VERMONT medicine
SUMMER 2016
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE


# FIRST AND FOREMOST

You'll find **Lewis First, M.D.,** pretty much anywhere that matters for children's health and wellbeing.

## ALSO FEATURED:

Loyal alumnus and philanthropist Robert Larner, M.D., gives the **largest one-time gift** in the history of the University of Vermont.

PROFILE IN GIVING

# Spreading the Word on Technological Advances in Medicine

Conversations with a neighbor while walking near his Charlotte, Vt., home in part inspired **JOHN "JACK" STETSON, M.D.'60 (UVM '56)** to create a new endowed lecture series dedicated to Technological Advances in Medicine at the College of Medicine.

During his recovery from double knee replacements, Dr. Stetson walked daily around Thompson's Point in Charlotte. On one of those walks he met a neighbor whose life was saved through a Trans-Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), a fairly new minimally invasive procedure that replaces a damaged heart valve via catheter. Moved by the neighbor's story — and fascinated by the technology that made it possible — Stetson and his wife, Bobbie, decided to fund the lectureship through a $100,000 estate gift.

The Stetsons' generous gift will allow leading edge thinkers and researchers from around the world to come to UVM for an annual lecture devoted to exploring how technology is continually advancing patient care.

Thanks to an additional gift from the couple that will provide current operating funds, The John W. Stetson '56 M.D.'60 and Roberta B. Stetson '57 Technological Advances in Medicine Lectureship is set to begin in the summer of 2016.

**For more information about supporting the College of Medicine, please contact the Medical Development and Alumni Relations Office.**

moveMountains
The Campaign for The University of Vermont

**University of Vermont College of Medicine**
Medical Development & Alumni Relations Office
(802) 656-4014 | medical.giving@uvm.edu
**www.uvm.edu/medicine/alumni**

VERMONT medicine
UVM COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MAGAZINE



features



**WebXtras in this issue:**

- Match Day 2016 Photos and Videos
- Full coverage of Commencement 2016

Go to: uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine



**ON THE COVER:** Lewis First, M.D., during rounds at the UVM Children's Hospital. Photography by Andy Duback

The College of Medicine is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Check in to see what's happening today!

## FROM THE DEAN

As this academic year comes to a close, we prepare to send more than a hundred new physicians out into their residencies across the country. We were especially happy to see 100 percent of our seniors successfully match this year, keeping in mind that the competition for residency slots has become even greater in the last few years. Once again, this is a testimony to the quality of students we attract and the caliber of education they receive under the Vermont Integrated Curriculum.

In mid-April we celebrated very exciting news — the announcement of a record-breaking new gift from Helen and Robert Larner, M.D.'42. Dr. Larner is no stranger to our alumni — over 1,200 of our graduates have benefitted from the loan and scholarship fund he initiated more than 30 years ago. Just as important, he has carefully fostered the growth of philanthropic culture among those who have benefitted from his generosity, underscoring the need for "giving back" from all who enter the medical profession.

The Larner's latest gift, totaling $19.7 million, sets a record at both the College and the University. I had the pleasure, along with President Tom Sullivan, of visiting Bob and Helen at their home in California shortly after their gift was announced. I was impressed once again that, even 74 years after his graduation, Bob is keenly interested in the continuous improvement of medical education. You will see more news about this in the near future as we build a "Larner Learning Commons" at the College that will allow us to use experiential learning throughout our curriculum.

You'll see the first of our "Campaign News" columns in this issue that will regularly keep you up-to-date on the progress of *Move Mountains: The Campaign for the University of Vermont.* Many alumni and friends of the College have come forward in recent months to offer their support in our efforts in medical education, research, patient care, and community engagement. Among those are Vermonters Bob and Holly Miller, who have funded an important new endowed professorship in palliative care in our Department of Family Medicine.

As of late May, the *Move Mountains* campaign has generated over $298.3 million of its $500 million goal. Of that current total, more than $93 million has been designated in support of the College of Medicine. This is a testimony to the deep connection we have to our graduates and our community — partners in all our work.

**Frederick C. Morin III, M.D.**
Dean, University of Vermont College of Medicine



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The University of Vermont
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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# Medical Education Champion and Alumnus Robert Larner, M.D.'42 Gives Largest Gift in UVM History

Helen and Robert Larner, M.D.'42 with UVM President Tom Sullivan and Dean Rick Morin.

At a meeting of the UVM Foundation Board, UVM President Tom Sullivan and Dean Rick Morin announced a historically significant gift on April 15 from philanthropist and College of Medicine alumnus **Robert Larner, M.D.'42,** and his wife, **Helen Larner** — $19.7 million in commercial property and cash to further their commitment to ensuring excellence in medical education at UVM.

This latest gift from the Larners is the largest one-time gift in the University's history. Combined with their earlier philanthropy, the Larners' lifetime giving to UVM totals just over $33 million, and establishes them as the most generous donors in the 225-year history of the institution. The commercial property, valued at $18.7 million, will be held and managed by the UVM Foundation, with the income it generates directed to the College of Medicine to invest in its medical education programs. A $1 million cash gift was also included. The gift was announced at a meeting of the UVM Foundation's National Campaign Council in Burlington.

"The support of Bob and Helen Larner has changed the face and the future of our College of Medicine," said Dean Morin "This gift will give us the resources to develop the best teaching technologies and techniques, making us in fact and in reputation second to none in medical education."

As a self-described "small town kid" from Burlington's Old North End, Robert Larner grew up the youngest of seven children of a local roofer. He was also a Class of 1939 UVM undergraduate alumnus. After service in World War II he built a successful medical practice in Los Angeles, Calif., and made it a life goal to start "giving back."

"I wanted to help other medical students have the kind of stimulating, gratifying practice of medicine that I'd had," he said.

The Larners have a long history of transformational support for the College of Medicine. Since 1985, the Larners have assisted hundreds of UVM medical students through the Larner Loan Fund, now valued at more than $8 million, which has the dual intent of easing the financial burden of medical education for students while simultaneously fostering a culture of philanthropy among alumni by encouraging Larner Loan recipients to give back to the College of Medicine later in their careers.

In 2012, the Larners provided funding to purchase five Harvey® cardiopulmonary simulators for the Clinical Simulation Laboratory, a collaborative program between the UVM College of Medicine, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the UVM Medical Center. In 2013, The Robert Larner, M.D.'42 Medical Education Center was dedicated to acknowledge their decades of support.

More recently, the couple contributed $1 million to build an innovative Team-Based Learning Center in the Larner Medical Education Center on the University campus. In October 2015, a $1 million gift established the Robert Larner, M.D.'42 Endowed Professorship in Medical Education, held by Kathryn Huggett, Ph.D., and an accompanying $8.7 million gift of property was announced during the public launch of UVM's $500 million comprehensive *Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont* in October 2015.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the Larners and their commitment to ensuring that medical education at UVM is truly second to none," said UVM President Tom Sullivan in announcing the gift. "This is the quintessential story of a local boy who became successful and is sharing his good fortune with the community that gave him his start."

The Larners' generosity has substantially advanced UVM's medical mission to benefit Vermont, the nation and the world — facts recognized with the awarding of the 2013 UVM Lifetime Achievement in Philanthropy to Dr. Larner and an Honorary Doctor of Science degree that was awarded to him at the 2014 Commencement Ceremonies.

The College recognized the Larner gift with its own celebration on April 18.

> "I wanted to help other medical students have the kind of stimulating, gratifying practice of medicine that I'd had."
>
> **— Robert Larner, M.D.'42**


College of Medicine faculty, students, and staff celebrate the Larner gift on April 18.

David Seaver

# Harvard's Maktabi Appointed Chair of Anesthesiology at UVM

Dean **Rick Morin** and University of Vermont Medical Group President and CEO **Claude Deschamps, M.D.,** have announced the appointment of **Mazen A. Maktabi, M.B.B.Ch.,** as chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and health care service chief of anesthesiology, effective August 1, 2016.

Maktabi will succeed **David Adams, M.D.,** who has served as interim chair of anesthesiology since 2013. Adams will continue as a senior clinician-scholar in the department and as the founding chair of the UVM College of Medicine/UVM Medical Center Learning Environment and Professionalism Committee.

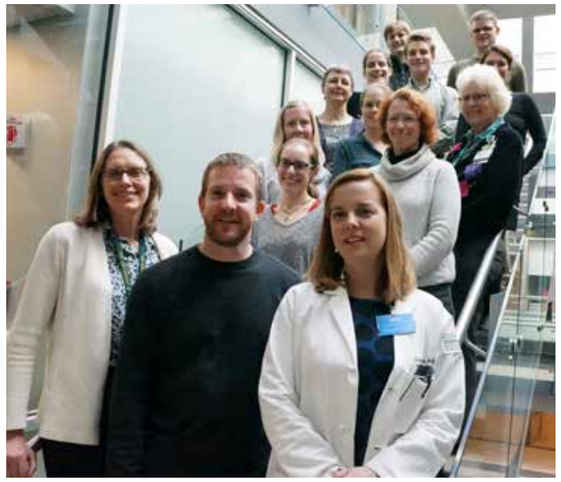
Currently an associate professor of anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School, Maktabi also serves as chief of the Division of General Surgery Anesthesia, which he established at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2014, he also established the General Surgery Regional Anesthesia Service in the Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine at Mass General, which he co-directs. Prior to joining the Harvard faculty, he was director of the Division of Neuroanesthesia and associate director of the anesthesia residency program at the University of Iowa College of Medicine and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, where he also held numerous elected collegiate and university governance positions. Maktabi earned his medical degree from Cairo University in Egypt and completed a residency in anesthesiology at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

Mazen A. Maktabi, M.B.B.Ch.

A fellowship-trained neuroanesthesiologist with special interest in base of the skull surgery and major spine surgery, Maktabi's research focuses on the difficult airway in neuroanesthesia, postoperative vision loss, and informed consent by patients. He is the author of more than 50 published articles and book chapters.

# UVM Vaccine Testing Center Works to Combat Zika

The University of Vermont Vaccine Testing Center (VTC) has been chosen to take part in the clinical trials and research on a vaccine for Zika virus, which was declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization in February.



Vaccine Testing Center Zika vaccine team: (Front, from left to right) Beth Kirkpatrick, VTC director; Sean Diehl, Ph.D.; Kristen Pierce, M.D.; Megan Barnes; Sunday Whipkey; Nancy Graham; Mary Claire Walsh; Catherine Larsson; Dorothy Dickson; Dan Bak; Gil Naro; Marya Carmolli; Ben McElvaney; Nick Selig. Not pictured: Jason Botten; Jon Boyson; Forida Nazib; Cindy Reynolds; Eli Sendra; Huy Tu; Cassandra Ventrone.

The VTC has a longstanding partnership with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) lab that developed a dengue vaccine and is developing the Zika vaccine, and the VTC, together with the Center for Immunization Research at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., will be one of two sites to test the safety and immune response testing of an NIH-developed Zika vaccine candidate in humans. Because of the potential for a link of Zika infection with birth defects, pregnant women or those who may become pregnant will be excluded from Zika vaccine trials.

VTC faculty **Kristen Pierce, M.D.,** an infectious disease specialist and associate professor of medicine, and **Sean Diehl, Ph.D.,** an immunologist and assistant professor of medicine, have expertise in the characteristics of *flaviviruses* — a group of viruses, mostly transmitted via insects, that cause such human diseases as Zika virus, yellow fever, dengue, various types of encephalitis, and hepatitis C — and related vaccines. An infectious disease physician, Pierce has led or co-led several Dengue and West Nile virus vaccine-related trials at the VTC. Diehl studies the basic mechanisms of *flaviviruses,* vaccines against *flaviviruses,* and the immune responses triggered by *flavivirus* natural infection or vaccination.

Currently, there is no available vaccine to prevent against infection with the Zika virus. However the National Institutes of Health has made the development of an effective Zika vaccine a priority.



COM Design & Photography



# Notables

## Bernstein and Bates Named 2016–17 University Scholars

College of Medicine faculty members **Ira Bernstein, M.D.,** and **Jason Bates, Ph.D.,** have been named as two of four University Scholars for 2016–17. Led by the UVM Graduate College, the University Scholars program recognizes "sustained excellence in research, creative and scholarly activities."

Bernstein is professor and John Van Sicklen Maeck Chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and medical director of Women's Health Care Services at the UVM Medical Center. A 1983 alumnus of the College of Medicine who joined the UVM faculty in 1987, his primary research focuses on the investigation of human integrative physiology and its pathophysiologic variations during the course of pregnancy.

Jason Bates, Ph.D., and Ira Bernstein, M.D.

Bates, professor of medicine and molecular physiology & biophysics, served as the interim director of the UVM School of Engineering from 2010 to 2014. He received a Ph.D. in medicine at the University of Otago in New Zealand, and a doctor of science degree from the University of Canterbury. Bates joined the UVM faculty in 1999. His research focuses mostly on the mechanical behavior of the lung in health and disease.

## Morielli is New Director of Neuroscience Graduate Program

Associate Professor of Pharmacology **Anthony Morielli, Ph.D.,** was recently named director of UVM's Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP). Morielli is one of 54 faculty members across nine departments and four colleges in the 10-year-old Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP), which is jointly run by the College of Medicine and Graduate College. The program includes about 25 doctoral students who work on research projects in the labs of 48 faculty mentors, sometimes collaborating with more than one. Morielli earned his Ph.D. in biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and joined the UVM faculty in 1999. During his postdoctoral training at Stanford University and Harvard University, he studied the regulation of ion channels — proteins that allow charged particles to pass through the cell membrane. His research now focuses on the interaction of these channels in the process of learning and consciousness.

Anthony Morielli, Ph.D.

## Poynter Named Director of Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program

**Matthew Poynter, Ph.D.,** a professor of pulmonary medicine, has been named director of the Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences (CMB) graduate program at UVM. The CMB program brings together researchers from 16 UVM departments in a collaborative community that provides personalized training in a graduate-student focused, state-of-the-art research environment. Poynter came to UVM in 1998 as a postdoctoral fellow in environmental pathology, and later received funding to launch his own lab in affiliation with the Vermont Lung Center, of which he is associate director.

Matthew Poynter, Ph.D.

## Class of 2018 Medical Student Thura Named to UVM Board of Trustees

Soraiya Thura '18

Second-year medical student **Soraiya Thura** has been appointed by the Associated Directors for the Appointment of Student Trustees to the UVM Board of Trustees. Her two-year term of service became effective in March. UVM's Board of Trustees sets and approves policies, budgets and strategic planning. Originally from Falls Church, Va., Thura graduated magna cum laude with University Honors from Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in economics in May 2014 and began her medical school career at UVM in August 2014.

## Sullivan Piano Debut

When Senior Associate Dean for Research **Gordon Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.,** was officially welcomed to the College at a special reception in February at an event that also honored the many contributions of **Russell Tracy, Ph.D.,** professor of pathology and outgoing interim senior associate dean for research, the event also heralded the arrival of another new presence at the College — the Sullivan Piano. Permanently housed in the Hoehl Gallery, the Steinway grand piano is a gift from the estate of College of Medicine alumnus **Thomas Sullivan, M.D.'66.** Three members of the UVM College of Medicine community played in this debut performance, including medical student **Anita Li '19,** Department of Surgery staff member **Rejeanne Jalbert,** and **Martin LeWinter, M.D.,** professor of medicine and longtime jazz enthusiast.

Anita Li '19

COM Design & Photography

# GAME, SET + MATCH

## FOR THE CLASS OF 2016

From anxiety to elation, emotions ran high on Match Day, the nationwide event during which graduating medical students open the envelopes that tell them where they will first officially work as physicians.

This annual rite of passage marked students' completion of four years of rigorous coursework, exams, clinical training, as well as months of residency applications and interviews. On March 18, 2016, more than 100 members in the College of Medicine's Class of 2016 gathered in the Hoehl Gallery at the College to learn and celebrate their match results as family, friends and faculty listened or watched from around the world via a livestream video. All 108 students in the Class of 2016 secured matches to residencies — a significant achievement at a time when there is a national shortage of residency positions.

The UVM Match Day celebration opened with a "parade" of members of the Class of 2016, who were led by **H. James Wallace, M.D.'88,** bagpiper, faculty member and outgoing Medical Alumni Association president. UVM leaders in attendance included Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education **William Jeffries, Ph.D.,** College of Medicine Dean **Frederick C. Morin III, M.D.,** President **Tom Sullivan** and Provost **David Rosowsky, Ph.D.** Associate Dean for Student Affairs **Christa Zehle, M.D.'99** delivered the match envelopes, following which student leaders began the random drawing of each student's envelope.

For the second consecutive year, alumni of the College took up the "Match Challenge," which generated 500 new donations totalling $19,500 for the College of Medicine Fund.


Andy Duback

WEB XTRA

See Match Day photos and videos.
Go to: uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine



## RESIDENCY MATCHES FOR THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE CLASS OF 2016

### ANESTHESIOLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Nishan Bingham | NYU School of Medicine |
| Yun-Yun Chen | Brigham & Women's Hospital |
| Sarah Fieber | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center — Mass. |
| Daniel Haddad | Yale-New Haven Hospital |
| Karl Kristiansen | Barnes-Jewish Hospital — St. Louis |
| Benjamin Rayikanti | University of Arizona COM at Tucson |
| Emily Xue | Brigham & Women's Hospital |

### COMBINED ADULT/CHILD PSYCHIATRY

| | |
|---|---|
| Erica Marden | University of Vermont Medical Center |

### DERMATOLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Christian Jordan | University of Cincinnati Medical Center |
| Katelyn Shea | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Megan Wetzel | University of Louisville SOM |

### DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Sarah Ebert | Massachusetts General Hospital |
| Douglas Handley | Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center — Wisc. |
| Matthew LeComte | University of Arizona COM at Tucson |

### EMERGENCY MEDICINE

| | |
|---|---|
| Samantha Boyd | Stony Brook Teaching Hospitals — N.Y. |
| Adam Burgess | Madigan Army Medical Center — Tacoma |
| Gia Coleman | Stony Brook Teaching Hospitals — N.Y. |
| Bryce Edwards | Oregon Health & Science University |
| Suleiman Ismael | Stony Brook Teaching Hospitals — N.Y. |
| Matthew Jordan | Naval Medical Center — Portsmouth, Va. |
| Herman Kalsi | Washington Hospital Center — D.C. |
| Russell Landry | Louisiana State University School of Medicine |
| Blake Leavitt | Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center |
| Nicolas Monte | Baystate Medical Center |
| Luke Neill | Northwestern McGaw Medical Center — Chicago |
| John Nesbitt | University of Connecticut SOM |
| Daniel Stratz | University of Rochester/ Strong Memorial |

### FAMILY MEDICINE

| | |
|---|---|
| Anja Jokela | Swedish Medical Center — Seattle |
| Emily Jones | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Ian McDaniels | Utah HealthCare Institute |
| Angelina Palombo | Brown /Memorial Hospital |
| Therese Ray | UVM Health Network CVPH — Plattsburgh |
| Jacob Reynolds | University of Minnesota — Mankato |
| Christine Tran | Kaiser Permanente-Fontana |
| Jennifer Hanson | Central Maine Medical Center |

### GENERAL SURGERY

| | |
|---|---|
| Sonam Kapadia | Harbor-UCLA Medical Center |
| Kelsey Preston | Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital |

### INTERNAL MEDICINE

| | |
|---|---|
| Sean Bullis | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Alejandro Castro | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Ian Crane | University of Virginia |
| Gurpinder Gill | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Grant Goodrich | SUNY Health Science Center Brooklyn |
| Shane Greene | Rhode Island Hospital/ Brown University |
| Pishoy Haroun | Harbor-UCLA Medical Center |
| David Hermel | University of Southern California |
| Alice Knoedler | Georgetown University Hospital |
| Flang Nguyen | Kaiser Permanente — San Francisco |
| Shravan Rao | California Pacific Medical Center |
| Adam Roberts | Eisenhower Medical Center — Calif. |
| Phan Saligrama | University of Arizona COM at Tucson |
| Phildrich Teh | UC Riverside School of Medicine |
| Christopher Ting | Henry Ford Health System |
| Cheng-Wei Huang | Kaiser Permanente — Los Angeles |

### NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

| | |
|---|---|
| Nicholas Field | Albany Medical Center |

### NEUROLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Priyanka Chilakamarri | Yale-New Haven Hospital |
| Brenton Nash | Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center |

### OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Sabrina Bedell | University of Minnesota Medical School |
| Madeline Eells | Maricopa Medical Center — Ariz. |
| Katherine Evans | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Tara Higgins | Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center |
| Marisa Liu | UC Irvine Medical Center |
| Amanda O'Meara | University of Connecticut SOM |
| Merima Ruhotina | Brown/Women & Infants Hospital — R.I. |
| Kevin Saiki | University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals |
| William Thompson | Walter Reed National Military Medical Center |

### OPHTHALMOLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Katia Chavez | Ohio State University |

### ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

| | |
|---|---|
| James Levins | Rhode Island Hospital/ Brown University |
| Michael Sun | Cedars-Sinai Medical Center — Los Angeles |

### OTOLARYNGOLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Hannah Lowe | University of Kansas SOM |
| Leah Novinger | Indiana University School of Medicine |

### PATHOLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Jenna Bodmer | University of Colorado SOM — Denver |

### PEDIATRICS

| | |
|---|---|
| Angela Doswell | Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center |
| Benjamin Earle | Emory University School of Medicine |
| Leah Fox | Maine Medical Center |
| Heather Gardiner | Oregon Health & Science University |
| Laura Lazzarini | University of Washington Affilliated Hospitals |
| Matthew Lin | NYU School of Medicine |
| Dilasha Mahat | Tufts Medical Center |
| Jennifer Makrides | Oregon Health & Science University |
| Dwight Parker | University of Utah Affilliated Hospitals |
| Reiko Sakai | University of Utah Affilliated Hospitals |
| Deborah Shamsian | UC Irvine Medical Center |
| Josephine Stout | University of Arizona COM at Tucson |
| Sarah Thompson | Walter Reed National Military Medical Center |
| Nancy Tran | Oregon Health & Science University |

### PEDS/ADULT/CHILD PSYCHIATRY

| | |
|---|---|
| Cordelia Ross | Massachusetts General Hospital |

### PLASTIC SURGERY

| | |
|---|---|
| Nicholas Sinclair | Cleveland Clinic Foundation |

### PRELIMINARY SURGERY

| | |
|---|---|
| Stephen Balise | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Raj Thakrar | Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center |

### PRELIMINARY MEDICINE

| | |
|---|---|
| Gary Gilmond | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Jeanne Gosselin | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center — Mass. |
| Emily Hadley Strout | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Daryl Selen | Rhode Island Hospital/ Brown University |

### PSYCHIATRY

| | |
|---|---|
| Michael Capata | Medical University of South Carolina |
| Elizabeth May | NYU School Of Medicine |
| Erin McElroy | University of Vermont Medical Center |
| Caitlin McFarland | Johns Hopkins Hospital |
| Mikaela Rodriguez | Oregon Health & Science University |
| Sarah Rosner | Montefiore Medical Center/ Einstein |
| Maya Son | Massachusetts General Hospital |

### RADIOLOGY ONCOLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Alex Coffman | Loma Linda University |
| Mutlay Sayan | Rutgers R.W. Johnson Medical School |

### TRANSITIONAL YEAR

| | |
|---|---|
| Cornelia Willis | Madigan Army Medical Center — Tacoma |

### UROLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Brandon Childs | Lahey Clinic |

Bob and Holly Miller

## UVM Establishes Miller Chair in Palliative Care Medicine

When **Holly Miller's** father was faced with a life-threatening illness in the mid-1980s, he made the decision to live his last days at home, surrounded by friends and family. Inspired by his experience, Holly started hospice training just a few years after his death, and has been on a journey of becoming a noted advocate, champion, and student of palliative care ever since.

Now, she and her husband, Bob, have established the first Chair of Palliative Care Medicine to recognize and support excellence in palliative medicine education, clinical care, and research. The Miller's $3 million gift, made in honor of Holly's parents, Harley and Elaine Dudley, will support a leadership position responsible for building the palliative medicine program at UVM Medical Center and the College of Medicine.

Robert Gramling, M.D., D.Sc.

The College welcomed **Robert Gramling, M.D., D.Sc.** in May as the inaugural chair in Palliative Care Medicine. Gramling, who comes to the position from the University of Rochester Medical Center with a strong research agenda related to end-of-life communication between patients, families and clinicians, will also serve as the chief of the Division of Palliative Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine.

This most recent gift builds on the Miller's long history of supporting compassionate care that improves the quality of life of people facing the end of life. Holly Miller was a founder of the UVM Palliative Care Collaborative, which includes UVM, the UVM Medical Center, and the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), and has done extensive work with the Madison-Deane Initiative to advance public understanding of end-of-life care.

In addition to many other awards for their far-reaching philanthropic work, the Millers have been honored as Vermont Philanthropists of the Year, and in 1995, the Visiting Nurse Association dedicated and named their Colchester headquarters The Holly D. Miller Building. At Commencement 2015, the Millers received honorary degrees from the University of Vermont.





## College Hosts Global Health Celebration

In honor of World Health Day, the College of Medicine hosted nine distinguished international guests from Russia, Dominican Republic, Vietnam and Uganda on April 4 and 5 for a "Celebration of Global Health Day" featuring a broad range of activities.

Designed to showcase the global health education, scholarship, and service partnerships accomplished through the Global Health Program at Western Connecticut Health Network and UVM, the celebration highlights included a Dean's Distinguished Lecture on Global Health delivered by **Alexey Sozinov, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc.,** of Kazan, Russia, a special Family Medicine Grand Rounds and Community Medical School presentation by Uganda's **Robert Kalyesubula, M.D.,** and a photography exhibit and academic poster session showcasing the work of medical students, nursing students and residents.

Established in 2012, the Global Health Program is directed by **Majid Sadigh, M.D.,** associate professor of medicine and an infectious disease specialist at Danbury Hospital in Connecticut.

David Seaver



### NCI Grant Tests Muscle-Rebuilding Strategy in Breast Cancer Patients

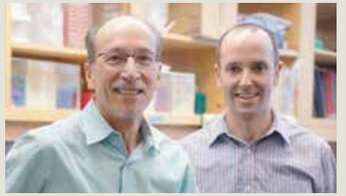
Associate Professor of Medicine **Michael Toth, Ph.D.,** is exploring a theory for counteracting the muscle loss that commonly occurs in cancer patients. What causes this loss in muscle loss — or atrophy — with cancer and its treatment is still not known, but Toth believes that the reduction in physical activity during cancer treatment may be an important factor.

Fatigue is a common side effect of cancer and its treatments, and these patients are about 50 percent less physically active than before their treatment, which can drive muscle atrophy and weakness and even more inactivity, in a disabling downward spiral. Toth, an expert in muscle physiology, and his research team will utilize a new two-year grant from the National Cancer Institute to study whether neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) can help combat the effects of muscle atrophy in breast cancer patients.

Michael Toth, Ph.D.

### New Findings Highlight Potential Treatment for Heart Mutation

Two UVM molecular physiologists have taken a step toward a possible new treatment to address the underlying root cause of familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, an inherited disease that causes the heart muscle to thicken and struggle to pump blood. The latest research of Professor and Chair of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics **David Warshaw, Ph.D.,** and Assistant Professor **Michael Previs, Ph.D.,** published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS),* provides insight into structural changes to a protein critical to tuning the heart's pumping process and what might go wrong if it is mutated. They found that phosphorylation — or the addition of phosphate at a key point — alters the structure of "protein C," one of the key controllers of the heart's ability to properly contract and relax during each heartbeat. Their findings suggest the possibility of developing a new therapy, a chemical way to provide phosphorylation and, essentially, keep the cardiac engine "tuned."

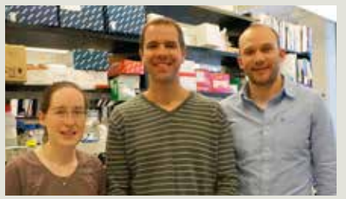


David Warshaw, Ph.D., and Michael Previs, Ph.D.

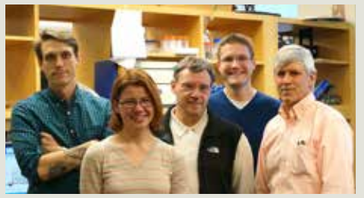
### Research Team Uncovers Critical Genetic Element Driving Rodent-Hosted Virus Behavior

A team of UVM researchers has pinpointed a unique self-controlling characteristic of an arenavirus that offers hope of a possible vaccine for now-untreatable hemorrhagic fever infections.

Assistant Professor of Medicine **Jason Botten, Ph.D.,** postdoctoral fellow **Emily Bruce, Ph.D.,** and graduate student **Christopher Ziegler** set out to examine lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) and the way it limits its own replication. They found the genetic element that drives the virus's production of "defective interfering" particles. Their findings could lead to methods of engineering vaccines that could significantly weaken the effects of rodent-borne viruses. The study was published in the journal *PLoS Pathogens.*



From left, Emily Bruce, Ph.D., Jason Botten, Ph.D., and Christopher Ziegler.



UVM researchers (from left to right) Thomas Moon, Ph.D., former UVM postdoctoral fellow; Jessica Sheehe, graduate student; Wolfgang Dostmann, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology; Nathan Tykocki, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmacology; and Joseph Brayden, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology.

### Potential New Therapeutic Target for Hypertension Earns Patent

A team of Vermont investigators led by Professor of Pharmacology **Wolfgang Dostmann, Ph.D.,** has been issued a patent for their discovery of a molecule that rescues damaged blood vessels, yet preserves healthy vessels, and could serve as a springboard for a new pharmaceutical therapy with fewer side effects for hypertension. The group's findings were published in the journal *Chemistry & Biology,* and yielded an important discovery for which they were issued a U.S. patent in February.

Tina Thornton, Ph. D., and Mercedes Rincon, Ph.D.

### New DNA Response Mechanism Discovered

A team of researchers led by UVM immunologists, have discovered a novel mechanism that provides life support to cells while DNA double-strand break repairs are in progress. The study, authored by Professor of Medicine **Mercedes Rincon, Ph.D.,** and Research Associate **Tina Thornton, Ph.D.,** was published recently in *Nature Communications.* Their findings reveal that a novel mechanism, which is selectively initiated in response to DNA breaks, is vital to ensuring that B cells in our immune system stay alive while they produce protective antibodies, which is a natural process that involves DNA breakage.

COM Design & Photography

# CAMPAIGN NEWS

"The time has come for UVM to move forward, to pursue excellence with even greater confidence and to assert our position among the nation's finest public research universities. To move mountains is to change lives. This is our passion and our calling."

**— UVM President Tom Sullivan**

moveMountains
The Campaign for The University of Vermont

## Grateful Patient Gifts Help to Establish Endowed Professorship in Cardiac Disease Prevention

UVM Professor of Medicine Philip Ades, M.D., has impacted thousands of lives through his work in cardiac rehabilitation and disease prevention. Now thanks in part to $650,000 raised by grateful patients and family members, the University of Vermont has created the **Philip Ades, M.D.,** Endowed Professorship in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention to ensure his legacy continues. A $350,000 gift from the estate of **Harriet Dustan, '42, M.D.'44,** a cardiologist and pioneer in the detection and treatment of hypertension, also played a key role in making the $1 million goal a reality, as did a $100,000 gift from Ades and his wife, **Deborah Rubin, M.D.** The position, to be held by the Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation at UVM Medical Center, will allow the Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention Program to continue to grow and evolve to meet the needs of patients, as well as continue its legacy of leading edge research. Ades has dedicated his decades-long career to improving the lives of patients with heart conditions. His research is focused on the important role exercise can play in rehabilitation after a heart attack, as well as the benefits of weight loss to obese coronary patients. Ades also played a role in the national expansion of cardiac rehabilitation services to Medicare recipients with chronic heart failure.

Philip Ades, M.D.


Kay and Richard Ryder, M.D.

## Bequest Provides Loan Assistance for Vermont Residents

**Kay** and **Richard Ryder** understand the importance of financial support for medical students, as their son and daughter-in-law — both alums of the UVM College of Medicine — benefitted from such help. Inspired by how much this assistance meant to their family, the Ryders have recently added to their already significant bequest to provide no fee, no interest loans, and favorable repayment terms. Both Kay and Richard Ryder are active in the Burlington, Vt. community: Kay is a retired health care lobbyist and public relations director for home and community-based health care, and is host of the popular local television show "Conversations with Kay." Richard, a 1956 graduate of the University of Vermont, is partially retired from his career in internal medicine in Burlington and occupational medicine at IBM. He continues to consult part-time for various Vermont businesses.



## Gift in Memory of Father Funds Parkinson's Research

UVM Associate Professor of Neurological Sciences **James Boyd, M.D.,** made a deep impression on **Katharine Laud** when she heard him speak at a University of Vermont Development Grand Rounds talk. As associate vice-president of administration for the UVM Foundation, she had attended these events in the past, meant to familiarize development staff with the range of important causes in need of support, but this time she knew she had to take action. Boyd's research focuses on movement disorders including Parkinson's Disease, a condition Laud's father, Stephen Wiley, struggled with until his death in October of 2015. The $100,000 gift she and her husband, Paul Laud, made will support Boyd's leading edge research into potential therapies for Parkinson's — including studies that look at whether nicotine patches may help slow disease progression — as well as help to fund the next generation of researchers through scholarships and stipends. After Laud learned that Boyd had also treated her father, the gift became even more special. "I've never felt as good about giving a gift as I did when I gave that one," says Laud. "You couldn't have stopped me." A lawyer, politician, and author of three books of poetry, Wiley was a celebrated leader in Morristown, New Jersey, where he is remembered for arguing a historic case in front of the state Supreme Court that averted school segregation by merging two school districts. His roots in Vermont also run deep, as he and his wife, Judith, enjoyed a summer home for years in South Hero, Vt.


Katharine Laud and Stephen Wiley

## Bequest To Support MacKay Scholarship Fund

The **Bruce R. MacKay, M.D.'57** and **Phyllis Davis MacKay** Endowed Scholarship Fund has been supporting medical students at the UVM College of Medicine since 2012, the year MacKay celebrated his 55th reunion. A recent $58,000 bequest from the estate of Dr. MacKay, who died in April 2015, ensures the doubling of the scholarship fund, bringing the total fund amount up to more than $100,000, ensuring it will be helping students achieve their dreams for years to come. Scholarships continue to be a critically important resource for students with financial need, lessening their debt burden as they embark on their residency training and careers.


Phyllis Davis MacKay and Bruce R. MacKay, M.D.'57

COM Design & Photography


Frank Ittleman, M.D.

## UVM Foundation Appoints Ittleman, Adds New Staff

The Academic Health Sciences group at the University of Vermont Foundation and the University of Vermont Medical Center Foundation recently announced the appointment of **Frank Ittleman, M.D.,** professor of medicine, as faculty associate in development.

In this newly-created formal role, Ittleman, who continues to perform teaching and clinical responsibilities, works closely with the Academic Health Sciences development staff and volunteers in soliciting gifts in support of campaign funding priorities at the UVM Children's Hospital, UVM Medical Center, the UVM College of Medicine, the UVM Cancer Center, and the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The former director of the UVM cardiothoracic surgery program, Ittleman has served in numerous leadership positions during his more than 30-year career at UVM, including as executive vice chair of the Department of Surgery and associate vice president for operations for the UVM Medical Group.

The UVM Foundation also recently announced the addition of two new staff members to support its work in foundation and corporate relations. **Alexa Woodward** was named Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. She comes to Vermont from Clemson University, where she served since 2011 as Director of Program Development for the university's Economic Development Division. The Foundation also welcomed **Lisa Townson** as Associate Director of Foundation Relations. With nearly 25 years of higher education experience at multiple universities, Townson most recently served as Assistant Director for Engagement and External Affairs for the cooperative extension program at the University of New Hampshire.


Alexa Woodward


Lisa Townson

# THE LEADIATRICIAN

Wherever you find him, **LEWIS FIRST, M.D.** is engaged in making life better for young patients and their families.

by **Sarah Zobel** | photographs by **Andy Duback**

Are you looking for **Lewis First, M.D.**? Your best bet is to stand still in a corridor at the University of Vermont Children's Hospital and catch the hospital's chief of pediatrics and chair of pediatrics at the College of Medicine as he passes by on his way to visit his young patients, which he does most mornings before 7:00 a.m.

Or you could catch him a little later, as he heads off to lead a faculty, community, or administrative meeting focused on children's health, once he's finished emceeing pediatric grand rounds or teaching at an educational conference.

You might find him giving career advice to medical students and residents, or working on Baird 5, the pediatric inpatient unit, in his capacity as a hospitalist. For that matter, he could also be on his way to videotape an additional 30 or so of the health education segments of "First with Kids" that have appeared on local television and in markets nationwide, or heading out in an RV to travel Vermont for the "Big Change Round-Up," a UVM Children's Hospital fundraiser that this past year brought in more than $350,000 in coins. Or he may be out of town, speaking and serving as a visiting professor at medical schools or children's hospitals all over the country.

Sunday mornings he's easier to locate: as early as 6:00 a.m., he'll be settled in his office in the Courtyard at Given, conducting a three-hour weekly conference call to decide which articles will appear in the journal *Pediatrics,* for which he serves as editor-in-chief.

And until recently, First was also two-term chair of the National Board of Medical Examiners (now serving as past-chair) while remaining ongoing chair of the education committee of the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs.

"You just won't find a more productive, more engaged educator, clinician, leader in pediatrics in the country," says Frederick Morin, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine, who is also a pediatrician. "Lewis is part of the fact that, relative to the size of the place, Vermont is overrepresented in leadership and recognition around the country in pediatrics by 100 to 1."

American Academy of Pediatrics President Benard Dreyer, M.D., says, "Lewis is what I would call a 'pediatrician extraordinaire': he's very clinically skilled, he's a great teacher, he's a great leader both in Vermont and across the country — he's a triple threat."

He's also an award winner, most recently of the 2014 Joseph St. Geme, Jr., Leadership Award, which he received at a meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies — the largest gathering of academic pediatricians in the world. The St. Geme Award, considered the highest leadership award given on behalf of all seven of the national pediatric teaching, research, and service organizations in the country, is given to "an individual

**"You just won't find a more productive, more engaged educator, clinician, leader in pediatrics in the country. Lewis is part of the fact that, relative to the size of the place, Vermont is overrepresented in leadership and recognition around the country in pediatrics by 100 to 1."**

**— Frederick Morin, M.D.,**
Dean, College of Medicine

who is a leader in the field of pediatrics, a role model, one who has contributed broadly to the field, and most important, 'created a future.'" For First, that future encompasses not just his own work, but that of the entire College of Medicine pediatrics department and the UVM Children's Hospital.

"We face some very major issues in children's health in our state and nationally," First says. "And an important factor in ensuring the health of children now and into the future is ensuring the sustainability of our efforts. A great sign to me was when a number of my mid-career faculty came in to my office a couple years ago and said, 'Tell us everything you do. We want to learn to do those things, so that we keep this going and insure that our department meets and will continue to meet the health care needs of children locally, nationally and even internationally.'" *This* includes a number of metrics and accomplishments as a result of the growth of a talented pediatrics faculty: from 28 when First arrived in 1994 to 65 today, with retention rates that other medical schools dream about.

"We have applicants coming from all over the country who want to train here, and then, when they're done training as residents, many want to stay here and practice in Vermont and upstate New York. Even those with specialty interests get accepted into topnotch fellowships, and then, at completion of their training, contact us with the hope that they can

> **"Lewis is what I would call a 'pediatrician extraordinaire': he's very clinically skilled, he's a great teacher, he's a great leader both in Vermont and across the country — he's a triple threat."**
>
> — **Benard Dreyer, M.D.,** President, American Academy of Pediatrics

Since 2009, Lewis First, M.D., has served as editor-in-chief of *Pediatrics*, the premier journal in the field. Every week, by phone, he will discuss and consider 50 to 60 new manuscripts.

come back and join our faculty — and many have," says First. "And now we're also seeing an influx of outstanding people from nationally known freestanding children's hospitals and training programs who want to join us as well and be part of our department family," something First attributes to what he calls "the happiness factor." "While we're not saying practicing pediatrics in Vermont is stress-free, we can make things happen here; the communities we serve recognize that and that makes all of us feel good about the valued work we do. When we get it right locally and regionally, we can then become a model for the rest of the country. I've never seen more a more unified collaborative and supportive effort between our pediatric health care professionals and the patient and families we serve all joining together to say, 'Let's keep the care local, and keep the care the best.' That's the mantra that drives everything we do."

Although UVM Children's is one of the smaller full-service children's hospitals in the country, its focus on patient- and family-centered care, along with added expertise in areas such as health services research, has allowed it to become a leader in the field. That's exemplified by the affiliated Vermont Oxford Neonatal Network, under the direction of Jeffrey Horbar, M.D., Jerold F. Lucey Professor of Pediatrics. More than 950 neonatal intensive care units nationally and internationally send data to Vermont Oxford (based in the pediatrics department) and in turn, the best high risk infant care practices can be determined from the analysis of that data and then shared globally.

"We are the largest health outcomes network for pre-term infants in the world, in the setting of a 29-bed neonatal intensive care unit," says First. Likewise, the American Academy of Pediatrics' Pediatric Research in the Office Setting Network (PROS) was started by Professor of Pediatrics Richard Wasserman, M.D., who has served as its director for more than two decades; as a result, virtually every office-based AAP research project in the country is overseen in Vermont, from which the results are disseminated nationally. The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP), a statewide children's health services research network, has grown over the past decade into a 20+ state National Improvement Partnership Network, with those states emulating what has been accomplished in Vermont under the direction of VCHIP's Executive Director, Professor Judith Shaw, Ed.D., R.N.

Vermont patients and their families seem to sense the value of their local institution. Many Vermonters who may opt to initiate complex treatment for their child elsewhere in a larger children's hospital often end up returning back to Burlington and the UVM Children's Hospital, where every protocol is nationally benchmarked but the care can be more personalized.

First has over the years made something of a name for himself, participating in a variety of community events to which he loves to be invited. Perhaps his biggest community service role is his use of media to educate the public through, "First with Kids," 90 second pediatric health-related segments that appear weekly on local television station WPTZ and national markets as well as on the radio (WOKO) and in 15 community newspapers.

"It struck me that when you can educate the community — not in your office — and do it creatively using different types of media, you can start to have a different kind of impact," he says. To save time, First tapes roughly 30 television segments in a day, and until recently, did so without the benefit of a teleprompter, memorizing all 30 for the one-day shoot. Early in 2016 he filmed his thousandth segment.

"When I came to interview for this job, I wasn't surprised when we walked around the medical center that everybody we passed said, 'Hi, Lewis,'" says Dean Morin. "But then we'd be walking down Church Street, and *everyone* would say, 'Lewis, hi!' He's really engaged in a way that most chairs of pediatrics or heads of children's hospitals aren't," Morin says.

First, with his penchant for Mickey Mouse ties, tries to introduce creativity as well in his public speaking by ending his public speeches and lectures with new lyrics he writes to Broadway songs. He even sang at the end of his 2014 College of Medicine commencement address.

While pediatrics seems like it was a natural fit for him from the start, that wasn't the family business originally intended for him — given that he grew up in Philadelphia with a father, uncle, and great-uncle who were practicing obstetrics and gynecology. There was a strong desire for him to follow suit. In fact, First was invited to witness a delivery at age 13, and promptly fainted. He did so again when brought to the delivery room on several more occasions during his adolescence.

At Harvard College he majored in biochemistry, wrote for *The Crimson,* and served as a tour guide before heading to Harvard Medical School, not knowing what specialty he would choose — other than avoiding obstetrics. First says when he started clinical rotations, he found it challenging, but with the guidance of a junior faculty member at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Leslie Fang, M.D., who met with him every afternoon on that first rotation in internal medicine, he began to master the basic skills of physical diagnosis and clinical decision-making.

"What Dr. Fang did for me was so important. I realized then as I do now, that wherever my career takes me, I would want to 'pay it forward' to others as a teacher, and make sure the trainees and students I taught all could be as energized to learn — or even half as energized — as I was by Dr. Fang's commitment to me as a teacher and clinician. It's about making the next generation of health care professionals even better than the current generation — and that's why I have focused so much of my professional career on medical education, teaching and learning," says First.

It was not until the end of his third year of medical school that he did his first rotation in pediatrics — and he knew as soon as he started that rotation that pediatrics was to be his chosen field. "I discovered immediately that this was a field that truly made the difference I had been looking for. Being able to get someone started in life by helping them overcome an illness and/or stay as healthy as possible were challenges I wanted to take on. And you can be yourself. You don't have to become someone you're not, or your young patients will not trust you and only fear you; but you still need to have the professionalism and the gravitas to know you're dealing with a child's life at all times. Yet the chance to be creative and

Dr. First leads pediatric rounds on the floor at the UVM Children's Hospital, where he connects students clinically to the basic science they've recently learned.

# the **first** file

**Lewis First, M.D.**

## UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, University of Vermont College of Medicine, Burlington, VT (1994–present)

Chief of Pediatrics, The University of Vermont Children's Hospital, Burlington, VT (2001–present)

Physician Leader, Children's Health Care Service at The University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, VT (1995–present)

Pediatric Hospitalist, The University of Vermont Children's Hospital, Burlington, VT (1994–present)

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

Clinical Fellow in Ambulatory/Emergency Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Boston, MA (1985)

M.S., Harvard School of Public Health, Epidemiology, Boston, MA (1985)

Chief Resident, Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Boston, MA (1984)

Internship and Residency, Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Boston, MA (1983)

M.D., Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (1980)

B.A., magna cum laude in Biochemical Sciences, Harvard College, Cambridge, MA (1976)

- **Editor-In-Chief, *Pediatrics*,** Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (2009-present)
- **Recipient of Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr. Leadership Award,** Federation of Pediatric Organizations (2014)

## SELECTED HONORS

Invited to give the Class of 1958 Commemorative Lecture (on the nobility of Medicine) to the graduating class of 2015, Harvard Medical School (May 2015 )

Re-elected Chair, National Board of Medical Examiners (2013-2015)

Elected Chair, National Board of Medical Examiners (2011--2013)

Medical School Commencement Speaker, University of Vermont College of Medicine (2014)

Dr. Bryant L. Galusha Lecturer, Keynote Address at Federation of State Medical Boards Annual Meeting (2014)

Clinical Teacher of the Year, University of Vermont College of Medicine (2012)

Keynote Opening Plenary Speaker, Association for Medical Education in Europe, Lyon France (2012)

Commencement Speaker, University of Indiana School of Medicine (2012)

Keynote Opening Plenary Speaker, Association for Medical Education in Europe, Lyon France (2012)

Steven Miller Memorial Lecture on Humanism in Medicine, New York Academy of Medicine and Columbia University (2011)

Alpha Omega Alpha Visiting Professor, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY (2011)

still at the same time be a scientist, a clinician, a teacher and a caregiver — it doesn't get better than that!"

He had thought upon graduation from medical school that he would be pursuing a career in pediatric hematology-oncology. He developed an interest in pediatric emergency medicine during his residency at Boston Children's Hospital. Two years after residency he was named acting and associate director of the emergency department there.

Worrying about the health of underserved infants and children in Boston who made up the majority of his primary care patients led him to the Harvard School of Public Health, where he earned a Master's in epidemiology.

He was then encouraged by his department chair, David Nathan, M.D., to leave the emergency department and build a primary care training program for the 65 residents at Boston Children's, which he did while also building his own practice of 1,000-plus pediatric patients. His commitment to being a teacher-clinician and practicing general pediatrician also prompted his former chair, the late Mary Ellen Avery, M.D., to invite him to join her in the writing of a comprehensive textbook of pediatrics. He has since written and/or co-edited four such volumes, most recently the 22nd edition of *Rudolph's Pediatrics.*

First's writing skills and ability to edit got him on the radar of Jerold Lucey, M.D., UVM professor of Pediatrics and then editor-in-chief of the most prominent journal in the field, *Pediatrics,* who invited First to contribute as an "early-career" member of the editorial board. Shortly thereafter, Lucey put First's name in the running to be chair of pediatrics at the College. After a series of interviews in Boston and Burlington, he signed on as professor and chair in 1994.

"I had never met a more talented or passionate group of people when it comes to making children a priority than those I met in Vermont and upstate New York, and I knew I wanted to join this team," First says. Shortly after his arrival in Vermont, he began to travel and visit every pediatric office in the state (and in upstate New York) to establish and strengthen relationships with all pediatricians served by the College, which he continues to maintain on an individual basis.

In 2003, First was named senior associate dean for medical education, a position he held for seven years while continuing as department chair. In the meantime, he'd been editing a monthly newsletter, *AAP Grand Rounds,* even as Ralph Feigin, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, was slated to replace Lucey as editor-in-chief of *Pediatrics.* Feigin invited First to be his deputy editor. Upon Feigin's unexpected death in 2009 First stepped in as editor-in-chief, a three-year position that has now been extended through 2022. During his tenure, First has brought the journal into the online world with new features and formats, such that it remains the most cited peer-reviewed pediatric journal in the world. Says the AAP's Dreyer, "As editor-in-chief he's done an amazing job of expanding what goes on in the journal, and people would prefer if he just did that forever."

First frequently invites others to join the weekly editorial call, ostensibly so they can learn how a journal works, but also to serve as quasi–peer reviewers for the editorial process he oversees. Over the course of a single call First, deputy editor Alex Kemper, M.D., M.P.H., and other participants will discuss some 50 to 60 manuscripts.

"The thoughtfulness with which Lewis leads the process makes it fair, and also scientifically interesting," says Kemper. "He's able to combine high expectations for how things are done with a sense of fun. But at the end of the day, what makes him such a leader in the field is the rigor to which he holds himself, and the rigor he expects from other people."

First expects that same dedication from students as well, but recognizes that they're still learning. Class of 2016 member Reiko Sakai accompanied First on rounds as a member of the pediatric student group in her first year, and says he was careful to ask challenging questions that he knew students would be able to answer if they applied the basic science they'd learned thus far. This year, Sakai's acting internship in pediatrics coincided with First's annual month of hospitalist service and included weekly feedback meetings where he offered supportive suggestions to further improve her clinical diagnostic skills, and also her ability to appreciate team dynamics and conduct family-centered rounds.

"He does a monthly interactive session with students and residents where he plays parents on the telephone asking questions about their children. His phone call challenges also give us a chance to think more clinically on the spot and apply what we have learned to make sound evidence-based decisions," says Sakai. He's also available to his student advisees (and he has many) around the clock, and takes a genuine interest in their career plans.

First is also keeping an eye on the changing needs of area residents and is responsive to the region's needs, helping to launch new or expanding programs in child abuse services and immigrant and refugee health, as well as a new clinic for transgender patients. He's brought parents on as members of major committees and initiatives and routinely fundraises for UVM Children's Hospital and the College — hoping to eventually to see an endowed chair for his successor — while working to integrate the UVM Children's Hospital into the larger UVM Health Network.

The proud father of two and grandfather of one is tweeting — sharing through social media his notions of how to be a "leadiatrician" — a term he coined. It's a five-step plan that includes externally changing something for the better every day, helping advocate for patients and the community, striving for self-improvement, learning to use the media in a positive manner, and developing a sustainability plan for these improvements.

In the end, Lewis First's only regret, he says, is that his many commitments preclude him from the direct laying on of hands as much as he would like to with some of the 225,000 Vermont and New York patients who need pediatric care as outpatients or inpatients from those who work at the UVM Children's Hospital and Department of Pediatrics. But until he has more time, he'll keep walking the corridors — checking up to make sure every child is receiving the highest quality child-friendly family-centered care possible. VM

In addition to working with students at the medical center, Lewis First, M.D., is available round the clock via email for their questions, and helps counsel them on their career plans.

> **"He's able to combine high expectations for how things are done with a sense of fun. But at the end of the day, what makes him such a leader in the field is the rigor to which he holds himself, and the rigor he expects from other people."**
>
> **— Alex Kemper, M.D.,** *Pediatrics* Deputy Editor

Raj Chawla

by **Carolyn Shapiro** | photographs by **Andy Duback**

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Welcome to the world of Multiple Mini-Interviews, the latest evolution in selecting medical students at the College of Medicine.**

A cowbell clangs. The eager applicants have finished the allotted six minutes to expound on a particular topic. Now, they have two minutes to consider their next topic before they sit down with another interviewer and start talking. The cowbell, Vermont-style, will again tell them when to stop and move to a new topic with a new interviewer.

This is Interview Day at the UVM College of Medicine, and the prospective medical students are tackling the multiple mini-interview, or MMI. By the end of the process, they will complete nine highly focused six-minute interviews, covering topics that range from a controversial political issue to a dilemma with a co-worker.



For the last two years at UVM, the MMI has replaced the traditional medical school interview that gave the applicant 45 minutes with one person, often a current or former faculty member, after which the interviewer would then provide his or her evaluation to the full College admissions committee.

That format, though, involved unintentional but inherent unfairness, says Janice Gallant, M.D.'85, the College's associate dean for admissions. With the single-interview format, one distracted remark, or a slight failure to "click" with the interviewer could ruin an applicant's chances. Or the sole interviewer, who typically used to see the application file before the one-on-one meeting, might share a personal detail — an alma mater, hometown or beloved sports team — with the prospective student, making a favorable review more likely.

"It was a system that could be affected by unintentional bias," says William Jeffries, Ph.D., the College's senior associate dean for medical education. "The human tendency was that for people you would like, you would go and advocate for them in the committee."

So, starting in 2014, the College switched to MMI, with the goal of diminishing levels of bias and gaining a better, deeper appraisal of the "core competencies" of applicants — areas of personal and professional aptitude that have been identified by extensive research by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

Along with the MMI, Gallant and her staff revamped its admissions committee and procedures, and also instituted an interview day teamwork exercise that is unique among medical schools.

The core competencies encompass "soft" skills such as ethics, empathy and adaptability. Not only are those qualities difficult to measure in general, but research indicates that they are not always detected by a traditional lengthy single interviews.

Opposite page: Medical school applicants read their topic question outside one of the eight interview stations they will visit during their day-long visit. At right, first-year student Brianna Waller leads a tour.

> "We've devised an entry system that assesses where applicants stand with core competencies. We're really not comparing people against each other. We're comparing people against the standard that we've set."
>
> — **William Jeffries, Ph.D.,** Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education

"The personal interview has not been found to predict performance," Gallant says. Studies have shown, however, that the MMI does correspond with a medical student's likelihood of success in personal and professional areas.

"It's a reliable, validated tool that we are using because it's very compelling," Gallant says. "The early assessment is that everyone is quite pleased by the results we're seeing."

« ? »

UVM has joined early adopters of the MMI among medical schools. As of the 2014–2015 academic year, 30 AAMC member schools reported using the multi-interview method, or 21 percent of total members, says Geoff Young, Ph.D., the association's senior director of student affairs and programs.

Preference for the MMI is increasing; just 15 schools, or 11 percent of total AAMC members, were using it in 2012. The trend reflects the goal of selecting candidates with those interpersonal strengths now recognized as important for nurturing modern doctors with a more holistic view, Young says.

"The community, I think, is better informed as we think about diversity and about the changing demographics of this country," Young says. "The best and the brightest doesn't mean they have the highest MCAT or the 4.0 GPA."

The purpose of MMIs is not to determine whether applicants are smart enough for medical school. The grade point averages and Medical College Admission Test scores work fine to show whether prospective students can handle the science, the cognitive part. But they don't predict success in the personal and professional areas, says Harold Reiter, M.D., a professor of oncology who helped create the MMI at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, when he was admissions chair for what is now the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

Since McMaster became the first medical school to implement the MMI in 2004, Reiter's and others' research

> It's a reliable, validated tool that we are using because it's very compelling," Gallant says. "The early assessment is that everyone is quite pleased by the results we're seeing.

— **Janice Gallant. M.D.'85**
Associate Dean for Admissions

has shown the process is highly reliable as a forecast of a physician's future performance. Medical students who do well with the MMI also tend to excel on national licensing exams, which in turn correspond with fewer complaints to medical regulatory boards, a high patient survival rate, and high regard by peers. The MMI doesn't remove the built-in subjectivity of the interviewers, Reiter explains. The system accepts this bias but provides a broad enough variety of opinion — more interviews — to dilute the influence of it.

"What you're gaining is multiple 'biopsies' of each person," Reiter says.

The College of Medicine now plans to start collecting data to analyze the effectiveness of its MMI and make sure it's capturing the core competencies as expected, Gallant says. She and her staff have made presentations about the new process at several national and regional conferences.

"We've devised an entry system that assesses where applicants stand with core competencies," Jeffries says. "We're really not comparing people against each other. We're comparing people against the standard that we've set."

« ? »

Interview Day starts at 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning in January swept by freezing rain. The 65 prospective students eat a light breakfast of yogurt and fruit and hear introductions in the Hoehl Gallery, adjacent to the Given Building.

Gallant, sporting a white coat and a cheerful demeanor, explains to the assembled interviewees that the MMIs were designed "for you to tell us what you think about, what you care about" and to convey a "warm, welcoming and supportive environment" at UVM.

Four MMI "circuits" are set up in separate areas of Given. Each circuit has nine stations on this Interview Day, each focused on one topic or question and staffed by one interviewer. The topics each cover a core competency or combination of them: ethical responsibility; cultural competence; social skills, teamwork; oral communication; service orientation; reliability and dependability; capacity for improvement; and resilience and adaptability.

Associate Dean for Admissions Janice Gallant, M.D.'85 addresses the applicants. To her right is Director of Admissions Cary Jewkes.

The College uses topics designed by ProFitHR, a company that spun off from McMaster to help school admissions offices develop their MMI. The questions are swapped every Interview Day and kept as secret as possible.

"This is highly confidential," Gallant says. "This is like Wall Street."

The 36 interviewers include faculty members, medical students and members of the community. In a fourth-floor lecture room, they gather to review the questions for the first time and coordinate scoring techniques.

During the MMI, the interviewers speak little. There's not much give-and-take. They only ask follow-up questions as needed to prompt more information.

"This is not a conversation," Gallant tells them before the start. "This is not even a dialogue. This is more like a monologue."

In preparing for the MMI this year, interviewers were instructed to stay as neutral as possible in their expressions to avoid unintentional encouragement or disapproval; but the applicants gave negative feedback about these stoic encounters. Admissions staff has since loosened things up, allowing the interviewers more ease and expression.

Allie Stickney, a community interviewer and retired CEO of retirement community Wake Robin, in Shelburne, Vt., says she appreciated that flexibility. It was distracting to concentrate on keeping her face blank, she says.

"It does turn the interviewing process upside-down," Stickney says. "The interviewer is not really asking any questions. You're really putting the ball in the student applicant's court."

The MMI is less relaxed than a long interview but also more revealing, Stickney says. Even in six minutes, the applicants share the "whole gestalt" of who they are, how they see the world.

"You can see their minds really working, working hard to pull on all parts of their brain" to answer the question,



Above, a medical school applicant sits with an interviewer and answers one of eight topic questions related to a core competency of medical education. Above right, second-year medical student Eric Schmidt answers questions from applicants during a lunch break.

she says. "They have to pull on a lot of different parts of their experience."

Interviewers cannot share their occupations, which might skew a candidate's response or attitude. On this Interview Day, interviewer Francisco Grinberg, M.D., sees firsthand the reason for this.

For his question, intended to gauge service orientation, one applicant tells him that some doctors don't need to communicate much with their patients — anesthesiologists, for example. Grinberg is a UVM professor of anesthesiology and a practicing anesthesiologist at UVM Medical Center.

His careful response to that prospective student: "You'd be surprised."

« ? »

While half the students move through the MMI circuits, the other half heads to the Teamwork Simulation. At small tables, they sit in groups of five or six and receive instructions from Shirley McAdam, coordinator of the standardized patient program at the UVM Clinical Simulation Laboratory.

The premise of one simulation: A freak accident has occurred during the International Potato Head Conference. Many are severely injured — broken arms, missing legs, dislodged lips — and the teams must take care of them.

When they get the go-ahead, the applicants hurriedly assemble the Mr. Potato Head toys, attaching big feet, goofy ears and mustaches without a snicker or giggle. Near each table, a "rater" stands with a clipboard, watching the teams work and assessing their interaction.

The College developed the teamwork exercise after learning of a similar program used by the University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center for its staff. For more than a year, the College tested the simulation on its students, faculty and staff, says Director of Medical Student Admissions Cary Jewkes. The process helps to identify individuals who might not be ready for working in teams.

"We're looking at how they communicate with each other," Jewkes says. "It's not about the number of toys they make but how they do it together."

In teams, individual characteristics rise to the surface, particularly types who "can't tamp down their overzealousness or bossiness" or extreme introverts who can't engage with others, Jewkes says.

Back in the MMI areas, after the final cowbell rings, Gallant hosts "debriefing"

> It puts you in a situation that you haven't been in before. In that sense, it's a measure of readiness for a program like medical school.

— **Allison Greene,** COM, Class of 2019

sessions to hear the applicants' thoughts about the questions and setup.

"As you might have heard about UVM, we're very big on reflection, because that's the way we all learn together," she tells them.

A few share that they miss the personal connection of the single long interview. That was partly the impression of Allison Greene, a member of the College's Class of 2019, one of the first groups of prospective students to go through the MMI.

But Greene says she now sees that the new format pushes candidates to think fast on their feet and get creative.

"It puts you in a situation that you haven't been in before," she says. "In that sense, it's a measure of readiness for a program like medical school."

In a similar debriefing later with the interviewers, they explain their strategies for scoring each question. One station had a "standardized patient" — with the interviewer acting as a person who has a problem and wants the applicant's advice.

"What we were looking for were social skills for our core competency and empathy," says Gayathri Prabhakar, an interviewer at that station and a second-year UVM medical student. "The really exceptional applicants were able to validate his concerns."

The admissions staff absorbs this information and continues to tweak the details. They've added amenities such as fresh flowers, water stations at each circuit and granola bars during the debriefings.

"Everything is very intentional," Gallant says. "Everything is designed to create an environment for every applicant to be successful." VM

by **Carolyn Shapiro** | photographs by **Andy Duback**

# RESEARCH THAT RESONATES

## UVM's MRI Center for Biomedical Imaging opens a window into brain function for many researchers.

Inside the giant tube of the magnetic resonance imager at UVM's MRI Center for Biomedical Imaging, a woman who is one of the study subjects of Julie Dumas, Ph.D., lies prone as she performs a memory test.

Letters flash on a computer screen above the subject's head, and she presses a button when they match in a specific order. Wedged between bolsters, the woman wears headphones and a helmet shaped like something a Star Wars stormtrooper would wear, which records images from her brain.

"This is a measure of working memory," Dumas, an associate professor of psychiatry, explains over the loud whirring and banging of the MRI in the adjacent room. "It's the ability to keep a small amount of memory in mind over a short period of time and to use that information. We can see how much of your brain is used during this memory test."

Dumas specializes in research related to cognition and aging and conducts much of it in the MRI Center, the College of Medicine's research facility housed at the UVM Medical Center. Her current study explores the factors that cause women to experience menopause differently and involves 115 subjects between age 50 and 60.

"We're interested in how a particular gene affects the brain in women after menopause," Dumas says.

The MRI shows Dumas the areas of the brain that activate during the memory test. The machine detects blood flow, which indicates the electrical and chemical signals taking place where the brain is working.

"All of my research is about brain functioning," Dumas says. "We don't want to just know how menopause affects your memory. We want to know how your brain functions."

The MRI, she says, is crucial to her and her fellow neuroscientists' work. Their research on Alzheimer's disease, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, adolescents, and addiction all has involved heavy use of the machine.

"It's amazingly cool technology," says Hugh Garavan, Ph.D., a UVM professor of psychiatry who studies brain function particularly in children and teens. "What this enables us to do is to see the brain in action in a living, breathing person."

The MRI can capture most psychological, intellectual and emotional responses, Garavan says. When someone does a math equation, one area of the brain "lights up" to indicate activity. If that person thinks about a funny movie scene, another area lights up.

"This is the most complicated thing in the universe," Garavan says, pointing to his temple. "And we still haven't mapped it all out."

The MRI Center was pivotal in securing the College of Medicine's role in a National Institutes of Health grant for a landmark, long-term study of about 10,000 children and their brain development, starting at age 9 or 10. All 19 sites participating in the project had to have a top-notch MRI capable of crunching lots of data at high speeds. The researchers — led by Garavan and including Dumas and others at UVM — will look at the children's brain markers for resilience, creativity, academic performance, risk of drug and alcohol use and mental, emotional, and behavioral problems.

"You have to have a lot of flexibility to tweak the machine," Garavan says of the MRI. "It's just a more high-tech piece of kit. So these studies couldn't happen without that research-dedicated machine."

■■■

In 2007, with the help of federal funding, UVM installed the Achieva 3T, made by Dutch company Royal Philips. (The "T" in its name stands for "tesla," the unit of measurement for a magnetic field.) It is essentially the same in construction as other MRIs used in the hospital to take detailed images of anatomical structure and soft tissue.


Jay Gonyea, administrator of the MRI Center for Biomedical Imaging, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry Julie Dumas, Ph.D., prepare a research subject in front of the circular magnet of the MRI.

An MRI scanner uses a powerful magnet and radio waves to excite water molecules in the body. A nest of electric coils alter the magnetic field to target different areas of anatomy. Radio waves are sent to the molecules, which respond with their own signals. Radio receivers capture those signals, and the MRI creates images from the magnetic properties of the tissue.

The MRI releases no radiation, so research subjects can spend as much time in the tube as necessary without risk, unlike a CT (computerized tomography) scan.

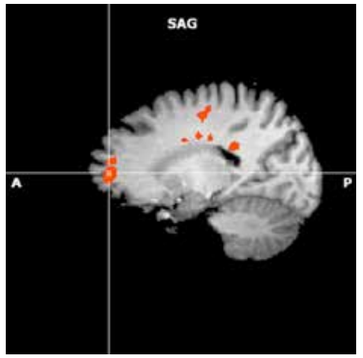
"It is still the most impressive piece of engineering that I can think of," says Assistant Professor of Radiology Joshua Nickerson, M.D., co-director of the MRI Center for Biomedical Imaging.

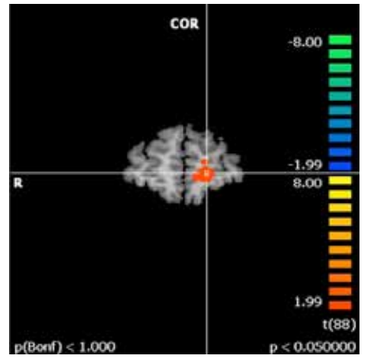
Much of the research done with the scanner is known as "functional" MRI, because it looks at brain function. The machine also does diffusion imaging, which can highlight "white matter," the connections between various areas of the brain — showing how the brain is wired.

What makes the research MRI unique isn't the technology itself but the way it is used. It is coaxed, tweaked and prodded — with the help of software coding and computer science — into different "sequences" for collecting and analyzing the data it generates.

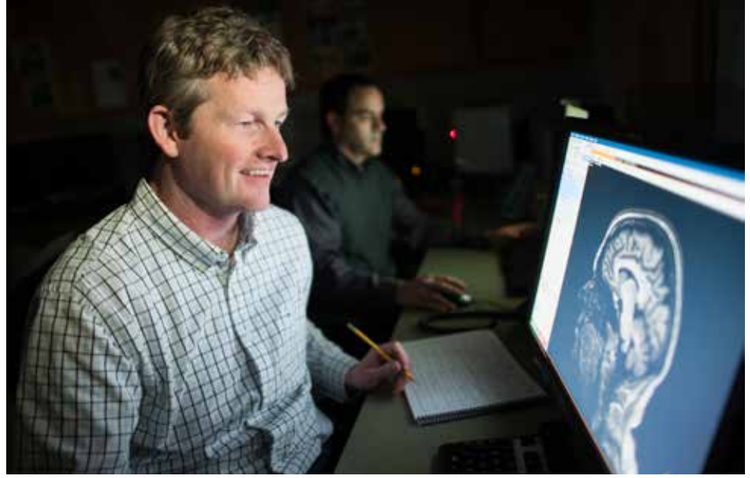
"We have amazing flexibility with this machine," says Associate Professor of Radiology Richard Watts, Ph.D., who co-directs the MRI Center with Nickerson. "It's not like a CT scan, where you just get a single image."

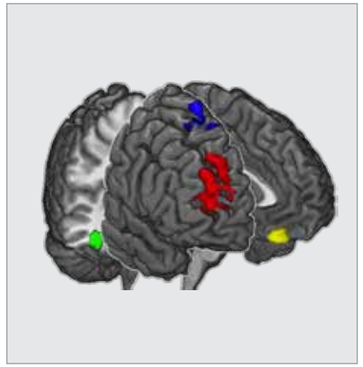
For MRI imaging, the brain is separated into tens of thousands of tiny regions, each with millions of neurons and tens of millions of connections between




MRI images that Julie Dumas, Ph.D., used for a study on memory in older adults show activity in the front of the brain, where memory function usually takes place when people age. Activity in the brain is indicated by red coloration, which shows increased blood flow where the brain is working. Dumas gave her study subjects a substance that shifted brain activation from front to back, mimicking the way the brain would function in a younger person. Without the MRI, Dumas says, she would have no way to see the change in brain function.





In brain images taken by the research MRI at the University of Vermont, Hugh Garavan, Ph.D., UVM associate professor of psychiatry, found that teens who were most resilient and able to bounce back when faced with adversity — such as a death in the family or a parents' divorce — had a higher volume of grey matter in their frontal lobes, as indicated by the red and blue colored areas. The brain's frontal lobe is involved in self-regulation, control of emotions and management of stress. Resilience was one of many factors that Garavan found can help predict whether an adolescent will become a binge drinker.

those neurons, Garavan says. For his NIH study, the MRI recorded brain activity in every region every two seconds while his subjects performed a task. Watts is trying to boost that recording speed to less than one second, Garavan says. "That will help us better localize where those signals come from," Garavan says. "And the nice thing about it is you get to see what's going on in the whole brain."

Nickerson describes the research MRI work in logging terms. It can cut down trees like any chainsaw. But in the hands of a talented operator or a true visionary, it can also carve beautiful artwork out of a wooden stump. In the same way, it takes a talented scientist to turn the magnetic tool into an agent of artistry.

In the research MRI's case, Watts is the chainsaw artist. He is considered the MRI guru at UVM, the brain power behind brain imaging.

His fellow researchers and MRI staff speak of him with reverence, citing his genius for digging out unique and ground-breaking techniques. Watts adjusts the machine to make it more sensitive to the specific areas that the scientist wants to study.

It can focus on protein in the brain, looking for increases in amyloid or tau, substances that are associated with Alzheimer's disease. It can measure fluid that builds up in tissue surrounding a brain tumor, helping to determine how aggressive the cancer is and treatments that might work best.

**"IT'S AMAZINGLY COOL TECHNOLOGY. WHAT THIS ENABLES US TO DO IS TO SEE THE BRAIN IN ACTION IN A LIVING, BREATHING PERSON."**

**— Hugh Garavan, Ph.D.,** Professor of Psychiatry

For a study in emergency medicine, Watts has set the MRI to pick up brain temperature for researchers who know that cooling the brain can help after a heart attack and want to understand the cerebral response to temperature changes.

"Those guys push a button and it looks cool," Garavan says of Watts and the MRI technologists who operate the machine, "but there's a whole complicated process to get those pictures."

Watts stays in frequent contact with the Philips company. The relationship with the manufacturer often garners early access to the latest improvements and new features of the technology. At the end of 2013, UVM's MRI was the first in North America to receive its "dStream" upgrade, which took the system from analog to digital, Watts says. That means it doesn't produce as much "noise" or lose as much fidelity as it transfers signals, which improves image resolution.


Professor of Radiology Richard Watts, Ph.D., left, and Professor of Radiology Joshua Nickerson, M.D., are co-directors of the MRI Center for Biomedical Imaging.

"We're known as being a strong technical group," Watts says, "and we're trying to push that technology right to the limit."

UVM is a "luminary" site for Philips, demonstrating the technology for other institutions that are considering the MRI, says Jay Gonyea, M.S., administrative director of the MRI Center. In exchange, the company discounted UVM's price for the equipment, which typically runs about $1 million per tesla, he says.

■ ■ ■

Before the research MRI arrived, Dumas had to schedule her study subjects around the availability of the hospital scanners. The timing wasn't always practical. If she had access at 4 p.m., but her subjects needed to fast overnight and take a drug in the morning before a test, they couldn't wait until the afternoon.

The beauty of the research MRI is that, with it, researchers can pursue what-if scenarios and test theories, says Alexandra Potter, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry.

"It helps us answer fundamental questions we couldn't answer any other way," she says.

Potter likes to try out her research regimen in the machine herself to make sure she understands her subjects' full experience. "It makes you a better scientist, for sure," she says.

The MRI has assisted Potter with studies of nicotine in the brain and its ability to temper impulsivity in young people with ADHD. Now, she is working with Watts to develop a better MRI view of the cerebellum, which is located at the back of the brain and controls motor function. It is typically dismissed as an influence on cognitive areas, but Potter has noticed in MRI images that the cerebellum looks different in people with ADHD and is pursuing a new study in that area.

**"WE'RE KNOWN AS BEING A STRONG TECHNICAL GROUP, AND WE'RE TRYING TO PUSH THAT TECHNOLOGY RIGHT TO THE LIMIT."**

**— Richard Watts, Ph.D.,** MRI Center for Biomedical Imaging Co-Director

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry Alexandra Potter, Ph.D., has used the MRI Center for Biomedical Imaging to further her research on the nicotine in the brain and its effects on impulsivity in young people with ADHD.

"Maybe the cerebellum affects cognition, and we just didn't know that," she says.

The MRI Center currently is involved in about 40 projects and welcomes any scientists who can take advantage of the technology, Gonyea says. Researcher Bruce Beynnon, Ph.D., professor of orthopaedics, has used the MRI to study knee joints. The MRI has scanned mice to show Naomi Fukagawa, M.D., Ph.D., professor emerita of medicine, the development of disease in rodents exposed to biodiesel or petrodiesel *in utero.*

Watts even invented an MRI method to measure tubes of sand that George Pinder, Ph.D., the renowned UVM engineering professor, created to simulate groundwater contamination.

"It gives you a different piece of the puzzle that you're trying to put together," Gonyea says. "It gives you more answers to the questions that you're researching."

It's the insight into the workings of the brain, though, that make the research MRI so fascinating, Nickerson insists. Every brain is unique, like a snowflake. Likewise, every brain responds in a unique way to humor, sadness, education, tragedy, drugs, illness and aging. For researchers like Dumas, the MRI acts as a window to better understand the complexity of this exceptional organ — and the possibility of making it stronger and healthier.

"My goal is to learn more about how we can predict the bad stuff in the future," Dumas says. "Once you're 70 and losing your memory, it's too late. So I want to see what's happening now ... and what we can do about it." VM

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NEWS & NOTES FOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNI

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

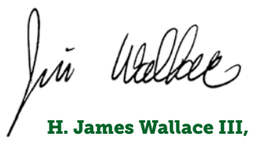
As the old saying goes, time flies when you're having fun, and that sentiment certainly applies to my tenure as president of the Medical Alumni Association. I have truly enjoyed my years with this group of dedicated alumni who are doing great things for the UVM College of Medicine.

Some exciting changes have taken place in recent years, including the successful integration of the Medical Alumni Association into the UVM Foundation, and the collaboration with the UVM Medical Center Foundation. The energy associated with being part of the broader alumni community has served the College well, as has being more directly linked to our academic health center partner.

It has been exciting to see evidence of these very successful transitions. We have worked hard to engage young alumni, in particular through two new initiatives: The White Coat Note Project and the Match Challenge. Both have paid off — it has been gratifying to hear from alums all across the country who are connecting with current medical students, and sharing their memories, advice, and wisdom. And this year, thanks to six generous alumni celebrating their reunion year, and the generosity of more than 500 donors, the second annual Match Challenge was a great success, providing important financial support for student scholarships and services.

Many medical students have told us that they value this connection with our alumni community, and are themselves looking forward to joining this tradition of giving back. Reunion is a testament to these strong bonds, and it's always fun to see classmates reconnect in June.

Participating in Match Day and the College's White Coat Ceremony has inspired in me a fresh perspective on the role I can play in supporting our students. The Class of 2016 will soon be heading out to residency programs across the country, and we couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments. I am honored to have been able to serve the College, and I look forward to remaining engaged — I hope to lead the Match Day procession into the Hoehl Gallery playing the bagpipes for many years to come! And I am certainly excited for what's ahead under the capable leadership of Dr. Frederick Mandell from the Class of 1964.



**H. James Wallace III, M.D.'88**
Associate Professor, Radiation-Oncology

### The University of Vermont Foundation

**MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE**

**Chief Development Officer for Academic Health Sciences**
Kevin McAteer

**Senior Director of Development, University of Vermont Cancer Center**
Manon O'Connor

**Senior Director of Major Gifts**
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**Director of Major Gifts**
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**Director of Annual Giving for Academic Health Sciences**
Allison Searson

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**Director of Medical Alumni Relations**
Cristin Gildea

**Senior Director of Administration**
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**Program Coordinators**
Drew Brooks Megan Dodge
Erica Corliss

### University of Vermont Medical Alumni Association

**ALUMNI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Officers (Two-Year Terms)**

**President**
H. James Wallace, M.D.'88 (2014–2016)

**Vice-President**
Frederick Mandell, M.D.'64 (2014–2016)

**Secretary**
Betsy L. Sussman, M.D.'81 (2014–2016)

**Treasurer**
Paul A. Stanilonis, M.D.'65 (2014–2016)

**Executive Secretary**
John Tampas, M.D.'54 (Ongoing)

**Members-at-Large (Six-Year Terms)**
Mark Allegretta, Ph.D.'90 (2010–2016)
Ernest Bove, M.D.'81 (2012–2018)
Mary Cushman, M.D.'89 (2012–2018)
Janice M. Gallant, M.D.'89 (2015–2021)
Albert Hebert Jr., M.D.'74 (2015–2021)
Christopher Hebert, M.D.'02 (2015–2021)
Omar Khan, M.D.'03 (2010–2016)
Suzanne R. Parker, M.D.'73 (2010–2016)
Heidi K. Schumacher, M.D.'10 (2015–2021)
Norman Snow, M.D.'70 (2014–2020)
Pramila Yadav, M.D.'99 (2014–2020)

**Ex Officio Members**
Dean Frederick C. Morin III, M.D.
Kevin McAteer





If you have news to share, please contact your class agent or the Development & Alumni Relations office at **medalumni.relations@uvm.edu** or **(802) 656-4014.** If your email address has changed, please send it to **medalumni.relations@uvm.edu.**

## 1960s

REUNION 2016: **1961 + 1966**

**'67 Ursel Danielson** writes: "Still enjoying retirement. Have three grandchildren in California. No great-grandchildren on the way (alas!). Looking forward to seeing our class for our 50th in 2017."

**'69 David Byrne** says: "I'm now fully retired — I didn't renew my license — and I'm enjoying life."

### Imbasciani Named Secretary of the California Department of Veteran Affairs

In September of 2015, **Vito Imbasciani, M.D.'85,** was sworn in as Secretary of the California Department of Veteran Affairs (CalVet) by California Governor Jerry Brown. CalVet serves nearly two million California veterans and their families by increasing their access to and utilization of state and federal benefits and services through advocacy and education. Imbasciani is president-elect of the Los Angeles County Medical Association and worked at the Southern California Permanente Medical Group as director of governmental relations since 2005, and as a urologic surgeon since 1997.

## 1970s

REUNION 2016: **1971 + 1976**

**'71 Robert Englund** joined Antioch University New England's Board of Trustees and will serve a three-year term. He recently retired as a physician with Cheshire Medical Center/ Dartmouth Hitchcock-Keene, N.H.

**Wayne Pasanen's** love of golf was featured in a story in the March 4th issue of the *Boston Globe.* He retired from practice in 2014, and last year opened OptiGolf, an indoor golf simulation center, in Middleton, Mass. As he told the *Globe,* "It's primarily for people who want to play golf in the offseason, November to early May, when they can't play outdoors. People learn different aspects of their game and keep it sharp."

**'73 David Benjamin, Ph.D.,** received the President's Award from the American College of Legal Medicine for his contributions to Education in Legal Medicine in 2015–2016.

**Stephen Cantrill** received the John A. Rupke Legacy Award for his lifelong commitment to American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the field of emergency medicine.

**'74** Bayside Health Associates in Delaware recently welcomed **Cathleen Olivia Doane-Wilson** to their women's healthcare team in Lewes and Georgetown, Del. She previously practiced at Reston Hospital in Reston, Va., and in Great Falls, Va.

**'75 Richard Lacki** writes: "I was sorry to miss our reunion because of a family emergency, but am glad to see that so many are fine. I'm well and still acting as Medical Director of Meadowbrook Healthcare in Plattsburgh, NY."

## 1980s

REUNION 2016: **1981 + 1986**

**'80 Joseph Campbell, Jr.** writes: "Kathy and I are enjoying retirement in Naples, Florida."

Pediatrician **Christopher L. Elstner** has joined Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics in Santa Barbara, Calif., seeing patients at the new Goleta Neighborhood Clinic and the Isla Vista Neighborhood Clinic. Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit healthcare

MEDICAL REUNION JUNE 10–12, 2016

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1946 | 1956 | 1966 | 1976 | 1986 | 1996 | 2006 |
| 1951 | 1961 | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2011 |



## COLLEGE EVENTS

**August 8–12, 2016**
Orientation Week for Class of 2020
UVM Campus

**October 7, 2016**
White Coat Ceremony
Class of 2020
Ira Allen Chapel
UVM Campus

**October 17, 2016**
Alumni Reception at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress
Washington, D.C.
(All local alumni & friends welcome.)

**October 22, 2016**
Alumni Reception at the American Academy of Pediatrics national conference and exhibition
San Francisco, Calif.
(All local alumni & friends welcome.)

**November 29, 2016**
Alumni Reception at the Radiological Society of North America annual meeting
Chicago, Ill.
(All local alumni & friends welcome.)

For updates on events see:
**www.uvm.edu/medicine/alumni**

College of Medicine graduates are also members of the UVM Alumni Association. See those events at: **alumni.uvm.edu**

organization, whose mission is to provide high quality, comprehensive, affordable healthcare to all people, regardless of their ability to pay.

**'81** **David Meeker** was appointed to the board of directors of Rhythm, a biopharmaceutical company developing peptide therapeutics for rare genetic metabolic disorders. The company is based in Boston, Mass.

**'82** **Isaac Kaplan** writes: "After 25-plus years at Northern Calif. Kaiser, I have taken early retirement. I am taking some time to reset, travel, and learn more about life as an unemployed person. This experience feels much like it did when I graduated from college, but had not yet been accepted to med school."

**'84** **Dean Bloch** is practicing OB/Gyn at Health Quest Medical Practice in Rhinebeck and Kingston, New York.

**David Morin** has been appointed to serve on the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) Board of Trustees. Founded in 1976, ACRP is a non-profit organization that supports clinical research professionals through membership, training and development, and certification. It includes more than 13,000 members in 70 countries.

**Matthew Pender** says: "Hi all!"

**'85** **James O'Brien** joined United Health Services (UHS) Cardiology in Norwich, N.Y., and will see patients in the former Heart Care Center at UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital.

**David Tuck** joined Curis, Inc. as Vice President, Clinical and Translational Sciences. Dr. Tuck will lead the development of the company's immuno-oncology programs.

**'86** **David Dumont** was appointed Senior Medical Director of Quality and Acute Care at Mid Coast-Parkview Health in Brunswick, Maine. In this new role, he will manage acute care medical services, providing leadership and oversight of quality and safety.

**'87** **Frank Pigula** joined the faculty of the University of Louisville School of Medicine Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery. He plans to perform both clinical and laboratory research, including ongoing clinical studies to document neurodevelopmental outcomes in neonates using a technique he developed to reduce circulatory arrest times in an effort to reduce bypass-related neurologic injury. His lab research focuses on protecting the brain from bypass-related brain injury during surgery. Dr. Pigula will practice with University of Louisville Physicians, and will also serve as chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at Kosair Children's Hospital.

**Kerry Solomon** has been named the 31st president of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS). He takes office in May of 2016.

**'89** **Dean Mastras** writes that his "Rad Oncology practice continues to grow. Added two new doctors and a third mobile HDR machine. Hello to all my classmates."

## 1990s

REUNION 2016: **1991 + 1996**

**'90** **Amy Burkhart Roberts** writes: "Bill (class of '88) and I are empty nesters with three kids currently in college!"

**Jeffrey Lawson** was appointed as Chief Medical Officer of North Carolina-based Humacyte, a biotechnology and vascular regenerative medicine company. Dr. Lawson has served as a clinical advisor to Humacyte for the last decade, and will oversee the medical and clinical development of Humacyte's products.

**'92** **Paul Afek** writes: "I have moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and am on the faculty of the New Mexico School of Medicine."

**'93** **Alan Verrill** has been named as Chief Medical Officer of Littleton Adventist Hospital in Colorado. He was previously division chief for the medical group and president of the medical staff at Bridgton (Maine) Hospital. He also co-founded the Central Maine Hospitalist service and served as the group's medical director for seven years.

**'94** **Nicholas Kenyon** was appointed chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at University of California-Davis Health System, and was also named the Gordon A. Wong Professor in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. In his new role, Kenyon will oversee nearly 100 faculty, staff and fellows who provide critical care, pulmonary, sleep and hospitalist services and conduct research on diseases such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, bronchiectasis and pulmonary fibrosis.

**'95** **Laurie Yntema** joined Penobscot Community Health Care's Community Care and Geriatrics team in Bangor, Maine.

**'96** **Lisa Belisle** wrote an essay about her battle and defeat of breast cancer published in the January 2016 issue of *Maine Magazine.*

**'97** **Sarah Majercik** has been named to the University of Utah School of Medicine's Vice President's Clinical & Translational (VPCAT) Research Scholars Program. A trauma and critical care surgeon at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah, her research will focus on using Duplex ultrasound to determine the rate of venous thromboembolism (deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism) in high-risk trauma patients who have surveillance for lower extremity DVT versus those who do not have surveillance.

## 2016 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

### FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Women's Health Conference**
September 7–9, 2016
DoubleTree Hotel
Burlington, Vt.

**Vermont Information Technology Leaders Summit 2016**
October 5–6, 2016
Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center
Burlington, Vt.

**Breast Cancer Conference**
October 7, 2016
Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center
Burlington, Vt.

**Critical Care Conference**
October 13–15, 2016
Stoweflake Conference Center
Stowe, Vt.

**Advanced Dermatology for Primary Care**
October 13–16, 2016
Hilton Hotel & Conference Center
Burlington, Vt.

**Transforming Primary Care/ Behavioral Health**
October 20–21, 2016
The Essex
Essex, Vt.

**Northern New England Neurological Society Annual Meeting**
October 28, 2016
The Essex
Essex, Vt.

**Neurology for the Non-Neurologist**
October 28–29, 2016
The Essex
Essex, Vt.

**Bridging the Divide: Primary Care/Public Health**
November 4, 2016
The Essex
Essex, Vt.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

**University of Vermont Continuing Medical Education**
128 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 100
, Burlington, VT 05401, (802) 656-2292





**'99** **Paige Terrien Church** has been selected by the Canadian Pediatric Society as 2016 Emerging Leader in Neonatology. Paige is an Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, at the University of Toronto and is board certified through the American Board of Pediatrics in Pediatrics, Neonatology, and Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics. She is clinical director of the Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center as well as the developmental behavioral physician lead in the Spina Bifida Clinic at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital.

**William Kinsey** has been named University of Wisconsin's University Health Services Medical Director. Kinsey will direct a team of approximately 60 health care professionals who provide a wide range of care to students and employees, including treatment for illnesses and injuries, immunizations and other preventive care, communicable disease investigation and control and wellness services.

**Eric Olson** was named medical director for adult respiratory services at WakeMed Health & Hospitals in North Carolina.

## 2000s

REUNION 2016: **2001 + 2006**

**'01** **Jonathan McDonagh** joined The Alaska Heart & Vascular Institute after completing two fellowships with the University of Michigan's Medical Center.

**Danielle Vitiello** has been recognized by *NH Magazine* as one of the leading reproductive endocrinologists in the NH 2016 list of Top Docs.

**'02** **Thuan Nguyen** says: "Still in Fountain Hills, Arizona. My wife, Sarah, is working as a consultant with Slalom Consulting while I am still at a few hospitals in the Valley. Our children, Reece and Davis, are in first grade and kindergarten at the International School of Arizona and are getting a well-rounded, multi-cultural education. Please come visit if you visit the Grand Canyon State!"

**'03** **Jennifer Connors** joined Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center as Director of Psychiatric Services.

**'06** **Peter Dahl** joined Main Line HealthCare Endocrinology in Philadelphia, Penn. He specializes in the care of patients with disease or dysfunction of the endocrine system, and has particular expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis (in both women and men), diabetes/prediabetes, thyroid disease (including management of low thyroid during pregnancy), low testosterone in men and thyroid cancer.

**'07** **Sonya Edwards** writes: "My husband, Lucas Ives, and I are happy to announce the birth of our son Adrian Ives on July 20, 2015! We are living in the Bay area now and I am a breast imaging radiologist at Kaiser."

**Julia Hoover** writes: "Currently writing in Milton, Vt.; on Facebook at Julia Davis Hoover."

**Sarah Pope** writes: "2015 has been a busy and crazy year. I finally got hitched on a rare sunny Seattle day to my main squeeze, Paul. In October, I 'dropped' my papers to resign my commission in the U.S. Navy, which would allow me to leave the Navy in October 2016. While the Navy did bankroll my medical education and my public health degree, I'm ready to stop moving every two to three years and establish deeper roots to the Pacific Northwest. I plan to stay in the Seattle area, and look forward to many more Seattle Sounder soccer games and adventures in the Olympics and Cascades. Please stop by our digs in West Seattle when you're in town!"

**'08** **Carl Barus** writes that he "moved back home to Maine after completing a fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine in Syracuse, N.Y."

## 2010s

REUNION 2016: **2011**

**'10** **Joseph Lopreiato, Jr.** writes: "I became the father of a beautiful baby girl born December 15, 2015 in Japan, where I am an internal medicine doctor in the U.S. Navy."

**Annice Mason,** a physiatrist at Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center in Windsor, Vt., was awarded primary board certification in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

**'11** **Lindsay Oliver** joined Reliant Medical Group's pediatrics department and will see patients in Auburn, Massachusetts.

**'12** **Louisa Salisbury** joined the children's health team at Northern Inyo Hospital in Bishop, Calif.

**William Timbers** joined Northern Inyo Hospital in Bishop, Calif., as an emergency care provider.

Jeff Clarke

### Alumna Featured on CBS "60 Minutes" News Program

**Leslie Kerzner, M.D.'95,** a neonatologist at MassGeneral Hospital for Children, was featured on the CBS News "60 Minutes" program in a segment titled "A New Direction on Drugs," which aired on December 13, 2015. Kerzner, who specializes in neonatal abstinence syndrome, is associate director of the Special Care Nursery and director of the Newborn Developmental Follow-up Program at MGH and an assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Kerzner recently completed a six-year term as a member-at-large on the UVM Medical Alumni Association's Alumni Executive Committee. The "60 Mintutes" segment can be found on *www.cbsnews.com.*

### Send Us Your Stories

If you have an idea for something that should be covered in *Vermont Medicine,* please email: **vmstories@med.uvm.edu.**

# 2016 MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The Medical Alumni Association of the College of Medicine has, for four decades, honored the accomplishments of its members for their work caring for patients, creating new advances in the laboratory, and contributing to their communities. These 2016 awardees will receive their honors at the Celebration of Achievements during Reunion 2016 at the College on June 10.

**A. BRADLEY SOULE AWARD:**
Presented to an alumnus/a whose loyalty and dedication to the College of Medicine most emulate those qualities as found in its first recipient, A. Bradley Soule, M.D.'28.

**DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:**
Presented to alumni in recognition of outstanding scientific or academic achievement.

**SERVICE TO MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY AWARD:**
Presented to alumni who have maintained a high standard of medical service and who have achieved an outstanding record of community service or assumed other significant responsibilities not directly related to medical practice.

**EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:**
Presented to alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years in recognition of their outstanding community or College service and/or scientific or academic achievement.

**ROBERT LARNER, M.D.'42 STUDENT AWARD:**
Presented to a current student(s) for his or her outstanding leadership and loyalty to the College and one who embodies Dr. Larner's dedication to not only supporting his medical alma mater, but to inspiring others to do so as well.

## A. BRADLEY SOULE AWARD

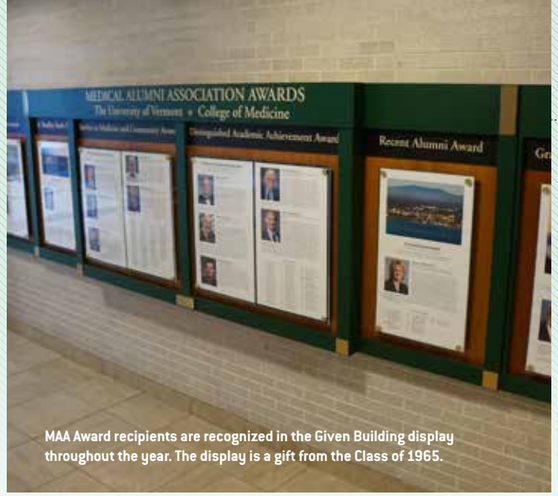
### John Jerome Saia, M.D.'66

*University of Vermont Associate Professor Emeritus, Family Medicine*

Dr. Saia served as a faculty member at the University of Vermont College of Medicine for 27 years, from 1980 until his retirement in 2007. He has held a variety of leadership roles, including director of the Family Practice Residency Program, director of the Basic Clerkship Program, and associate director of the Family Medicine Clerkship. Dr. Saia was director of the Family Medicine Review Course for 11 years, a CME offering currently in its fourth decade. During his academic career, he had the opportunity to influence the careers of literally thousands of medical students, as well as dozens of family medicine residents. He was recognized by medical students for induction into the AOA, twice by residents as Family Practice Residency Teacher of the Year, and by his peers as Vermont Family Physician of the Year. Dr. Saia has also helped to shape medical education at the College through his role as director of the Doctoring Skills course, and through serving on the steering committee for the Vermont Generalist Curriculum. He served in the U.S. Army as a Medical Officer (Captain) in Vietnam, receiving a bronze star and completing his service with the rank of Major. Dr. Saia is the second of three generations of UVM College of Medicine graduates (John L. Saia, M.D.'34; Kelley A. Saia, M.D.'01).

**2017 NOMINATIONS...**

Do you know a class member deserving of recognition? Send in your nominations for the 2017 awards at: **www.uvm.edu/medicine/alumni.**




MAA Award recipients are recognized in the Given Building display throughout the year. The display is a gift from the Class of 1965.

HALL A

## DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

### Kristen A. Atkins, M.D.'96

*Associate Professor, Pathology and Residency Program Director, University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville, Virginia*

A world-renowned pathologist, Dr. Atkins is associate professor of pathology and pathology residency program director at the University of Virginia. She is a co-author of a textbook on breast pathology, has published numerous peer-reviewed articles, and is conducting leading edge research on radiology and pathology correlations to aid in better triaging women with in determinant risk breast lesions for surgery or observation.

### Lisa B. Bergersen, M.D.'96, M.P.H.

*Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Interventional Cardiologist at Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Mass.*

Dr. Bergersen is an interventional pediatric cardiologist at Boston Children's Hospital. She is a pioneer in her field, publishing over 40 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, with a particular focus on quality initiatives to improve the outcomes of interventional procedures in children.

### Jeffrey J. Pomerance, M.D.'66, M.P.H.

*Professor Emeritus in Pediatrics at UCLA*

Dr. Pomerance has helped to shape the field of neonatology through his decades of work as a clinician, scholar and leader at institutions including Cedars Sinai Medical Center, where he served as director of the Division of Neonatology for 23 years, Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Maryland School of Medicine and The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He authored the seminal text, *Interpreting Umbilical Cord Blood Gases: For Clinicians Caring for the Fetus or Newborn.*

## SERVICE TO MEDICINE & COMMUNITY AWARD

### Roslynn S. Glicksman, M.D.'81, M.P.H.

*Medical Director for Primary Care, Project Renewal Inc., New York, N.Y.*

Dr. Glicksman's entire career has focused on improving health care for underserved populations, from her two years as a Peace Corps Medical Officer to her service as deputy regional medical director at Riker's Island Health Services. As medical director of primary care services at Project Renewal, a New York City-based non-profit organization dedicated to ending homelessness, Dr. Glicksman has expanded services for the organization's roughly 11,000 patients.

### K A Kelly McQueen, M.D.'91, M.P.H.

*Professor, Departments of Anesthesiology and Surgery; Director, Vanderbilt Anesthesia Global Health & Development; Director, Vanderbilt Global Anesthesia Fellowship; Affiliate Faculty, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health; Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn.*

Dr. McQueen is a leader in the global anesthesia and surgery communities, and has had a career-long commitment to disaster response humanitarian aid. In 2010 she founded the Global Surgical Consortium, a public charity committed to improving safe anesthesia and surgery in low-income countries, and is founder and immediate past president of the Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence.

### Peter S. Millard, M.D.'81, Ph.D.

*Medical Director of Seaport Community Health Center, Belfast, Maine*

Dr. Millard is a family physician and epidemiologist who has practiced medicine both in Maine and in Sub-Saharan Africa, where he has cared for some of the neediest patients at ground zero of the AIDS epidemic. His current area of research is male circumcision to prevent female-to-male HIV transmission, and his team recently developed a new minimally invasive technique for voluntary male circumcision.

### Peter D. Wilk, M.D.'76

*Psychiatrist, Portland, Maine*

Dr. Wilk has been active for the past 30 years in public health advocacy organizations and medical organizations concerned with preventing nuclear war, moderating climate change, reducing pollution, and phasing out nuclear reactors. He has served as executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility, and served for 12 years on the board for International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

COM Design & Photography

## EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### Adam S. Kanter, M.D.'01

*Chief, Division of Spine Surgery; Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery; Director, Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery Program; Director, Neurosurgical Spine Fellowship, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, Penn.*

Dr. Kanter has garnered national recognition for his expertise in the field of neurological surgery. A sought-after speaker and author of more than 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals, he leads research projects that advance the field of minimally invasive spine surgery. His work with UPMC and industry supporters led to the development an innovative retractor now being used around the globe that allows surgeons lateral access to the spine with minimal destruction.

### Ann Murchison, M.D.'01, M.P.H.

*Oculoplastic and Orbital surgeon, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Thomas Jefferson University and Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, Penn.*

A dedicated teacher and researcher, Dr. Murchison's work reflects her passion for improving public health as it relates to eye disease. She is a founder of the International Scholar program at Wills Eye Hospital, is a founding member of Give Kids Sight Day, and is a member of the team who developed unique online and live-streaming ophthalmic educational activities at Wills.

### Bobbi S. Pritt, M.D.'01 M.Sc., D.T.M.H.

*Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Division of Clinical Microbiology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., Director, Clinical Parasitology Laboratory*

Dr. Pritt has authored more than 90 publications in peer-reviewed journals, including recent publications in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and *The Lancet Infectious Diseases,* in which she and her team describe two new causes of human tick-borne disease. She has delivered over 100 national and international presentations and has received numerous speaker and teaching awards. Her special areas of interests include clinical parasitology, vector-borne disease, and trainee education.

## ROBERT LARNER M.D.'42 STUDENT AWARD

### Erin Pichiotino '17

A Burlington, Vt., native, Erin Pichiotino received her undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont before graduating from the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice with a Master of Public Health degree. As a medical student she has been selected as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, an American Medical Student Association Health Equity Scholar, and has served as a student representative on the UVM College of Medicine Medical Curriculum Committee.


Award recipients are honored every year at a special ceremony during Medical Reunion.

Jeff Clarke





# FLASHBACK


## AMTRAK Derailment, 1984

On the morning of October 5, 2015, a southbound AMTRAK passenger train derailed when it hit a rockslide that covered a portion of the track in Northfield, Vt. Seven people were injured when several cars were thrown from the track but, fortunately, no one was killed.

For many Vermonters, the accident recalled a day 31 years earlier when another Amtrak train derailed in Williston, Vt. The July 8, 1984 accident killed five people and injured 29 — all of whom were taken to the then Medical Center Hospital of Vermont (now UVM Medical Center) for treatment. The archive photos here show the derailment and the passengers arriving for treatment.

Were you a part of that day's activities, either on the medical campus or in the field? If so, send your memories of that day to edward.neuert@uvm.edu and we will include them in a future issue of *Vermont Medicine.*

The med student seen "camping out" in the last Flashback has come forward. **Richard Wild, M.D.'77** writes: "I remember this photo very clearly. Was doing a surgical rotation in the late spring of '75 along with several other members of my class of '77 and the picture was taken around noon, lunchtime, on a beautiful sunny day (probably in late June) along the front brick wall of the DeGoesbriand Unit. I recall the yearbook photographer approaching me, but cannot recall whether I had put the coat on my head on my own or at the suggestion of the photographer. In the left pocket on my shoulder is an 800+ page volume of the 2nd Edition of *Bedside Diagnostic Examination* by DeGowin and DeGowin which was a third year medical student's bible back then (and which I have found in my basement bookcase)."

Dr. Wild is now the Chief Medical Officer for the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, Atlanta region, which encompasses the eight southeastern states.

# Obituaries

**'49 John James McCutcheon, Jr. M.D.**
Dr. McCutcheon died December 12, 2015, in Charlottesville, Virginia. He graduated from the UVM College of Medicine in 1949, and went on to a career as a radiologist. He served in the U.S. Navy.

**'52 Marvin Garrell, M.D.**
Dr. Garrell died August 18, 2015, at the age of 88. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Garrell opened an office as a general practitioner in 1955, and later became a board-certified internist and geriatrician. He was an internist in private practice and gerontologist for over fifty years. At St. Vincent's Medical Center in Connecticut, he served as chief of medicine for twelve years and director of medical education for twenty years. Dr. Garrell was instrumental in organizing the medical staff of the Jewish Home for Elderly in Fairfield, Conn., from its inception, where he worked closely with physicians, nursing staff and administrators, and was the medical director of the home for thirty years. He served in the United States Navy during World War II.

**'52 Arthur Jason Perelman, M.D.**
Dr. Perelman died September 23, 2015, at the age of 87. Born and raised in the Weequahic section of Newark, New Jersey, he lived there and in Union, New Jersey, before moving to Summit, New Jersey in 1992. Having earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania before coming to UVM, where he was thrilled to attend medical school and had strong family in the Burlington area — his grandfather arrived in Burlington in 1882, and his father grew up in the North End of the city, graduating from UVM in 1920. Dr. Perelman went on to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for his residency training in internal medicine. He authored 12 clinical journal articles during his time as resident. He became chief resident in 1955 before opening an internal medicine practice in Union. Dr. Perelman loved his career, giving kind and compassionate care to his patients, with a specific passion for cardiology. He was particularly fond of the arts, literature, and teaching as an assistant clinical professor at the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry. In 2013, Dr. Perelman and his family established a $1 million endowed fund to support the work of the University of Vermont Cancer Center. Called the Charlotte E. Perelman Cancer Research Fund, it honors Dr. Perelman's late wife.

**'55 Robert Astone, M.D.**
Dr. Astone died on March 13, 2016. He was a native of Beacon, New York, where his father, a member of the College of Medicine class of 1924, was a physician. After medical school, Dr. Astone and his family moved to California where he had an internship and residency at Harbor General Hospital/UCLA, in Torrance. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and spent two years as a captain in the medical corps at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He then returned to California and completed his residency, followed by a fellowship in cardiology under C.K. Liu, M.D. After the fellowship, Dr. Astone set up a solo practice in internal medicine and cardiology and was an active member at The Little Company of Mary Hospital and other South Bay hospitals. Drs. Astone and Liu were instrumental in setting up the first cardiac catheterization units at Little Company of Mary.

**'55 Richard Hubbard Bailey II, M.D.**
Dr. Bailey died November 25, 2015, after a brief illness caused by cancer. Born in Claremont, New Hampshire, on May 19, 1929, he attended Tufts College and the UVM College of Medicine, graduating in 1955. Following an internship at Beverly Hospital in Massachusetts, he went on to a distinguished career in the U.S. Army, first as a doctor and paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division's 505th Airborne Battle Group. He went on to serve at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, D.C., and then became Chief of General Medicine at Fort Dix Army Hospital in New Jersey. In Vietnam he served as Medical Battalion Commanding Officer, 1st Division, Airborne Brigade of the 1st Cavalry before becoming Chief of Medicine at the U.S. Army Hospital at West Point, ultimately retiring as a Brigadier General. Dr. Bailey then transitioned to a career in business, working for seventeen years at Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company in Hartford, Conn., where he became chief medical director, and subsequently held the same position for Prudential Life Insurance Company in Newark, New Jersey. He retired in 1994.

**'55 Robert Lee Pratt, M.D.**
Dr. Pratt, formerly of Saratoga Springs, New York, died in Bethesda, Maryland, on June 30, 2015, at the age of 85. Born in 1929 in Richford, Vermont, he graduated from Harvard University in 1951 and from the UVM College of Medicine in 1955. He lived in Alburg, Vermont, where he joined and eventually assumed the medical practice of his father, George Olin Pratt, M.D.'35. In 1968, he moved to Saratoga Springs to become a physician at Skidmore College, eventually becoming director of medical services. Dr. Pratt's grandfather, Charles Ai Pratt, was also a medical graduate of UVM in the early 1900s.

**'64 John Gould, M.D.**
Dr. Gould died September 29, 2015, after an eight-month illness. Born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., on May 10, 1939, he graduated from Harvard University and earned his M.D. from the UVM College of Medicine in 1964. After completing an internship in general surgery at Boston City Hospital, Dr. Gould joined the U.S. Navy. During the first year of his two-year assignment he served as medical officer aboard the heavy guided missile cruiser, U.S.S. Canberra, which was deployed to waters off Vietnam. He earned the Navy Commendation Medal for outstanding performance in the care of war casualties. Dr. Gould went on to a three-year residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh before joining his father in private practice in Brockton, Mass. He then completed a one-year fellowship in orthopaedic hand surgery at Duke University, and was recruited to join the faculty at University of Alabama (UAB) in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1975. At that time, he was the only formally trained orthopaedic hand surgeon in the state of Alabama. He began a fellowship training program at the university, and was promoted to full Professor of Surgery in 1982, remaining chief of the Hand Section until 1986. He was then recruited to be chief of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin, in Milwaukee, a position he held for ten years before returning to Birmingham to join Alabama Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center until 2004. In 2006, after working with Orthopaedic Specialists of Alabama at Baptist Montclair Hospital, he rejoined UAB, this time as chief of the Foot and Ankle Section of the Orthopaedic Division. He was awarded the title Professor Emeritus of the UAB School of Medicine in 2014. He served as president of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society, of the Clinical Orthopaedic Society, of the Mid America Orthopaedic Association, and of the Alabama Orthopaedic Society. He received the Outstanding Southern Orthopaedist Award of the Southern Orthopaedic Association, the Academic Achievement Award from the University of Vermont Medical Alumni Association, and the Academic Achievement Award of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He was Editor in Chief of *Microsurgery* (1986–1996), and the *American Journal of Orthopaedics* (1996–2006), and was Foot and Ankle Editor for *Orthopaedic Knowledge Online Journal.* He authored four professional books, and self-published *The Medical College of Wisconsin: The Gould Years,* where he described his ten years as chief of that department.





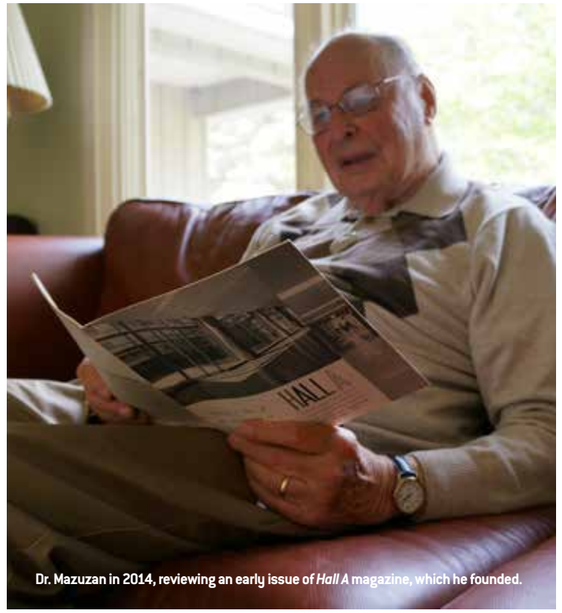
**'64 Arthur Kotch, M.D.**
Dr. Kotch died December 6, 2015, at the age of 76, after a long battle with advanced Parkinson's Disease. Dr. Kotch dedicated his life to helping and healing others through his work as a pulmonary physician at Danbury Hospital in Danbury, Conn., becoming the first board-certified pulmonologist in the area. He established the first center in Connecticut for study of sleep apnea and other sleep disorders.

**'91 Douglas Green, M.D.**
Dr. Green died in an avalanche while skiing in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah, in January 2016. He was 49. After earning his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, he completed his medical degree from the UVM College of Medicine in 1991. He interned at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont and did his residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Dr. Green completed a fellowship in body magnetic resonance imaging at the University of Utah, where he stayed on as a staff radiologist for seven years before moving to the University of Washington in 2007.

**'96 George L. Jennings, M.D.**
Dr. Jennings died November 5, 2015, in Duluth, Minnesota, after a 28-month struggle with glioblastoma stage four brain cancer. He was 44. Born in Burlingame, Calif. on November 8, 1974, he graduated with a degree in biochemical engineering in 1992, and earned his medical degree from the UVM College of Medicine in 1996. After residency and working at a practice in Oregon, Dr. Jennings worked with his father at St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic Health System in Hibbing, Minnesota.

## FACULTY

**David Babbott, M.D.**
Dr. Babbott died August 23, 2015, at the University of Vermont Medical Center, at the age of 87. Born in Brooklyn, New York on September 19, 1927, he was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1946, graduated *cum laude* from Amherst College in 1951, and received his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1955. He completed his graduate medical education at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Conn. and at New England Medical Center in Boston, Mass. Following three years practicing internal medicine in Hartford, he served as assistant director of medical education at Hartford Hospital, beginning what would become a career-long focus on the art of teaching patient care. Dr. Babbott was appointed Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 1967. From 1971 to 1993 he was on the full-time faculty in the Department of Medicine and was director of medical education for eighteen years. He served as a role model, mentor, and advocate for hundreds of medical students, residents, and junior colleagues. Notorious for his keen wit, his enthusiasm for puns, and his astonishing collection of plaid and multi-colored pants, he will be remembered for his excellent listening skills, insightful questions, and deep commitment to students' and colleagues' personal and professional growth. On the occasion of his retirement as Professor Emeritus of the Department of Medicine in 1993, the medical residents' library was named and endowed in his honor.



Dr. Mazuzan in 2014, reviewing an early issue of *Hall A* magazine, which he founded.

**'54 John E. Mazuzan Jr. M.D.**
Dr. Mazuzan passed away peacefully on March 23, 2016 at his home in Burlington, Vt. He was 87. He was born in Montpelier, Vt., and grew up in Northfield. He completed an accelerated undergraduate degree at Boston College before coming to the College of Medicine, graduating in 1954. After medical school Dr. Mazuzan spent two years as a physician in the United States Air Force, and then completed a residency in anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital. He settled in Burlington, where he practiced anesthesiology for nearly four decades. He joined the faculty of the UVM College of Medicine in 1959. He became Professor Emeritus of Anesthesiology in 1995. He was a very active member of the UVM Medical Alumni Association (MAA), and served as MAA president in 1996 and 1997. In 1964 he was the founding editor of *Hall A,* the College of Medicine's magazine (which became *Vermont Medicine* in 2001) and served as the magazine's editor for twelve years. For decades he was a dedicated class agent along with his good friend John Tampas, M.D.'54. Dr. Mazuzan received the A. Bradley Soule Award, the MAA's highest honor, in 1997. Dr. Mazuzan excelled as both a clinician and administrator. He directed the anesthesiology residency program and managed the daily operating room schedule. In 1969, he became the first president of Anesthesia Associates of Burlington, a position he held until his retirement. In 1977 he was appointed chair of the Section of Anesthesia and later became the first chair of the Department of Anesthesiology. Under his leadership, the department grew in both reputation and size. Dr. Mazuzan served in numerous leadership roles with local and national organizations, including the American Heart Association, the Vermont Board of Health, Vermont Health Care Review, and as president of the Vermont State Medical Society. Within the College of Medicine, he led the Graduate Medical Education Committee and served as assistant dean for Regional Medical Programs. He also served on the Vermont Board of Health, the Vermont Board of Medical Practice and the Board of the Flynn Theater. In 1976, Dr. Mazuzan received the Distinguished Service Award and, in 1999, the Founders Award from the Vermont Medical Society. Above all, Dr. Mazuzan is remembered as a valued advisor, inspirational teacher and mentor to many: nurses, medical students, physicians-in-training, practicing physicians, and community leaders.

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“Hope is the epitome of our profession, and now you get to be the Ambassadors of it. Vaclav Havel, former president of the Czech Republic, once said ‘Hope is a state of mind, not of the world. Either we have hope or we don’t; it is a dimension of the soul... It is an ability to work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed.’

My soon-to-be-fellow alumni, you are about to enter a field rich with these moments, because you have on this day earned the trust inherent in that white coat you began to don as first year medical students. You will not only bear witness to amazing moments in people’s lives but, because of that trust, you will play an integral role. Those are moments that are critical to the people we serve and often define our professional lives. They drive us to want more of them — you’ve probably had some of these moments already. Well, there will be lots more if you stay focused, deliberate, and humble. There is no doubt that some moments will be very hard, and the moments when patients are getting better are like little gems. Let them wash over you and you will remain activists in the pursuit of good health, lifelong learners of the dynamic science and art of medicine. You will be change agents, and these moments can make you a better healer.” ”

**— 2016 Medical Commencement speaker Rochelle Dicker, M.D.’95**

## May 22, 2016 4:45 p.m.

Class of 2016 President Dan Haddad and his fellow graduates recite The Oath at the end of their Commencement Ceremony in Ira Allen Chapel.

photograph by **Andy Duback**

WEB XTRA

View video and photos of Commencement 2016.
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