



May 2023

Observances

- **Mental Health Awareness Month**
- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**
- **Ehler's Danlos Syndrome Awareness Month**
- 5/1 | **Beltane** ([learn more](#))
- 5/2- 5/8 | **Deaf Awareness Week**
- 5/19 | **Accessibility Awareness Day**
- 5/29 | **Ascension of the Bahá'u'lláh** ([learn more](#))
- 5/29 | **Memorial Day**

Events

- 5/24 | **Gender Equity Education Series: Anti-Oppression Facilitation Skills: Removing Barriers to Participation and Disagreement-** Stephen Berns, M.D. and Lindsay Dow, M.D. ([see calendar](#)) [Zoom link](#)
- 5/31 | **Public Health Poster Session**, Hoehl Gallery 4-6 p.m.

Missed an event? [Visit our video library](#)

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) News



DEI Town Hall and 5-Year Report

Please join the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for a virtual Town Hall and 5-year report on outcomes from the 2018-2023 DEI Strategic Plan.

Learn more about progress in addressing DEI recommendations from the following:

- Office of Medical Education
- Office of Medical Student Admissions
- Office for Faculty
- Dean's Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DACDEI)

Feel free to submit questions or comments for discussion in advance to: DEI.townhall@med.uvm.edu.

Announcements



Colin joins Office for Faculty

Yessica Colin has joined the Office for Faculty as a Data Analyst. The Data Analyst position will leverage demographic data to track, model, and project faculty profiles, pathways, and progressions. She will also collaborate with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to track the success of our diversity initiatives, educational strategies, curriculum, and pipeline/pathway programs.

Prior to joining UVM, Colin served as a research assistant at Sam Houston State University examining risk and resilience in vulnerable populations of youth and families while obtaining her undergraduate degree in psychology. She then went on to work at a behavioral health agency addressing the rise of mental health problems that occurred during the earlier stages of the Covid 19 pandemic and

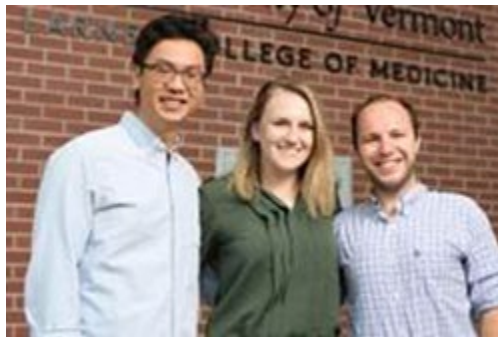
later served as a coordination data analyst improving quality outcomes for high-risk individuals.

Learning Environment and Professionalism (LEAP) Annual Report

Ever wonder what happens after you submit a confidential learning environment report? Look no further! The LEAP Committee Annual Report summarizing learning environment concerns and actions taken to address them is now available.

[Read the Report →](#)

Medical Student Social Medicine Research Published



Medical students **Erik Zhang, '24**, **Tyler Harkness, '24** and **Krisandra Kneer, '23** with Assistant Dean for Pre-Clinical Medical Education **Karen Lounsbury, PhD**, and **Tim Lahey, MD, MMSC**, Director of Medical Ethics and Faculty Advisor to the Social Justice Coalition (SJC) recently published an article, *Integrating Social Determinants of*

Health Principles into the Preclinical Medical Curriculum via Student-Led Pedagogical Modalities in BMC Medical Education. The article describes the Social Medicine Theme of the Week (SMTW) curriculum, an initiative of the SJC, which fits with the College's goals of quality improvements that train physicians to recognize the complexities underlying the social determinants of health and provides a peer-teaching element that allows interested students to share their research on the topics.

The next goal is to have the students create SMTW infographics for FoCS and for faculty development to integrate some of the SMTW objectives into case content.

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Medical Student to attend AAMC Learner Summit



Krystal Ramos Barerra '26 has been selected to attend the [AAMC Learner Summit](#) taking place in Washington, DC from June 16-18.

The summit, which is sponsored by the AAMC Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) and the Organization of Resident Representatives (ORR) aims to unite medical students, residents, fellows, PhD, MD-PhD, and postdoctoral researchers on topics related to critical issues impacting academic medicine and research, with a keen focus on learner professional and leadership development. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in discussions around mentorship, financial wellness, work-life balance, and transitioning to residency, while networking with medical students and resident from around the country.

Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



APAMSA, Hematology/Oncology Student Interest Group, and *Be The Match* Join Forces for Donor Drive Event

By Alex Tran, MS1

For patients fighting blood diseases like leukemia, a marrow or stem-cell transplant may be their only cure. 70% of patients do not have a fully matched donor in their family and need to refer to a bone marrow registry to find a bone marrow donor.

The odds of finding a donor match varies based on ethnic background. For example, AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) patients have 41% of finding a match and white patients have a 77% chance of finding a match. Patients are

more likely to find a match with a donor of their ancestry, but currently there are not enough ethnically diverse registry members.

APAMSA is collaborating with [Be the Match \(BtM\)](#) to host a bone marrow drive on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 12:00 PM. BtM is a national non-profit organization that operates one of the largest bone marrow registries. With this event, we hope to raise awareness on bone marrow donation and help increase the odds of someone finding a bone marrow match. For more information please contact [Alex Tran](#).

Movie Recommendations from APAMSA (Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association)

This May, we recognize Asian American & Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month - celebrating & acknowledging the vast achievements of our AANHPI students, faculty, & staff. The Larner chapter of APAMSA recommends the following films for those interested in engaging in AANHPI (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander) themes:

- Who Killed Vincent Chin? ([watch the trailer](#))
- Minari ([watch the trailer](#))
- Everything Everywhere All at Once ([watch the trailer](#))

What's on our Walls?



May Update

By Adama Aja, MS1 and Nathalie Feldman, MD, Director of the Learning Environment

As part of an ongoing effort to transform LCOM's physical space that promotes a sense of belonging for all students, staff, faculty, and visitors, some exciting plans are in the works. Here's a few updates:

- The first phase of this project will transform “Main Street” (hall in front of OME office) into a space reflective of today’s Larner College of Medicine. Stories and photos will celebrate the many ways in which our Larner faculty, staff and students participate in clinical care, research, education, and community engagement.
- Alumni and class photos will be featured on “Prospect Street” or “Alumni Hall” (hallway perpendicular to the Dean’s office).
- The Arts Walls and Environment (AWE) Committee (composed of representatives from Facilities, Communications, OME, ODEI, Alumni, student, faculty, and staff) has been formed and held its first meeting. This committee has been tasked with regularly reviewing proposals for wall displays.
- Materials and contractors are currently being finalized.

Stay tuned for continued updates and our anticipated official construction start dates!

UVM Medical Center Relaxes Mask Policy

Vermont Hospitals in the UVM Health Network as of April 12 made masks optional for patients and staff in public areas. Hospital employees will still be required to wear masks in patient rooms, exam rooms and while providing direct patient care and patients with health concerns may request additional accommodations. These guidelines were updated in consultation with experts from a variety of specialties.

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Join the Gender Equity Listserv!

Want to keep up to date on Gender Equity events and initiatives? Join the [Gender Equity Listserv](#).

Ehler's Danlos Society Resources for Health Professionals

Ehlers Danlos Syndromes are a group of 13 heritable connective tissue disorders. Each type of EDS has its own set of features with distinct diagnostic criteria. Some features are seen across all types of EDS including joint hypermobility, skin hyperextensibility and tissue fragility.

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Articles of Interest

In counties with more Black doctors, Black people live longer, 'astonishing' study finds

Usha Lee McFarland

Black people in counties with more Black primary care physicians live longer, according to a new national analysis that provides the strongest evidence yet that increasing the diversity of the medical workforce may be key to ending deeply entrenched racial health disparities.

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[Source Article →](#)

Caring for Health Care Providers as they Care for Patients

Adrienne McGibbon

Health care workers were under strain prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, managing long hours, staffing shortages and mountains of paperwork. The sudden onset of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020 shined a bright light on those pressures. The health care industry experienced dramatic disruptions during the pandemic, losing more than a million workers between February and April 2020.

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Long COVID Is Being Erased – Again

Ed Yong

What was once outright denial has morphed into a subtler dismissal.

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From the AAMC

The tragedy of Black youth suicide

Black children ages 5 to 12 are twice as likely to die by suicide as their White peers, and Black teen suicides are growing at shocking rates. AAMCNews explored what's going on and what can be done to help save young Black lives in a perspective piece by Arielle Sheftall, PhD, associate professor at the University of Rochester Medical Center in the Department of Psychiatry and director of academic affairs for the department's Diversity, Inclusion, Culture, and Equity Board.

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Maternal Health Equity Workshop: From Story to Data to Action

The AAMC Center for Health Justice will host a virtual event, Maternal Health Equity Workshop: From Story to Data to Action, on May 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET. The workshop will bring together clinical care, research, public and population health, and technology professionals to explore natural language processing for improving qualitative maternal health equity data. The event is free, but registration is required.

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The Doctor — and the Accountant — Will See You Now

Recognizing that poverty can drive poor health and even shorten life expectancy, hospitals are offering a range of financial services, from tax preparation to budgeting.

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