2014 was truly a year of notable change and improvement across our medical campus and at our partner institutions. Closest to home — literally at the edge of our campus — our clinical teaching hospital, Fletcher Allen Health Care, changed its name to The University of Vermont Medical Center, and its system of affiliated facilities across Vermont and northern New York officially became The University of Vermont Health Network. As my colleague, medical center and health network CEO John Brumsted, M.D., describes in this issue, this change has been talked about for years, and is the natural outgrowth of the close working relationship of our institutions that stretches back for 135 years. I believe the College and University gain from this change an increasing national awareness of our unified academic medical center.

Our research efforts continue their strong results. Despite the continuing challenges faced by researchers nationwide in securing National Institutes of Health research support, scientists and physicians at the College secured $81.4 million dollars in funding in fiscal year 2014. One of the highlights of our research success has been the work of Virginia H. Donaldson M.D. ’51 Professor Stephen Higgins, Ph.D., and his colleagues at the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health. This new center has been a model of interdisciplinary research, bringing together investigators from across the University to explore the relationship between personal behaviors and chronic disease, and to develop effective interventions. Not only is this center an example of effective cooperation within the University, it also serves as a model of community and public policy engagement.

This past year has also seen another class of vibrant, enthusiastic students join our ranks. In November, at one of the most significant ceremonies at the College, the Class of 2018 received their first white coats and began their clinical education. This year there was a special new dimension to the ceremony: each student found in his or her white coat a special new dimension to the ceremony: each student found in his or her white coat a message of encouragement from an alumnus of the College. I know this was appreciated by the students and I’m pleased that so many of our busy alumni took the time to write down their thoughts and send them in. I’m not surprised that they did so — we’ve always had one of the most engaged alumni bodies in the nation, as projects such as this clearly demonstrate.

I would also like to thank those alumni, and the many other friends and supporters of the College, for their generous philanthropy over the past year, which is reported in this issue. This record achievement is a wonderful measure of our connection as a community that shares the mission of the College, and we are deeply grateful.

FROM THE DEAN

Kirkpatrick appointed Interim Associate Dean for Clinical Research

Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D., professor of medicine and founding director of the Vaccine Testing Center, has been appointed to serve as interim associate dean for clinical research at the College of Medicine. She succeeded Richard Galbraith, M.D., Ph.D., who served as associate dean for patient-oriented research, and was appointed UVM Vice President for Research earlier in 2014.

Kirkpatrick reports to the senior associate dean for research, and has responsibility for exploring new and expanded opportunities for clinical research projects and programs, developing internal and external collaborative relationships, facilitating career development for faculty pursuing such research, and overseeing clinical research administration.

Larner Classroom Debuts

The Larner Classroom celebrated its grand opening November 5, with a gathering in the new space and remarks from several College of Medicine officials. Also on hand were family members of Robert Larner, M.D.’42, the alumnus whose $1 million gift made the classroom possible. Located at the front of the Dana Medical Library, the classroom gives the active and team-based learning already happening at the College of Medicine a more fitting home with cutting-edge technological support.

The 2,825-square-foot classroom accommodates 120 students with flexibility for both small- and large-group functions. Unlike a lecture hall with stationary chairs and tiered seating, students in the new classroom can work as teams in small groups at tables around the room, and easily transition to instruction as a larger group when necessary.

Whalen Named President and COO of UVM Medical Center

Eileen Whalen, M.H.A., R.N., was appointed President and Chief Operations Officer of The University of Vermont Medical Center on January 2. Whalen has more than 35 years of experience in health care. She comes to the UVM Medical Center from Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Wash., where she served as the chief executive. Harborview is the largest public hospital in the State of Washington and an academic medical center part of the UW Medicine Network. Prior to her tenure at Harborview, she served as executive vice president at the University of Arizona Medical Center in Tucson.

Whalen is a nationally recognized trauma systems expert and a founding member and past president of the Society of Trauma Nurses, and she served as editor of the Journal of Trauma Nursing from 1993 to 2006. Whalen will report to John Brumsted, M.D., who will retain the position of chief executive officer at the medical center as well as his position as president and chief executive officer of the University of Vermont Health Network, the four-hospital integrated health network serving Vermont and northern New York. Whalen’s position combines the role of president with that of the chief operating officer.

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Shear and Cipri Develop Sexual Health Texting Service for LGBTQ Youth

Schweitzer Fellows and University of Vermont medical students Leah Cipri and Matthew Shear are partnering with Outright Vermont to empower LGBTQ+ youth throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, and upstate New York to start getting “safer” about their sexual health. LGBTQ+ youth ages 13 to 22 can now get confidential answers to their questions by texting 704-888-SAIO (7207). Shear and Cipri were supported by Outright and an Albert Schweitzer Fellowship.

Two Students Receive VMS Scholarships

Class of 2016 medical students Tara Higgins and Whitney Thomas, were each recognized with a Vermont Medical Society Foundation Scholarship of $5,000 at the Society’s annual fall meeting. Offered through the VMS Education and Research Foundation (VMSERF), the scholarship is awarded annually to medical students who are committed to practicing medicine in Vermont and caring for Vermonters.

Sen. Bernie Sanders and VA Secretary at the College

A new Federal law has infused billions of dollars in funding into the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to support increased VA hospital residency slots and provide substantial debt assistance to physicians. On October 13, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and VA Secretary David Shulkin, held a special session, titled “Federal Loan Forgiveness Program and VA Secretary at the College of Medicine Teaching Academy,” at the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

Teaching Academy Hosts Inaugural Event, Inducts Charter Members

The College of Medicine Teaching Academy was formally launched at the annual Office of Medical Student Education Stick Season Retreat, held in early December, with presentations, workshops, a poster session and the induction of charter members into the Academy.

Professor of Pediatrics Ann Guillot, M.D., serves as inaugural director of the Academy, which aims to foster a scholarly approach to medical education, nurture faculty professional development and advancement, and guide curricular innovations through a collaborative, cross-departmental process.

“The has always been respect for teaching here, but the way that the academy will be a game-changer will be to elevate the scholarly work of medical education to a level that parallels the importance of patient care and basic science research, and to provide a very rich context for improvement and articulation of that work for faculty members,” says Guillot.

The Stick Season Retreat kicked off with an evening reception and poster session that showcased more than 40 educational scholarship projects. College of Medicine Dean Richard Morin noted that the retreat’s record attendance of more than 135 faculty demonstrates the commitment to the College’s education mission, and acknowledged the work of event co-chairs Timothy Fries, M.D., professor of neurological sciences, and Judith Lewis, M.D., professor of psychiatry. Dean Morin also announced a $1 million commitment from alumnus Robert Larner, M.D., for an endowed professor of medical education who will serve as Director of the Teaching Academy.

The Academy, with funding from clinical chairs, the general fund and gifts, was launched after four years of planning by a task force and input from more than 100 people from all College departments.

“We tapped into a pent-up demand among the faculty to recognize, reward and nurture teaching,” says William Jeffries, professor of medicine, and external review at the different membership levels. More information can be found at svm.edu/medicine/teachingacademy.

Research Notebook

UVM VTC Receives Gates Grant for Dengue Work

Researchers Sean Diehl, Ph.D., and Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D., of the UVM Vaccine Testing Center (VTC), along with UVM colleagues Jon Boyson, Ph.D., and Jason Botten, Ph.D., recently received a three-year $2.2 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to study the immunological basis of protection from dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral disease that affects as many as 400 million people annually. No directed therapeutic options or licensed-vaccine currently exist for dengue, says Diehl, an assistant professor of medicine. In addition to UVM VTC investigators, the team includes researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, the University of North Carolina, and Astra, Inc.

From left: Sean Diehl, Ph.D., Jason Botten, Ph.D., Jon Boyson, Ph.D., and Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D.

UVM expands SPARK-VT Program

SPARK-VT, an initiative that helps bring promising research discoveries to the marketplace that was begun in 2012 by the Department of Medicine, was expanded this fall to call for proposals from faculty across the University. UVM Provost David V. Rosowsky, Ph.D., and Vice President for Research, Richard Salbraith, M.D., Ph.D., are champions of the SPARK-VT program, which will accelerate the translation of new knowledge into tangible benefits to society. Designed to facilitate the discovery-to-innovation-to-commercialization process, the program connects UVM faculty with leading experts from the biotech, pharmaceutical, business and legal fields and provides seed grant funding to move the best project ideas forward.

From left: Polly Parsons, M.D., Eileen Crehan, M.D., and Jon Boyson, Ph.D.

Playing Music Can Improve Children’s Brains

Children who play the violin or study piano could be learning more than just Mozart. A UVM child psychiatry team has found that musical training might also help kids focus their attention, control their emotions and diminish their anxiety. Their research is published in the Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

James Hutzlik, M.D., professor of psychiatry and director of the Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families, and colleagues including Matthew Albagh, M.D., and graduate student research assistant Eileen Crehan, call their study “the largest investigation of the association between playing a musical instrument and brain development.” The research continues Hutzlik’s work with the National Institutes of Health Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Study of Normal Brain Development.

Study Finds Blood Type and Memory Loss Link

People with blood type AB may be more likely to develop memory loss in later years, according to a study published by Kristine Alexander, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow in medicine, and Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc., professor of medicine, and colleagues in a September issue of Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. AB is the least common blood type, found in only about four percent of the U.S. population. The study found that people with type AB blood were 83 percent more likely to develop the thinking and memory problems that can lead to dementia. Previous studies have shown that people with type O blood have a lower risk of heart disease and stroke, factors that can increase the risk of memory loss and dementia.
College’s Efforts Recognized in UVM HEED Award

The University of Vermont was recognized with a 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. The HEED Award is a national honor that recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

“I am honored that the University of Vermont is being recognized for our more than two decades of engagement in strategic diversity work,” said Wanda Heading-Grant, Ed.D., vice president for Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. “Our success is made possible through the support of our many campus partners and institutional leadership.”

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine selected UVM based on its exemplary diversity and inclusion initiatives and ability to embrace a broad definition of diversity on its campus, including gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ community as well as all other identities.

A number of the UVM initiatives and events recognized by INSIGHT Into Diversity are generated by the UVM College of Medicine, including the College’s Statement on Diversity & Inclusion and establishment of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Dean’s Advisory Committee on Diversity & Inclusion; Vermont Integrated Curriculum’s diversity and health equity content; admissions application, hiring, practices, faculty and staff training; demographic survey; summer research outreach programs for undergraduate minority students; “Health Equity Film Series,” Annual Family Medicine Diversity in Healthcare Conference; among other efforts.

“Through collaborations across our academic medical center and the greater UVM community, the College of Medicine Office of Diversity & Inclusion is working hard to foster and maintain diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of our mission to provide culturally competent medical education, discovery and patient care,” says Margaret Tandoh, M.D., associate dean for diversity and inclusion and assistant professor of surgery. “This award provides recognition for that collaborative work, which is helping cultural transformation take place at UVM.”

Notables

New Vermont Oxford Network Agreement

Based on a long history of collaboration and support, the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Vermont Oxford Network (VON) formalized their relationship on November 14, when Dean Rick Morin and Jeffrey Herbor, M.D., VON chief executive and scientific officer and holder of UVM’s Lucy Chair in Neonatal Medicine, signed an Educational and Scientific Cooperation Agreement. Founded in 1988 by UVM Professor of Pediatrics Emeritus Jerold Lucroy, M.D., VON is a nonprofit voluntary collaboration of health care professionals representing neonatal intensive care units and level I and II care centers around the world. The VON Database, which currently enrolls 90 percent of all very low birth weight infants born each year in the U.S., serves as a crucial driver of quality improvement.

Frymoyer Scholars Recognized

Three faculty members from the University of Vermont College of Medicine were named Frymoyer Scholars in 2013 and 2014 for project proposals that stand to improve the doctor/patient relationship and enhance clinical education. Charlotte Rebak, M.D., Hirak Der-Torossian, M.D., M.P.H., and Anne Dougerty, M.D., ‘95, were celebrated at a Frymoyer Scholars luncheon held at the College on September 19. Founded in 1999 and supported by the John and Nan Frymoyer Fund for Medical Education, the Frymoyer Scholars Program supports innovative projects that promote teaching that emphasizes the art of patient care.

College Holds Inaugural LGBTQ Events

The first Vita D. Imbasciani, M.D., ‘95 and George D’Silva’s LGBTQ Health Equity Lecture took place at the College of Medicine on December 5. Presented by the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, the inaugural lecture titled “It’s a Rainbow World: Caring for a Diverse Population,” was presented by Dr. Imbasciani. Established through a generous gift from Imbasciani and his spouse, George D’Silva, M.D., the Imbasciani-D’Silva Lectureship Endowed Fund aims to ensure the preparation of culturally competent physicians who can provide medical care and prevention services that are specific to LGBTQ populations. In conjunction with the lecture, students at the College hosted medical students from four schools in the NorthEast with a goal to form a coalition dedicated to improving LGBTQ health through medical education.
“Our patients were varied and acute, our interventions were tangible and visible, and I was working harder than I had ever worked before.”

Seattle has the unique advantage of being a big city in an even bigger wilderness, and patients came to us out of that wilderness. I saw patients who were injured dirtbiking in Idaho, ice climbing in Oregon, and fishing in Alaska, as well as the more standard trauma of car crashes and assaults. In the OR I handled tools and techniques I hadn’t dreamed of, and gained a new respect for skin closures under tension. In the ED I learned casting and splinting from the pro, placed femoral traction pins, learned to shoot portable X-rays while setting bones, sutured some ghastly wounds, and got to meet the multifaceted population of the Pacific Northwest.

The exhausted resident had a point — “You don’t need to do that, you’re just an elective,” I told my seniors to call, and I was loving it. I had spent the past half hour with a lovely, older woman whose foot had gone through the floor of her vehicle in a crash. We chatted about where she had been traveling, and she hardly winced as I worked. The resident had packed up on my admiration for this lady, something he had little time to appreciate as he pulled up the chart of the next case.

This was my last call night at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. I had driven across the United States for a series of electives on the West Coast, starting with an orthopedic trauma elective at University of Washington. My first and only other rotation was an acting internship at UVM, and I didn’t know what was expected of me in an elective rotation. The residents didn’t quite know either. After the first couple days of hearing, “You don’t need to do that, you’re just on an elective,” I told my seniors to treat me like a sub-intern, and I got what I asked for. The 6–6 intern shift ran over as traumas bumped our OR times later and later. Every sixth day I stayed for a 24-hour call. Our patients were varied and acute, our interventions were tangible and visible, and I was working harder than I had ever worked before.

To be clear, I have never intended to go into orthopedics. I applied for this elective to give me exposure to a field I found fascinating, to get me into one of the best trauma hospitals on the West Coast, and get me darn good at treating fractures.

When the ortho service was consulted, I headed over for a history and physical while the resident put in orders for imaging. Once I got the story, the resident dictated while I irrigated the degloved calf, consulted plastics to take a look, and placed a couple of sutures to reapproximate the skin edges before we splinted the ankle in the ED. The next morning the attendings reviewed the imaging and discussed the fracture type and appropriate repairs. I went to the OR as first assist to the fellow, placing external fixation on her shattered ankle to stabilize it. Finally, we presented the fracture in the weekly fracture conference, discussing the imaging, diagnosis, and potential repairs and complications from the injury.

“Katie, if you go into surgery, you’re going to miss patients.” It was three in the morning in the ED; the resident was feeling the strain of a 24-hour trauma call, and I was loving it. I had spent the past half hour with a lovely, older woman whose foot had gone through the floor of her vehicle in a crash. We chatted about where she had been traveling, and she hardly winced as I worked. The resident had packed up on my admiration for this lady, something he had little time to appreciate as he pulled up the chart of the next case.

This essay originally appeared on the College’s uvmmedicineblog.wordpress.com.
Student Body

Academic Year 2013–14

Total Medical Students ........................................... 450
In State ................................................................. 330
Women ................................................................. 48.7%
Men .................................................................... 51.3%
Ph.D. & Masters Students ....................................... 118
Residents & Fellows ................................................. 307

Medical students at the College come from 35 states across the U.S.

Class of 2018

The College received nearly 6,000 applications for the 116 positions in the Class of 2018, who began their first year in August 2014.

Median undergraduate GPA ..................................... 3.69
Median MCAT — Verbal ............................................. 10.0
Median MCAT — Biological Science .......................... 11.0
Median MCAT — Physical Science ............................. 11.0
Students with research experience .............................. 93%
Students with medically related experience ............... 77%

Alumni/Graduates

Alumni

Number of living alumni of the College ....................... 4,447
Percentage of alumni who practice in New England .... 44%
Approximate Percentage of Vermont physicians educated or trained at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and/or University of Vermont Medical Center .......................... 38%
Percentage of alumni who contribute philanthropically 37%

Class of 2014

Medical Graduates of 2014 went on to residencies at 68 institutions across the Nation, including Boston University Medical Center, Brown University, Case Western University Hospitals, Children’s Hospital Oakland, Duke University Medical Center, University of Pennsylvania, Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles, Maimonides Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Oregon Health & Science University, Tufts Medical Center, UC San Francisco, UCL Medical Center, University of Washington, UVM Medical Center, and Yale New Haven Hospital.

Endowments

2014 Faculty & Department Support ......................... $85,988,808
Scholarship Giving .................................................. $30,313,613
Total Endowment Value .......................................... $116,302,421

Private Gift Revenues: A New Record

Private philanthropy to the College of Medicine from alumni, friends, and organizations totaled an historic high of $21.99 million for Fiscal Year 2014. For more detailed information about philanthropy, see page 46.

Research Support

Total Dollars ........................................................... $81.4 million
A total of 280 research projects were active at the College in 2014. College of Medicine funding represents nearly 64% of total UVM research funding. The National Institutes of Health supported four Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (CoBRE) at UVM during 2014; these focused on neuroscience, immunology, lung biology, and research on human behavior and health.

Faculty & Staff

Basic Science ......................................................... 63
Clinical Faculty ....................................................... 574
Volunteer (Vt., Conn., Fla., Maine, N.Y.) ................. 1,290
Staff ................................................................. 413

Departments

Basic Science ......................................................... 4
Clinical .............................................................. 11

Facilities / Physical Plant

Total Area ............................................................... 565,500 sq. ft.
Given Building ....................................................... 196,000 sq. ft.
Health Science Research Facility .............................. 110,000 sq. ft.
Courtyard at Given ................................................ 31,000 sq. ft.
Larner Medical Education Center ......................... 44,000 sq. ft.
Stafford Hall .......................................................... 70,000 sq. ft.
Colchester Research Facility ................................... 72,000 sq. ft.
DeGoedebrant Unit ................................................. 20,000 sq. ft.
Others ............................................................... 23,500 sq. ft.

$21.99 million
PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY AT THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

$81.4 million
RESEARCH SUPPORT AT THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE HAS CONSISTENTLY RANKED AMONG THE TOP MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE NATION FOR PERCENTAGE OF ALUMNI WHO GIVE PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE GRADUATES CONTINUE TO SHOW HIGH SATISFACTION RATES

Results from the 2014 Medical School Graduation Questionnaire (GSQ) — a national survey administered annually by the Association of American Medical Colleges — show that 2014 graduates of the College of Medicine are very satisfied with their medical education, and in many areas significantly more so than their peers nationally. UVM graduates reported high satisfaction rates overall and with their pre-clerkship and clinical clerkship experiences, and felt more prepared than their national counterparts to enter residency.

98% SATISFACTION RATES NATIONALLY.
96% SATISFACTION RATES NATIONALLY.
91% SATISFACTION RATES NATIONALLY.

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2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

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