



The University  
of Vermont  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



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

Winter 2014



Primary Care Internal Medicine - faculty attending 1st Annual Retreat

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

### NEWS & EVENTS

#### **Primary Care Internal Medicine Holds 1st Annual Faculty Retreat**

Primary Care Internal Medicine held its 1<sup>st</sup> faculty retreat on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at Hotel Vermont. The program was led by visiting faculty from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston: Dr. Rich Schwartzstein, Executive Director of the Shapiro Institute for Education and Research and the Faculty Associate Dean for Medical Education at Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Chris Smith, Co-Director of the Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education. The curriculum focused on maximizing clinical teaching skills and included sessions such as “Lecturing as Performance Art,” “Effective Clinical Teaching at the Bedside,” and “Small Group & Case-Based Teaching.” There was great participation with energetic discussion – evidenced by the program lasting almost an hour longer than scheduled. PCIM is looking forward to making this an annual event.

#### **Teuscher and Utah Colleagues Identify Lyme Arthritis Susceptibility Gene**

A genetic “hunt” begun nearly a quarter century ago by University of Vermont immunogeneticist Cory Teuscher, Ph.D., and University of Utah microbiologist Janis Weis, Ph.D., has led to a “buried treasure” in the field of Lyme disease research: confirmation that a hypomorphic allele of the beta-glucuronidase gene (*Gusbh*) is independently responsible for more severe forms of Lyme arthritis in a mouse model. These findings were published December 16, 2013 in the online-first edition of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* and are also featured in the January 2014 issue of *JCI Impact*. [Read More](#)

## **Pasanen Appointed Section Head for Hospital Medicine**

Mark Pasanen was appointed Section Head for Hospital Medicine in October 2013. Dr. Pasanen received his MD from University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle. He served as a Chief Medical Resident at the Seattle VA Medical Center before joining the faculty at Fletcher Allen Health Care / University of Vermont College of Medicine in 1996. He has subsequently completed a Faculty Development Fellowship in General Internal Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill and a Fellowship in Outcomes and Technology Assessment at the University of Vermont. He was one of the founders of the PCIM Hospitalist Service in 1999 and has practiced as a primary care physician and hospitalist since that time. He is committed to medical education and has received numerous awards for teaching excellence. He is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine and the Associate Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program, as well as the Governor of the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Physicians and the President of the UVM Medical Alumni Association. In his role as Section Head, Dr. Pasanen will continue to direct the clinical, operational and academic activities of the PCIM Hospitalist group.

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Amanda Kennedy, PharmD** presented with Steve Farrell, MBA at The First National Conference on Academic Detailing; November 2013, Boston, MA. Academic Detailing on the Front Lines: Developing Effective Messages.

**Chi Chi Lau, M.D.** presented at the Community Lecture, “Oh My Achey Bones and Joints” for the Explore Bones and Joints Conference in Plattsburgh, NY, October 15, 2013 attended by 170 from the public.

**Constance van Eeghen, Ph.D.** presented Impact of Integrating Behavioral Health Services in Primary Care Using Lean as a Quality Improvement Method at the North America Primary Care Research Group. Ottawa, Ontario.

**Daniel Lustgarten, M.D.**, presented (The University of Vermont, Vermont Cardiac Network), “Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy, New Patient Populations, & New Technologies”, Stowe, VT, October 10, 2013.

**Edward Leib, M.D.** and **Bonita Libman, M.D.** participated in presenting at Explore conference on musculoskeletal diseases in Plattsburgh, New York on October 15, 2013.

**Jason Botten, Ph.D.** was selected to give a talk at the Gordon Research Conference on Viruses and Cells in Lucca, Italy. Dr. Botten’s poster was also one of 10 Featured Posters (Speed Poster Presentation) at the 5th North East Regional IDeA Conference (NERIC), University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

**Peter Spector, M.D.** – presented TRM Forum on Computer Simulation and Experimental Assessment of Cardiac Function, “Divining the Drivers of Multi-Wavelet Reentry: Delineating the Spatial Distribution of Dynamic Circuits” Lugano, Switzerland, December 1-3, 2013.

[Additional Talks and Presentations](#)

## **HOUSE STAFF NEWS**

**Tatiana Keck, M.D.**, Rheumatology Fellow, was awarded a scholarship to attend the Ultrasound School of North American Rheumatologists (USSONAR) course.

**Sam Merrill, M.D.**, received an ASH Abstract Achievement Award for Abstract ID # 60710: Clostridium Difficile As a Risk Factor For Hospital-Acquired Venous Thrombosis In Medical

Inpatients.

**Andrew Tegeder, M.D.**, second year resident in Dermatology, did a pediatric rotation in Kenya last September.

**Ryan Rogers, M.D.**, third year resident in Dermatology did a pediatric rotation in Texas in November.

### **Winners of the 2013 Vermont ACP Chapter Abstract Competition at the VT/NH Chapter ACP Scientific Meeting in October:**

In the Research category, **Deva Sharma** (PGY-3): Platelet Agonists and Antagonists Selectively Regulate Release of Platelet-Derived TGF $\beta$ 1 (with Jamie E. Levis, M.S, Inder Lal, MD and Chris E. Holmes, MD, PhD).

In the Clinical Vignette category, **Sam Merrill** (PGY-3): Unwanted Party Favors: Serotonin Syndrome and Amnesia (with Benjamin Keveson MD).

## **HOUSE STAFF PUBLICATIONS**

**Thompson NC**, Stinnett-Donnelly J, Habel N, Benson B, Bates JH, Sobel BE, Spector PS. Improved spatial resolution and electrogram wave direction independence with the use of an orthogonal electrode configuration. J Clin Monit Comput. 2013 Sept 26 [Epub ahead of print].

**Alvi MM**, Meyer DS, Hardin NJ, deKay JG, Marney AM, Gilbert MP (2013). Aspergillus Thyroiditis: A Complication of Respiratory Tract Infection in an Immunocompromised Patient. Case Rep Endocrinol. Article ID 953052, 4 pages.

## **RECOGNITION AND AWARDS**

**The University of Vermont Medical Group (UVMMG) annual awards:**

Junior Investigator: **Neil Zakai, M.D.**

Senior Investigator: **Ralph Budd, M.D.**

**Markus Meyer, M.D.** and **Martin LeWinter, M.D.**, together with Steven Bell and Dr. Bradley Palmer (PhD) formed a start-up company (SimMedTec LLC) to apply for business grants to further develop a blood circulation monitor.

**Peter Spector, M.D.** - Founder/Director Visible Electrophysiology LLC founded 2012.

**Jason Botten, Ph.D.**'s paper, Our Cell Host Microbe was covered by the COM <http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/?Page=news&storyID=17258&category=comstude> and had an accompanying preview article published in the same issue.

**Patricia King, M.D.** was appointed to the editorial board for the Journal of Medical Regulation, a publication of the Federation of State Medical Boards.

**Dr. King** was also was invited to join the Federation of State Medical Boards Task Force for development of a compact for interstate licensing.

**Ralph Budd, M.D.** was appointed Chair for NIH U-19 study section on Autoimmunity Centers of Excellence (Nov. 2013)

## NEW FACULTY

**Laura McGevna, M.D.** joined our faculty in September 2013. Dr. McGevna graduated UVM in 2008, completed her internal medicine residency at Fletcher Allen Health Care in June 2010, and graduated our residency program in June 2013. Dr. McGevna practices general dermatology with an emphasis on women's health.

**Joseph Pierson, M.D.** joined our faculty in Dermatology and serves as Dermatology Residency Program Director. Dr. Pierson comes to us with over 20 years of teaching experience. He is a retired Colonel in the United States Army. He has served for 30 years in many capacities, including Iraq and Afghanistan. A graduate of Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine, Dr. Pierson completed a dermatologic residency at The Cleveland Clinic Education Foundation. He comes to us from Guthrie Army Health Clinic in Fort Drum, NY where he was the Director of Laboratory Services as well as an Assistant Professor of Dermatology.

## PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Keating FK, Schneider DJ, Savage PD, Bunn JY, PhD, Harvey-Berino J, Ludlow M, Toth MJ, Ades PA. Effect of Exercise Training and Weight Loss on Platelet Reactivity in Overweight Patients with Coronary Artery Disease. *J Cardiopulm Rehabil.* 2013. Oct 11. [Epub ahead of print].

Peter S. Spector. Principles of Cardiac Electric Propagation and Their Implications for Re-entrant Arrhythmias. *Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol.* 2013;6:655-661.

Gutpa D, Leahy AA, Monga N, Peshavaria M, Jetton TL, Leahy JL (2013). PPAR $\gamma$  and its target genes are downstream effectors of FoxO1 in islet beta-cells: Mechanism of beta-cell compensation and failure. *J Biol Chem* 288: 25440-9

Jain R, Narang J, Griffith J, Bagher-Ebadian H, Scarpace L, Mikkelsen T, Littenberg B, Schultz LR. Prognostic vascular imaging biomarkers in high-grade gliomas: Tumor permeability as an adjunct to blood volume estimates. *Acad Radiol* 2013; 20:478-85.

Case LK, Wall EH, Dragon JA, Saligrama N, Krementsov DN, Moussawi M, Zachary JF, Huber SA, Blankenhorn EP, Teuscher C. 2013. The Y chromosome as a regulatory element shaping immune cell transcriptomes and susceptibility to autoimmune disease. *Genome Res.* 23:1474-85.

Koenig A, Sateriale A, Budd RC, Huber SA, Buskiewicz IA. The Role of Sex Differences in Autophagy in the Heart During Coxsackievirus B3-Induced Myocarditis. *J Cardiovasc Transl Res.* 2013 Dec 10.

Shannon Li, Minara Aliyeva, Nirav Daphtary, Rebecca A. Martin, Matthew E. Poynter, Shannon F. Kostin, Jos L. van der Velden, Alexandra M. Hyman, Christopher S. Stevenson, Jonathan E. Phillips and Lennart K.A. Lundblad. Antigen induced mast cell expansion and bronchoconstriction in a mouse model of asthma. *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol.* 2013 Nov 27. 2013, PMID 24285269. This is the first report of a mouse model of inhaled allergen induced mast cell expansion, activation and subsequent bronchoconstriction. In the near future we intend to use the model to understand the mechanisms of mast cell recruitment and retention in the lung and to identifying drug targets to treat asthma.

Charlotte C Teneback, Thomas C Scanlon, Matthew J Wargo, Jenna Bement, Karl E Griswold,

Laurie W Leclair. Bioengineered lysozyme reduces bacterial burden and inflammation in a murine model of mucoid *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* lung infection. *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. 2013 Nov; 57(11):5559-64

Brownschidle S, Libman B, Zenali M. Biventricular Heart Failure in a Patient with Scleroderma. *Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*, 2013 Oct;137(10):1343-1526, PMID 24079762, poster 125, presented at the College of American Pathologists annual meeting, Orlando, Florida, October 2013.

[Read More](#)

## GRANTS

**Thomas Jetton, Ph.D., PI; Dhananjay Gupta, Ph.D., and J. Kraft, Co-I's** - Exploring the Role of Branched-Chain Fatty Acids as a Diabetes-Preventive Nutraceutical. Diabetes Action Research Foundation.

**Cory Teuscher, Ph.D.** - National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Pilot Research Grant PP2123, The role of p38 MAPK in the integration of environmental stress stimuli in CNS autoimmune disease. \$43,910.00

**Amanda Kennedy, Pharm.D.** obtained funding from the Vermont Department of Health for Vermont Academic Detailing Program Extension Project: Improving Opioid Prescribing: Sustainable Solutions for Vermont. Nov 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. This public health award will result in a pilot-tested toolkit to better support Vermont primary care practices and the patients they serve in the responsible prescribing and management of opioids. **Constance van Eeghen, Ph.D.** is Co-Investigator.

**Mark Levine, M.D.** and **Virginia Hood, M.D.** received a \$25,000 grant from UVMMG for a project from Jan2014-December 2015 - Development of a High Value Cost Conscious Care Experience for Residents and Fellows.

**Bonita Libman, MD** (Rheumatology Attending) received, for the fifth time in a row, the ACR Rheumatology Research Foundation Fellowship Award in the amount of \$25,000.00.

## WHO KNEW?

Tim Leclair, M.D. (PGY3 and soon to be Pulmonary/CC Fellow) won the criterion stage of the 2013 Green Mountain Stage Race in the 35+ category 4/5 division. He finished second in the overall classification of this four day race which includes time trial, circuit and cross country stages. Zechariah Gardner, M.D. (Hospitalist) also competed in this division and finished 24<sup>th</sup> overall. The team was sponsored by Fletcher Allen Health Care.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- [Grand Rounds Schedule](#)
- [Fletcher Allen Events](#)
- [UVM Events](#)

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