



# Vermont Genetics Network

IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence

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## VGN OVERVIEW

**The Vermont Genetics Network (VGN)** is funded by a five-year, \$16.5 million award from the National Center for Research Resources, and is part of a National Institutes of Health initiative called IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). Led by the University of Vermont (UVM) and principal investigator Judith Van Houten, George H. Perkins Professor of Biology, the VGN grant is the largest, single competitive grant ever received in UVM history.

The VGN, which links scientists at Castleton State College, Johnson State College, Middlebury College, Norwich University and St. Michael's College to resources at UVM, is designed to provide the equipment and technology necessary to enhance competitiveness for national funding for genetics research. Other aims of the project include helping to better prepare and increase the number and diversity of undergraduates who pursue biomedical careers in Vermont through undergraduate research support.

There is also an **Outreach Core** of the VGN, which provides a team of faculty and staff (and the necessary equipment) to visit partner colleges to share microarray experiments. Originally funded by the \$6 million VGN grant received in 2001, the UVM Microarray Facility allows researchers to look at as many as 15,000 genes simultaneously and zero in on specific genes, such as those involved in a disease process.

Another key piece available through the VGN is the **Bioinformatics Core** – a constantly-evolving information network used to gather, store, analyze and integrate biological and genetic information gained from the microarray process and other kinds of experiments and turn it into significant conclusions about how cells function.

The VGN **Networking and Professional Development** program allows faculty and undergraduate students from UVM and the VGN partner colleges the opportunity to enhance networking opportunities through the annual VGN Career Day and Retreat. To enhance Professional Development, an Expert's List has been developed that will broadly serve the needs for faculty and students to locate expertise and technologies they require throughout the state of Vermont.

The Vermont Genetics Network office is located at the University of Vermont in the Marsh Life Science Building. For more information, call (802) 656-4087 or email [Vermont.GeneticsNetwork@uvm.edu](mailto:Vermont.GeneticsNetwork@uvm.edu).

A partnership with



Castleton State College Johnson State College Middlebury College Norwich University Saint Michael's College

