



News from the Department of Medicine at the University of Vermont



W. Kemper Alston, M.D., M.P.H., (fourth from left) and infection prevention team accept the 2014 Partnership in Prevention Award.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [News and Events](#)
- [Awards and Recognition](#)
- [New Faculty](#)
- [Research & Grants](#)
- [House Staff News](#)
- [Publication Highlights](#)
- [In the Media](#)
- [Who Knew?](#)
- [Contact Information](#)

CALENDAR LINKS

- [Grand Rounds Schedule](#)
- [UVM Medical Center Events](#)
- [UVM Events](#)

NEWS & EVENTS

TEAM LED BY ALSTON GARNERS NATIONAL INFECTION PREVENTION AWARD

The infection prevention team at UVM Medical Center, led by **W. Kemper Alston, M.D., M.P.H.**, a professor in the Division of Infectious Disease, has received the the 2014 “Partnership in Prevention Award” for achieving sustainable improvements in eliminating

healthcare-associated infections from The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America. UVM Medical Center is the only healthcare organization in the nation to receive the award. “The award recognizes years of hard work, and reflects the success that is possible when broad, multidisciplinary teams involved in every aspect of patient care are engaged, educated, and empowered,” says Alston, who serves as medical director of infection prevention at UVM Medical Center. [Read the story.](#)

LEIB SPEARHEADS FRACTURE LIAISON SERVICE



Edward Leib, M.D., a professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, has organized a working group to develop a Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) at UVM Medical Center. The purpose of an FLS is the identification of individuals who have had a fracture and who are at risk for subsequent fractures. By coordinating the contributions from orthopedics, primary care, hospitalist service, the osteoporosis center and the emergency department, patients will receive an evaluation, and, when indicated, care and monitoring to prevent further fractures.

HOOD DISCUSSES CHOOSING WISELY INITIATIVE FOR NATIONAL PUBLICATION



The American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation, a founder of the national Choosing Wisely campaign, recently featured an interview with **Virginia Hood, M.D.**, a professor in the Division of Nephrology, in a recent issue of its *In The Field* newsletter. Hood, who leads the Choosing Wisely initiative at UVM Medical Center, discussed specific outcomes related to projects completed at the hospital, as well as strategies moving forward. Choosing Wisely aims to improve the quality of care and reduce costs at medical centers nationwide. [Read the article.](#)

Awards & Recognition

Steven Ades, M.D., a professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, was named president-elect of the Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society (NNECOS) Board of Directors.

Jason Bates, Ph.D., a professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, was elected 2014 chair of the Green Mountain Section of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Matthew Gilbert, D.O., M.P.H., assistant professor in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, was formally named program director for the fellowship program in the Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes.

Virginia Hood, M.D., a professor in the Division of Nephrology, was recently elected as a member of the Executive Committee for the International Society of Internal Medicine.

Charles Irvin, Ph.D., a professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, has been named a Distinguished Educator and was inducted as a Charter Member of the University of Vermont College of Medicine Teaching Academy.

Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D., a professor in the Division of Infectious Disease, has taken on the new role of UVM College of Medicine Associate Dean for Clinical Research.

Martin LeWinter, M.D., a professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, garnered the Senior Researcher of the Year Award.

Steven Lidofsky, M.D., Ph.D., professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, was selected to the inaugural group of Fellows of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

Markus Meyer, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, was named Junior Investigator of the Year.

Charlotte Teneback, M.D., assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, accepted the Quality Care Award presented to the University of Vermont Medical Center Cystic Fibrosis Center at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation national meeting.

Marie Wood, M.D., a professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, was appointed to a one-year term to fill a vacancy on the NNECOS Board of Directors.

New Faculty



**George
Atweh,
M.D.**



**Edmund
Folefac,
M.D.**



**Maura
Barry,
M.D.**

George Atweh, M.D., a distinguished hematology specialist from the University of Cincinnati, joined the Division of Hematology/Oncology in September. Dr. Atweh will continue work in the area of hematology, and will also have a leadership role in Cancer Clinical Research.

Edmund Folefac, M.D., joined the Division of Hematology/Oncology in September. Dr. Folefac, who is trained in geriatrics, and completed his hematology/oncology fellowship at Boston University, will focus his clinical efforts on lung and GU oncology. He will also be pursuing research in geriatrics and oncological care delivery.

Maura (Molly) Barry, M.D., joined the Division of Hematology/Oncology in December. She completed her hematology and oncology fellowship at New York University, and her clinical practice will focus on GI and ENT cancers. Her research interests include supportive care and psychosocial issues.

Research & Grants

Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc., a professor in the Division of



Hematology/Oncology, is the site principal investigator for a National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) grant titled "National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health." The UVM Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research will serve as the central laboratory for testing and biospecimen repository for the next exam WAVE in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) Study. Cushman will oversee all aspects of laboratory operations. She will also direct the science related to assessment of biomarkers of disease risk over time, and analysis and reporting of data. The grant was awarded in November.

Steven Ades, M.D., a professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, received a Vermont Cancer Center program grant for "A Serum microRNA Biomarker Signature for Prostate Cancer Progression." Jane Lian, Ph.D., and Scott Perrapato, D.O., are co-principal investigators.

Narandra Bethina, M.D., assistant professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, has joined 15 international experts in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound as part of OMERACT Gout study for assessment of validity of musculoskeletal ultrasound in crystalline arthropathies. He is also a mentor for 42 rheumatology fellows from other rheumatology fellowship training programs and 12 rheumatologists in practice currently training in musculoskeletal ultrasound through the Ultrasound School of North American Rheumatologists (USSONAR).

Anne Dixon, M.D., a professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care, received a \$50,000 award from the UVM Medical Group Research and Education Committee for her application titled "Airway Compliance in the Asthma of Obesity."

Chris Holmes, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, received a Vermont Cancer Center program grant for "Generation of iPSCs from Leukemic Patients: Understanding the Molecular Mechanisms that Trigger and Sustain Leukemia." Kaleem Zaidi, Ph.D., Rodrigo Grandy, Ph.D., and Jeffrey Spees, Ph.D., are co-principal investigators.

Edward Leib, M.D., and **Bonita Libman, M.D.**, both professors in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, each received a Medical Student Research Preceptorship from the Rheumatology Research Foundation. A total of 21 preceptorships are awarded nationally.

Bonita Libman, M.D., a professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, received a fifth Rheumatology Research Foundation Fellowship award for 2014-2015 from the American College of Rheumatology in the amount of \$25,000.

Markus Meyer, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, received a \$70,000 Medtronic Grant for "Heart Rate Dependent Remodeling of the Heart - A Safety and Feasibility Study Accepted for publication."

Peter Spector, M.D., Peter Spector, M.D., a professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, was awarded a patent on November 4, 2014, for "Methods and systems for determining spatiotemporal variability for mapping cardiac fibrillation." It was filed March 15, 2013. U.S. patent application # 13_844710. He received notification that a second U.S. Patent Application, #13/844,574 "Methods and Systems for Assessing Cardiac Fibrillogenicity," was allowed on January 20, 2015. [Read the patent.](#)

Charlotte Teneback, M.D., assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, has received several grants, including a Cystic Fibrosis Improving Quality in CF Research Award for \$4,350; a therapeutic development grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for \$76,902, and a \$142,792 Advanced Research Collaborative Award from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for additional research coordinator support.

Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D., a professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, received an R01 grant for "Optimizing Functional Recellularization of Acellular Human Lung Scaffolds." The grant has a six percent success rate on first time submission.

House Staff News

The Department of Medicine is pleased to announce that several of our residents have accepted fellowships at the following prestigious institutions:

- **Zubin Agarwal, M.D.**: Cardiology fellowship at Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Fla.
 - **Christopher Dado, M.D.**: Pulmonary and Critical Care fellowship at Rhode Island Hospital, Brown University, Providence R.I.
 - **Samreen Raza, M.D.**: Cardiology fellowship at University of Texas - Southwestern, Dallas, Texas
 - **Samuel Merrill, M.D.**: Hematology/Oncology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
-

Publication Highlights

Roncolato EC, Teixeira JE, Barbosa JE, Zambelli Ramalho LN, **Huston CD**. Immunization with the Entamoeba histolytica surface proteinase EhMSP-1 protects hamsters from amebic liver abscess. *Infection and Immunity*. 2014 Dec 1. pii: IAI.02490-14. [Epub ahead of print]. PMID: 25452550.

Chapman DG, **Irvin CG**, **Kaminsky DA**, Forgiione PM, **Bates JH**, **Dixon AE**. Influence of distinct asthma phenotypes on lung function following weight loss in the obese. *Respirology*. 2014 Nov;19(8):1170-7.

Meyer M, McEntee RK, Nyotowidjojo I, Chu G, **LeWinter M**. Relationship of Exercise Capacity and Left Ventricular Dimensions in Patients with a Normal Ejection Fraction. An Exploratory Study. *PLOS ONE*. 2015

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

PRESENTATIONS

- **Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc.**
"Understanding Racial Disparities in Stroke," UVM Medical Center Neuroscience Grand Rounds, September 2014.
- **Susan G. Lakoski, M.D., M.S.**
"The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Exercise, Obesity and other Risk Behaviors Among Women with a Diagnosis of Ductal Carcinoma in Situ," Vermont Center on Behavior and Health 2nd Annual Conference: Behavior Change, Health and Health Disparities, October 2014.

Marie Wood, M.D.

“Importance of the Cancer Family History in Assessing Cancer Risk,” Cancer Prevention Grand Rounds, Roswell Park Cancer Institution, Buffalo, NY, November 2014.

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

“Improvement in Short Physical Performance Battery following an 8-week Pulmonary Rehabilitation program” (oral presentation) and “Pulmonary rehabilitation and the Adult Cystic Fibrosis patient” (poster presentation), American Association of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation annual meeting, Denver, Col., September 2014.

- **Gayathri Thampatty, M.D., and Christine Haas Jones, M.D.**

"A Rare Case of Statin Myopathy Treated with Immuno-suppression," poster presentation, American College of Physicians, Vermont Annual Meeting, October 2014.

- **Inder Lal, M.D.; Deva Sharma, M.D.; Jamie E. Levis, M.S.; and Chris E. Holmes, M.D, Ph.D.**

“Effect of P2Y12 Inhibition of TGF-B1: Antiplatelet agents in treatment of breast cancer,” 17th Annual UVM Cancer Center Breast Cancer Conference, October 2014.

In the Media

Richard Zubarik, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, was interviewed for WCAX-TV on October 24, 2014, regarding his work to find potential screening tools to detect early signs of pancreatic cancer. [Watch the segment.](#)

Marie Wood, M.D., a professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, and **Tiffany Rounds, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, program manager for the High Risk Breast Program (HRBP) appeared on UVM/WCAX’s Across the Fence television program on September 2, 2014 to discuss the HRBP mission and available services.

Neil Zakai, M.D., M.Sc., associate professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, was interviewed on WCAX-TV about World Thrombosis Day October 10, 2014, for a segment titled "Killer Blood Clots Few Have Heard About." [Watch the segment.](#)

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

Who Knew?



Christopher Grace, M.D., a professor in the Division of Infectious Disease, recently returned from a trip to River Kwai Christian Hospital in western Thailand, where he helped to treat patients in a challenging setting with limited resources. The rural 20-bed hospital near the Burma (Myanmar) border serves Thai, Burmese, Mon and Karen peoples from the surrounding areas and those coming across the border. Rounds and clinic work often involve translation from Burmese to Thai to English, with Mon and Karen languages sometimes adding to the mix. Grace worked with two missionary doctors who were “seasoned and very skilled clinicians,”

predominantly in the outpatient clinic, though he also did inpatient rounds. Grace called the emphasis on clinical history-taking, physical examination and clinical judgment instead of technology and laboratory tests “refreshing.” “One had to give very strong consideration

before ordering a CBC or chest x-ray because of the cost to the patient,” he says, adding that there were no CT scans or MRIs. “What was rewarding to me were the inspiring physicians and nurses I had the privilege to work with and learn from, the hospital staff who were very welcoming, supportive and patient with me, and the patients and families who were so appreciative of the care they received at the hospital,” Grace says.

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