VERMONT MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

WINTER / SPRING 2007

using educational technology

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FALLING DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE
A professor ponders what it is to be in gravity's grip on his journey through life with ALS.

by JOSEPH PATLAK, PH.D.

PINPOINTING THE SCIENCE BEHIND AN ANCIENT HEALING ART
Medical researcher Helene Langevin, M.D., conducts a rigorous, meticulous investigation of acupuncture.

by STACEY CHASE

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
The College of Medicine is at the forefront of using 21st Century tools to teach today's innovative curriculum.

photo essay by RAJ CHAWLA AND EDWARD NEUERT
UVM Exceeds $250M Campaign Goal

With several months remaining in the official timeline for its comprehensive fundraising campaign, the University of Vermont has exceeded the $250 million campaign goal. President Daniel Mark Fogel announced that total commitments to the Campaign for the University of Vermont went over the top at $250.6 million as of the end of the day January 18, 2007.

Launched in July of 2005 as only the second campaign in UVM history, the Campaign for the University of Vermont is concentrated on raising funds primarily for student scholarships, faculty support, and facilities.

“This signal achievement is a tremendous vote of confidence in UVM and an affirmation of an intense, widely-shared belief in the University’s value and quality,” Fogel said. “We should also see this moment as freighted with the obligation to meet the high expectations UVM has been working toward and as a call to continue to develop the philanthropic resources that will be key to fulfilling the promise, not least of all by intensifying our efforts to increase the campaign total through to its deadline in June of this year.”

Fogel expressed gratitude for “the generosity of our wonderful donors and volunteers and for the coordinated efforts of deans, faculty, staff, and our colleagues in Development and Alumni Relations.” He gave special thanks to the members of the university’s Board of Trustees and to the National Campaign Steering Committee.

“ THEIR support and that of the entire university community has positioned the University of Vermont to realize its overarching goal in the years ahead—to become known as the nation’s premier small public research university,” Fogel said.

Two years ago, the College of Medicine’s original campaign goal of $60 million was informally increased to $80 million, due to the enthusiastic initial response from donors. Campaign giving to the College now stands in excess of $83 million.

A COAT, AND A COMMITMENT

UVM’s Ira Allen Chapel was filled with students, faculty, staff, and family members on Friday, February 16, who braved the post-blizzard snowy conditions for the annual White Coat Ceremony. Begun in the 1990s to mark the beginning of clinical education for medical students, the ceremony is a public commitment by students to compassionate patient care and scientific proficiency. This year’s address at the ceremony was given by Professor of Family Medicine and Associate Professor of Medicine Allan Ramsay, M.D.
Biomedical Research Center Launched with New Grant

An $11.4 million grant will allow UVM to conduct five new studies on Centers for Disease Control-designated “priority pathogens” — infectious agents that impact the health of millions of people worldwide. The funding will launch the Vermont Center for Immunology and Infectious Diseases — a nationally competitive Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in the rapidly growing field of immunology and infectious diseases. This award marks the third COBRE grant UVM has received from the National Center for Research Resources at the National Institutes of Health since 2000.

Directed by Ralph Budd, M.D., professor of medicine and director of UVM’s immunobiology program, the COBRE grant builds on the university’s well-established expertise in immune response to infection and medically significant infectious agents such as bacteria, viruses and parasites. The COBRE program fosters collaborations between senior faculty mentors and five promising junior faculty, provides training for graduate students and will support an additional three new faculty in the areas of immunology, infectious diseases, and microbial pathogenesis respectively. An interdisciplinary group of faculty from six departments and three colleges at UVM will participate in the COBRE.

The grant also supports technology expansion in two primary research areas: immunology and microbial pathogenesis. Gary Ward, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, is co-director of the grant.

“This is a unique opportunity to foster a program of science in a culture of mentoring,” said Budd. “It draws upon the highly collaborative spirit of UVM’s talented faculty to develop a truly interdisciplinary study of the immune response to infectious agents. The Center will not only provide a nurturing atmosphere for students and faculty, it will benefit the health of Vermonters, as well as provide an economic engine for skilled jobs.”

UVM’s two other COBRE grants have both received continuation grants in the past year and a half. The Translational Research in Lung Biology and Disease Center, which focuses on the respiratory system, also received a grant. The Center for Neurosciences Excellence program recently received a continuation grant of $11.1 million and the grant will support a full range of research and education programs and expanded efforts in chronic care.

Launched in January, this year’s grant will allow the Vermont Center for Immunology and Infectious Diseases to continue its work on the cutting-edge science in a culture of mentoring,” said Budd. “It draws upon the highly collaborative spirit of UVM’s talented faculty to develop a truly interdisciplinary study of the immune response to infectious agents. The Center will not only provide a nurturing atmosphere for students and faculty, it will benefit the health of Vermonters, as well as provide an economic engine for skilled jobs.”

New AHEC Medical and Research Directors

Interim Dean John P. Fogarty, M.D. has announced two appointments in the Office of Primary Care and the Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC). Paula Duncan, M.D., professor of pediatrics, has been named medical director, effective, and Charles MacLean, M.D., associate professor of medicine, has been named research director. Both report to Fogarty in his role as associate dean for primary care, and will work closely with Elizabeth Cote, director of the AHEC Program.

“We are pleased to have these two outstanding faculty members, who possess such strong commitments to the health of Vermonters, providing leadership for primary care and AHEC,” said Fogarty. “The Office of Primary Care and AHEC will play an increasingly important role in the College of Medicine and across Vermont, in keeping with the state’s growing need for a stronger health care workforce, solid networks of community faculty to provide health care for Vermonters, strengthened research and education programs and expanded efforts in chronic care.”

Charles MacLean, M.D.

Paula Duncan, M.D.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Lewis First, M.D., professor and chair of pediatrics and senior associate dean of medical education at the College, received the 2006 National Education Award at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) National Conference and Exhibition on October 23 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Education Award is presented annually to recognize a member of the AAP whose educational contributions have had a broad and positive impact on the health and well being of children and adolescents.

The College of Medicine Class of 2006 celebrated their completion of the Foundations Level of the Vermont Integrated Curriculum (VIC) on February 2, and presented the following awards: Outstanding Foundations Course — Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Renal Systems; Foundations Course Director Award and the Dean Warshaw Integration Award (for the faculty member whose teaching best captured the spirit of the VIC) — William Hopkins, M.D., Foundations Teaching Award — John Lunde, M.D.; The Silver Stethoscope (for the faculty member who had few lecture hours, but made a substantial contribution) — James Hudziak, M.D., Above and Beyond Award — Masatoshi Kida, M.D.; Best Support Staff (Non-teaching) — Mary Campbell, AMSA Golden Apple Award — Robert Macauley, M.D.; Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award — Derek Strong.

John Murray, M.D. ’93, a local pediatrician and College of Medicine clinical professor of pediatrics, and Robert Klein, a third-year medical student, were among several individuals honored at the Vermont Medical Society’s 2006 Annual Meeting. Murray, who practices at Timberline Pediatrics in South Burlington and Burlington, was recognized for providing 38 years of exceptional health care to children in Chittenden County with the 2006 Distinguished Service Award — the highest honor that the society can bestow on one of its members. Medical student Robert Klein received a $2,000 Mildred A. Readon, M.D., Scholarship from the Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation (VMSERF). Named in honor of Mildred Readon, M.D. ’39, a professor emerita of medicine at the College of Medicine who was instrumental in forming the VMSERF, the scholarship is given annually to a medical student who is committed to practicing medicine in Vermont after completing residency training. Also at the annual meeting, the VMS named David L. Johnson, M.D., state professor of anesthesiology, as the society’s new president for 2006 – 2007. Interim Dean John P. Fogarty, M.D., announced in January that Brian Cote has been appointed associate dean for finance and administration at the College. Cote has served as the assistant dean since 2004, and has taken on an increasingly significant role in managing the strategic financial and human resources of the College. Cote will maintain his faculty appointment and continue his work in the department of pediatrics as youth health director for the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program and co-director of the Generations course in the curriculum.

MacLean, who joined UVM/Fletcher Allen Health Care as assistant professor of medicine in 1988, will maintain his faculty appointment and continue his activities and research within the Primary Care Internal Medicine division.

Robert Klein receiving his scholarship award from Mimi Readon, M.D. ’67

SWETZER FELLOWS’ BOOK DRIVE HELPS FAMILIES IN TREATMENT

Lystra Hayden (above) is one of seven second-year medical students at the College of Medicine who received a 2006-07 Schweitzer Fellowship to conduct a community service project. Hayden, whose fellowship project focuses on opiate-addicted mothers, spearheaded a book drive to create a lending library for clients at The Chittenden Center, the local treatment clinic for opiate dependence. The fellows sorted, cleaned, labeled and then presented more than 1000 donated books. In addition to Hayden, the current class of Schweitzer fellows at the UVM College of Medicine includes Gaurab Basu, Sarah Grimm, Dung Hoynh, Cilda Ngo, Ginny Van Duyn and Russ Meyer.
Interim Dean John P. Fogarty, M.D., of the College of Medicine, and Melinda Estes, M.D., President and CEO of Fletcher Allen Health Care, have announced the appointment of Polly Parsons, M.D., as E.L. Amidon Professor and Chair of Medicine at the College of Medicine and Physician Leader of Medicine at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

Parsons was previously Interim Chair and Physician Leader of Medicine since June of 2005. She has served as Director of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Chief of Critical Care Services at UVM and Fletcher Allen since 2000. In addition, Parsons has held multiple national leadership positions, including serving on and chairing National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant review committees and chairing the FDA Advisory Committee on Pulmonary-Allergy Drugs.

“Dr. Parsons is an outstanding investigator and scholar with extensive leadership experience in pulmonary and critical care medicine and expertise as a clinician and teacher,” said Fogarty. “She is internationally recognized in the field of Acute Lung Injury/Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome and pulmonary disease research, and has been the recipient of several grants from the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).”

“Polly has provided strong leadership as Interim Chair and Physician Leader of Medicine since June of 2005 and has a solid platform of success on which to build moving forward,” said Estes. “She has made significant contributions as a past president of the Fletcher Allen Medical Staff, and in service on key internal boards and committees.”

Parsons is a past president of the Fletcher Allen Medical Staff and served on the Faculty Practice Board and the Strategic Management Committee. Named one of America’s Top Doctors for four consecutive years (2001–04) and again in 2006, she was honored with the 2006 Elizabeth A. Rich, M.D., Award from the American Thoracic Society.

UVM and Fletcher Allen Name Taheri Clinical Affairs Leader

Interim Dean John P. Fogarty, M.D., and Fletcher Allen President and CEO Melinda Estes, M.D., have announced the appointment of Paul Taheri, M.D., M.B.A., as president of the Faculty Practice at Fletcher Allen and senior associate dean for clinical affairs at the College of Medicine.

Taheri, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., was selected following a national search. He was most recently director of trauma surgery at the University of Michigan Health System, as well as vice chair of surgery for hospital affairs and associate dean for academic business development at the University of Michigan School of Medicine.

A practicing general/training surgeon with a Master’s degree in business administration from the University of Michigan School of Business, Taheri leads a group of more than 480 physicians at UVM/Fletcher Allen and joins Fletcher Allen’s senior management team. In his role as senior associate dean for clinical affairs, he will oversee the Office of Clinical Trials Research and Graduate Medical Education. In addition, Taheri will continue to practice medicine, working as a general surgeon in the Department of Surgery, specializing in trauma, burns and critical care.

Taheri earned a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Lawrence University and a Doctor of Medicine from New York University School of Medicine. Taheri’s professional and academic activities include membership in the American College of Surgeons, American Burn Association, American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and the Eastern Association for Trauma, and the publication of more than 60 papers in national and international journals. He has participated in numerous health care special projects at the University of Michigan over the last decade, including projects focused on optimizing operating room scheduling and enhancing Emergency Department throughput.

UVM and Fletcher Allen Name Taheri Clinical Affairs Leader

Paul Taheri, M.D.
McFadden Named Chair and Clinical Leader of Surgery

David McFadden, M.D. has been named Stanley S. Fiebrer Professor and Chair of Surgery at the College of Medicine and Physician Leader of Surgery at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

McFadden was most recently professor and chair of surgery, surgeon-in-chief and chief of general surgery at West Virginia University. A general surgeon specializing in surgical oncology, he was also a member of West Virginia’s Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. He earned a medical degree from the University of Virginia and completed a surgical internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, followed by a year as assistant chief of service and instructor in surgery at Johns Hopkins. In 1987, he joined the faculty at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and then in 1992 moved to the University of California Los Angeles, where he was named director of the General Surgery Residency Program and chief of the Division of General Surgery. In 2000, McFadden joined West Virginia University. He also held the position of interim chair of orthopaedics there from 2002-03.

McFadden, who has performed funded research in the areas of gastroenterology, endocrinology, oncology and pancreatic physiology for two decades, holds a 1996 patent for a method of inhibiting the growth of pancreatic tumors. He is the author of more than 120 articles in leading medical journals and has delivered nearly 100 national and international invited presentations on his work.

Co-editor in chief of the Journal of Surgical Research since 1997, McFadden has been an active member of the Association for Academic Surgery since 1987, serving as its president and on the Board of Directors. Named one of America’s Top Doctors four times, he is the recipient of two Outstanding Attending Awards at West Virginia, as well as the Dean’s Award for Clinical Excellence. He has mentored medical students, residents and fellows, and earned the UCLA Golden Scalpel Award for Excellence in Teaching three consecutive years.

McFadden replaces Steven Shackford, M.D., who stepped down as chair of surgery last May after 17 years of leadership. Shackford continues to serve as professor of surgery and is a practicing vascular surgeon at Fletcher Allen.

Students Display Vermont Public Health Projects

More than 100 second-year University of Vermont medical students showcased 14 recently-completed public health projects at a special reception focused on Vermont’s most critical health issues on January 24 in the Health Science Research Facility Gallery. Joining the students for the event were Interim Dean John P. Fogarty, M.D., Jan Carney, M.D., associate dean for public health, and representatives from the United Way of Chittenden County and Vermont social service and nonprofit agencies. The College of Medicine’s Public Health Projects program is designed to teach students to approach health issues affecting populations of people in the broadest and most practical sense. Among the Public Health Projects conducted during the fall of 2006 were programs focused on preventing suicide in Vermont teens, improving asthma education, promoting physical activity in children, and communicating environmental health risks.

Medical Admissions: New Leadership, New Processes

“This is first and foremost a team effort,” says Janice Gallant, M.D. ’90, who this past fall was appointed the College’s new associate dean for admissions. Sitting in her office on the second floor of the Given Building, with Director of Admissions Tiffany Delaney at her side, Gallant emphasizes the collaborative nature of the job of crafting each successive class of new medical students. “It’s the work of the Admissions Committee — all that voluntary effort — that really makes a successful process,” she says.

“We have an experienced, knowledgeable, caring, hard working and committed group of people whose primary goal is the selection of an excellent class of medical students who will go on and become excellent physicians/scientists serving the community and the world through important clinical, educational and research endeavors,” says Gallant.

“Someone who applied to medical school as recently as five years ago might not recognize the process now,” explains Tiffany Delaney. “Today’s medical school application process is virtually paper-free, with applicants receiving much of their information through online sources. At the College of Medicine, applicants are able to follow the progress of their application through a secure website that tells them of their status throughout the process.”

The goal is to create a seamless and informative application experience for applicants. “We try to provide information on all aspects of the medical school experience — from financial aid and financial planning, to the curriculum and student life,” says Delaney. “Applicants who interview at the College of Medicine spend the day learning about the College of Medicine — from its history to current events (include COMET, the VIC, and student life). Even current students are involved by sharing lunch with applicants and leading tours. Applicants are also met and greeted by a senior associate dean or the dean of the College himself.

“I think the College of Medicine is seen by applicants as a very challenging and very enjoyable place to learn,” says Gallant, who speaks with each group of interviewing applicants during the admission season and asks them specifically what made them apply to UVM. “The reasons students want to enter medicine do not seem to have changed over the years — despite the immense changes we have seen in technology. Our applicants speak of caring, compassion and of an intense desire and drive to help others.”

Admissions By the Numbers

6160 applications for the Class of 2011

10% increase in applications in the past year

110 Expected number of Class of 2011 positions

41% Vermont residents in class of 2010

Top Honors

All the 110 members of the class of 2011 came to the college this fall with their own individual stories of hard work along the journey to medical school. Britton Keehan is undoubtedly the first-year student with the highest altitude on his trek. The Connecticut native was the youngest person ever to summit the highest peak on each of the world’s continents, beginning with Denali in 1999 and ending with Everest in 2004, when he was 22. He is pictured here on Everest, holding photos of his famous grandfather, the late Bob “Captain Kangaroo” Keeshan, whom he credited with encouraging him to “push the boundaries and seek the outer limits of whatever I was doing.”
VERMONT MEDICINE: What causes heart failure and what are its consequences, in terms of related health conditions, as well as from the perspective of economic burden?

MARTIN LEWINTER: Almost any disease process that can affect the heart can cause heart failure — heart valve disease, various types of congenital heart defects, alcoholism and viral infections are examples. However, the most important causes are coronary artery disease with associated damage to the muscular wall of the heart, hypertension and type 2 diabetes mellitus. Typically, these three major factors occur in various combinations. There is also a fairly large group of patients with what is termed idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy, meaning heart muscle disease without a known cause. Interestingly, recent evidence indicates that a significant proportion of these “idiopathic” cases are caused by mutations. The symptoms of heart failure are mainly shortness of breath and peripheral fluid buildup. The severity of symptoms is extremely variable, ranging from minimal disability to patients who are bedridden. While the great majority of patients have at least some disability, modern treatment has had a major positive impact. Survival with heart failure 20 years ago was dismal, but there has been significant and progressive improvement. It is still a very serious problem, but there is real reason for hope in the majority of patients. The economic burden of heart failure is enormous. It is the single most common diagnosis in Medicare patients and the costs are currently on the order of tens of billions of dollars per year.

What prompted the National Institutes of Health to set up regional research consortiums focused on heart failure?

Advances in basic science and technology have resulted in an explosion of potential new approaches to the management and treatment of heart failure and a need for efficient mechanisms to bring these approaches quickly from the laboratory to the bedside. The concept is to put together a group of diverse centers with expertise in heart failure that can accomplish the goals of efficient numbers of patients, and with great expertise. The studies envisioned for this network and the RCCs consist of novel management strategies that are not usually undertaken by the pharmaceutical industry and clinical trials of new therapies that require relatively small studies to test their efficacy in advance of larger, more definitive industry-funded trials. Some of these approaches might not be carried out by industry because of limited financial returns. A second major goal is to quickly disseminate the knowledge gained to practicing physicians, as well as industry.

What is UVM’s history in this area of research? What information has your previous work in heart failure uncovered that will aid you in this regional effort?

UVM has a long history of both basic and translational NIH-funded research in heart failure, particularly in the areas of primary diseases of the heart muscle and responses of the heart muscle to chronic stress. The department of molecular physiology and biophysics, the cardiology unit in the department of medicine, and the cardiothoracic surgery unit have collaborated on this effort. One of the most novel and unique aspects of UVM’s heart failure research has involved the use of extremely small biopsies obtained by our cardiothoracic surgery colleagues during cardiac surgery. Our biopsy techniques have allowed us to perform fundamental studies in patients during various phases of heart muscle disease and failure and to capture a more realistic understanding of basic mechanisms and treatment options. Roughly 500 such biopsies have been performed over the last 15-plus years.

We understand that there are two research projects planned. What is the focus of these projects and how many study participants do you expect to enroll?

We submitted two proposed projects in applying for this grant, both of which are centered on diabetes and the heart. In the future, we will have opportunities to propose additional trials. One of the projects is a one-year, placebo-controlled, randomized trial of a class of insulin-sensitizing drugs known as PPAR-δ agonists that are used in the treatment of diabetes. Our hypothesis is that these drugs have unique properties (compared to other drugs to treat diabetes) that will improve the effects of diabetes on the heart muscle. Many diabetes patients have heart muscle abnormalities that can be detected using a ultrasound testing (echocardiography), so we will use this technique to determine if improvement occurs over time with drug treatment. If our hypothesis is correct, this would constitute the first treatment shown to reverse the effects of diabetes on the heart muscle. The projected number of subjects for this trial is around 500. The other project will exploit our myocardial biopsy methods in patients with diabetes as well as hypertension, which typically occur together. This trial will require 160 to 170 patients willing to undergo biopsy during heart surgery.

At the end of the grant’s five years, what do you and your colleagues hope to have discovered?

Diabetes has a number of deleterious effects on the heart that account for the fact that it is an extremely potent risk factor for heart failure. At the end of the five years, we hope to have made a real contribution to the prevention and treatment of diabetes-related heart failure.

Questions on Heart Failure with Martin LeWinter, M.D.

Ophthalmologist, Orthopaedic Researcher are New Named Professor Posts

Brian Kim, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, and Bruce Beynnon, Ph.D.’s, professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, have each been named to succeed a named faculty endowment in their respective departments at the College of Medicine. Kim is the next Duncan Persons, M.D.’s, Green & Gold Professor in Ophthalmology. Beynnon is the McClure Professor in Musculoskeletal Research.

Kim earned a medical degree from St. Louis University and joined the faculty in 2006. His research specialties include age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and macular edema.

Beynon earned his undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degrees from UVM and has been a member of the faculty since 1986. He is a member of several orthopaedic journal editorial boards. His research has earned him many awards, including the O’Donoghue Sports Injury Research Award of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine.

The Persons Professorship is named in memory of Dr. Duncan Persons, an ophthalmologist who graduated from the College of Medicine in 1934 and left an estate gift to fund the endowment. The McClure Professorship was established in 1988 by a generous gift from Lois H. McClure and the late J. Warren “Mac” McClure.
For the last few years, Professor of Molecular Physiology & Biophysics and Pharmacology Joe Patlak has dealt with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis as a “part of my journey through the garden of life,” as he describes it on his internet blog. This essay is just one of the elegant dispatches from that sojourn to be found at http://viewpoint-als.blogspot.com.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis is a disease of the motor neurons. Although the nervous system has trillions of working cells called neurons, most are fairly small and only responsible for local communication. One type of nerve cell is the motor neuron. They are huge by comparison, like old-growth sequoias, stretching from brain to spinal cord, or from cord out to the muscles themselves. In most people the motor neurons function without interruption throughout life, giving us the ability, usually taken for granted, to deliberately control our movements. ALS affects specifically these mega-neurons, for reasons that are not understood. It often strikes in the prime of life, and when it does, it burns through these old-growth stands with the ferocity of a forest fire. First only minor changes are noticeable, but within the next few years weakness and paralysis spread progressively from one region to the next.

My own case is fairly typical: at age 52 I noticed that my left hand and arm were weakening, and that my legs felt odd, shaky. Working with my neurologist, we ruled out other diseases that could have caused such changes. But nothing fit the symptoms like ALS. In the end it doesn’t matter what name or neurological classification one uses: I am losing motor neurons at a precipitous rate, and there is no known way to do a thing about it. A diagnosis like this stereotypically comes with a warning to “get your affairs in order”. Suddenly the balance of normal life was gone, the footholds vanished. I have been falling for two years. At first the changes were so minor, yet the knowledge of future weighed so heavily. The famed sequence of denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance came all at once, jumbled, changing daily, hourly. But acceptance came quickly enough. There I was, like an old fashioned cartoon character, hanging midair, several steps beyond the precipice but only slowly realizing how far down the bottom looked. I was falling.

SUDDENLY, I was falling. Time changed, perceptions heightened, the world became a different place. My precipice was nothing more than the slightly uneven threshold at the front door of our local truck rental place. That little extra unanticipated step caused my knee to buckle, and my ALS-weakened legs had no reserve to compensate. Time slows in that moment between standing and landing. I was looking for a handhold, wondering who might be seeing me in my moment of embarrassment, trying at least to fall with grace. I was falling, and in a split second I was journeying out of the world of the able. This is the fall of ALS.
As a society we love to fall. Some jump from planes for the exhilaration of a few minutes free fall, others seek out the highest peaks to ride down, or the highest cliffs to dive from. It’s the ride that counts, the control on the descent, the grace of the final landing. At that moment, hanging still at the top of the precipice, I suddenly had to decide how I would fall, how I might stay in control of the ride, how I might land.

Adaptation is the only defense when ALS is on the rampage. As one muscle fails, I learned to adapt by substituting a different one. If my dominant left arm couldn’t move, my right arm did the work. It’s remarkably automatic, although there is always an adjustment period. I had to start adapting my expectations, my relationships, my emotions as well. Not least, my home would have to adapt.

My wife Elke and I live in Vermont because, 15 years ago, I was offered a great job here. We live in rural Vermont because we feel best out in this countryside, where life melds into the quiet rhythms of rural Vermont because we feel best out in this countryside. We live in the middle of a March blizzard. In the process, we found a temporary condo, and we went to the local repertory theater. We were slowed by the truck that was delivering the portion of the巨人 who have shaped this landscape, I am passing through the community of the disabled. This seems a more solitary place, as I journey for the wheelchair-bound, I thrill, in my naïveté, at being a connoisseur of wheeled personal vehicles.

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Lying on a beige table in the stark orthopaedics lab at the University of Vermont College of Medicine in Burlington, participant after participant endures the insertion of hair-thin needles mid-thigh and just below the knee, while five researchers, led by Research Associate Professor of Neurology and Orthopaedics Helene Langevin, M.D., monitor a body of machinery: ultrasound scanner, torque sensor, electrocardiograph, and laptop, on which the volunteers rate the needling sensations on a scale of 0 to 10.

Langevin, glasses halfway down her nose, hovers between the device that is measuring torque and the study volunteer — in this instance, Sue Burns, an administrator in the university's biochemistry department who suffers from arthritis and is facing hip-replacement surgery. Burns became a study subject because she's interested in acupuncture and the possibility that it might relieve her pain.
"We’re trying to relate what’s going on locally with your perceptions and your cardiovascular function," Langevin tells her.

This on-going study, which is largely aimed at investigating the torque, or twisting force used in needle rotation, is the latest in Langevin’s dogged, single-minded quest to pinpoint the scientific basis behind the Chinese healing art that has been practiced for millennia but whose physiology has never been fully understood.

Demystifying acupuncture could eventually mean better diagnosis and treatment of ailments like chronic pain and usher acupuncture into this country’s medical mainstream. Only an estimated 4 percent of U.S. adults have tried acupuncture. "Unless we understand the mechanism of these treatments," Langevin says, "it’s going to be very hard for them to get integrated into our health care system, including insurance reimbursements."

Langevin’s innovative research into the ancient therapy has gained nationwide, even worldwide, attention. Langevin — a third-generation physician who is both a board-certified internist (with a subspecialty in endocrinology) and licensed acupuncturist — presented her findings at scientific meet- ings in China and Hong Kong this past December.

Two months earlier, she won a grant worth an expected $1.6 million from the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, bringing her grant-fund- ing total over the past seven years to more than $3.4 million. Only a few faculty members at the College of Medicine have ever received NCCAM funding.

"She’s one of the highest-funded acupuncture researchers in the country," says Ted Kaptchuk, an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and an authority on Chinese medicine. "In the acupuncture field, she’s a celebrity."

Though she rarely wears the white lab coat, Langevin has a scientist’s love of the regular- ity of lab work, meticulous research skills, and standards as rigorous as her intellect. "I’m more interested in investigating it," she says of acupuncture, “than practicing it.”

Langevin’s dogged, single-minded quest to pinpoint the scientific basis behind the Chinese healing art that has been practiced for millennia but whose physiology has never been fully understood.

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nence in the world of acupuncture took just five short years. "Every now and then someone is in the right place at the right time and makes a sentient observation that revolutionizes a field," he says. "She's a crisp thinker. ...She's made it a scientific discipline when so much of it was smoke and mirrors."

Hamill recalls that when Langevin first came to the university ten years ago, she was merely looking for "a corner of a lab bench." Today, she runs her own lab, staffed with an assistant, research engineer, and two technicians. "From this very meager beginning, she very quickly captivated a lot of folks. She has a remarkable ability to look across disciplines and bring technology and approaches from other fields to the questions she is asking," he says, noting Langevin's collaboration with the departments of physics, radiology, pathology, and medical bio-statistics, among others.

An unlikely West-meets-East trailblazer, Langevin has presented her research at scientific gatherings in Barcelona and Munich, among a number of foreign cities, in the past two years. But recent lectures to researchers at the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Chinese University of Hong Kong — in the birthplace of acupuncture — were particularly unusual for a foreigner. "I did not know what kind of reception I was going to get," Langevin admits, "but they were very cued into what I was talking about. They were enthusiastic about the research."

B ack home in Vermont, the French-Canadian professor walks or bikes to campus from the nearby home she shares with her husband and two children.

I do go home to my kids each night. And I do relax," says Langevin. But in the lab, she is known for her formidable focus on the task at hand. "She's like a laser beam," says Jim Fox, the research engineer in her lab.

Hers is an intellectual curiosity born of personal experience. During her residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1985, Langevin sought acupuncture for nerve-injury pain after exhausting all that Western medicine had to offer. After three months of treatments on her leg, her pain was gone. "I was intrigued by this strange way of looking at the anatomy in terms of the meridians," she says. "The fact that I got better was almost irrelevant in my decision to study it."

But Langevin's relentless fascination with acupuncture has only raised more questions — and more hypotheses — and she totes them rapid-fire into the air as if to make room for new ones already forming in her mind. "What are meridians? What are the needles doing? What kind of effect does it have on the tissue? How does it help the body heal?" she ponders. "If we understood all that, I think doctors would feel much more comfortable recommending acupuncture."

Until then, Langevin will continue the hunt for answers. "I love this work," she says. "I truly love it." And it isn't hard to image her 20 years from now, holding up in her office, the itch to understand the science behind acupuncture still under her skin.

"Helene has single-handedly rescued acupuncture research from the dead end it had reached because of [previous] findings that had been inconclusive or contradictory," Kaptchuk says. "I don't know if Helene is going to solve the acupuncture riddle, but she has the best chance of anybody."
ONE MORNINg in mid-August of 2003, one of those invisible boundaries between the way things used to be and the way they are now was quietly but firmly crossed at the College of Medicine. That day, the Class of 2007 entered, and became the first class of students to begin their full medical education under the College’s new Vermont Integrated Curriculum (VIC). That same day, those students each received their school-issued laptop — their first portal to COMET, a new set of electronic learning tools developed at the College that would become an increasingly important part of their learning environment. Developed by faculty, staff, and students over the course of several years, COMET is now an integral part of each student’s day. “We had many interesting pieces of educational technology, like the CATSlab pathology tools, here at the College before the VIC introduction,” says Jill Jemison, who leads the COMET development team. “But what COMET did was deliver a learning management system that offered universal access — to every student, every faculty member, to every lecture and piece of course content. It serves as a link for everything.”

EDUCATIONAL

A look at the tools that support 21st Century education for medical students

by EDWARD NEUERT

First-year student Adetola Fadeyibi reviews a pathology slide on COMET
The VIC’s hallmark is integration — the weaving together of basic science knowledge with clinical experience. One of the tools found on COMET are case studies, such as the one these members of the Class of 2009 are seen above discussing with Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Scott Waterman, M.D.

On this day, the students in this Neural Science course first gather in the large Case Study Room (left and below) on the ground floor of the Medical Education Center to listen to and participate in a panel discussion and question-and-answer session on schizophrenia. After hearing from actual patients, family members, and a social service provider who deal with the disease on a daily basis, the students break into small groups in classrooms in the center.

“The students have already reviewed the case study in the module on COMET,” explains Waterman. “They’ve worked their way through it on their own. It comes in three installments, with questions after each section. You could think of it as an online textbook chapter on schizophrenia. This small-group session allows them to compare and contrast what they’ve learned in the study with what they’ve just heard from the personal experiences of the panel. The learning module becomes a springboard to deeper discussion and understanding.”

For third-year student Robert Klein, seen here during a clinical rotation at the Vermont Children’s Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health Care, COMET is the main repository for the information and tools he needs every day, and it is accessible via any Internet-connected computer (and modules are downloadable to PDA devices) so that students in Burlington, at Maine Medical Center, or at any clinical setting in the world can readily access information.

“Here I’m looking at the Pediatric Clinical Clerkship homepage,” explains Klein. “Basically, every course and every rotation has its own area on COMET. When you need to find readings, PowerPoints, schedules, syllabi, evaluations, etc., you go to your personal homepage, select a course or rotation and, on that homepage, there are several green tabs which take you to the various elements of that course. In the hospital I use COMET to check my daily schedule of classes and events I need to attend. I enter patient information in our clerkship interaction trackers. I access medical publications, fill out evaluations of lectures and faculty, submit assignments, find out grades… I can even look at a PowerPoint from two years ago if I need to.

“I think COMET really adds to our medical education. I’d go so far as to say it’s necessary. I can’t even imagine another way of having all that information so accessible and organized.”
College of Medicine students regularly work with standardized patients (S.P.s), highly trained people who are expert at playing the role of patients presenting with various illnesses. Students interact with S.P.s in the exam rooms at the Student Assessment Center in the Given building. Here, second-year medical student Curtis Witcher practices an eye exam with S.P. Vivian Jordan. Behind him are related COMET learning modules. With computers in every assessment room, COMET can function as an adjunct to the S.P. presentation, by adding in pieces the S.P. cannot mimic — such as the sound of congested lungs, or an ailing heartbeat — that the student can access at the appropriate time in the assessment.

“COMET is a great tool, especially when used in the setting of working with S.P.s,” says Witcher. “We get a chance to learn about a body part or system online with some helpful visual aids and then apply what we’ve learned in an actual patient encounter. Since the S.P.s have been trained in advance, they can assist us through the physical exam skills which helps solidify our knowledge of the subject matter.”

“At every point we’ve stopped and said ‘what does the curriculum need, what does the student need, and how can we use technology to answer that need?’”

— Jill Jemison
In 1905, when the College of Medicine completed its third home at the corner of Prospect and Pearl streets in Burlington, the main lecture room where students spent so much of their time was named Hall A. The Hall A magazine section seeks to be a meeting place for all former students of the College of Medicine.

The VIC ideally needed a universal testing platform, and that is what students such as the group of Class of 2008 members taking a clerkship exam in the Mimi Reardon Classroom (below) have at their disposal. (Top right, a student doing some last minute studying before taking the actual exam, middle right. While in exam mode, the student's computers are unable to access any outside resource.)

“While the VIC was in development, Cindy Forehand and Karen Richardson-Nassif really pushed the idea that online exams would allow for continuous quality improvement,” explains Jill Jemison. “We’re able to standardize the test-taking format, standardize the experience of taking the exam, and then standardize the data we’re getting out of the exams.”

COMET’s development has augmented the person-to-person learning experience, not replaced it. “We haven’t tried to cram in technology where it isn’t needed,” says Jemison. “There’s no ‘virtual anatomy lab,” for instance. We can’t replace the value of real dissection. At every point we’ve stopped and said ‘what does the curriculum need, what does the student need, and how can we use technology to answer that need?’”
It is with great sadness that I must tell you that Patricia A. Fenn, M.D., class of 1945 and until very recently, the president-elect of your Medical Alumni Association, died on January 24th in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania of pancreatic cancer at the age of 70. She will be missed by all of us who have gotten to know and admire her as a person and as a dedicated coworker on behalf of the UVM College of Medicine and the Medical Alumni Association. Pat’s classmates undoubtedly will be most deeply moved upon learning of her passing, as have her relatives, her many friends and colleagues in Pennsylvania. Pat’s obituary can be found among those of several other alumni and friends — too many — in this section of the magazine.

Of course, most of you who are reading this column did not know Pat, but those of you who did will remember her as a singularly gentle and kind woman who approached her professional life in the same way that she conducted her personal relations. Not one to trumpet her significant accomplishments, Pat worked on the staff of Bryn Mawr Hospital, rising to become its Chief of Service of a rheumatology fellowship at Temple University. A superb clinician, she joined Bryn Mawr Hospital in Pennsylvania for her training in internal medicine and on to the medical faculty of Thomas Jefferson University as well.

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1958
Peter Ames Goodhue
Stamford Gynecology, P.C.
70 Mill River Street
Stamford, CT 06904
(203) 359-3340

1959
Jay E. Selcow
27 Reservoir Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002
(860) 349-1199
jselcow@comcast.net

1960
Marvin A. Nierenberg
6 West 77th Street
New York, NY 10023
(212) 364-6441
m.nierenberg@gatt.net

Melyn H. Wolk
Clinton Street
P.O. Box 772
Queensbury, NY 12804
(518) 793-7914
rsellig@aol.com

1961
Wilfred L. Fortin
17 Chapman Street
Nashua, NH 03060
(603) 862-6420
willy410@aol.com

John M. McGinnis writes:
“Forty-nine years after being a first year med student I am meeting the class of 1961 as a standardized patient in their doctoral skills class."

1962
Ruth Andrea Seeler
2432 North Orchard
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 472-3432
seeler@uic.edu

1963
John J. Murray
P.O. Box 607
Colchester, VT 05446
(802) 865-3350
jcmurray@aol.com
H. Alan Walker
239 Champlain Drive
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 564-8931
alwalk@aol.com

1964
Anthony P. Belmont
211 Youngs Point Drive
Mendon, VT 05701
(802) 773-8732
ap8292@pol.net

Lester H. Wurtzel, Jr. is still practicing radiology three days per week. He and his wife, Erna, have “two wonderful grandchildren and get back to Vermont at least once a year.”

1965
George A. Little
97 Quechee Road
Hartford, VT 05048
(802) 436-0052
grease.a@dartmouth.edu
Joseph H. Varga III
574 US Route 4 East
Rutland Town, VT 05701
(802) 798-6042
jvargasm@uvm.com

1966
Robert George Sellig
31 Overlook Drive
Queensbury, NY 12804
(518) 793-7941
rsellig@aol.com
G. Millard Simmons
245 Grass Marsh Drive
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466
millro@comcast.net

1967
John F. Dick II
P.O. Box 60
Saltville, VA 24370
(276) 351-6654
Ursel Danielson writes: “Life is good. First grandson started college at UCS and granddaughter is working on her driver’s license. I am looking forward to seeing our class this coming spring.” Mimi Reardon received a 2006 Outstanding Alumni Award from Northeastern University at a ceremony held Oct. 20. Mimi graduated from Northeastern in 1966 with a degree in biology. She was honored for her many accomplishments and community service, including the establishment of the first Area Health Education Centers program in Vermont, her role in promoting rural health education and health care careers in Vermont, as well as her work to identify funding for loan repayment aid for Vermont health care professionals practicing in underserved areas. First presented in 1978, Northeastern’s Outstanding Alumni Awards are given annually to those graduates whose professional attainment and service to the community bring honor upon themselves and Northeastern.”

1968
David Jay Keller
4 Deer Run
Mendon, VT 05701
(802) 779-2620
dereller@rrmc.org
Timothy John Terrien
14 Deerfield Road
Saratoga Springs, NY 12863
(802) 862-8395

1969
Susan Pettman Lowenthal
200 Kennedy Drive
Torrington, CT 06790
(860) 537-8996
suslow_m_pittmanlowenthal@vernon.pfizer.com

1970
Raymond Joseph Anton
1521 General Knox Road
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(413) 586-8859
rayr@rayanton.com
John F. Beams, Jr.
24 Warren Road
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 729-7658
john.beams@verizon.net

1971
Wayne E. Pasanen
127 Osgood Street
North Andover, MA 01845
(781) 729-7568
dkeller@rrmc.org

1972
F. Farrell Collins, Jr.
205 Page Road
Pinehurst, NC 28374
(910) 295-2429

Scott and Kim Ireland:
A COMMITMENT TO CANCER RESEARCH
This St. Patrick’s Day, the trucks of the S.D. Ireland Construction Corp. roll through the streets of Burlington on parade. The twenty-year tradition of the company now celebrates not only the Irish heritage of the company’s founders, but also the Ireland family’s commitment to cancer research at the Vermont Cancer Center. Scott and Kim Ireland know first-hand about those efforts. Scott is a survivor of melanoma, and he credits his survival in a large part to the care provided him by Professor of Surgical Oncology David M. Krag. S.D. Ireland Corp. fundraising efforts, including money collected during the St. Patty’s Parade, now support Dr. Krag’s extensive cancer research through the S.D. Ireland Cancer Research Foundation. The Irelands are also working with the College on an additional fundraising to support breast cancer research at the Vermont Cancer Center.

WOL KS SUPPORT PEDIATRIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
Melyn H. Wolk, M.D., ’60 and Marilyn K. Wolk have provided the College with a $650,000 charitable remainder trust to fund the Wolk Research & Education Fund in Pediatrics. Dr. Wolk is a retired pediatrician and pediatric allergist. The Wolk’s son, Larry, is a 1988 graduate of the College.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

LABOWS FUND NEW SURGERY LECTURESHIP
A Straw, VT, couple who have formed strong ties to the Department of Surgery at the College of Medicine has funded a new annual lecture at the College with their recent pledge of $250,000. Dr. Samuel B. and Michelle D. Labow pledged current and estate gifts in excess of $5 million in the past year. Their initial gift funded the Samuel B. and Michelle D. Labow Green & Gold Professor in Colon & Rectal Surgery. The new Shackford/Labow Lecture in Surgery is named in honor of Professor of Surgery Steven Shackford, M.D., who was chair of the Department of Surgery from 1990 to 2007. The inaugural Labow/Shackford lecture will take place June 28.

CRANE CHALLENGE HELPS PROP EL MED FUND
Donations to the UVM College of Medicine Fund for fiscal year 2007 are off to a great start. Director of Annual Giving Sarah Reiben reports that nearly $400,000 has already been raised for the annual fund. The kickoff of the newly-renamed and reorganized fund has been highly successful, due in large part to the challenge fund created by alumnus Edward Crane, M.D. Dr. Crane’s challenge gift matches new and increased gifts from his fellow graduates. The Med Fund has attracted more than 200 donors as of February 15, a more than 25% increase over prior years’ annual giving rates, and has seen significant numbers of new and recent-alumni donors.

KRACKOFF HONORED WITH GREEN AND GOLD
Under the leadership of Irwin H. Krackoff, M.D., the Vermont Cancer Center in 1978 became one of an elite group of institutions to earn designation as a National Cancer Institute-designated center. Now — with the generous support of the Lake Champlain Cancer Research Organization and numerous other friends, colleagues and family — the VCC is paying tribute to its founding director by announcing completion of funding for the Irwin H. Krackoff, M.D. Green & Gold Professor at the VCC. The honor is expected to be awarded to one of the next generation of physician-scientists who will carry on Krackoff’s legacy. Krackoff remains active in VCC affairs, advising the leadership on the future of the center.
VERMONT PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

For her outstanding service to the Vermont medical community, the Vermont Medical Society has presented Suzanne Parker, M.D. ’73 of Charlotte with its 2006 Physician of the Year Award. Dr. Parker, a psychiatrist with a private practice in Burlington, is in the leader in the field of addictionology. Dr. Parker was a founder of the Vermont Practitioner Health Program, and serves as its medical director until recently. She also helped to launch practitioner wellness programs at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont and at the College of Medicine. Before moving back to Vermont in 1987, Dr. Parker was the psychiatric director of the Department of Substance Abuse at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich. “Dr. Parker has been a prime force behind the establishment of an effective system to support the recovery of Vermont physicians and she has been tirelessly dedicated to the treatment of the suffering physician,” said Dr. Peter Dale, immediate past president of the Vermont Medical Society. “Dr. Parker has been an inspiration to all of those who were fortunate to work with her on helping lead physicians to recovery.”

The Physician of the Year Award is given to a Vermont physician who has demonstrated outstanding performance in the quality of care given to his or her patients, demonstrated skillful and compassionate patient care, and has demonstrated dedication to the welfare of his or her patients in accordance with accepted principles of good medical practice.

1973
James M. Betts 715 Harbor Road Alameda, CA 94502 (510) 530-1920 jbetts@mail.co Philip L. Cohen 487 Lakewood Drive Winter Park, FL 32789 (407) 688-2322 plcret@aol.com

1974
Douglas M. Eddy 5 Tanbark Road Windham, NH 03087 (603) 434-2564 dhkaeddy@att.net Caja Schumacher 78 Euclid Avenue Albany, NY 12203 cajaschuch@yahoo.com Constance Passas is enjoying life on the beautiful coast of N.H. She is in a full-time, very busy and challenging rHEMATOLOGY practice. She would welcome contact from any classmates. 603-410-8313.

1975
Ellen Andrews 195 Midland Road Pinehurst, NC 28374 (910) 295-6484 eiland@miduspring.com

1976
Don P. Chait Cardiologists of New Hampshire Suite 100 246 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301 (603) 224-6070 dpcn@aol.com

1977
Mark A. Popovsky 22 Nauset Road Sharon, MA 02067 (781) 794-8924 mpopovsky@haemonetics.com Allan Friedman writes: “I am still in Atlanta, Georgia, now approaching 30 years and enjoying the practice of hematology-oncology more than ever now that there are seven doctors in the group. This specialty is constantly challenging, evolving and rewarding, but I am still finding extra time to ride my bike, play tennis and otherwise enjoy the sunny South.”

1978
Richard Nicholas Hubbell 80 Summit Street Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-1551 rich.hubbell@vtmednet.org

1979
Sarah Ann McCarthy 1018 Big Bend Road Brewerton, NY 13314 (315) 639-3964 mccarty@marshall.edu

1980
Richard Charles Shumway 34 Coventry Lane Avon, CT 06001 (860) 673-6629 rshumway@sfmc.aran.com

1981
Michael J. Kaplan 29123 Lincoln Road Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (518) 892-4681 dkepascall@ymail.com

1982
Suzanne Parker, M.D. ’73


CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION 2007 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Connecticut Orthopaedic Society. Cate McKenney writes: "Our 25th reunion was great — seeing my classmates. After my father’s death in February and hearing how much he meant to his former students reminded me that true teachers live on long after their lifetimes end."

HALL A

H. James Wallace III 416 Martel Lane St. George, VT 05345 (802) 827-8533 jwallace@vtmednet.org

Lawrence W. Walk 5742 Southome Street Greenwood Village, CO 80111 (303) 771-1289 lawrence.walk@vtmednet.org

1988

Peter M. Nalin 31216 Griffin Run Carmel, IN 46033 (317) 684-6566 pmlin@mac.com

Dean C. Mastroes writes “Julie, Kasie, Izzie and I are enjoying the skiing. It’s another record snowfall in the Cascades. We are finishing up our Mt. Retreat at Lake Wenatchee and opening up a new office in Olympia Wash. Not many UVM Alumni in the area so we would love to hear from you!”

Peter Nalin received the A. Alan Fisher Award from the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians. It recognizes members who support the opinion of the Board of Directors of the IAFP have made outstanding contributions to education for family medicine, in undergraduate, graduate and continuing education spheres. Michael Rouse writes “Ginger and I are hanging out in the hills of Danville, VT, on our mini-farm. We put up over 2000 gallons of hay this summer — ready for winter. I am now the medical director of corrections in the state of Vermont — something a little different."

1990

Barbara Angelika Dill 120 Hazel Court Norwood, NJ 07648 (201) 987-7778 drdillbgyn@earthlink.net

K. A. Kelly McQuillen is still in Arizona, practicing part-time anesthesia and part-time public health."

1991

John Dewey 15 Eagle Street Cooperstown, NY 13326 jadewey@stnyr.net

Anne Marie Valente 4656 Dolwich Drive Durham, NC 27713 (908) 866-8180 valen010@mc.duke.edu

Patricia Ann King, M.D., Ph.D. 82a South Prospect Street Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-7950 patricia.king@vtmednet.org

1992

Mark Elliot Passan 1234 Spear Street South Burlington, VT 05403 (802) 865-3381 mark.passan@vtmednet.org

Katherine Ray is enjoying practicing child and adolescent psychiatry in Portland, Maine.

1993

Joanne Taplin Romey 22 Patterson Lane Durham, CT 06422 (860) 349-6941

1994

Holliday Kane Rayfield P.O. Box 819 Waterfield, VT 05737 (802) 987-9090 rayfieldbr@yahoo.com

1995

Alysson Moller Bolduc 254 Autumn Hill Road South Burlington, VT 05403 (802) 893-9092 allysson.bolduc@vtmednet.org

Anjulika Chawla is a professor at Brown University and is working at Hasbro Children’s Hospital as a pediatric oncologist."

1996

Anne Marie Valente 4656 Dolwich Drive Durham, NC 27713 (908) 866-8180 valen010@mc.duke.edu

Professor of Psychiatry Terry Rabinowitz, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine Zail Berry, Professor of Medicine Robert Orr, M.D., and Abigail Donaldson, M.D.`06.

Robert Macauley, M.D. wrote that he is currently finishing up his pediatric critical care fellowship at Mass General Hospital.

John Dallas writes “I am now the medical director of corrections in the state of Vermont — something a little different.”

1997

Julie Lindquist, M.D. 10 Proctor Street Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944 (303) 240-8693 jma@fidalgomedical.com

Alexander Hughes writes “Post fellowship I have spent the last four-and-one-half years at Vanderbilt University. I am currently an assistant professor in the pediatric cardiovascular division. At home, Brenda and I have our hands full with Andrew (1), Emily (8) and Matthew (6).”

1998

Halleh Akbarinia 4700 Bromley Lane Richmond, VA 23266 (804) 261-9900 halleh@aol.com

1999

Ericsson Jammalam 11 Autumn Lane Shelton, VT 05483 (802) 524-7758

Jason Cook is currently in his second year of his pediatric critical care fellowship at Mass General Hospital. Dan. J. Finley writes that he is currently a thoracic surgery fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in his first year. His wife, Jennifer, is in her second year of surgical research and will be returning to NYU to finish her general surgery residency. Their son Nolan Finch is now 14 months old.

2000

Ladar Farhoomand 11 Autumn Lane Shelton, VT 05483 (802) 524-7758

Dr. l. lee@lee81@yahoo.com

Jennifer, is in her second year of surgical research and will be returning to NYU to finish her general surgery residency. Their son Nolan Finch is now 14 months old. Dan Lindquist writes “We are settled in Rhode Island. Who knew it! Eva turns 2 in January, Axel is 6. Jen is backing up associate professor at Brown. I started as the assistant program director for the Department of Emergency Medicine this fall. Stop by, and we’ll paddle on the bay.” Peter James Swarr married Elizabeth Brice Calhoun in April 2006 in Chereaw, SC. Fellow Vermont alumn, Dr. Ram Anand Narasimhan ’99 served as a guest minister. The Swarr’s make their home in Nashville, Tenn. Peter is a partner of Cool Springs Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, assistant professor at Vanderbilt University, and Elizabeth is a senior consultant for the Vanderbilt Center for Better Health.

2001

Jay Edmond Allard USPHY Yekosuka PSC 475 Box 1577 FPO, AP 96350 jallard@polnet.net

Michael Jim Lee 416 Martel Lane Irvine, CA 92620 (949) 929-7555 skelamim@comcast.net

2002

Jonathan Vanh Mui 15 Meadow Lane Danville, PA 17512 (570) 275-4641 jmui@geisinger.com

Thuan T. Nguyen finished residency last year and moved from Philadelphia to Phoenix. He is newly single, but enjoying life. He works in a small community hospital that sees some interesting stuff and has run in a marathon and is training for another in January.

2003

Omar Khan 33 Clearwater Circle Shelburne, VT 05482 (802) 895-1151 omar.khan@vtmednet.org

Scott Goodrich 13 Mountain View Blvd. South Burlington, VT 05403 (802) 864-7787 scott.goodrich@uvm.edu

Rima B. Carlson graduated from a family practice residency and started serving her National Health Service Corps. obligation at a small hospital in Hancock, MI. She and her husband are expecting a child in April and are in the process of adopting a girl from Haiti.

2004

Jillian S. Geider jillian.geider@vtmednet.org

Emily A. Hannon emily.hannon@vtmednet.org

2005

Julie A. Alosi julie.alosi@vtmednet.org

Richard J. Parent richparent@gmail.com

2006

William C. Eward williarcejward@uvm.edu

Deborah Rabinowitz debbie.rabinowitz@uvm.edu

Dr. E. Fabulous Lefebvre fabulous@lefebvre@hotmail.com

Laura (Howard) Leduc had a daughter: Tessa, born June 13, 2006. Bryan Suchecki, writes: “I finished my internship at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. For the next two years, I will be the flight surgeon for a helicopter training squadron in Pensacola, and then will look to return to UVM as a resident.”

Vermont writer and former Burlington Free Press staff member Stephen Kiernan spoke at the College of Medicine on January 24 as part of a week of lunchtime presentations and discussions organized by the Palliative Care Student Interest Group. The author is known as the Last Rights: Rescuing the End of Life from the Medical System, a book recently published by St. Martin’s Press. Several people connected with the College were interviewed as part of Kiernan’s research for the book, including the late Bruce Fonda, Associate Professor of Psychiatry Terry Rabinowitz, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine Zail Berr, M.D., Professor of Family Medicine Allan Ramsay, M.D., Clinical Professor of Family Medicine Robert Orr, M.D., and Abigail Donaldson, M.D.’06.

After an introduction by Interim Dean John P. Fogarty, M.D., Kiernan spoke about the ways, over the past three decades, that medical advances have extended lives and changed the way we die. He spoke about the disconnect that can still exist between the ways patients desire to live the end of life; and how much of the medical system continues to treat the dying. Palliative Care Week also featured presentations by Dr. Berry, by Brooks Cowan, Ph.D., Robert Macauley, M.D., and others.

Kiernan speaks on ‘Last Rights’ during Palliative Care week
JOHN T. WRIGHT, M.D. ’42
Dr. Wright, of Tampa, Fla., died January 4, 2007. He was 93. Dr. Wright completed his undergraduate studies at Norwich University and before receiving his medical degree from UVM in 1941. He served with the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1941-1944 and returned as a lieutenant colonel. Dr. Wright ran his medical practice in Tampa for more than 50 years, during which time he was instrumental in the creation of the University Community Hospital, where he served as the first chief of staff.

EDNA DOLE BACKUP, M.D.’46
Dr. Backup died at Wake Robin in Shelburne, Vt., on July 31. She was born Aug. 3, 1914, on a hilltop farm in Proctorville, Vt., the second of four daughters of Fletcher Enos Dole and Laura Regina Harrington. Dr. Backup graduated from Simmons College in 1939, with a B.S. in chemistry, and in 1942, she graduated from the University of Cincinnati School of Nursing. After working as a medical technician until 1943, when the physicians she worked for in St. Johnsbury helped her go to medical school, she graduated from the College of Medicine, cum laude. Dr. Backup and her husband, UVM classmate Phil Backup, moved to Arizona after her medical degree before entering the College of Medicine at UVM in 1955, where she earned her B.A. in 1959.

FREDERICK PRATT, M.D.’53
Dr. Frederick Pratt died August 12, 2006, in Santa Cruz, Calif. Born in North Clarendon, Vt., on August 18, 1926, he was the son of Roy and Mary Pratt. A World War II veteran, he attended the University of Vermont before entering the College of Medicine. During medical school he met and married Anna Temple Condos (Dr. Anna Pratt, pathologist, deceased 1972). In 1954 he moved to Foiloom, Calif., and began his career as a general practitioner. After four years of practice Dr. Pratt returned to the east coast to complete a residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Uptown New York Medical Center, Saratoga. He returned to Sacramento, Calif., in 1962 and began a private practice in plastic surgery. Dr. Pratt was also an assistant clinical professor, Department of Plastic Surgery, University of California Davis School of Medicine and founded the Sutter Cleft Palate and Orofacial Anomaly Panel, Sacramento. He married his second wife Patricia, a surgical nurse, in May of 1976. After 25 years Dr. Pratt “retired” from private practice to begin a second career of volunteerism. This career took Dr. Pratt to the far reaches of the globe to help those most in need of medical care. He was also committed to local health activities.

JOSEPH H. JURKOIC, M.D.’60
Dr. Jurkoic died on June 23, 2006, at his home in East Berlin, Conn. after a long illness. He was 71. He was born in Bellows Falls, Vt., where he completed his high school education. Following high school he joined the United States Navy and served in the medical corps from 1948-1952. Upon leaving the service he completed college and medical school at UVM. After serving his internship at the Bishop DeGeistsbroed Hospital in Burlington, he completed a two year residency at the University of Vermont. In 1961 he entered a private practice of Pediatrics in New Britain, Conn., and in 1970 became Chief of Pediatrics at New Britain General Hospital with a faculty appointment at the University of Connecticut College of Medicine. He completed his professional career at the Travelers Insurance Company in 1990 as vice president and chief medical director.

CHARLES M. D’ANGELO, M.D. ’68
Dr. D’Angelo, formerly of Chicago, died on October 30 at his home in Dodgeville, Wisconsin of malignant insulinomas, an extremely rare form of cancer. He was a board-certified neurosurgeon and practiced for 25 years at Rush Medical College in Chicago, specializing in microscopic surgery for aneurysms and pituitary tumors. For several years Chicago magazine listed him among Chicago’s best neurosurgeons. He greatly enjoyed mentoring nurses, medical students, and residents. In 1964 he married his high school sweetheart, Bella Curtis. His greatest pride and joy came from being a father to their daughter, Cara Caterina D’Angelo, who died of cystic fibrosis in 1978 at the age of eight.

JAMES E. EMMONS M.D.’68
Dr. Emmons died May 29, 2006, in Cottonwood, Arizona after a brief battle with cancer. He was born July 9, 1935. In 1958, Dr. Emmons graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During his four years of service with the Army, Dr. Emmons served in Europe and the Middle East. After leaving the service he completed a residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Bryn Mawr Hospital, before moving to Sacramento, Calif., in July 1969 and continued on staff there for the rest of his life. He also served as senior attending rheumatologist from July 1983 to 2007. She was chief of service of rheumatology at Bryn Mawr Hospital from July 1983 until July 1992, was the medical director of the Bryn Mawr Hospital Arthritis and Orthopedic Center from August 1986 to September 1995, and was a rheumatology consultant at Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital from July 1986 until 2006. Dr. Emmons received the Main Line Health System “Heilman Award for Outstanding Physician Leadership” in November 1994. Dr. Emmons was a member of the UVM College of Medicine Planned Giving Committee from 1995 to 2002, a member of the UVM Alumni Council from 1992 to 2001, and chairwoman of the UVM Alumni Club from 1993 to 2001. She was a member of the College of Medicine Alumni Executive Committee from 1996 to 2002, and treasurer of the committee from 2002 to 2006. In 2005, the Alumni Alumni Association named her the A. Bradley Soule Award, the highest alumni honor bestowed by the College of Medicine.

FACULTY

WILLIAM VAN B. ROBERTSON, M.D.
William Van Bogaert Robertson passed away in northern California on May 7, 2006 at the age of 91. “Van” or “Robbie” as everyone called him was professor of biochemistry and experimental medicine at the College of Medicine from 1945 to 1961. Students remembered his formidable lectures on the Krebs cycle inside the classroom. Outside, however, his good humor, delight in discussion over a beer, his widespread knowledge, his integrity, and his strength and abandon on the ski-trail seemed more important and durable. His informal influence on many of his students was profound. His counsel and insight helped form many medical and scientific career decisions. His defense with his colleague Arnold Schein of Alex B. Norkoff, professor of pathology at UVM during the McCarthy Era aligned him with the Rockefeller Institute, the Catholic Diocese of Vermont, Rabbi Max Wall of Burlington, and many other religious leaders and statesmen who affirmed his defense of academic freedom versus political expediency. Only many years later was Norkoff reinstated to UVM and given an honorary degree. Some of Robertson’s ideas on curriculum innovation have since been adapted by the College. He left UVM for a second distinguished career at Stanford Medical School, where he continued to teach and do research in mucopolysaccharide metabolism. — by Arthur Kauan, M.D.’54

WILLIAM A. TISDALE, M.D.
William Allan Tisdale, M.D., died on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2006, in the Vermont Respite House in Williston. He was born in Quincy, Fla. on Feb. 14, 1928. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1947 and the Harvard Medical School in 1951, and served as a medical officer in the U.S. Army during World War II. After completing his internship and residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he met and married Anna Temple Condos (Dr. Anna Pratt, pathologist, deceased 1972), he completed a residency in hepatology at Yale University School of Medicine. At Yale, he was also an Instructor in Medicine and in 1959 was the recipient of the Francis Gilman Blake Award given by the senior class to the most interesting and outstanding teacher in the medical sciences. He then returned to Boston as Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Research Fellow at the Medical Foundation. In 1963 he became Associate Professor of Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School and Director of Medical Education. He came to Burlington in 1965 as Professor of Medicine and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at UVM. A graduate of the University of Chicago, he received his medical degree in 1954. He founded the Geriatrics Unit at the College of Medicine in 1975 and served as its Director until his retirement in 1994. He received the Teacher of the Year award in 1986, and also served as Medical Director at the Burlington Health and Rehabilitation Center. After retiring from the College of Medicine, he worked as a medical reviewer and mentor at the PKC Corporation, a Burlington company that develops software for linking patient information with medical literature. A Memorial Service for Dr. Tisdale will be held on campus on April 26.

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Kelly Mebust, class of 2010, works on her needle skills during a suturing workshop for first- and second- year medical students.

photograph by Raj Chawla

For the Bove family of Rutland, Vt., connections to the College of Medicine run long and deep. Ernest Bove, M.D., (at right) is a member of the Class of 1981 and a urologist in Rutland. His father, Edward, was a 1946 graduate of the College. Today, a third generation of the Bove family, Erica, (at left) is learning the art and science of medicine at the school as a member of the Class of 2009.

The Bove family has long recognized the important place the College holds in their family history with sustained support of the College’s fundraising efforts. Their most recent generous commitment has been recognized with the naming of a room in the Student Assessment Center. Exam Room 12 will now be known as the Bove Family Room.

Naming opportunities can create a visible legacy of your connection to the College of Medicine. They exist at many varying levels, from laptop computers and student lockers to conference rooms and larger teaching facilities. For more information, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE
(802)656-4014  medical.giving@uvm.edu  www.med.uvm.edu/giving
Albert D. Blenderman, M.D.’43 spent decades repairing and reshaping the human body as an orthopaedic surgeon. In retirement, his trained hands have continued to craft the subtle forms of bone and flesh — in the meticulous carvings of birds he brings to life from blocks of wood.

Dr. Blenderman and his wife, Virginia, have also helped to shape the future of medical care, with their generous establishment of the Albert D. Blenderman, M.D.’43 Endowed Scholarship Fund. For more than six years, medical and nursing students have benefited from the support the Blenderman Scholarship Fund has provided. One current medical student recently expressed to Dr. Blenderman the significance of scholarship support in her life:

“This is a note of tremendous gratitude for such an outstanding financial gift! As I begin this lifelong endeavor of learning and practice in medicine, I am inspired by the fulfilling environment UVM has created for medical students, and how supportive its alumni are. You are an example for me, and I thank you for that.”

Your gift to the College of Medicine can, as the Blendermans’ has, shape medical careers in a positive way for decades to come. Donors have two new options for creating a named scholarship at the UVM College of Medicine — a currently funded scholarship or an endowed scholarship. Each of these opportunities can leverage matching dollars generously provided by the Medical Alumni Association.

For more information on scholarship support, contact:

University of Vermont College of Medicine
Medical Development and Alumni Relations Office
(802) 656-4014   medical.giving@uvm.edu
WWW.MED.UVM.EDU/GIVING