelines. They note that although compliance with recommendations for viral load testing appears to be low, the manual recording in patient logs and lack of dedicated personnel for data entry may mean that what is recorded in the medical registry does not capture actual activity. Callahan and Dawson are submitting their abstract to the Consortium of Universities for Global Health for potential presentation in 2019.

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Catherine Nakibuule, known to the students as Dr. Cathy (at center, with Dawson, Callahan, and Norwalk Hospital resident Sharon Sukhdeo, M.D.), is the medical superintendent for St. Stephen’s Hospital and a key partner for the global health program. She teaches students at the bedside and helps to organize learning opportunities, like a presentation the students gave to new mothers bringing their children to an immunization clinic.

During their global health rotations, students are required to submit weekly reflections, in part as a way to process what they’re experiencing. Dawson took the opportunity to add color and texture to her reflections. Here, she provides a glimpse into Ugandan food. The page at right is illustrated with a drawing of the entrance to St. Stephen’s Hospital.

“This afternoon we got the chance to accompany Dr. Okello on some home visits. Despite the vehicle’s flaws, offering a solution to the challenge of even getting to a medical facility is one of the most important things one can do here.” — CHRISTINA DAWSON ’21

“We see two patients. A sweet older woman who invites me to stay longer so she can teach me Luganda and a man who reminds me of my grandpa Jack. It’s fascinating to be invited into people’s homes. It gives me clearer insight into the lives of the patients we see every day.” — CHRISTINA DAWSON ’21
HEADING HOME: REFLECTIONS ON UGANDA

“Dr. Cathy and Olivia surprised us with a cake. It was so kind, and I was so touched by the gesture. We cut the very delicious cake into a bunch of small pieces and shared it with all of the staff at the hospital. It was a great way to say goodbye. Everyone has been wonderful and generous and open to us, and everyone has been so willing to teach us and help us learn. I could not have imagined spending the last six weeks any other way. I have learned so much, and have met many wonderful people. I look forward to coming back.” — CHRISTINA DAWSON ’21

“Every day we see a parade of people without adequate resources, suffering from diseases and injuries that would otherwise be managed differently, or at a higher level. In my six weeks here, there is no way I will change the structure of the Ugandan healthcare system, or really have any significant impact on the patients receiving healthcare. However, in these six weeks I have begun my career as a physician and member of the global community. My impact will not come in the next three weeks, or even next years, but eventually I hope to be a driver of change on the global level.” — KATHERINE CALLAHAN ’21

EVERY TIME I STEP INTO THE OR, REGARDLESS OF COUNTRY, THERE IS A SACRED AND STERILITY THAT I CANNOT GET ENOUGH OF. I LOVE THE CONSTANTS AND RULES THAT SURPASS ANY GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES. I LOVE THAT THE TECHNIQUES REMAIN — MORE OR LESS — UNVARIED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SURGERY WILL BE MY FUTURE.” — KATHERINE CALLAHAN ’21

THIS WEEK IS THE FIRST WEEK I HAVE NOTICED A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN MYSELF: I AM COMFORTABLE. THAT IS, DURING MONDAY MORNING ROUNDS, I FOUND MYSELF AS LESS OF A BYSTANDER AND MORE OF AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT.” — KATHERINE CALLAHAN ’21

THE COMMUNAL MEETING ROOM SERVES AS A NERVE CENTER OF ST. STEPHEN’S HOSPITAL. THE ENTIRE STAFF — FROM CLEANERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS TO SURGEONS AND VISITING MEDICAL STUDENTS — SITS DOWN TOGETHER FOR LUNCH ALMOST EVERY DAY.

SEE MORE PHOTOS AND AN INTERVIEW WITH PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID SEAVER AT: MED.UVM.EDU/VTMEDICINE/WEB-EXTRAS
On the fourth floor of the Given Building at the Larner College of Medicine, Adam Atherly, Ph.D., surveys the space outside of his newly-painted office. Two adjacent doors open into rooms with empty desks. A common area includes space for a few more cubicles with top-notch views of the Green Mountains. In one corner, a coat rack hangs on otherwise empty walls. Outside the glass door, a sign reads: UVM Center for Health Services Research. Although the offices may be a work-in-progress, the mission for the new center is clear: Foster cutting-edge research that improves the delivery of healthcare, leading to better population health in Vermont and across the country.

As the first director of the Center for Health Services Research just a few months into the job, Atherly sees the space as brimming with possibility. Soon enough, the cubicles and offices will be filled with analysts and researchers. Faculty from across the university will be stopping in for statistics support and consultation on their work. Brown bag lunches hosted by the center will allow faculty from across disciplines to get to know each other and find new collaborators from across the university.

“We want to help researchers who’ve got clinically- and policy-relevant questions build good research design, work with data in appropriate ways, and publish their research in leading scientific journals,” says Atherly, who was hired in February of 2018 after a national search.

The time is right to focus on health services research, as Vermont is embarking on a bold experiment in healthcare reform. The state is one of two that has received a waiver from the federal government to create an all-payer system, shifting from fee-for-service to a value-based model over time. As the state’s sole medical school, the Larner College of Medicine has the opportunity to become a national leader in evaluating how the delivery of care affects health outcomes. What happens in Vermont could inform the country’s trajectory. This shift in state policy, combined with Vermont’s relatively small population, proximity to other rural populations in neighboring states, and unique access to data, make it a prime location for studies focused on health services.

Adam Atherly, Ph.D., founds the UVM Center for Health Services Research to identify new solutions for improving care.
By bringing interdisciplinary skills together, we have greater strength,” he says. “I’m very optimistic about where we’re going. I think we’ll be able to compete for major funding opportunities that ultimately will help to learn more about the health of Vermonters.”

Jensen’s vision extends to northern New England. With New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and northern New York all delivering healthcare to rural populations in different ways, the region “allows a beautiful model for looking at the impact of new, innovative health services and programs on outcomes.”

In his first months at UVM, Atherly is working to link up with many researchers as possible from across the University, sharing the broad goals for the Center with them, and listening to what they’re doing and what they’re interested in. Atherly points out that the vision statement that has emerged — “to use secondary data to make causal inferences about how to change the healthcare system in order to improve the health of the population” — is very much focused around that vision and action. The inclusion of “causation” was intentional. The goal is to show how an action leads to an outcome, providing clear evidence for intervention or policy change.

“There’s a perspective that you can never design your way into a randomized trial, and it’s okay to make mistakes and learn from them,” says Atherly. “Health services research says you can do a good quasi-experimental design.” Key to crafting that design is the availability of data, and Vermont has it in droves. Atherly points to the Vermont all- payer claims database, or VHCURES — which is housed at the Larner College of Medicine and includes almost the entire population of the state — as one potentially rich source of data. The center expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year.
PRESIDENT’S CORNER

2019 Nominations

Do you know a class member deserving of recognition? Send in your nominations for the 2019 Medical Alumni Association Awards at: www.med.uvm.edu/alumni as soon as possible.

If you have news or want to update contact information, you may submit it at go.uvm.edu/infodude. You may also contact your class agent or the Development & Alumni Relations office at mededu.relations@uvm.edu or (802) 655-4014.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

As I begin my tenure as president of our Medical Alumni Association, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Fred Mandell for his leadership over the past two years. We’ve benefited from his energy and enthusiasm, and I look forward to continuing his work building opportunities for alumni to connect with each other and with current students. It’s an incredible honor to represent fellow alums from across the years who make it a priority to keep our community strong.

Our Larner College of Medicine White Coat Ceremony — held this year on October 8th — has become a key moment of connection between alumni and students. We always receive such an outpouring of support from alumni in the form of notes to students, and this year was no exception. Thanks to all of you who took the time to write a few sentences and pass on words of wisdom to the Class of 2022. Students benefit from your sentences and pass on words of wisdom to the Class of 2023 and for years to come. It’s an incredible moment of connection that has become a key moment of our college’s identity.

I look forward to connecting with you online, and seeing many of you at Reunion and other events over the next several years!

Betsy Sussman, M.D.’81
President
UVM Medical Alumni Association

Honor to Represent

• Betsy L. Sussman, M.D.’81 (2018-2020)
• Mary Cushman, M.D.’89 (2018-2020)
• John Tampas, M.D.’54 (Ongoing)

2019 Nominations

• Pramila Yadav, M.D.’99 (2015-2021)
• Michael D. Upton, M.D.’94 (2016-2022)
• Danie Leahy, M.D.’17 (2018-2024)
• Christopher J. Hebert, M.D.’02 (2015-2021)
• Albert J. Hebert, Jr., M.D.’74 (2015-2021)
• Sean Diehl, Ph.D.’03 (2016-2022)

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

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Class of ’52 Member Returns

“The Turnbridge Docs,” a story in the summer 2018 issue of Vermont Medicine about some of his classmates, inspired Nathan Glover, M.D., ’52, a 190-year-old alum of the UVM Larner College of Medicine, to return for his 2018 summer or fall, good luck everyone!”
Hundreds of alumni caught up with classmates and learned more about the newest developments at their medical alma mater during Medical Reunion 2018, held June 8-10. Events included a lively nostalgia hour, two Best of Grand Rounds lectures, the UVM Medical Alumni Association Awards Ceremony, picnics, community service at the Intervale Community Farm, and much more.
Flashback

Flashback usually features photos of unknown people of the past at the College. That’s not the case this time. Graduates from classes 30 years ago up to the “nightlies” will recognize these two staff members of what was then called the Office of Student Affairs: Collette Ozorowski at left, and Ann Chouncey at right. They are sitting at what was, up until 1999, the front desk of the College’s Dean’s Office, at the entrance across from Carpenter Auditorium. To this day, graduating classes honor an outstanding student support staff member with the “Collette Award.”

Do you have a reminiscence of being helped by Collette and Ann? Share your memories with arin.post@uvm.edu and we’ll include them in the next issue of Vermont Medicine.

FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE

Several alumni wrote in this week with photos of the classides of Delaware, Boushay’s anatomy students. Thanks to John McIntyre, M.D.’91, Denise Soucy, M.D.’87, and Dan Peruzzi, Ph.D.’93 (Most think this scene dates from around 1970, with students possibly being Peruzzi, Alan Stern, Mitch Kirshner, and Susan Diebler, or Michael J. Kaplan, James Howe, and Diane Napoli.)

Obituaries

George Tulin, M.D.
Dr. Tulin died in San Diego on January 27, 2018. Born November 7, 1918, in Hartford, Connecticut, Dr. Tulin attended UVM for medical school and then joined the Navy as a doctor during World War II. When he returned home, he practiced psychiatry at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. In 1977, he moved to La Jolla, California. Dr. Tulin served as director of the San Diego County Senior Evaluation and Treatment Hospital until his retirement in 1987.

John Nichols, M.D.
Dr. Nichols died in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the age of 95. He was born August 22, 1922, in Rutland, Vermont. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he earned his B.S. from Notre Dame in 1946 and his M.D. from UVM in 1946 following an intensive, single year of medical school. In 1945, Dr. Nichols interned at St. Vincent’s Hospital in New York City followed by a two-year term at the Charleston Naval Hospital in South Carolina. He completed medical residencies at St. Vincent’s Hospital and Methodist Hospital of Brooklyn, N.Y. Dr. Nichols held teaching appointments and served as attending physician at Methodist Hospital and University Hospital, SUNY, earning the rank of president of the Medical Board of Trustees in 1975.

Joseph C. Foley, M.D.
Dr. Foley died August 10, 2018, in Burlington, Vermont. Born in Babson, Haven, Vermont, Dr. Foley worked as a chemist prior to service in the U.S. Army during World War II. He completed his internship at the Mary Fletcher Hospital and his residency at UVM College of Medicine. Dr. Foley was head of the pathology departments at the Deaconess Hospital and Fanny Allen Hospital, and served as a postdoctoral fellow working in molecular epidemiology, earning his bachelor’s and medical degrees from the University of Vermont. In 2018, he received the United States Naval Hospital Jacksonville. In 2019, Dr. Foley moved to New York, N.Y. for one year before moving to Canton, N.Y., where he practiced for almost 30 years.

Peter R. Manes
Dr. Manes of Williamsburg, Virginia, died April 17, 2018, at the age of 87. Born in Berlin, Germany, he and his parents escaped the Nazis when he was six years old, eventually settling in Bennington, Vermont. He played violin professionally, and received a music degree from Yale University. Dr. Manes specialized in psychiatry and was a U.S. Army veterans, earning the rank of colonel. After retirement, he continued to work as a locum tenens psychiatrist in the United States and New Zealand.

Sanford Bloomberg, M.D.
Dr. Bloomberg died July 6, 2016. Born Dec. 12, 1924, in Burlington, Vermont, he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943, and was awarded the bronze star. Dr. Bloomberg completed a residency in psychiatry in Northville, Michigan, and opened a private practice in Detroit. After he and his family relocated to Northampton, he served as the founding medical director of the East Stoke inpatient psychiatri unit in the Franklin Medical Center in Deerfield. Dr. Bloomberg was a Life Fellow of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry, an elected member of the American Psychiatric Association, a member of the American Institute of Biological Psychiatry, and a member of the American College of Psychiatrists.

Daniel I. Palant, M.D.
Daniel I. Palant died August 18, 2018, in Albany, N.Y. His family fondly as “Dr. Dan.” Dr. Palant practiced pediatric medicine in Lexington, Massachusetts. He trained at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, N.Y., and Boston City Hospital. Dr. Palant was pediatrician and Chief of Professional Services at the 7205 USAF Dispensary in Athens, Greece, where he received the United States Air Force Commandation Medal for Outstanding Service.

Bryan Costello, M.D.
Brian Costello, M.D. died September 13, 2018. Born April 4, 1983, in South Burlington, Vermont, he graduated from South Burlington High School and Tufts University before entering the Lerner College of Medicine. As his family wrote after his death, “Brian struggled with mental illness for many years. He tried many medications and therapies, but none of them worked.”

William F. Bynoe, M.D.
William F. Bynoe, M.D.’54 of East Point, Georgia, died August 22, 2014.
A Commitment to Improving and Integrating Care

October 5, 2018
1:45 P.M.

Associate Dean for Students Christa Zehle, M.D.’99, helps Class of 2022 member Nicole Delgado put on her coat during the 2018 White Coat Ceremony. A total of 120 students received their first white coats this year. In every student’s coat pocket: a message of support from a Larner College of Medicine alumni.

PHOTO: ANDY DUBACK
The Culture of Giving

At the 2018 White Coat Ceremony in October, many members of the Class of 2022 met graduates of past classes who were on campus for the ceremony. Francis Mtuke’22 had a very special meeting with one alumnus, Vito Imbasciani, M.D.’88. Francis is the current Imbasciani/DiSalvo Scholar. Established by Dr. Imbasciani and his husband, George DiSalvo, in 2017, the Imbasciani/DiSalvo Scholarship supports a medical student for all four years of their education, and fosters a diverse and inclusive student body that reflects the patients future physicians will serve throughout their careers.