

## Judith Van Houten, Ph.D.

**Dr. Judith Van Houten**, George H. Perkins Professor of Biology and University Distinguished Professor at the University of Vermont (UVM) is the Vermont State Director of Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VT EPSCoR). In September 2008, she was inducted into the **Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering (VASE)** as a Full Member. The Academy was chartered by the State of Vermont to honor scientists and engineers for their achievements, promote the interests of science and engineering within the State, educate Vermont citizens about the importance of science and engineering, and to help the State of Vermont with regard to problems in science and engineering.

Appointed as the Vermont State EPSCoR **Director** in 2005, Dr. Van Houten also serves as the NSF EPSCoR Principal Investigator. The VT EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-1 award, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), builds science and engineering infrastructure in Vermont and promotes collaborative research at UVM and beyond. VT EPSCoR also supports the development of basic research programs for early career faculty at UVM, and for faculty at Vermont's baccalaureate institutions. The Tibbetts Award winning program for research and development in the private sector (SBIR Phase (0)), which prepares businesses for submission of SBIR grant applications to federal agencies, was invented by Dr. Van Houten and her husband. Graduate, undergraduate and high school students also benefit from VT EPSCoR sponsored programs.

Dr. Van Houten also serves as the **Director of the Vermont Genetics Network (VGN)**, a \$16.5M program awarded in 2005 and renewed in 2010 by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This remains as the largest single investigator grant ever received at UVM. VGN is funded by a five year award from the National Center for Research Resources, and is part of the NIH initiative called IDEa Networks of Biomedical Research (INBRE). VGN is a collaboration among the University of Vermont, and five baccalaureate colleges throughout the state of Vermont to build critical mass and infrastructure in the broad area of genetics.

Dr. Van Houten has a long record of administration and mentoring, including service as Director of the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program for 6 years, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for 5 years, Chair of Biology from 1995-2005. Perhaps most importantly, she has served as Associate PD of VT EPSCoR from 1996 –2005, and as Associate Director for research 1991- 1996. Dr. Van Houten has a record of extramural funding from NIH and NSF. She has received a 7-year Pepper award from NIDCD and the Manheimer Award for career achievements in Chemosensory Sciences. The University of Vermont has recognized her as a University Scholar and the George H. Perkins Professor. She is well regarded in her field, has been elected to offices, including President, in the Association for Chemoreception Sciences, and serves on editorial boards. She is familiar with federal funding mechanisms at NSF and NIH, has served for 6 years on the CMS study section (2 years as chair) and 4 years as a member of the CMBK study section.

In 2006, Dr. Van Houten received the **Jackie M. Gribbons Leadership award** from the Vermont Women in Higher Education. This award is presented to a woman who has demonstrated leadership ability, served as a model and mentor, developed innovative programs, and contributed significantly to the institution and profession. In 2010, she was elected as a AAAS Fellow and a member of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Van Houten received a BS from Pacific Lutheran University and her PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Her research investigates the molecular mechanisms of how cells detect chemicals and how cilia work, and she uses organisms as small as *Paramecium* and as complex as mice. Her work provides insights into the sense of smell. A full description of Dr. Van Houten's research areas may be found at <http://www.uvm.edu/~epscor/vanhouten>