

# VERMONT MEDICINE

THE ROBERT LARNER, M.D. COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

FALL 2018



## Six Weeks in Uganda

Larner students find a deeper understanding of medicine across cultures.

ALSO FEATURED: • PASSIONATE PARASITOLOGIST • HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

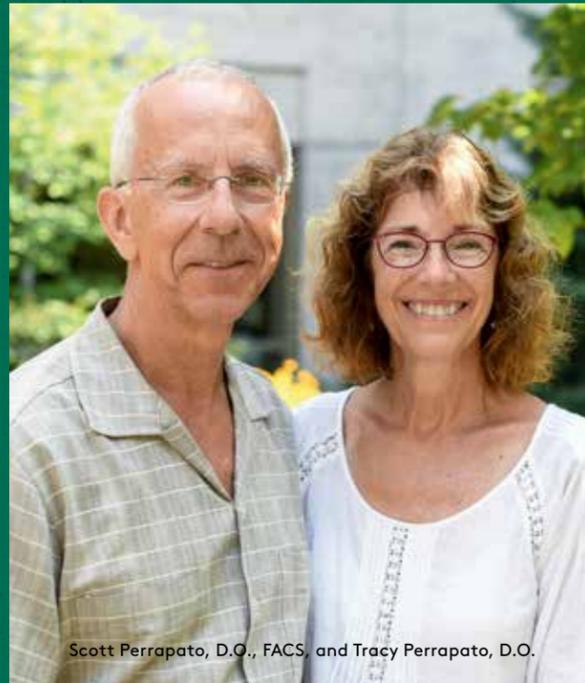
PROFILE IN GIVING

# 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.



Scott Perrapato, D.O., FACS, and Tracy Perrapato, D.O.

To join the Perrapatos and others in supporting the UVM Cancer Center Integrative Therapies Fund: [UVMHealth.org/CancerCenter/IntegrativeTherapies](http://UVMHealth.org/CancerCenter/IntegrativeTherapies)

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.



The Campaign for The University of Vermont

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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### Infectious Enthusiasm

Pathologist Bobbi Pritt, M.D.'01 saw "beautiful things" the first time she saw a slide of human tissue. She's followed those sights to become an authority on parasites and vector-borne diseases.

BY CAROLYN SHAPIRO



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### Six Weeks in Uganda

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.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID SEAVER  
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### Population Partnership

Adam Atherly, Ph.D., leads the new UVM Center for Health Services Research to identify new solutions for improving patient care.

BY ERIN POST

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WEB XTRAS



[www.med.uvm.edu/vtmedicine](http://www.med.uvm.edu/vtmedicine)

- Find a link to the online version of *The Red Wheelbarrow*.
- See more photos of Uganda and read an interview with photographer David Seaver.
- Read more about faculty engaged in health services research.

THE ROBERT LARNER, M.D.  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

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FROM THE DEAN

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 first 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 began 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 in today's 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.

**RICHARD L. PAGE, M.D.**  
Dean, The Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at The University of Vermont

**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 Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, jointly based at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She has served as director of the Osher 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 the mechanisms of acupuncture, manual, and movement-based therapies. Her more recent work has focused on the effects of stretching on inflammation resolution mechanisms within connective tissue.



Helene Langevin, M.D.

**\$12.3 MILLION GRANT ESTABLISHES UVM TRANSLATIONAL GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER**

A \$12.3 million grant joins together two traditionally distinct groups of scientists to develop innovative approaches to prevent and control infectious disease in a new Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at UVM, the Translational Global Infectious Disease Research Center (TGIR), announced October 11.

The research initiative will leverage UVM expertise in the Larner College of Medicine, the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to develop strategies for decreasing the burden of infectious diseases, particularly in low-income countries. This is the fifth COBRE grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that the Larner College of Medicine has secured over the past 17 years.

The TGIR-COBRE aims to bridge the gap between the biologic and quantitative data fields of biomedical research by developing institutional strengths in global infectious disease research and supporting the research careers of outstanding junior



Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D., principal investigator of the TGIR-COBRE, director of the Vaccine Testing Center and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, speaks at the October 11 announcement.

faculty in this field. "Effective responses to infectious disease burdens and threats must capitalize on new technologies and analytical tools," says **Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D.**, principal investigator of the TGIR-COBRE, director of the Vaccine Testing Center and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. "Together our TGIR-COBRE team can harness the opportunities of our combined areas of expertise and that of "big data" to improve health of global populations."

Co-principal investigators on the TGIR-COBRE are **Jason Bates, Ph.D., Sc.D.**, professor of medicine, and **Christopher Huston, M.D.**, professor of medicine.

**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 teachings hospitals amongst respondents, and a recognition of the value these institutions add to patient care.

highest favorability ratings

- Medical schools and teaching hospitals both achieved their highest favorability ratings in 20 years — 72% and 69%, respectively.

92%

- 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.

seven out of 10

- Seven out of 10 voters surveyed believe that teaching hospitals provide added value for patients over other types of hospitals. The top cited: 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.

\*From "What Americans think about medical schools and teaching hospitals," by AAMC President and CEO Darrell Kirch, M.D., AAMC News, July 31, 2018



Stephen Higgins, Ph.D.

## UVM CENTER ON BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH RECEIVES \$11.7 MILLION GRANT TO CONTINUE RESEARCH ON UNHEALTHY LIFESTYLE PATTERNS

An \$11.7 million Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant renewal to the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health (VCBH) will support another five years of research on addressing and better understanding the unhealthy behaviors that negatively impact health and cost the U.S. healthcare system billions of dollars. The funding comes from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Led by **Stephen Higgins, Ph.D.**, director of the VCBH and professor of psychiatry and psychological science, the grant focuses on increasing understanding of the mechanisms underpinning vulnerability to unhealthy behavior and developing effective behavior-change interventions, with the end goal of establishing a productive, stand-alone center of research excellence in biomedical research. The VCBH has already made considerable progress in this area during its first five years. Higgins and the UVM COBRE faculty and collaborators have published an impressive 185 peer-reviewed publications in the area of behavior and health in the past five years, garnered nearly \$60 million in additional external grant funding, and have established a successful early-career faculty mentoring program.

## 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.



Richard Bounds, M.D.

## A Trio of College Researchers Receive SPARK VT Funding

Three Larner College of Medicine researchers have been awarded 2018 SPARK VT grants by the UVM Offices of the Provost and Vice President for Research. SPARK VT, a University-wide program designed to cultivate faculty entrepreneurship and technology commercialization, features a panel of distinguished and successful entrepreneurs who critically evaluate projects presented by selected researchers from across the University. Those judged to be most meritorious receive start-up funding and milestone evaluation by the panel.

The 2018 SPARK VT recipients are:

- UVM Associate Professor of Medicine **Jason Botten, Ph.D.** [1], for Development of monoclonal antibodies for treatment of hantavirus disease in North America.
- UVM Professor of Medicine **Peter Spector, M.D.** [2], for Seeing Atrial Fibrillation through a Clearer Lens.
- UVM Professor of Medicine **Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.** [3], for Development of Tissue-Specific Bioinks for Regenerative Medicine.



## 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 Postdoctoral Association. Each recipient receives a trophy, a prize of \$1,000 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.** [1], 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. The position 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 healthcare professionals among its members. The Fellow designation — ATSF — 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 2003 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.

## Diving into the Data: Admissions Research Wins Award

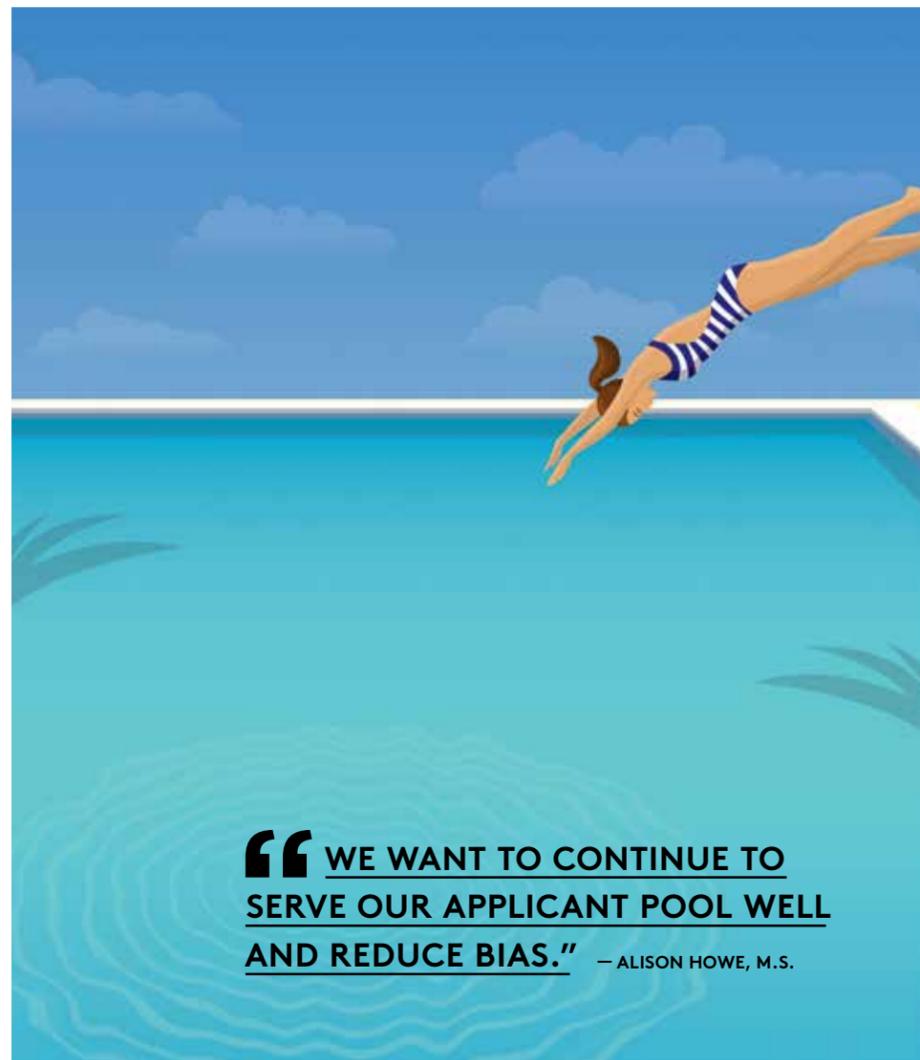
How do years of life experience affect a medical school applicant's performance during the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) process? Do gender differences come into play?

In research led by Teaching Academy Director of Education Program Outcome Analysis **Alison Howe, M.S.**, a team dove into three years of data to begin to suss out answers to these important questions, work that resulted in a major poster prize from the Northeast Group on Educational Affairs (NEGEA), one of four regional groups from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The project also laid the groundwork for more research to come.

The goal is to continually assess and better understand outcomes as the College is now in its fifth year using the MMI, says Associate Dean of Admissions **Janice Gallant, M.D.** A tool that is backed by evidence and employed by medical schools nationwide, the MMI at the Larner College of Medicine includes a series of six-minute interviews with nine people. Through contemplating different scenarios and interacting with a range of interviewers, the College has the opportunity to assess a student's readiness for medical school through the lens of the core personal competencies identified by the AAMC. These competencies include qualities like a sense of ethical responsibility, a capacity for improvement, and an ability to communicate effectively with patients. Although previous studies have demonstrated that female applicants tend to perform better than male applicants on the MMI overall, this study is one of the first to look at how life experience correlates with gender and MMI outcomes.

The admissions research team analyzed MMI scores from a three-year cohort of 1,795 applicants to the College. They found that "years since undergraduate degree" was associated with higher MMI scores, particularly in female applicants. This suggests that "females are more likely to transform experience into traits that are assessed during the MMI." Another possible conclusion is that "gender differences in interpersonal skills are enhanced by experience."

"We want to continue to serve our applicant pool well and reduce bias," says Howe. "The MMI assesses those non-cognitive traits and levels of professionalism that we want in our medical students."



**“WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR APPLICANT POOL WELL AND REDUCE BIAS.” — ALISON HOWE, M.S.**

For **Gayathri 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?"

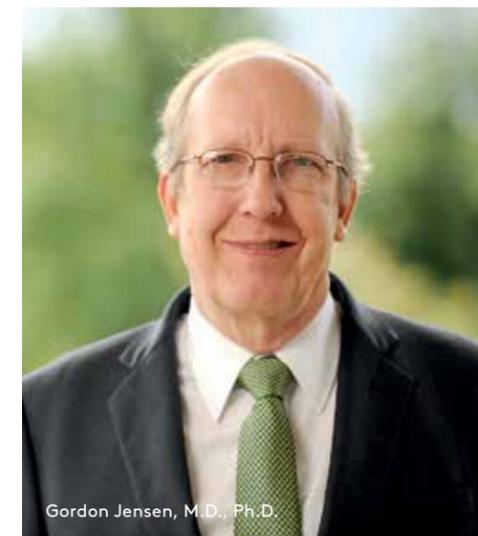
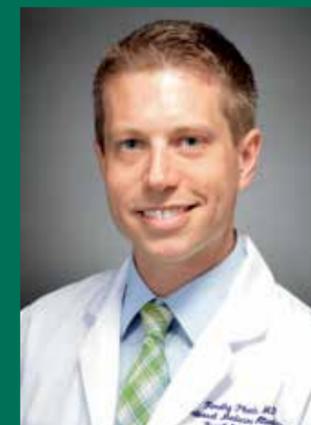
The poster was one of two to receive a 2018 Excellence in Medical Education Award at the NEGEA annual meeting, held this year at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.\*

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; Jewkes CR; McElhinney E; Barlow RD; Rosen L; Gallant J; Huggett K. *Impact of Gender and Years of Experience on Multiple Mini Interview Scores at the UVM Larner College of Medicine.*

### 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* showed that four out of five times someone with high blood pressure used the app, they received falsely reassuring, non-elevated 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.



Gordon Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.

### UVM RESEARCH DEAN CO-AUTHORS GLOBAL CRITERIA FOR DIAGNOSING MALNUTRITION

Senior Associate Dean for Research **Gordon Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.**, co-led with **Tommy Cederholm, M.D., Ph.D.**, a professor at Uppsala University in Sweden, a major report that provides a global, consensus scheme for diagnosing malnutrition in adults in clinical settings. Titled "The GLIM Criteria for the Diagnosis of Malnutrition — a Consensus Report from the Global Clinical Nutrition Community," the report was published in the *Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition* and *Clinical Nutrition* after more than two years of work by the Global Leadership Initiative on Malnutrition (GLIM) working group. Adoption of global consensus criteria will allow for comparison of malnutrition prevalence, interventions, and outcomes throughout the world.



### 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.



Vikas Anathy, Ph.D.

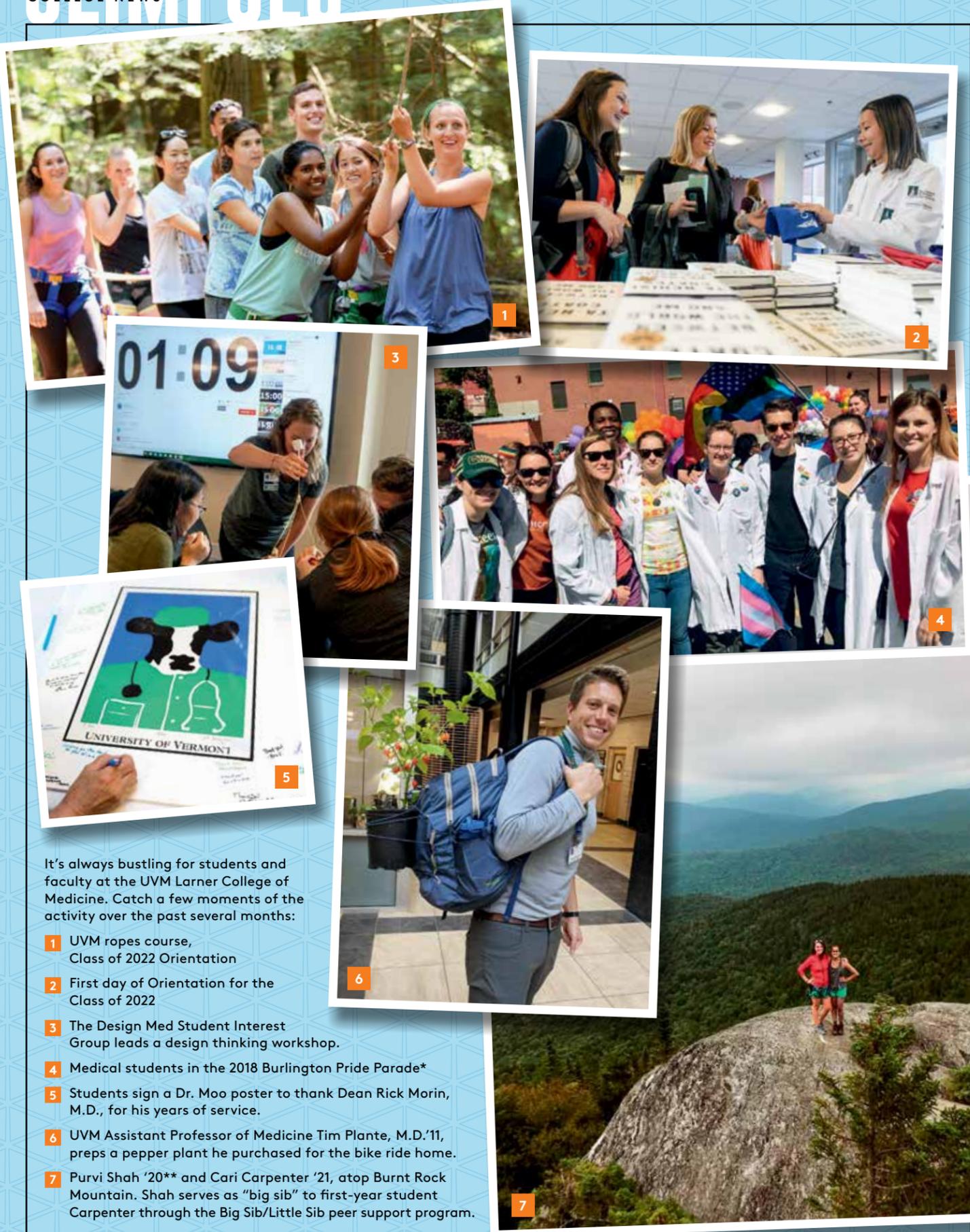


Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Ph.D.

### JANSSEN-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.

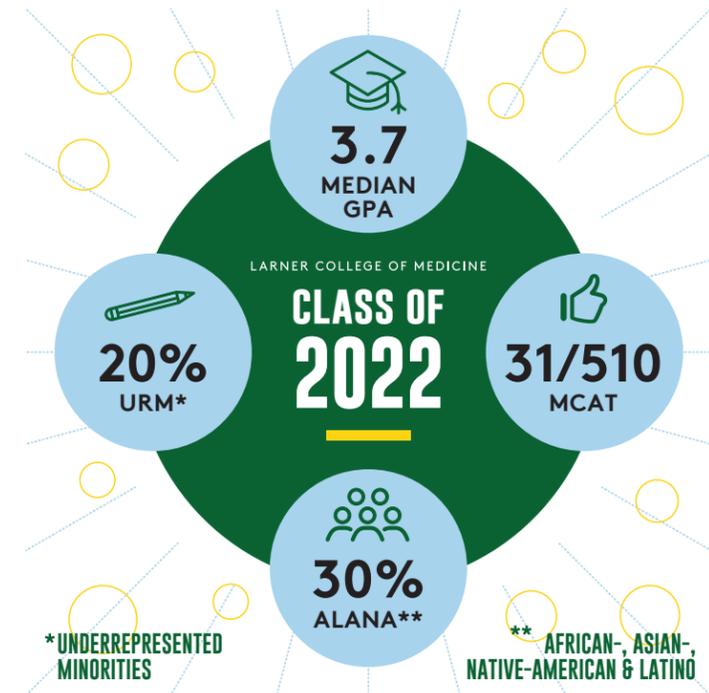
The research provides much-needed hope for the roughly 150,000 Americans suffering from this devastating condition. This study focused on an enzyme called glutaredoxin-1 — or GLRX — which researchers believe has potential as a therapeutic agent for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Janssen-Heininger, Anathy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



It's always bustling for students and faculty at the UVM Larner College of Medicine. Catch a few moments of the activity over the past several months:

- 1 UVM ropes course, Class of 2022 Orientation
- 2 First day of Orientation for the Class of 2022
- 3 The Design Med Student Interest Group leads a design thinking workshop.
- 4 Medical students in the 2018 Burlington Pride Parade\*
- 5 Students sign a Dr. Moo poster to thank Dean Rick Morin, M.D., for his years of service.
- 6 UVM Assistant Professor of Medicine Tim Plante, M.D.'11, preps a pepper plant he purchased for the bike ride home.
- 7 Purvi Shah '20\*\* and Cari Carpenter '21, atop Burnt Rock Mountain. Shah serves as "big sib" to first-year student Carpenter through the Big Sib/Little Sib peer support program.

\*Photo courtesy Rose Martin '22 \*\* Photo courtesy Purvi Shah '20



## 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.



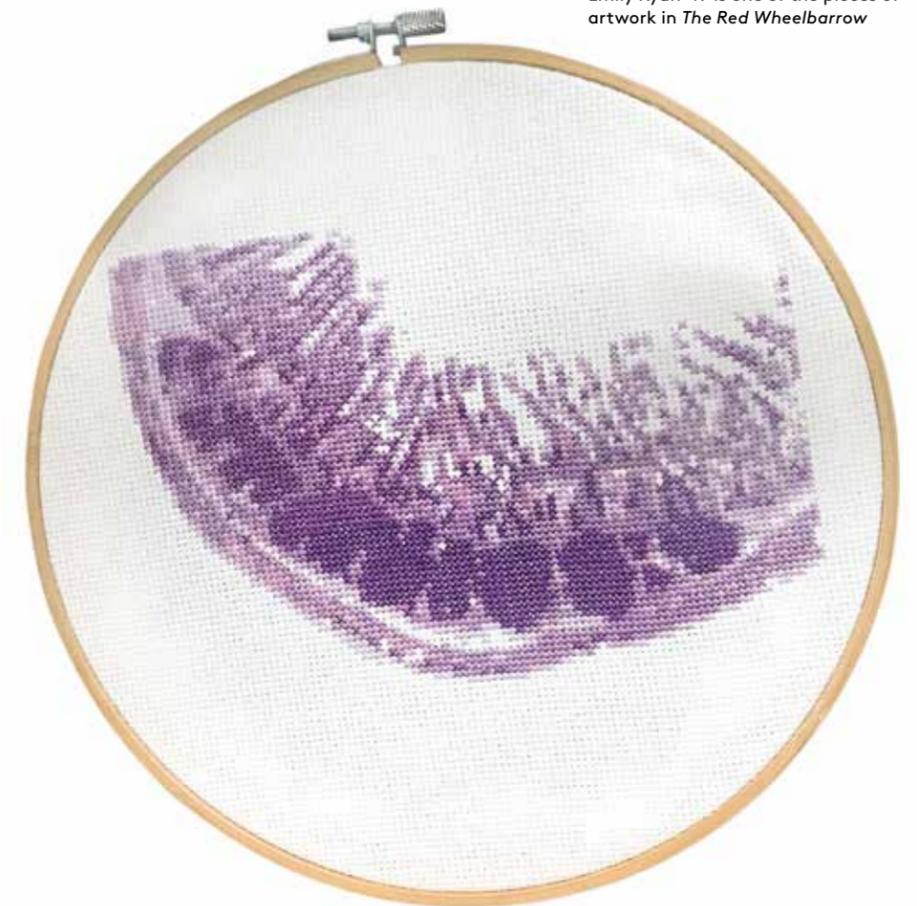
## 'THE RED WHEELBARROW' CELEBRATES LITERARY AND VISUAL ARTS

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](http://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 my understanding of the responsibilities clinicians 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 socioeconomics 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 level, 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 *STAT News*. 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 the role physicians can play in improving systemic health equity, 3) improve knowledge of topics in health equity, social determinants of



Alumni Viewpoint  
Gaurab Basu, M.D.'10

health and health policy, 4) develop skills in research methodology, leadership and health advocacy, and 5) provide mentorship and role modeling to support career development that may incorporate health advocacy. Residents work on a year-long research-based health advocacy project that gives them a real time experience of physician advocacy at a systemic level.

Not only have the projects resulted in robust scholarship (such as a project on the impact of the Affordable Care Act on individuals with chronic disease that was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*), they have given residents an opportunity to translate their research findings into policy recommendations. Residents also learn community organizing skills that were developed by Harvard Kennedy School Professor Marshall Ganz.

### A DEEP BODY OF LITERATURE HAS SHOWN THAT RACE, GENDER, INCOME LEVEL, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DISABILITY STATUS, AND INSURANCE STATUS HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON ONE'S EXPERIENCE OF HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Course evaluations suggest that our course helps residents reconnect 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 community. 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 equip them with the training they need to become meaningful change agents.

*Gaurab Basu, M.D.'10, M.P.H. is an instructor at Harvard Medical School and a primary care physician at Cambridge Health Alliance.*

## LaMantia Invested 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



(L to R): Bob Miller, Robert Gramling, M.D., Holly Miller, Michael LaMantia, M.D., M.P.H., and Rosemary Dale, Ed.D., A.P.R.N.

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 Gladstone '63, 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 Gladstone 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.



Todd Gladstone '63, M.D.'68

## 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 5, 2017, at the age of 93.
- John Curran, M.D.'31**, 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.

# Campaign News



## Fund in Honor of Mark H. Beers, M.D.'82 Brings International Experts to Campus

The UVM Center on Aging and the Larner College of Medicine's Geriatric Medicine program recently hosted two international experts in geriatrics with support from a fund established in memory of **Mark H. Beers, M.D.'82**. Horst Vollmar, M.D., M.P.H., professor of medicine and chief of the Department of General Medicine at Ruhr University Bochum, and Mary Austrom, Ph.D., the Wesley P. Martin Professor of Alzheimer's Education and Associate Dean for Diversity Affairs at the Indiana University School of Medicine, delivered a presentation titled "Caring for Caregivers and Transitions from Hospital to Home." Dr. Beers, who passed away from diabetes-related complications in 2009, had an impressive career in geriatrics. He is best known for establishing the "Beers Criteria," the definitive list of medications that elderly patients should avoid, and for his role as editor-in-chief of the Merck Manuals. The **Mark H. Beers, M.D.'82 Fund in Geriatrics** was established by his husband, Stephen Urice, with additional support from his sister, Jacqueline Beers Herbsman.

## 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 from 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 Continuing Medical and Interprofessional Education.

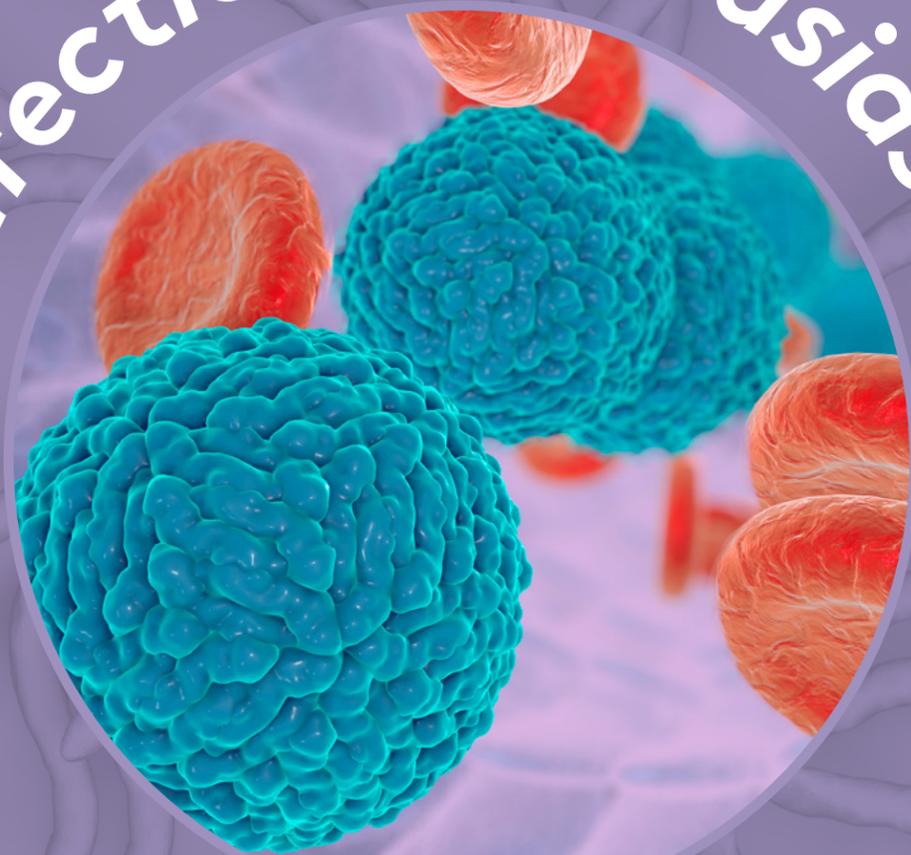


Marking his investiture as the first Berta Pi-Sunyer Williams '58 Endowed Professor, Dr. Cheung Wong is joined by UVM President Tom Sullivan.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE Medical Development & Alumni Relations Office

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# Infectious Enthusiasm



A love of both art and science led Bobbi Pritt, M.D.'01 to her career as an authority on parasitology

By Carolyn Shapiro



## 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 eauclairiensis*. 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 infections such as dengue fever, malaria, yellow fever and chikungunya. And occasionally she serves as an expert on nasty topics such as parasite 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, then we have to develop them ourselves," she explains. A center like Mayo Clinic provides the volume of examples necessary to maintain expertise in these disease, Pritt says.

"Every week we get positive cases of malaria," she says. "And if you go to a smaller place, they may only get a case of malaria every year or so, every two years or every three years. It's hard to maintain a level of expertise in something you see only every two years or every three years."

Pritt's work grows more important with the wider geographic spread of ticks. The same tick can carry more than one infection, some more dangerous than Lyme.

At the same time, diseases rarely seen before in this country are showing up more frequently. Foreign-born immigrants in the United States lose their immunity to diseases common in their home countries. When they travel overseas to visit relatives, usually in Africa and Asia, they are susceptible to picking up illnesses — botfly larvae embedded in the skin, for example — and bringing them back to the States.

"I love that it always comes back to patient care," says Pritt, who doesn't actually treat the botfly-infected patients. "But I'm on the phone with their physician, and I'm telling them what this is and what the risks are and talking about the different testing options and what we can do from a laboratory standpoint to help the patient. So I'm reminded every day of why I'm here."

In 2007, Pritt launched a blog called "Creepy Dreadful Wonderful Parasites," which now averages 25,000 page views per month. Every week, she posts a case involving some kind of icky creature and invites her readers to guess what it is, giving them the answer at the end of the week.

This summer, she posted her 500th episode with a celebration: a montage of artistic renditions of parasites submitted by

readers. They included parasite-decorated cakes, parasite-decorated Easter eggs, parasite Halloween costumes, 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 scientists and educators who often use her cases in classrooms. Her regular visitors will often discuss with each other and trade 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 all 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.

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

"Bobbi is a great example of somebody who finds 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.

Pritt, though, did not follow a smooth and steady path into and through medical school. She took several detours.

She grew up in West Enosburg Falls, Vt., in a rural landscape close to Canada. She played outdoors and showed an early hint of her inclination toward creepy creatures when, at age 4, she found a nest of baby milk snakes and stuffed them into the front pocket of her hooded sweatshirt. Her father swatted them away.

She was a good student, she says, but never a "science geek." Pritt was artsy. She liked to paint in watercolors and pastels but didn't like the idea of a job in graphic design.

When she was 14, Pritt's father got a new job and moved the family to the suburbs of Albany, N.Y. He was an electrician, and Pritt's mother was a secretary who worked her way up to the position of office manager. Neither went to college. They didn't know how to guide her, and career counseling was nonexistent in schools back then, Pritt says, so she had to figure things out on her own.

After high school, she enrolled at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, N.Y. She changed her major 10 times and ended up with two associate's degrees: in business

## A Community of Passionate Parasitologists

*Navigate to Creepy, Dreadful, Wonderful Parasites* — Bobbi Pritt's long-standing blog — and every week you'll find a conversation about an unidentified organism that lives up to the blog's name in any number of ways. Pritt posts a photo, and readers from around the world weigh in on what the parasite-in-question may be. The conversation is often lively and detailed, and there's a familiarity to the exchanges. Some readers banter 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/>

administration; and in math and science.

Resurrecting a longtime interest in biology, she continued as a biology major at the State University of New York at Geneseo, with a minor in anthropology. Then, with her bachelor's degree in hand, Pritt saw only two options: medical school or a doctorate.

She feared academia would force her into too narrow a focus of study, Pritt says. She wanted to look at the big picture and put her knowledge to use.

She applied to 11 medical schools and interviewed at seven. She was drawn to Burlington,

even though she had almost no sleep before her interview there; she had just finished a night shift as a pathology lab technician at a hospital in Albany, where she also worked a second job as an administrative assistant.

"University of Vermont, for me, really stood out as being such an open, friendly school," she says. "When I went there, I loved the atmosphere. It just seemed so inviting."

Even so, Pritt struggled with doubts. One day, during her surgical rotation in her second year, she suddenly froze with the retractor in hand, then walked out. She took two months off but, after returning, decided to withdraw from medical school. It was only later, Pritt says she came to understand she suffered from depression and got treatment.

For two years, she re-evaluated. She worked as an administrative assistant in UVM's sociology department and took a variety of classes for free as an employee. Most important, she says, she spent time doing "informational interviews" with anyone who had a job that intrigued her, including a nutritionist and the state epidemiologist.

For those roles she liked, she concluded, "I'd have a lot more opportunities if I had my medical degree."

UVM allowed her to re-apply and accepted her back. She says she was grateful for the second chance. "That was the total game-changer," Pritt says. "I had finally done my research and spoken to enough people that I got really good information, and I had the focus of what I wanted to do."

Today, Pritt speaks frequently to students about their career plans, not only while teaching but serving as a mentor to dozens of students. She will readily answer questions about her work and encourages students to explore a range of jobs by talking to those doing them.

For her residency in pathology, Pritt matched to UVM. Pathology crossed all areas of medicine, giving her that big picture. It wouldn't involve much direct contact with patients, but Pritt says she has found as much reward in the educational interaction with students.

"She stood out as an incredible, kind person, and someone who just wanted to learn and wanted to be innovative and move things along," says Pam Gibson, M.D.'89, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at UVM.

Those qualities make for a good pathologist, Gibson adds. "You've got to be able to love that inquiry, that questioning, and then want to share."

Influenced by now-deceased UVM professor Washington Winn, M.D., Pritt was especially drawn to microbiology, the study of all things infectious: bacteria, viruses,



Bobbi Pritt, M.D.'01, receives the 2016 UVM Medical Alumni Association Early Achievement Award from Dean Rick Morin, M.D. (at left), and Marga Sproul, M.D.'76.

**“IN THE FIELD OF MICROBIOLOGY, BOBBI IS A ROCK STAR.”**

— BRUCE MACPHERSON, M.D.

parasites and fungi.

From her residency, Pritt went to Mayo Clinic for a one-year fellowship in clinical microbiology. As she looked for her first job, Mayo made her a hard-to-resist offer: Go to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to get a master's degree in parasitology, then return to Minnesota to run the lab.

So Pritt, who had just gotten married, moved with her husband to London to pursue this uncommon specialty at one of the world's premier programs on the subject. There, she gained a global perspective, not only on parasites found elsewhere in the world — such as guinea worm — but also on the need to understand cultural differences in communities where these infections flourish.

Even after becoming enmeshed in medicine, Pritt has found artistic outlets — many of them related to her work. Gibson remembers Pritt identifying the herringbone pattern seen in certain tumors and creating photo montages of cell formations to help residents identify them.

MacPherson once went to dinner with his wife at Daily Planet, a downtown Burlington eatery, and noticed an exhibition of Pritt's

abstract-looking photographs, which only a pathologist would recognize as stained cell and tissue samples.

Pritt is now working on a parasite coloring book. While traveling, she noticed adult coloring books in the airport and enjoyed filling in the designs.

She thought to herself, "Instead of this beautiful field of flowers, what if it was a field of flowers with ticks on it? Or instead of a tunnel, you're looking up an intestine, like your colon, and there's worms hanging off the inside of it?" she says. "There's an 'eww' factor but it also could be educational and kind of fun."

The coloring book illustrates Pritt's artistic nature and, even more, her never-ending effort to inspire and teach, to turn others on to her fascination with parasites. That's not to say she likes them outside the lab.

"I find them scientifically fascinating, but I hate mosquitos and ticks," she says. "I really do."

Scientists need to work together to prevent the illnesses those bugs carry, Pritt says. So the more she can discover, the more she can collaborate, the more she can convey through art or other means, the better off the world will be. **VM**

# SIX WEEKS IN UGANDA

## A PHOTO ESSAY

PHOTOS BY DAVID SEAVER

TEXT BY ERIN POST

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.

**Rounds on the men's ward at St. Stephen's Hospital:** Mariah McNamara, M.D. (at right), speaks with the patient while Catherine Nakibuule, M.D. (at left), medical superintendent for St. Stephen's Hospital, reviews notes. The rest of the team includes (from L to R): Christina Dawson '21, Norwalk Hospital resident Sharon Sukhdeo, M.D., Katherine Callahan '21, Paul Bachman, M.D., and Andrew Mawejje. McNamara, an assistant professor of surgery and an emergency medicine physician, serves on the global health committee and is an important advisor and mentor for students.



“ 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.



Entrance to St. Stephen's Hospital



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.



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.

Callahan, Dawson, McNamara 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.



### ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT/ WESTERN CONNECTICUT HEALTH NETWORK GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The UVM/WCHN Global Health Program creates international partnerships with the vision of improving patient care and medical education through cooperation and the exchange of ideas. As participants are exposed to vastly different health care systems and socioeconomic structures, the goal is to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by partner countries in providing high quality care to their underserved populations. Students, residents and faculty have the opportunity to complete rotations at five partner sites around the world.

### ABOUT ST. STEPHEN'S HOSPITAL

St. Stephen's Hospital Mpererwe is a private non-profit organization founded in 1987 by the Christians of St. Stephen's Church of Uganda Mpererwe. Located seven kilometers from Kampala city center, it serves eight parishes with a catchment area of about 80,000.

### ABOUT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

As the oldest medical training university unit in East Africa, Makerere University College of Health Sciences has been training medical and health professionals for over 80 years. The college is located on Mulago Hill within the Mulago National Referral and Teaching Hospital complex northeast of Kampala.



**“ 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



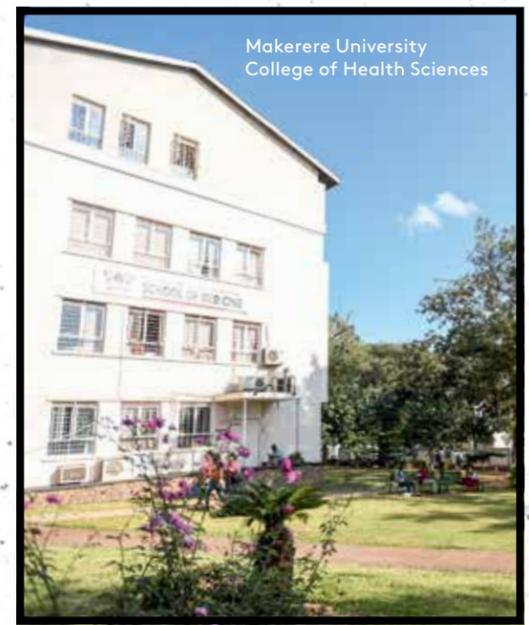
Catherine Nakibuule, known to the students as Dr. Cathy (at center, with Dawson, Callahan, and Norwalk Hospital resident Sharon Sukhdeo, M.D.), is the medical superintendent for St. Stephen’s Hospital and a key partner for the global health program. She teaches students at the bedside and helps to organize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



Callahan examines a patient during a home visit. These trips into the communities surrounding St. Stephen’s provide much-needed medical care to patients who may not be able to make it to the hospital. They also give the students the opportunity to get to know patients in a deeper way.



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.



Makerere University College of Health Sciences

## HEADING HOME: REFLECTIONS ON UGANDA



Katherine Callahan '21 (at left) and Christina Dawson '21, outside of St. Stephen's Hospital

*"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

**“ 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

Dawson and Callahan during rounds at St. Stephen's Hospital. As time goes on, the students gain confidence even as they continue to acknowledge how much there is left to learn.



**“ EVERY TIME I STEP INTO THE OR, REGARDLESS OF COUNTRY, THERE IS A SANCTITY 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

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 SEAYER AT: [MED.UVM.EDU/VTMEDICINE/WEB-EXTRAS](http://MED.UVM.EDU/VTMEDICINE/WEB-EXTRAS)

# Population Partnership



**Adam Atherly, Ph.D.,  
founds the UVM Center for  
Health Services Research  
to identify new solutions  
for improving care.**

BY ERIN POST

**O**n 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., director of the new Center for Health Services Research, meets with his colleague Eline van den Broek-Altenburg, Ph.D.

## Center for Health Services Research

### Mission.

The mission of the center is to facilitate and conduct rigorous quantitative health services research using secondary data. Our research is clinically and policy relevant and focused on the discovery of new knowledge to enhance quality, value, and satisfaction in the healthcare system. Our research draws lessons from healthcare reform in Vermont to healthcare reform efforts in other states at the national level and internationally.

### Vision.

To use secondary data to make causal inferences about how to change the healthcare system to improve the health of the population.

Senior Associate Dean for Research **Gordon Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.**, sees the Center for Health Services Research as a catalyst for collaboration among investigators affiliated with the center, making the College even more competitive for large extramural grants.

“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 pay big dividends for 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.”

UVM Medical Group President and CEO **Claude Deschamps, M.D.**, points to the new center as a “solution shop” to help researchers access data and develop rigorous research projects. The UVM Health Network — which now extends through much of northern Vermont and into the upper reaches of New York State — offers boundless opportunities to ask good questions that lead to innovation in the ways health care is delivered.

“I think we have something to teach the rest of the world,” he says. “Through publishing research we can educate others.”

This living laboratory is in part what prompted Atherly to take on the leadership

role at the College; as the director of the new center, he’s in a prime position to drive the national conversation on population health, which focuses on improving outcomes across a group and addressing disparities between groups.

“There’s the opportunity here, given the uniqueness of the state, to build a data system that will allow us to do population health research that would be hard to match anywhere else in the country,” he says.

### Building a Center from the Ground Up

Atherly comes to Vermont with a track record of success. Considered a national expert on the Medicare system and its effect on health outcomes, he’s been consistently funded since 2002 by agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the NIH, the Centers for Medicare and



Medicaid Services, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. His research spans numerous methodological and topical areas, including healthcare spending and expenditure modeling, scale development and psychometric analysis, evaluation of efforts to improve quality of care and patient safety, and cost-effectiveness analysis.

At the Colorado School of Public Health, Atherly was the founding chair of the Department of Health Systems, Management and Policy. His work recruiting leading investigators and building the infrastructure for a successful research program helped

to propel the department onto the national stage, even as he continued his own research into the economics of aging and consumer decisions regarding health plan choice. This research has made him a sought-after speaker: He’s presented his work at more than 75 national and international professional meetings.

In his first months at UVM, he’s met with as many researchers as possible from across the University, sharing the broad goals for the center and getting input on its mission and vision. 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 to improve the health of the population” — is very much focused on 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 do causation without randomization,” he says. “Health services research says you *can* if you 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 fact that the UVM Medical Center provides care for a very large percentage of the region’s population is also a benefit, as

electronic health records provide another key resource for researchers.

With the volume of data, and the broad scope of inquiry that health services research encourages, investigators have a wealth of opportunities to collaborate and ask questions of the medical system and beyond.

“There’s a lot of talk around the medical center about the effect of housing on health outcomes. That’s a health services research kind of question,” says Atherly. “We might look at costs. We might look at quality of life. We might look at satisfaction. There’s a whole range of life outcomes that we can explore.”

### “A Strength of the College”

In his new role at UVM, Atherly is quick to point out that he joins colleagues who are already leading the way in the field.

“We’re starting a center, but we’re not starting health services research. The Dean’s Office believes about a third of all the research in the college right now is health services research. So it’s already a strength of the college, but it’s a hidden strength. We want to bring this strength to the surface, make it more visible, bring together people who are working separately. We’re building an infrastructure that can connect people.”

UVM Professor and Chair of Biochemistry **Gary Stein, Ph.D.**, director of the UVM Cancer Center, is one such leader. He’s a principal investigator for a five-year, \$20 million NIH Clinical and Translational Research grant that is funding a joint program between UVM and Maine Medical Center to develop the Northern New England Clinical and Translational Research Network, which will build capacity and foster collaboration to address health problems endemic in northern New England, including addiction, cancer, and cardiovascular disease, as well as the barriers that compromise rural health care delivery.

Stein says the Center for Health Services Research comes along at the right time to provide important support to researchers.

“What we really need to understand is how do we fulfill our responsibilities as a medical center? As a cancer center? As a cardiovascular center? As a pulmonary center? As a behavior and health center dealing with problems that relate to addiction? The Center for Health Services Research is positioned to be able to identify and frame the questions that can be asked, that should be asked, says Stein.

Another leader in health services research, UVM Henry and Carleen Tufo Professor of Medicine **Benjamin Littenberg, M.D.**, has been working in the field for over

two decades, publishing important work on the management of chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma, and obesity. He also trains Ph.D. and master’s degree students in UVM’s Clinical and Translational Science Program.

“We teach students about large data sets, which are the backbone of health services research,” says Littenberg. “Our emphasis is on how to learn from humans and populations about how best to take care of individuals and populations.”

The Center for Health Services Research stands to help students hone their research questions, find collaborators, and provide support for data analysis.

### The State of Vermont and Beyond

The Center for Health Services Research promises to bring together regional institutions all looking to improve the delivery of care, says Gordon Jensen, amplifying their collective effect.

“This is probably the best area of alignment of interest between the medical center, the health network, the Larner

College of Medicine, and the University. Bar none,” Jensen says. “The medical center and the health network are very interested in health quality, and health quality and health services research you can really view as part of a continuum. We can share our investment and share our resources.”

UVM Associate Professor of Hospital Medicine **Allen Repp, M.D.**, expects the medical center’s leadership on quality improvement — which is focused on prospectively applying evidence to improve clinical practice — to inform the work of the center, and vice versa. As vice chair of quality for the Department of Medicine and director of the primary care internal medicine unit at UVM Medical Center, he sees plenty of opportunities for collaboration across the UVM Health Network.

“As we move towards an integrated electronic health record, we’ll have a wealth of data from all of these different sites that we can leverage,” he says.

In addition to an educational mission, there will also be a connection to state policy makers. UVM Associate Dean for Primary Care **Charles MacLean, M.D.**, says the center is poised to conduct research in real time as Vermont continues to implement changes in how healthcare is paid for and delivered. The Green Mountain Care Board, the Vermont Department of Health, and other state and regional health agencies will all be important partners.

“How should we deliver care; what can we



learn about quality of care; do we need more capacity in certain areas? We’ll be able to answer those kinds of questions, and we’ll have the data to be able to back up decisions,” says MacLean.

### The Road Ahead

Atherly expects to be conducting many interviews in the months ahead, with two new faculty hires planned for the next year. He’ll be bringing on several programmers as well as claims analysts, data specialists and faculty with expertise in fields including rural health, genomics, pediatric health services research and quality of care. The center’s first new member — **Eline van den Broek-Altenburg, Ph.D.** — arrived in June of 2018. An assistant professor of psychiatry, she completed her doctorate in health services research with a focus on economics and biostatistics.

In Vermont, she’s looking forward to having plenty of collaborators and colleagues to help puzzle through these research questions and more.

“There’s so much data and so much to study and figure out. And there are so many enthusiastic people who are thrilled to have you working on those things. It’s a really great environment.” **VM**

## Healing Communities

As the Larner College of Medicine continues to focus on research related to health services and population health, the UVM Health Network, under the leadership of Chief Population Health and Quality Officer Steve Leffler, M.D., is partnering with local social services agencies to offer programs that address non-medical contributors to poor health and preventable disease.

For example, Housing as Healthcare helps provide housing and support services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness or living in unsafe conditions that inhibit their recovery from a medical condition. The Community Health Investment Fund supports programs that address basic needs, such as food and housing, as well as initiatives that improve systems for complex problems like opioid addiction.



READ MORE ABOUT FACULTY ENGAGED IN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AT: [MED.UVM.EDU/VTMEDICINE/WEB-EXTRAS](http://MED.UVM.EDU/VTMEDICINE/WEB-EXTRAS)

# Hall A

News & Notes for Larner College of Medicine Alumni

## 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 5th — has become a key moment of connection between alums 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 perspective, and knowing they have alumni support during their first year of medical school (and beyond) can make all of the difference.

**IT'S AN INCREDIBLE HONOR TO REPRESENT FELLOW ALUMS FROM ACROSS THE YEARS WHO MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY STRONG."**

Even as we continue to focus on events like the White Coat Ceremony, and of course Medical Reunion, which in 2019 will be shifting to October 4-6 (mark your calendars now!), we're creating opportunities to connect online. If you haven't had the chance to check out the new medical alumni directory, available through the College's development and alumni relations website, I would encourage you to take a look by visiting [www.alumni.uvm.edu/medicdirectory](http://www.alumni.uvm.edu/medicdirectory). It's easy to create an account, and you can search by name, class year, and more. It's a great resource to reconnect with classmates. UVM has also launched UVM Connect, an online community specific to UVM grads. The Larner College of Medicine has its own group where alums can connect with each other, provide mentorship opportunities to current students, share events, news, photos, and more. Find it at: [www.uvmconnect.org](http://www.uvmconnect.org).

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

## MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### Alumni Executive Committee Fiscal Year 2019

#### OFFICERS (TWO-YEAR TERMS)

**PRESIDENT**  
Betsy L. Sussman, M.D.'81 (2018-2020)

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
Omar A. Khan, M.D.'03 (2018-2020)

**SECRETARY**  
Mary Cushman, M.D.'89 (2018-2020)

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
John Tampas, M.D.'54 (Ongoing)

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (SIX-YEAR TERMS)

Annie Coates, M.D.'07 (2018-2024)  
Sean Diehl, Ph.D.'03 (2016-2022)  
Seth Dorsky, M.D.'10 (2017-2020)  
Janice M. Gallant, M.D.'89 (2015-2021)  
Albert J. Hebert, Jr., M.D.'74 (2015-2021)  
Christopher J. Hebert, M.D.'02 (2015-2021)  
Danie Leahy, M.D.'17 (2018-2024)  
Gus Papadakis, M.D.'92 (2018-2024)  
Suzanne R. Parker, M.D.'73 (2016-2022)  
Heidi Schumacher, M.D.'10 (2015-2021)  
Michael D. Upton, M.D.'94 (2016-2022)  
Pramila Yadav, M.D.'99 (2015-2021)

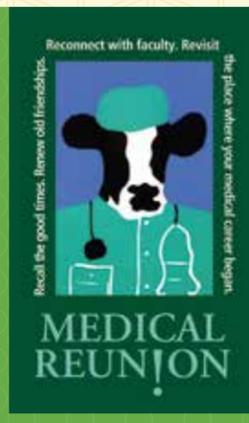
**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS**  
Richard L. Page M.D., Dean  
Kevin P. McAteer

## REUNION IS MOOVING TO THE FALL!

**REUNION 2019  
OCTOBER 4-6, 2019**

For more information see the Medical Development and Alumni Relations website at: [www.med.uvm.edu/alumni](http://www.med.uvm.edu/alumni)

Plan now to spend a long, glorious autumn weekend in Vermont catching up with old friends and faculty members.



If you have news to share, or updated contact information, you may submit it at [go.uvm.edu/infoupdate](http://go.uvm.edu/infoupdate). You may also contact your class agent or the Development & Alumni Relations office at [medalumni.relations@uvm.edu](mailto:medalumni.relations@uvm.edu) or (802) 656-4014.

## 1940s

REUNION 2019: 1944 + 1949

'49 **Donald E. Rock** writes from Spanish Fort, Ala.: "Still on top of the grass and doing a bit of traveling. You know when you're old when your children are retired."

## 1950s

REUNION 2019: 1954 + 1959

'55 **Paul Giles Stevens** writes: "We are now almost a year living away from Hawaii and managing quite well. This area in Iowa is very pleasant and reminds me of Vermont in many ways. Winter is OK as long as you stay inside! Best wishes to the classmates that are still around."

'58 **A. Rees Midgley** says: "My wife, Jane Wilson Coon, and I have spent a different winter restoring our second home in the British Virgin Islands subsequent to two Cat 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, last September. We are making good progress, but still have much to do including adding an aluminum roof, replacing all windows, and adding roll-down shutters. While we are fine, the BVI islands are not. Soper's hole, where we live, was devastated with only a small coffee shop and the top of the Pussers Restaurant partially usable. All the other shops, restaurants, and grocery store were destroyed and reconstruction only began on one building a week ago, ten months after the storm. Sad for this beautiful and popular harbor. Via the internet, I am still working on vCases, our many-year effort to develop a realistic, simulated and virtual case workup system for medical education and assessment. If anyone is intrigued, let me know!"

'59 **Ronald S. Nadel** of Longmeadow, Mass., writes: "I am still working full time when I am here, but I am away in Florida in the winter and traveling out of the country a few times a year. My original group of four dermatologists has morphed into 13 physicians and five physician assistants."

## 1960s

REUNION 2019: 1964 + 1969

'64 **Bob Fenning** and Gloria have relocated to Greenville, S.C. Bob remains active, volunteering at two free clinics and tutoring medical students. He misses his Kiawah home, but enjoys the youthful spirit of Greenville.

**Lester Wurtele** has retired from his radiology practice. He and Irma now divide their time between the Jersey shore and Florida, where he maintains contact with Avram Kraft and Larry Eisenstein.

**Frank Bolles** continues his spiritual development on Whidbey Island, Wash., where he enjoys easy access to his children and grandchildren. Despite some recent GI surgery for a carcinoid tumor which "keeps me on a short leash to the bathroom," Frank has visited northern New England with one of his granddaughters. He recalls youthful activities and adventures there with wistful enthusiasm.

**John Chiu** believes he is the only class member still working. He has recently contracted to provide part-time allergy services at a local health facility, but says he has difficulty adjusting to the electronic health record. He and Karin continue their very ambitious worldwide travels and have probably visited "everywhere" by now.

**Bob Cross** stays close to home near Lake Bomoseen in Vermont. He is the only class member who remained in Vermont for his practice and truly enjoyed his clinical career as a primary care provider. Despite being 81 he says he can "still swing a sledge hammer or an axe" at his camp in Johnson, but he doesn't get up there as often as he would like.

**Paul Morrisseau** reports he is happy and well following elective repair of a thoracic aneurysm. His advice to classmates is to not wait too long before reaping the pleasures associated with retirement.

**Jerry Frank** happily indicates that he is the grandfather of twins. He continues to muse with the heart of a poet, but is eager to remain in touch with old acquaintances and

friends. He and Pam split their time between Illinois and Florida.

**Mike Cheney** advises that he is still searching for his soul mate while managing rental property at Pemaquid on the Maine coast. Many of his children and grandchildren are in or are contemplating health professions, and Mike is offering his guidance.

**Tony Belmont** continues to enjoy life on the Maine coast where he and Linda are deeply involved in a variety of community activities. Retired now from all clinical pursuits, he regrets that none of his three children or six grandchildren has an interest in a medical career.

'65 **Joseph H. Vargas** offers congratulations to his daughter, Sara, who is the recipient of The Distinguished Academic Achievement Award, pediatric pathologist at Boston Children's Hospital.

'69 **James David Cahill** writes: "Looking forward to 50th reunion. Where did the years go!"

## 1970s

REUNION 2019: 1974 + 1979

'71 **Howard D. Solomon** says: "Bill Belville and I enjoyed another great salmon fishing trip at Hippa Island, British Columbia in July."

'72 **Gary L. Towle** writes: "I recently retired after 42 years of practicing emergency medicine. Best part of my career was serving as medical director for Yosemite National Park from 2002 to 2010.

## COLLEGE EVENTS

### MARCH 15, 2019

Noon  
Match Day  
UVM Campus — Hoehl Gallery

### MAY 19, 2019

Medical Commencement  
3:00 pm  
UVM Campus — Ira Allen Chapel

### OCTOBER 4-6, 2019

Medical Reunion  
UVM Campus

For updates on events, visit: [med.uvm.edu/alumni](http://med.uvm.edu/alumni)

Larner College of Medicine graduates are also members of the UVM Alumni Association. See those events at: [www.alumni.uvm.edu](http://www.alumni.uvm.edu)

Lots of time now for travel, golf, and family activities. I have been on the board of directors of the Western States 100 Mile Endurance Run for 35 years."

'73 **James M. Betts** writes: "The Class of '73 had a wonderful 45th reunion! This was, once again, graciously hosted by Susie Parker at her lovely lakeside Charlotte home. The evening flew by, as we reminisced about our four years...eight for almost 40 percent of our class... at UVM. Many attended sessions on

## UVMCONNECT

UVM Connect is your community — exclusive to the UVM family. Find and reminisce with fellow alumni, see what they have been up to, and stay in touch. Connect, mentor and advise students and young alums. Share job opportunities. **The Larner College of Medicine hosts its own group within UVM Connect!**

### SIGN UP IN 3 EASY STEPS

- 1 Go to <https://uvmconnect.org/>
- 2 Log in using your LinkedIn or Facebook profile, or your email
- 3 Reconnect. Give Back. Network.

## 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](http://www.med.uvm.edu/alumni)

updates to the curriculum, new buildings, and equipment, while some also accompanied the Class of '88, as they have a tradition of contributing cultivating skills to the public family gardens in the North End of Burlington. Hard to believe that it has been almost a half century (phew!) since we were receiving the educational foundations to prepare us for our mission to provide health care in all the specialties we now...or did....practice. Next stop...the 50th. Truly a milestone to be celebrated in 2023. In between, I would enthusiastically suggest to those who have not been on campus in a while to return to UVM and see what transformation has evolved since your last visit."

**'76 John Albert Ferullo** says that he is "thinking seriously about retirement. Hard to give up lifelong work and worked to another occupation of sorts. Current interests include boating, having recently attained a captain's license, and karate, having recently attained a master's ranking after 25 years of participation. My enjoyment is my family, now involving three generations. My own my children and as of last count, four grandchildren."

**Mark Smythe Yerby** says he "closed the clinic, is working part time and still chairs the Scientific Advisory Board of the North American Antiepileptic Drug and Pregnancy Registry. Retired from polo but wife, Lucy, and I raise horses, grass-fed beef and organic hay in central Oregon."

## 1980s

REUNION 2019: 1984 + 1989

**'80 Jeryl Dansk Kershner** was named a Palm Beach Illustrated Top Doctor for 2018 in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry.

**Robert Michael Kershner** was honored at Palm Beach Medical Society's 15th annual Heroes in Medicine Awards luncheon for his contributions in health care higher education. Dr. Kershner is chair, medical director and the lead professor for Palm Beach State College's Ophthalmic Medical Technology Program.

**'81 George C. Fjeld** writes: "Carol and I are very proud of our youngest daughter, Kalle, who has successfully completed her first year at the Larner College of Medicine! And Christian graduated from UVM's College of Agriculture and Life

Sciences in microbiology summa cum laude! That's our third summa graduate from UVM! Hannah got her master's in education as well!"

**'82 David Jeffrey Wlody** says: "On April 1, 2018, I was appointed chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at the State University of New York Downstate College of Medicine, after the retirement of our chair of 39 years, Dr. James Cottrell. Those of you who are anesthesiologists understand the size of the shoes I have stepped into, but I am extremely excited to take on this new role."

**'83 Stephen Russell Payne** is "celebrating 30 years in general surgery practice at Northwestern Medical Center. I also have my fifth book coming out this fall. *Life on a Cliff* is the sequel to my 2011 award-winning novel, *Cliff Walking*."

**'85 Jay Piccirillo** says: "Just completed my 26th year at Washington University! This year I was inducted into the AOA Honor Medical Society."

**'89 Nancy Elizabeth Cornish** writes: "I am in my seventh year at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta as the medical officer for the Division of Laboratory Systems. Check out our website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ophs/csels/dls/index.html>. We have the Anticoagulation Manager app for physicians available for download now, and our new edition of Ready, Set, Test Training for doctor's office staff who perform waived testing, as well as other resources. Check it out and give us feedback on what other products you need or contact me at [NCornish@cdc.gov](mailto:NCornish@cdc.gov)."

## 1990s

REUNION 2019: 1994 + 1999

**'90 Daniel Scott Zapson** "had a great time visiting Israel in July. It was an especially proud moment as our son had his Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem at Western Wall."

**'91 Kathryn Ann-Kelly McQueen** says: "A pivotal event for me during the last year was giving a TED Talk in Nashville, Tenn.! Not only did the opportunity boost advocacy for the Global Anesthesia Crisis, but it led to my joining the TEDxNashville Board." Watch the talk here: [https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=tt8\\_2Qdhexg](https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=tt8_2Qdhexg)

**'97 Steven Andrew Battaglia** writes: "Steven Ryder, M.D.'98, is planning a trip to Palm Springs this fall, where he will be competing in several mini triathlons. He remains fit by snowshoeing and shoveling snow in Lake Tahoe in the winter, and eating clean vegan."

**James Anthony Bell** writes: "Hey guys! Doing great! Still owner of four doc office in Chicopee, Mass., just celebrated my 18th year and have seen kids from birth to adulthood. Connor, age 19, is entering second year at Skidmore College; Ryan, age 16, is entering junior year at high school, performing in drama and jazz bands. Lauren is doing well as speech therapist/voice specialist at an ENT office and part-time musician as pianist and choral singer. Hope all is well!"

**'98 Carole Elizabeth Bibeau** writes: "After 15 years of gutting it out in primary care internal medicine, I got to a toxic level of burnout and quit. I am now working for the New Hampshire Disability Determination Services office (part of the Social Security Administration) as a medical consultant evaluating online disability applications. I have to drive to Concord to do this but can set my own hours and have no call, no pager, and no work to bring home on nights or weekends any more!! It was great to see classmates at the recent reunion."

## 2000s

REUNION 2019: 2004 + 2009

**'02 Ronald Edward Hirschberg** is "hosting a new podcast based in Boston. There is music threaded in, and it weaves into health, science, education and another topics. Recent guests are Mickey Hart of Grateful Dead, and Cirque du Soleil. Past guests include Don Henley, Jewel, Blue Man Group and others. Here's the website: [www.abovethebasement.com](http://www.abovethebasement.com). Call with any questions (781-354-0850)."

**'03** After 10 years in Sacramento, Calif., **Emily (Vail) Hannon** and her family have moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. When my husband, Chris, a pathologist and microbiologist, was offered a position at Duke, he couldn't pass it up. Chris, our three girls (Sabrina, age 8, Lauren age 7, and Phoebe, age 3), and I left California in November and eleven fun-filled, road-tripping days later, we arrived at our new home in Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill is beautiful and everyone is very friendly. I accepted a position as the medical director of the Newborn Nursery at Duke. Hopefully, this position will combine my work as a pediatrician and lactation consultant, and I will get to spend a huge amount of time with a lot of cute babies! In my previous position at

Kaiser in Sacramento, I was lucky enough to work in the same hospital as Jason Chang and Hannah Choi Chang, and here in North Carolina, I've already enjoyed reconnecting with Kristin Page Chartrand ('02). I look forward to catching up with other UVMers at Duke (that means you, Jared Christensen!)."

**'05 Jason Michael Shapiro** was recently named the Rising Healthcare Leader in Inflammatory Bowel Disease by the New England Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. He received this award at a banquet in Boston on June 14.

## 2010s

REUNION 2019: 2014

**'11 Erin M. (Perko) Garvey** says: "I completed my pediatric surgery fellowship at Phoenix Children's Hospital and am excited to join their Division of Pediatric Surgery this fall. My husband, Tyler, and I love living in Scottsdale, but we do miss beautiful Vermont and hope to make it back for a reunion year visit. We hope everyone is happy, healthy and thriving!"

**Ryan Vealey** is an associate anesthesiologist with DuPage Valley Anesthesiologists, Ltd. in Naperville, Ill. after completing residency in anesthesiology and fellowship in neuroanesthesia at Northwestern University. He has been appointed the section chair for neurosurgical anesthesia and directs the anesthesia service for operating room neurosurgery and neurointerventional radiology.

**'14 Daniel G. Liebowitz** graduated from internal medicine residency at University of Maryland in 2017. "I am currently working in a primary care internal medicine practice at Denver Health in Denver, Colo."

**'15 Laurel Wickberg Xu** writes: "Thought I should let people know I finally got around to changing my last name — no longer Wickberg, but now Xu. Me and the other Xu have moved from Boston to Cambridge and I'm just getting started at the pediatrics practice at Cambridge Hospital. I imagine lots of us are settling into new jobs this summer or fall, good luck everyone!"

**Peter M. Wingfield** is in his final year of residency training at UC San Diego before fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at Cedars Sinai in Los Angeles.



Nathan Glover, M.D.'52, and Kalin Gregory-Davis '22

## Class of '52 Member Returns

"The Tunbridge Docs," a story in the summer 2018 issue of *Vermont Medicine* about some of his classmates, inspired **Nathan Glover, M.D.'52**, a 100-year old alumnus of the UVM Larner College of Medicine, to return to his medical alma mater for a visit in August of 2018. His trip included a conversation with **Dean Rick Morin, M.D.**, and a meeting with **Kalin Gregory-Davis '22** at her locker. The locker (number 52, appropriately) is named after Glover and his wife, Lotte, to honor their gift to the Larner College of Medicine. Born in 1918 in Maine, Glover attended pharmacy school in Boston after the end of the Great Depression. He was immediately recruited to work on the Manhattan Project at the University of Rochester, studying the toxicology of uranium. While working full time, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Rochester, and then went on to receive his medical degree from UVM. Before retiring 20 years ago, Glover had a long career as an anesthesiologist in Miami, Florida.



(L to R): Todd and Beth Warren, owners of Vermont Custom Closets and sponsors of the UVM Athletics Rally Against Cancer program; Gary Stein, Ph.D., Director of the UVM Cancer Center; Rally Catamount (UVM Mascot); Marie Wood, M.D., UVM Cancer Center oncologist and Associate Director for Cancer Control and Population Health Sciences, and Jeff Shulman, Director of UVM Athletics.

## Rally Time

UVM Athletics is once again "Rallying Against Cancer" for the 2018-19 season, raising awareness and funds for UVM Cancer Center at selected games for men's and women's hockey, men's and women's soccer, field hockey, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's basketball, and swimming and diving events. This year, the teams are switching from a focus on "pink" to the use of lavender as a way to be more inclusive of all cancers. Last year, donations to the UVM Cancer Center totaled \$11,000 thanks to fan pledges and sponsor Vermont Custom Closets.

## UVM CONTINUING MEDICAL & INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

UPCOMING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

<p><b>EMERGENCY MEDICINE UPDATE</b> January 28-31, 2019 Stowe Mountain Lodge Stowe, Vt.</p> <p><b>CURRENT CONCEPTS AND CONTROVERSIES IN SURGERY</b> January 28-30, 2019 Stowe Mountain Lodge Stowe, Vt.</p> <p><b>30TH ANNUAL EASTERN WINTER DERMATOLOGY CONFERENCE</b> February 7-10, 2019 Stowe Mountain Lodge Stowe, Vt.</p> <p><b>HOSPITAL MEDICINE 2019</b> February 10-12, 2019 Stowe Mountain Lodge Stowe, Vt.</p>	<p><b>24TH ANNUAL VERMONT PERSPECTIVES IN ANESTHESIA</b> March 6-10, 2019 Stowe Mountain Lodge Stowe, Vt.</p> <p>For information contact: <b>UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION</b> 401 Water Tower Circle, Suite 102 Colchester, VT 05446 (802) 656-2292 <a href="mailto:UVMCME@med.uvm.edu">UVMCME@med.uvm.edu</a> <a href="http://www.med.uvm.edu/cme">www.med.uvm.edu/cme</a></p>
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# Reunion '18

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.



Class of 1993 25th Reunion



Class of 1978 40th Reunion



Class of 1968 50th Reunion



MAA Awards



# Flashback



## FAMILIAR FACES?

Flashback usually features photos of unknown people of the past at the College. That's not the case this time. Graduates from classes 30 year ago up to the "aughts" will recognize these two staff members of what was then called the Office of Student Affairs: **Collette Ozarowski** at left, and **Ann Chauncey** 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 [erin.post@uvm.edu](mailto:erin.post@uvm.edu) and we'll include them in the next issue of *Vermont Medicine*.



### FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE ▲

Several alumni wrote in with guesses on the identities of Dallas Boushey'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 1987, with students possibly being Peruzzi, **Alan Stern**, **Mitch Kirshner**, and **Susan Diebler**, or **Michael J. Kaplan**, **James Howe**, and **Diane Napoli**.

# Obituaries

**'43 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.

**'46 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 1945 and his M.D. from UVM in 1946 following an intensive, single year of medical school. In 1947, Dr. Nichols interned at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City followed by a two-year term at 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 1970.

**'49 Joseph C. Foley, M.D.**  
Dr. Foley died August 30, 2018, in Burlington, Vermont. Born in Fair 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 radiology departments at the DeGoesbriand Hospital and Fanny Allen Hospital, and was president of the medical staffs of the Medical Center Hospital, DeGoesbriand Hospital and Fanny Allen Hospital. He served on the board of directors for Fanny Allen, and retired from active practice in 1985. Dr. Foley was a fellow of the American College of Radiology, a member of the Association of University Radiologists, and a member of Alpha Omega Alpha.

**'52 Harry E. Howe, M.D.**  
Dr. Howe died Sept. 12, 2018, in Lebanon, N.H., at the age of 96. He grew up in Tunbridge, Vt., and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was captured as a prisoner of war and released in 1945. He taught high school math and science before applying to the College of Medicine in 1948. Dr. Howe did his internship at the Mary Fletcher Hospital, where he stayed on for his general surgical residency. He practiced in Massena, N.Y. for one year before moving to Canton, N.Y., where he practiced for almost 30 years.

**'57 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 veteran, earning the rank of colonel. After retirement, he continued to work as a locum tenens psychiatrist in the United States and New Zealand.

**'57 Sanford Bloomberg, M.D.**  
Dr. Bloomberg died June 7, 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 Spoke inpatient psychiatric unit at the Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. Dr. Bloomberg was a Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association; past president of the Western Massachusetts Psychiatric Association; instructor at the Smith College School for Social Work and Westfield State University; and a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He served in the counseling service at Amherst College for over 25 years.

**'62 Daniel I. Palant, M.D.**  
Daniel I. Palant died August 18, 2018, in Albany, N.Y. Known 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 7206 USAF Dispensary in Athens, Greece, where he received the United States Air Force Commendation Medal for Outstanding Service.

**'70 David C. Staples, M.D.**  
Dr. Staples died in Santa Rosa, California. Born in Maine in 1944, he graduated from the University of Maine in 1966 and received his medical degree in 1970. He served as a doctor in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1979, where he received his medical training at Walter Reed in Washington D.C. and Letterman Hospital in San Francisco. In 1979, Dr. Staples moved to Santa Rosa to begin his private medical practice, serving patients for 30 years.

**'81 Mark Stephen Cooper, M.D.**  
Dr. Cooper of Pittston, Maine, died April 28, 2018. Born February 26, 1955, in Somerville, Massachusetts, he completed his internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UCLA Medical Center. He then established a solo practice in Maine that would become Kennebec Valley Obstetrics & Gynecology. He retired in 2010 to serve as medical director for the State of Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine.

**'13 Brian Costello, M.D.**  
Dr. Costello died September 13, 2018. Born April 4, 1983, in Peterborough, New Hampshire, he graduated from South Burlington High School and Tufts University before entering the Larner College of Medicine. As his family wrote after his death, "Brian struggled with mental illness for many years. He tried many forms of therapy and spirituality to end his suffering, but it endured. He was courageous through difficult times and always reached out to family and friends who supported him through his struggles. Brian was in tremendous pain, and all of us hope that he is now at peace."

## Faculty

### Nancy Jenny, Ph.D.

UVM Associate Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Nancy Jenny, Ph.D., died unexpectedly on June 13, 2018.

Born May 12, 1964, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she earned her B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She began her career at UVM in 1990 as a postdoctoral fellow working with UVM Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry Kenneth Mann, Ph.D. She then joined the Department of Pathology's Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research, where she established her expertise in the field of molecular epidemiology, earning numerous honors and awards. Dr. Jenny was an outstanding researcher, with hundreds of collaborations nationwide and more than 170 publications.

### Burton Tabakin, M.D.

Dr. Tabakin died September 2, 2018, at the age of 97. Born July 6, 1921, he earned his bachelor's and medical degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. Following residency training in internal medicine and fellowship in physiology at UVM in 1952, he spent two years as a medical officer in the U.S. Air Force Hospital Thoracic Center in San Antonio, Texas. In 1954, Dr. Tabakin became a member of the Mary Fletcher Hospital staff. With the support of UVM Professor E. L. Amidon, M.D., he developed the university's medical Cardiology Unit and cardiovascular, clinical, research and training program. In addition to holding numerous leadership positions, including Chief of Cardiology from 1954 to 1980, he authored 56 papers, was chosen as Teacher of the Year in 1975, and was three times Cardiac Fellows Teacher of the Year.

## In Memoriam

### Simon Dorfman, M.D.'50

**William F. Byrnes, M.D.'54**, of East Point, Georgia, died August 2, 2014.





**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



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LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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## 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.'85**. 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.



You too can support the next generation of society's caregivers. For more information, please contact the Medical Development & Alumni Relations Office.

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