



Bob Gramling, M.D., D.Sc.

Department of Family Medicine
University of Vermont
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Lab Website: www.vermontconversationlab.com

EDUCATION

D.Sc. | Department of Epidemiology | Boston University School of Public Health | Boston, MA | 2008
M.D. | Dartmouth Medical School | Hanover, NH | 1997
B.A. | Colby College | Waterville, ME | 1992

POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING AND RESIDENCY

Research Fellowship | Boston University Department of Family Medicine | 2000 - 2002
Residency in Family Medicine | Maine-Dartmouth Family Practice Residency | 1997 - 2000
Psychedelic Assisted Therapy & Research | California Institute for Integral Studies | 2022 - 2023

CERTIFICATIONS

Hospice and Palliative Medicine | American Board of Family Medicine | 2011 - 2031
Family Medicine | American Board of Family Medicine | 2001 - 2028
Psychedelic Assisted Therapy & Research | California Institute for Integral Studies | 2023

LICENSURE

State of Vermont | 2016 - 2027
State of New York | 2008 - 2021
State of Rhode Island | 2002 - 2008
State of Massachusetts | 2000 - 2002
State of Maine | 2000 - 2001

APPOINTMENTS

ACADEMIC

Innaugural Vice Chair for Research | Family Medicine | University of Vermont | 2024 - present
Professor (with Tenure) | Family Medicine | University of Vermont | 2019 - present
Head | Vermont Conversation Lab | University of Vermont | 2016 - present
Innaugural Holly & Bob Miller Chair in Palliative Medicine | University of Vermont | 2016 - 2024
Research Director | Family Medicine | University of Vermont | 2016 - 2024
Associate Professor (with Tenure) | Family Medicine | University of Vermont | 2018 - 2019
Associate Professor | Family Medicine | University of Vermont | 2016 - 2017
Visiting Fellow | University of Cambridge (UK) | January 2015 - June 2015
Fulbright Scholar | University of Kyoto (Japan) | April 2015 - May 2015
Associate Professor | Family Medicine, Public Health and Nursing | University of Rochester | 2010 - 2016

Research Co-Director | Division of Palliative Care | University of Rochester | 2008 - 2016
Assistant Professor | Family Medicine and Public Health | University of Rochester | 2008 - 2010
Assistant Professor | Community Health | Brown University | 2006 - 2008
Assistant Professor | Family Medicine | Brown University | 2002 - 2008
Associate Research Director | Family Medicine | Brown University | 2004 - 2008
Instructor | Family Medicine | Boston University | 2000 - 2002
Head Resident | Maine Dartmouth Family Practice Residency | 1999

HOSPITAL / HEALTH NETWORK

Apprentice Therapist | Bill Richards Center for Healing | Sunstone Therapies | 2023 - 2024
Head | Division of Palliative Medicine | University of Vermont | 2016 - 2024
Staff Attending Physician | University of Vermont Medical Center | Burlington, VT | 2016 - present
Staff Attending Physician | University of Rochester Medical Center | Rochester, NY | 2008 - 2016
Staff Attending Physician | Memorial Hospital of RI | Pawtucket, RI | 2002 - 2008
Staff Attending Physician | Boston Medical Center | Boston, MA | 2000 - 2002
Resident Physician | Maine General Medical Center | Waterville, ME | 1997 - 2000

AWARDS AND HONORS

Research Fellow | University of Vermont Office of the Vice President for Research | 2022 - 2023
Fellow | American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine | 2023
Award for Excellence in Research Nominee | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine | 2021
Gold Humanism Award Nominee | Arnold P. Gold Foundation | 2021
Research Laureate Faculty Award Nominee | University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine | 2020, 2021
"Better Together" Team Excellence Award (Palliative Care) | University of Vermont Medical Center | 2018
Tenure | University of Vermont | 2018
Holly & Bob Miller Inaugural Endowed Chair in Palliative Medicine | University of Vermont | 2016
Distinguished Service Award (Palliative Care Team) | Rochester Academy of Medicine | 2016
Fulbright Specialist | U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs | 2014
Patient & Family Centered Care Top Performer Award | University of Rochester | 2014
Patient & Family Centered Care Award | University of Rochester | 2011 - 2014
American Cancer Society Research Scholar Award | 2013
American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine Leadership Program | 2008 - 2012
Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Scholar Finalist | 2004
Resident Teacher Award | Society of Teachers of Family Medicine | 2000
Resident Research Award | Society of Teachers of Family Medicine | 1998
Top Ten NCAA Div. III | Men's Varsity Soccer | Colby College | 1988 - 1992

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

UNIVERSITY

Professional Standards Committee | University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine | 2019 - 2022
Search Committees | University of Vermont
 Emergency Medicine Department Chair | 2026 (Co-Chair)
 Family Medicine Department Chair | 2022 - 2023
 Family Medicine Research Faculty | 2018, 2020, 2025 (Chair)
 Palliative Medicine Faculty | 2016 - 2022 (Chair)
 Hospice Medical Director | 2020, 2021 (Chair)
 Health Services Research Center Director | 2017
 Nephrology Research Faculty | 2016
Executive Council | Department of Family Medicine | University of Vermont | 2016 - present
Internal Scientific Review & Advisory Committees
 Fulbright Student Fellowship Awards (UVM) | 2022 - present
 REACH Awards (UVM College of Engineering) | 2017 - present
 Clinical Research Awards (UVM College of Medicine) | 2018 - present

UVM Clinical Translational Sciences Award Internal Advisory Committee | 2017 - present
Career Development Awards (KL2)| University of Rochester | 2012 - 2016
Curriculum Instruction Committee | University of Rochester School of Medicine | 2009 - 2016
Vice-Chair | 2010 - 2011
Chair | 2011 - 2012
Curriculum Steering Committee | University of Rochester School of Medicine | 2010 - 2011
Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research | Memorial Hospital of RI | 2004 - 2008
Chair | 2007 - 2008
Curriculum Content and Organization Working Group | Brown Medical School | 2006 - 2007
Resident Review Committee | Brown University Family Practice Residency Program | 2005 - 2007

REGIONAL & NATIONAL

Vermont State Legislature
Appointee, Psychedelic Therapy Advisory Working Group (Bill S.114, Act 126) | 2024
National Institutes of Health | National Institute on Aging
Scientific Advisor, *Communication at End of Life* panel | 2022
National Board of Medical Examiners
Scientific Advisor, USMLE *Communication Competencies* workgroup | 2022
Member, USMLE Communications Test Committee | 2026 - 2028
Ariadne Labs | Harvard University School of Public Health
Scientific Advisor, Serious Illness Care Program | 2018 - 2022
OneCare Vermont (Statewide Accountable Care Organization)
Population Health Committee | 2016 - 2023
Vermont Ethics Network
Palliative Care Committee (state legislative mandate) | 2017 - 2024
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
Scientific Advisor, MACRA Quality Measures Development Committee | 2019 - 2022
Chair, Research & Quality Strategic Steering Committee | 2016 - 2018
Chair, Research Committee | 2013 - 2016
Member, Research Committee | 2012 - 2016
Workforce Committee | 2014 - 2017
Journal of Pain & Symptom Management | “Measuring What Matters” Series Editor | 2015 - 2016

GRANT SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

Standing Study Sections
American Cancer Society | DEI Supplement Grants Study Section | 2023 - current
American Cancer Society | Institutional Research Grants Study Section | 2021 - 2023
American Cancer Society | Pain & Symptom Management Study Section | 2015 - 2021
Vice-Chair | 2019
Chair | 2020 - 2021
National Palliative Care Research Center Study Section | 2013 - 2015
Ad Hoc Study Sections
National Institutes of Health; Marie Curie Research UK; Medical Research Council (England); Raine
Medical Research Foundation (Australia); University of Rochester Center for Translational Research KL2
Awards; University of Vermont REACH Awards; University of Vermont Clinical Research Awards

TEACHING

UNDERGRADUATE

Conversation Epidemiology | This one semester course focuses on the empirical study of clinical conversations, communication with professional and lay audiences about complex ideas, and expression of scientific work in both spoken and written form. We introduce students to Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning methods for scaling the study of conversations to large samples. | 25 students; 3 credit hours | University of Vermont Honors College | Co-Founder (with Professor Donna Rizzo, Ph.D.) | 2020 - 2022

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Palliative Medicine | This one-week course is required for 3rd year medical students. Responsibilities include lecturing and small-group facilitation; office-hours and student advising; and administration, evaluation and ongoing curriculum improvement. | 120 students; 40 contact hours | University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine | Founder & Director (2016 - 2017) | Lecturer & Communication Coach (2016 - 2022)

End of Life Doula Certificate Program | This is an eight-week online certificate course for healthcare professionals to learn how to be a doula for people who are dying and their families. | 120 students per year | University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine | Lecturer (live 2016 - 2018, asynchronous 2019 - present)

Mastering Medical Information | This applied epidemiology & biostatistics course is required for 1st year medical students. Responsibilities include lecturing and small-group facilitation; office-hours and student advising; and administration, evaluation and ongoing curriculum improvement. | 104 students; 4 weeks; 120 contact hours | University of Rochester | (Co-Director) 2008 - 2012 (Director) 2013 - 2016

Palliative Care Studies | This elective Inter-Professional research seminar is offered for nursing, medical and public health students. | 10 students; 96 contact hours | University of Rochester | (Founder & Co-Director) 2013 - 2016

Epidemiology in the Practice of Medicine | This applied epidemiology & biostatistics course is required for 1st year medical students. Responsibilities included lecturing and small group facilitation. (95 students; 8 hours per week, 3 weeks per year) | Brown Medical School | (Lecturer) 2006 - 2008

Small Group Facilitator | “Evidence Based Medicine” PBL (2010) | “On Doctoring” Seminars (2006 - 2007) | Public Health Clerkship PBL (2005 - 2006) | Family Medicine Clerkship PBL (2000 - 2007) | “Integrated Problems” PBL (2001 - 2002) | *VitalTalk* “Mastering Tough Conversations” workshop (2017-present)

POSTGRADUATE / RESIDENCY

Palliative Care Fellowship | This is an ACGME-accredited clinical fellowship program that is required for any physician who wishes to obtain ACGME-certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Director duties include curriculum design; clinical teaching; mentoring; recruitment and administrative oversight. | 3 fellows (U of Rochester) 2 Fellows (U of Vermont); 12 months.

University of Rochester | (Program Director) 2012 - 2013

University of Vermont | (Journal Club / EBM) 2022 - present

Evidence and Expertise | This curriculum uses concepts of Bayesian learning to promote awareness of existing beliefs, periodic appraisal of recent evidence and assessment of impact on new beliefs/clinical practice. | 24 residents; 3 contact hours per month | University of Rochester | (Founder & Director) 2012 - 2014

Clinical Epidemiology Series | This is a required curriculum for family medicine residents designed to reinforce critical appraisal of quantitative evidence. Responsibilities included lecturing, small group facilitation, administration and ongoing curriculum improvement. | Brown University | (Founder & Co-Director) 2003 - 2008

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Palliative Care Collaborative of Rochester (PCCR) Annual Educational Conference | This is a collaborative, regional conference for an inter-professional audience of palliative care clinicians. Director duties include conference curriculum design; speaker recruitment; sponsor recruitment; conference marketing; presentation of conference educational content; and administrative oversight. | 250 participants | (Founder & Director) 2013, 2014

VitalTalk “Mastering Tough Conversations” | This is a full-day small group workshop focused on state-of-the-art serious illness communication skills practice. | 8 participants per course | Facilitator/Coach | 2017 - present

MENTORING, ADVISING & THESIS COMMITTEES

UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

Dates	Name	Program, Institution	Mentoring Role
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2008-2012	Christopher Mooney, MPH, PhD	MPH Student, University of Rochester	Master's Thesis Committee (Published manuscript)
2010-2012	Amy Potter, MD	MD Student, University of Rochester	Teaching research methods (Epidemiology lecture & small group facilitation)
2011-2013	Daniel Schatz, MD	MD Student, University of Rochester	Research (Published manuscript)
2012-2013	Juliette Wu, BA	Undergraduate student, University of Rochester	Research (University Expo presentation)
2011-2013	Daniel Greener, MD	MD Thesis (required), Technion-Israel Institute of Technology Faculty of Medicine	Doctoral Committee (Published manuscript)
2012-2014	Josef Bartels, MD, MPH	MD/MPH Student, University of Rochester	Master's Thesis Committee (National presentations & published manuscript)
2012-2014	Rachael Rodenbach, MD	MD Student, University of Rochester	Research (National presentations & published manuscript)
2010-2014	Maureen Metzger, RN, PhD	Doctoral Student, University of Rochester	Doctoral Committee (Published manuscripts, Funded research grants, national presentation)
2011-2014	Justin Grishkin, MD	MD Student, University of Rochester	Teaching methods (Healthcare economics lecture)
2012-2014	Patrick Connelly, MD	MD Student, University of Rochester	Teaching research methods (Biostatistics lecture)
2012-2014	Shalom Schlagman, MD	MD Student, University of Rochester	Teaching research methods (Epidemiology lecture)
2013-2020	Susan Stanek, PhD, RN, MSN	Doctoral Student, University of Rochester	Doctoral Committee (Published manuscripts & national presentation)
2014-2020	Nathalie Doughoud, PhD, RN, MSN	Doctoral Student, University of Rochester	Doctoral Committee (Published manuscript & national presentation)
2015-2020	Lukas Ingersoll, PhD	Doctoral Student, Purdue University	Doctoral Committee (Published manuscripts & national presentations)
2016-2019	Viktoria Manukyan, MS	Master's Student, University of Vermont Complex Systems	Master's Committee (Published manuscripts & national presentation)
2017-2018	Michelle Niland	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont	Research (Published manuscript)
2017-2018	Aidan Ryan	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont	Research (Published manuscript)
2017- 2021	Laurence Clarfeld, PhD	Doctoral Student, University of Vermont School of Engineering	Doctoral Committee (Published manuscripts)
2017-2019	Lindsay Ross	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Honors Thesis Committee (Published manuscripts & national presentation)
2017-2021	Brigitte Durieux	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Research (Published manuscripts & national presentations)
2017-2022	Elise Tarbi, PhD, MBE, APRN	Doctoral Student, University of Pennsylvania; Post-doctoral fellow, Harvard University	Doctoral Committee/Research/Career (Published manuscripts & national presentations)
2019-2021	Jack Straton	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont	Research (Published manuscript)
2019-2022	Ali Javed, PhD	Doctoral Student, University of Vermont School of Engineering	Doctoral Committee / Research / Career (Published manuscripts)

		Post-doctoral fellow, Stanford University	
2019-2023	Ann Wong	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Honors Thesis Committee (Published manuscripts)
2020- 2024	Jeremy Matt, PE	Doctoral Student, University of Vermont School of Engineering	Doctoral Committee (Published manuscripts)
2021-2022	Aidan May	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Honors Thesis Committee
2022 (summer)	Hope Linge	High School Computer Science Student	Research (Published research blog)
2022-2023	Emily Bennett	Medical Student, University of Vermont	Research Advisor (research elective, manuscript)
2021-2023	Danne Elbers	Doctoral Student, University of Vermont Complex Systems & Data Science	Doctoral Committee
2022 - present	Katie Grenon	Doctoral Student, University of Vermont Clinical & Translational Sciences	Research
2022 -2023	Nina Pastore	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Honors Thesis Committee
2023 (summer)	Tej Thambi	University of California at Los Angeles	Research
2022 - 2025	Ian Bhatia	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Research (Honors Thesis Primary Advisor, manuscript, international presentation)
2023-2025	Advik Dewoolkar	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Research Mentor (manuscript; national presentation)
2023 - present	Aaron Dees	Medical Student, University of Vermont	Research Advisor
2024 - present	Kevin Peters	Medical Student, University of Vermont	Primary Research Advisor (Summer Research Award)
2024 (summer)	Zac Pollack	High School Student	Research
2024-present	Suzannah Buehler	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Research Mentor (Honors Thesis Committee Chair, national presentations)
2025-present	Hiba Hussein	Medical Student, University of Vermont	Research Mentor (Summer Research Award)
2025-present	Keiran Kozlowski	Medical Student, University of Vermont	Primary Research Advisor (Summer Research Award)
2025 (summer)	Milo Clary	Undergraduate, Simmons Collage	NSF “SOCKS” EPSCoR research internship
2025-present	Alexa Counter	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Research Mentor (Honors Thesis Primary Advisor)
2025-present	Kristin Reed	Medical Student, University of Vermont	Research Advisor (research elective, manuscript)

2025-present	Julia Hart	Undergraduate Student, University of Vermont Honors College	Research Mentor (Honors Thesis Primary Advisor)
2010-2016	In my role as director of the first-year epidemiology course at the University of Rochester, I advised more than fifty additional first-year medical students in planning, implementing, finishing and/or presenting summer research projects. Most of these relationships were brief and focused. Above, I report only longitudinal mentoring relationships.		

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS & RESIDENTS

Dates	Name	Program, Institution	Mentoring Role
2005-2008	Matthew Brown, MD	Family Medicine Resident, Brown University	Research (Published manuscript)
2005-2008	Timothy Farrell, MD	Family Medicine Resident, Brown University	Research (Published manuscript)
2010-2015	Thomas Carroll, MD, PhD	Palliative Medicine Fellow, University of Rochester	Research (Published manuscript & book chapters)
2016-2017	José Ruedes, MD	Oncology Fellow, University of Vermont	Quality Improvement / Research (national presentation)
2015-2017	Fahad Saeed, MD	Palliative Medicine Fellow, University of Rochester	Research (published manuscript & award-winning national presentation)
2017-2020	Tess Aulet, MD	Trauma Surgery Resident, University of Vermont	Research (National presentation)
2021-2023	Satveer Kaur Gill, MSc, Ph.D.	Postdoctoral Fellow, Dartmouth College (TDI)	Communication research methods
2019-2023	Tessa Cattermole, MD	Vascular Surgery Resident, University of Vermont	Research (national presentation & submitted manuscript)
2021-2023	Bradford Demarest, PhD	Postdoctoral Fellow, Vermont Conversation Lab	Natural Language Processing / Machine Learning
2024 - present	Hyojin Choi, PhD	Postdoctoral Fellow, Vermont Conversation Lab	Communication research methods
2024-present	Cynthia Peterson, RN, PhD	Postdoctoral Fellow, Vermont Conversation Lab	Conversation analytics research methods

FACULTY

Dates	Name	Position While Mentored	Mentoring Role	Current Position
2018-2020	Fahad Saeed, MD	Assistant Professor, University of Rochester	Advisor for funded KL2 Career Development Award (Published manuscript)	Associate Professor, University of Rochester
2016-2017	Katherine Kirkland, MD	Professor & Palliative Medicine Division Head, Dartmouth University	Primary Mentor for a Cambia Foundation Sojourns Leadership Development Award, not funded	Professor & Endowed Chair

2016-2020	Prema Menon, MD, PhD	Assistant Professor of Medicine (Pulmonary/Critical Care), University of Vermont	Advisor for an NIH K-Award, not funded	Associate Medical Director, Vertex Pharmaceuticals
2017-2021	Justin Sanders, MD	Instructor of Medicine (Palliative Care), Harvard University School of Public Health	Co-Mentor for an NIH K-Award, not funded (Published manuscript)	Endowed Chair of Palliative Medicine, McGill University
2017-2021	Stephen Berns, MD	Assistant Professor of Family Medicine (Palliative Care), University of Vermont	Primary Mentor for a Cambia Foundation Sojourns Leadership Development Award, Funded (Published manuscript)	Associate Professor of Family Medicine (Palliative Care), University of Vermont
2016-Present	Katherine Cheung, MD, PhD	Assistant Professor of Medicine (Nephrology), University of Vermont	Primary Mentor for a National Palliative Care Research Center Career Development Award, Funded (Published manuscripts)	Associate Professor of Medicine with Tenure (Nephrology), University of Vermont
2018-2021	Eline van den Broek-Altenburg, PhD	Assistant Professor (Health Services Research), University of Vermont	Research (Published manuscript)	Associate Professor (Health Services Research)
2019-2022	Andrew Wilcock, PhD	Assistant Professor of Family Medicine (Health Services Research), University of Vermont	Research	Assistant Professor of Family Medicine (Health Services Research), University of Vermont
2020-2024	Rebecca Hutchinson, MD, MPH	Assistant Professor of Medicine (Palliative Care), Tufts Medical School	Co-Mentor for Cambia Foundation Sojourns Leadership Development Award, Funded (Published manuscript)	Division Head, Palliative Medicine, Maine Medical Center
2020-2022	Jennifer Taber, PhD	Assistant Professor of Psychology, Kent State University	Co-Mentor for a National Palliative Care Research Center Career Development Award (not awarded)	Assistant Professor of Psychology, Kent State University
2020-2024	Meredith MacMartin, MD, MPH	Assistant Professor of Medicine (Palliative Care), Dartmouth Medical School	Co-Mentor for a National Palliative Care Research Center Career Development Award, Funded	Assistant Professor of Medicine (Palliative Care), Dartmouth Medical School
2021-2023	Erica Lash, MD	Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Vermont	Research	Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Vermont

2022-2024	Zhimeng Jia, MD	Assistant Professor (Palliative Care), University of Toronto	Co-Mentor for Pan-Canadian Pilot Research Study	Assistant Professor (Palliative Care), University of Toronto
2022 - present	Elise Tarbi, PhD, MBE, APRN	Assistant Professor (Nursing), University of Vermont	Research & Career (Published manuscripts)	Holly & Bob Miller Green & Gold Professor of Nursing, University of Vermont
2023-present	Deborah Forst, MD	Assistant Professor (Neuro-Oncology), Harvard University	NIH K-Award (status: in re-submission; role: advisor)	Assistant Professor (Neuro-Oncology), Harvard University

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Crisis COVID Response | Established & directed 24-7 field palliative care unit at a community nursing home to care for patients, staff and families during largest single site of COVID mortality in Vermont | (www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/its-in-the-building-how-covid-19-overwhelmed-a-burlington-nursing-home/Content?oid=30518875) (www.vpr.org/post/end-life-wishes-pandemic#stream/0) | March-May 2020

Iaido: Mindfulness for Healthcare Professionals | Instruction and shared practice of the Zen-based martial art of the Samurai Sword for UVM healthcare learners, faculty and staff | (Founder & Teacher) 2018 - present

RiverFlow Travel Soccer Club | Year-round inner-city boys soccer club dedicated to personal growth and team coordination *via* the game of soccer | Head Coach | 2010 - 2016

Seasonal Girls & Boys Soccer Coaching | Brighton Town Youth Soccer (2008 - 2010) | YMCA Youth Soccer (2005 - 2007) | Denver City Youth Soccer (1993 - 1995)

"Ask a Doc" Program | Confidential Q&A classroom program for rural Maine high school students to anonymously ask health-related questions of a family physician, coordinated with high school guidance counselors for assistance with sensitive topic follow-up | (Founder & Director) 1997 - 2000

GRANTS

CURRENT FUNDING

Advancing a Basic Science of Telehealth Cancer Communication

American Cancer Society | Clinician Scientist Development Grant (CSDG-25-1414647-01-CPHP)

PI: E Tarbi | Direct Cost: \$728,043 | 2026-2031

This proposed factorial trial (2x2x2) under the Multiphase Optimization Strategy (MOST) framework aims to examine the feasibility, acceptability and preliminary effects of experimentally manipulating clinician communication components in simulated telehealth serious illness conversations on rural cancer patients' experience of connection. (Role: Co-Primary Mentor)

AI-Generated Electronic Health Record Summaries to Promote High-Quality Communication and Care in Serious Illness: a Feasibility Trial

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

PI: Sanders J | Direct Cost: \$340,425 | 2025-2028

The purpose of this trial is to develop, validate and examine the impact of AI-generated medical history summaries to help clinicians and seriously ill patients prepare for speciality palliative care consultation with the ultimate goal of improving person-centered communication. (Role: Consultant)

Deep Neural Networks to Identify Moments of Human Connection in Cancer Communication
National Institutes of Health (R21CA259543)

MPI: R Gramling, D Rizzo | Direct Cost: \$275,000 | 2024-2026

The purpose of this award is to develop machine learning methods for valid, algorithmically fair and automated characterization of conversational pauses in serious illness conversations and their association to patient-reported communication outcomes.

Program for the Study of Online, Collective Knowledge and Stories

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Award (NSF0236976)

National Science Foundation | PI: Kirk Dombrowski | Direct Cost: \$20,000,000 | 2023-2028

In a way that telescopes and microscopes have done for the physical and life sciences, the purpose of this project is to powerfully advance the computational social sciences for large-scale measurement of narrative in social media and inter-personal healthcare communication. (Role: Senior Investigator)

COMPLETED FUNDING

Detection of Cognitive Impairment in Serious Illness Conversations with Dialysis Patients | Northern New England Clinical Translational Research Network (U54 GM115516) Research Scholar Award | PI: Kat Cheung | Role: Primary Mentor | Direct Cost: \$100,000 | 2023-2025

The Vermont Conversation Initiative ("TalkVermont") | UVM Health Network Presidential Development Fund, Dean's Collaborative Palliative Care Fund, Rural Palliative Care Fund, Milbank Palliative Care Education Fund and Holly & Bob Miller Chair in Palliative Medicine Endowment | PI: Robert Gramling | Direct Cost: \$840,000 (2017-2020); \$1,500,000 (2020-2025)

StoryListening Intervention for Demoralization in Healthcare | UVMHC Auxilliary | PI: Bob Gramling | Direct Cost: \$50,000 | 2023-2024

Understanding Interdisciplinary Decision Support in Palliative Care | National Palliative Care Research Center CDA | PI: Meredith MacMartin | Role: Advisor | Direct Cost: \$140,000 | 2022-2024

Collaborative, Scalable Palliative Care Delivery Models for Rural Heart Failure Care | Cambia Health Foundation CDA | PI: Rebecca Hutchinson | Role: Co-Mentor | Direct Cost: \$180,000 | 2022-2024

Advancing Computational Narrative Analytics to Re-Engineer Healthcare Communication National Science Foundation | Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Satellite Award | MPI with Donna Rizzo | Direct Cost: \$5,000 | 2022 - 2023

Speaking Compassionately with Seriously Ill Chinese Immigrants and Their Caregivers (仁医仁) | Pan-Canadian Palliative Care Research Collaborative | PI: Zhimeng Jia | Direct Cost: \$20,000 | 2022 - 2023

MACRA Palliative Care Measures Project | CMMS I Cooperative Agreement 1V1CMS331639-01-00 | PI: Katherine Ast | Role: Scientific Advisor | 2018 - 2022 | Direct Cost: \$5,511,720

TeleCoaching for Sustaining Serious Illness Communication Skills in Primary Palliative Care
Cambia Health Foundation CDA | PI: Stephen Berns | Role: Primary Mentor | 2019-2021
Direct Cost: \$180,000

Telemedicine Facilitated Palliative Care Consultations in Rural Dialysis Patients
National Palliative Care Research Center CDA | PI: Katharine Cheung | Role: Primary Mentor | 2018-2021
Direct Cost: \$140,000

Northern New England Palliative Care TeleConsult Research Laboratory | Pilot Research Award
Northern New England Clinical Translational Research Network (U54 GM115516)
MPI: Robert Gramling & Paul Han | 2018 - 2020
Direct Cost: \$50,000

Communication in Palliative Care Decision-Making | Fulbright Scholars Project #6397 | Kyoto University, Japan

PI: Robert Gramling | 2015
Direct Cost: \$8,000

Prognosis Communication and Race in Advanced Cancer Care | American Cancer Society | RSG-13-239-01
PI: Robert Gramling | 2013 - 2017
Direct Cost: \$1,100,000

Improving Communication for Chemotherapy in Older Cancer Patients | PCORI | CD-12-11-4634
PI: Supriya Mohile | Role: Investigator | 2013 - 2016
Direct Cost: \$2,097,044

Social and Behavioral Communication Intervention | National Institutes of Health | R01PA-08-083
PI: Cleveland Shields; Ronald Epstein | Role: Investigator | 2011 - 2016
Direct Cost: \$2,000,000

Advanced Cancer Communication | National Institutes of Health | R01CA-140419
PI: Ronald Epstein; Richard Kravitz | Role: Investigator | 2010 - 2016
Direct Cost: \$2,000,000

Palliative Care and Aging | Hearst Foundations
PI: Robert Gramling | 2013 - 2014
Direct Cost: \$37,500

Goal Communication in Palliative Care Decision-Making Consultations | UR Dean's Award
PI: Robert Gramling | 2012 - 2013
Direct Cost: \$45,000

Prognosis Communication in Palliative Care | National Palliative Care Research Center
PI: Robert Gramling | 2010 - 2012
Direct Cost: \$140,000

Communicating Prognosis in Advanced Illness | Greenwall Bioethics Foundation
PI: Robert Gramling | 2010 - 2011
Direct Cost: \$54,000

Self-Rated CVD Risk, Social Resources and Survival | National Institutes of Health | R03NR010409
PI: Robert Gramling | 2007 - 2010
Direct Cost: \$100,000

Population Impact of Raising Awareness of Heritable Risk | National Institutes of Health | R03HG004158
PI: Robert Gramling | 2007 - 2009
Direct Cost: \$100,000

eMedonline® Medication Management System | National Institutes of Health | NCI SBIR Phase II
PI: Barbara Rapchak | Role: Consultant | 2007 - 2008
Direct Cost: \$100,000

eMedonline® Medication Management System | National Institutes of Health | NIA SBIR Phase II
PI: Barbara Rapchak | Role: Consultant | 2007 - 2008
Direct Cost: \$100,000

Integrating Family History and Electronic Health Records | National Institutes of Health | R41-NR010163
PI: Monica McLain | Role: Investigator | 2007 - 2008
Direct Cost: \$100,000

Family History, Inflammatory Status and CHD Mortality | Brown University Salomon Award
PI: Robert Gramling | 2006 - 2007
Direct Cost: \$15,000

Family History, Inflammatory Status and CHD Mortality | Rhode Island Foundation
PI: Robert Gramling | 2006 - 2007
Direct Cost: \$10,000

Family History Tool in Primary Care | Center for Disease Control Office of Genetics and Genomics

PI: Louise Acheson | Role: Consultant | 2003 - 2007
Direct Cost: \$1,200,000

Primary Care Genetics Curriculum | HRSA Resident Education Grant
PI: Rabin Chandran | Role: Investigator | 2003 - 2006

Primary Care Genetics Curriculum | HRSA Pre-Doctoral Medical Education Grant
PI: Julie Taylor | Role: Investigator | 2003 - 2006

Trans-Disciplinary Cancer Control and Prevention Research | National Cancer Institute (R25 CA87972)
PI: David Abrams | Role: Junior Faculty Research Fellow | Brown University | 2002 - 2005

Ethics & Genetics in Primary Care | Brown Medical School Innovative Curriculum Grant
PI: Robert Gramling | 2002 - 2003
Direct Cost: \$3,000

National Research Service Award (NRSA) | Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (T32 PE10028)
PI: Robert Friedman | Role: Post Doctoral Fellow | Boston University | 2000 - 2002

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS (local/regional talks available upon request)

Conversational Repair in End-of-Life Consultations with Black Cancer Patients | Drummond D, Kaur-Gill S, Barnato A, Gramling R | 76th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association | Cape Town, South Africa | June 2026

Deepening Care Through StoryListening: A Narrative Approach to Understand Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Connectedness in Older Adults and their Caregivers | Chan A, Reblin M, Gramling R, Peterson C, Tarbi EC, Arnoldy, FL, Birne MC, Martin KW, Manetta E, Cheung KL | American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting | April 2026

“People Can Live Many Lives in One Life”: Exploring the Listener Experience in a StoryListening Project with Older Adults | Peterson C, Arnoldy FL, Reblin M, Rizzo DM, Manetta E, Gramling R, Cheung KL, Tarbi EC | Eastern Nursing Research Symposium | Boston, MA | March 2026

Rethinking social disconnection: does it always have a negative impact? | Choi H, Gramling R, Reblin M | Graduate Student Association Annual Scientific Meeting | Boston, MA | November 2025

“I guess it was maybe a little awesome”: Descriptions of moments of awe in psilocybin-assisted therapy | Tarbi EC, Bhatia I, Buehler S, Gramling CJ, Balach N, Demeo-Meres M, Gramling R, Reblin M, Rizzo DM, Agrawal M, Manetta E. | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | Ottawa, Canada | October 2025

Temporal Reference: An Epidemiologically Important Feature for Serious Illness Conversation Science | Gramling CJ, Rizzo DM, Tarbi EC, Straton J, Gramling R | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Scientific Assembly | Denver, CO | February 2025

Psilocybin Assisted Therapy in Cancer Care | Gramling R, Barcas K | Vermont Women’s Health & Cancer Conference (with national/international online audience) | Burlington, VT | September 2024

Can AI Find Moments of Human Connection in Clinical Conversations? | Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine | University of Bern | Bern, Switzerland | April 2024

StoryArcs: An Epidemiological Measure of Conversational Meaning & Meaning-Making? | Palliative Medicine Centre | University of Bern | Bern, Switzerland | April 2024

Can AI Find Moments of Human Connection in Clinical Conversations? | Center for Psychedelics & Spirituality | Emory University | Atlanta, GA | April 2024

Can AI Find Moments of Human Connection in Clinical Conversations? | Grand Rounds | Dept. of Internal Medicine | Dartmouth Medical School | Hanover, NH | March 2024

Automating Loneliness and Social Connection Identification in Clinician-Patient Conversations with Machine Learning | Demarest B, Gramling CJ, Macha N, Alexander SC, Rizzo DM, Gramling R, Cheney N | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | Academy of Communication in Healthcare | Puerto Rico, USA | October 2023

Patient Expressions of Loneliness and Human Connection in Palliative Care Consultations | Gramling CJ, Macha N, Lawrenz A, Milukas L, Graber T, Gerson NW, Rizzo DM, Gramling R, Alexander SC | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | Academy of Communication in Healthcare | Puerto Rico, USA | October 2023

Towards a Future of Evidence-Based Serious Illness Communication | Sanders J, Blanch-Hartigan D, van Vliet L, Gramling R (chair) | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | Academy of Communication in Healthcare | Glasgow, Scotland | September 2022

Perspectives on Death and Dying Implications for Health, Well-being, and Clinical Care Across the Lifespan | National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging | Scientific expert workgroup | Bethesda, MD (televideo) | May 2022

Epidemiology of Connectional Silence in Specialist Serious Illness Conversations | Hospice-Palliative Spiritual Care Research Network (HPSCRN) | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyayDOOKifo> | Minneapolis, MN | April 2022 (televideo)

Enhancement of Communication Skills in USMLE | National Board of Medical Examiners | Scientific expert workgroup | Washington, D.C. (televideo) | March 2022

Connectional Silence and Goal Expression in Palliative Care Serious Illness Conversations | Gramling CJ, Durieux BN, Javed A, Matt JE, Wong A, Eppstein MJ, Rizzo DM, Gramling R | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine State of the Science Conference | Nashville, TN | February 2022 (televideo)

A Mixed-Methods Pilot Study to Explore the Acceptability and Feasibility of Tele-Palliative Care | Hutchinson R, Anderson E, Gramling R, Han P | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Assembly | Nashville, TN | February 2022 (televideo, *AAHPM Scientific Paper Award)

Epidemiology of Fear, Sadness, and Anger Expression in Palliative Care Conversation | Department of Palliative Medicine | University of Kansas | Kansas City, KS | June 2021 (televideo)

Epidemiology of Connectional Silence in Serious Illness Conversations | Department of Palliative Medicine | Maine Medical Center | Portland, ME | May 2021 (televideo)

Existential Loneliness & Connectional Silence in Serious Illness Conversations | Keynote Lecture | 7th Annual Scholarly Activity Symposium | Maine-Dartmouth Family Practice Residency | Augusta, ME | May 2021 (televideo)

Epidemiology of Connectional Silence in Serious Illness Conversations | Suzana Makowski Endowed Lecture | Department of Medicine | University of Massachusetts | Worcester, MA | May 2021 (televideo)

Epidemiology of Conversational Silence in Palliative Care | Department of Medicine | University of Rochester | Rochester, NY | February 2021 (televideo)

StoryArcs in Serious Illness: A Natural Language Processing Method | Department of Pediatrics | George Washington University School of Nursing | Washington, D.C. | November 2020 (televideo)

Invited Guest Discussant | T32 Interdisciplinary Training Seminar in Cancer, Caregiving and End of Life Care (T32 NR013456, MPI: Ellington & Mooney) | University of Utah College of Nursing | Salt Lake City, UT | November 2020 (televideo)

Feasibility & Acceptability of TelePalliative Care Consultation in Rural Dialysis Units | Cheung K, Tamura M, Rabinowitz T, Lamantia M, Gramling R | American Society of Nephrology Annual Conference | October 2020 (televideo)

'If It's the Time, It's the Time': Existential Communication in Naturally Occurring Palliative Care Conversations with Individuals with Advanced Cancer, Their Families, and Clinicians | Tarbi E, Gramling R, Bradway C, Meghani S | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Inaugural State of the Science Conference | San Diego, CA | March 2020 (televideo)

StoryArcs in Serious Illness: Natural Language Processing Features of Palliative Care Conversations | Gramling R, Ross LA, Danforth CB, Eppstein M, Rizzo D | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Inaugural State of the Science Conference | San Diego, CA | March 2020 (*top five paper, televideo)

Feasibility & Acceptability of TelePalliative Care Consultation in Rural Dialysis Units: Preliminary Findings | Cheung K, Tamura M, Rabinowitz T, Lamantia M, Gramling R | 10th Annual Kathleen Foley Retreat | Jackson Hole, WY | October 2019

Is optimism contagious? Patient Trait Optimism and Clinician Overestimation of Survival Prognosis in Advanced Cancer | Ingersoll LT, Alexander SC, Anderson WG, Ladwig S, Norton SA, Gramling R. | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | Academy of Communication in Healthcare | San Diego, CA | October 2019

A Collaborative Palliative Care Initiative on an Acute Care Surgery Service | Aulet T, Fabricant L, Callas P, Whitney P, Gramling R, Malhotra A | 32nd EAST Annual Scientific Assembly | Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma | Austin, TX | January 2019

Northern New England TeleConsult Research Network | 7th Annual IDEa Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence | National Institutes of Health (NIGMS) | Washington, D.C. | June 2018

Machine Learning to Automate Measurement of Serious Illness Conversation Features | National Palliative Care Research Collaborative (PCRC) Annual Meeting | Denver, CO | April 2018

Whole Person Care in Serious Illness | Keynote Speaker & Workshop Facilitator | Japan Society for Hospice and Palliative Medicine | Osaka and Tokyo, Japan | November 2018

Machine Learning for Identification of Connectional Silence in Serious Illness Conversations | Grand Rounds | Harvard School of Medicine | Massachusetts General Hospital | Boston, MA | December 2017

Awareness of Prognostic Uncertainty in Palliative Care Consultations | Keynote Speaker | Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society Annual Meeting | Stowe, VT | October 2017

Types of Prognosis Talk in Palliative Care Consultations and Associated Changes in Quality of Life | Ingersoll L, Alexander SC, Ladwig S, Krammer MM, Norton SA, Anderson A, Gramling R. International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH) Annual Research Conference | Baltimore, MD | October 2017

Do End of Life Treatment Preferences Drive Prognosis Discussions in Palliative Care? | Ingersoll L, Alexander SC, Ladwig S, Krammer MM, Norton SA, Anderson A, Gramling R. International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH) Annual Research Conference | Baltimore, MD | October 2017

The Prevalence and Determinants of Feeling Completely Heard and Understood Before and After Palliative Care Consultation | Ingersoll L, Saeed F, Ladwig S, Norton SA, Anderson A, Alexander SC, Gramling R. International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH) Annual Research Conference | Baltimore, MD | October 2017

Do End of Life Treatment Preferences Drive Goal Communication in Palliative Care? | Ingersoll L, Alexander SC, Ladwig S, Norton SA, Krammer MM, Anderson A, Gramling R. International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH) Annual Research Conference | Baltimore, MD | October 2017

Talking About the Hard Stuff: A Cluster RCT to Improve Communication in Advanced Cancer | Epstein R, Duberstein P, Fenton J, Fiscella K, Hoerger M, Tancredi D, Xing G, Gramling R, Kravitz R | North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Conference | Colorado Springs, CO | November 2016

Quality of Life in Advanced Cancer: Do patients, caregivers, and oncologists know what to expect? | Hoerger M, Epstein RM, Gramling R, Mohile SG, & Duberstein PR | Association for Clinical and Translational Science Annual Meeting | Washington, DC | April 2016

Sustaining Large-Scale Direct-Observation Research in the Natural Setting: the Palliative Care Communication Research Initiative Cohort Study | Gramling R & the PCCRI Study Team | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Conference | Chicago, IL | March 2016

Goal Communication in Palliative Care Consultations | Gramling R, Sanders M, Ladwig L, Norton S, Epstein R, Alexander SC | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | New Orleans, LA | October 2015

Eloquent Silence: a Musical Analysis When Words Fail | Bartels J, Gramling R, Epstein R, Fiscella K | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | New Orleans, LA | October 2015

Relationship Between Computer-Associated Conversational Silences and Expression of Emotion in End-of-Life Oncology Discussions Between the Doctor, Patient, and Computer | Bartels J, Dolan J, Gramling R, Epstein R, Fiscella K | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | New Orleans, LA | October 2015

Patient-Caregiver Concordance in Advanced Cancer: Implications for Decision-Making and Quality of Care | Epstein RM, Kravitz RL, Fenton J, Hoerger M, Fiscella K, Xing G, Tancredi D, Gramling R, Duberstein P | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | New Orleans, LA | October 2015

The Palliative Care Communication Research Initiative: Rationale, Design and Enrollment | Division of Primary Palliative Care | University of Edinburgh | Edinburgh, UK | May 2015

Compassion in Palliative Care Decision-Making Conversations | Kyoto University Medical School | Kyoto, Japan | April 2015

Uncertainty in Palliative Care: Types, Experiences and Manifestations in Clinical Communication | Kyoto University Medical School | Kyoto, Japan | April 2015

The Palliative Care Communication Research Initiative: Rationale, Design and Enrollment | Institute for Public Health | University of Cambridge | Cambridge, UK | February 2015

The Palliative Care Communication Research Initiative: Rationale, Design and Enrollment | Division of Palliative Care | University of Wisconsin | Madison, WI | November 2014

Language in Relation: Towards an Ecological Understanding of Prognosis Communication in Palliative Care | Cicely Saunders Institute | King's College, London | London, UK | September 2014

Family-Centered Communication Skills are Associated with Oncologist-Patient-Caregiver Agreement in Quality-of-Life Forecasts | Hoerger M, Gramling R, Winters P, Duberstein PR, Fiscella K, Kravitz RL, Tran Q, and Epstein RM | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Conference | San Diego, CA | March 2014

Palliative Care "End of Life" Conversations | R. Gramling & D. Gramling | Center for Folklore Studies | Department of English | Ohio State University | Columbus, Ohio | February 2014

Patient and Loved Ones' Emotional Expressions in Palliative Care Decision-Making Consultations: A Direct Observation Study | Alexander SC, Ladwig S, Norton S, Gramling D, Davis JK, Metzger M, and Gramling R | American Academy on Communication in Healthcare International Conference | Montreal, Canada | October 2013

Emotional Storm Tracking: Toward the Development of a Method for Measuring Paralinguistic Expressions of Emotions | Alexander SC, Somoroff MA, Garner DK, Davis, JK, Norton SA, Gramling DJ, Ladwig S, Gramling R | American Academy on Communication in Healthcare International Conference | Montreal, Canada | October 2013

Palliative Care Communication: Linking Patient Values, Prognoses, and Goals of Care | Norton SA, Metzger M, Gramling R | *Eastern Nursing Research Society Annual Scientific Sessions* | Boston, MA | April 2013

Latent Classes of Prognosis Conversations in Palliative Care Decision-Making Consultations | Gramling R, Norton SA, Ladwig S, Metzger M, Winters P, Quill T, Alexander S | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Conference | New Orleans, LA | March 2013

Linking Prognoses, Treatment Paths, and Values In Goals-of-Care Conversations | Norton SA, Metzger M, Quill T, Gramling R | *Hospice and Palliative Nursing Association Annual Conference* | New Orleans, LA | March 2013

Forecasting and Foretelling: Association between Physicians' Expectations of Survival Time and Characteristics of Prognosis Communication in Palliative Care Consultations | Gramling R, Norton S, Ladwig S, Metzger M, Deluca J, Epstein R, Quill T, Alexander S | American Association of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Conference | Denver, CO | March 2012

Heart Failure Patients' and Family Members' Understanding of Prognosis and its Relation to Treatment Goals | Metzger M, Norton S, Quinn J, Gramling R | *Hospice and Palliative Nursing Association Annual Conference* | Denver, CO | March 2012

Patient and Family Members' Perceptions of Palliative Care in Late-Stage Heart Failure Care | Metzger M, Norton S, Quinn J, Gramling R | *Eastern Nursing Research Society Annual Sessions* | New Haven, CT | March 2012

A Typology of Prognosis Conversations in Palliative Care | Division of Palliative Medicine | University of Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh, PA | June 2012

A Typology of Prognosis Conversations in Palliative Care | Institute for Palliative Medicine | San Diego Hospice | San Diego, CA | February 2012

A Typology of Prognosis Conversations in Palliative Care | Department of Medicine, Division of Palliative Medicine | University of California, Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA | January 2012

Communication in Palliative Care | Inaugural Grand Rounds | University of California-Riverside Medical Education Program | Riverside, CA | January 2012

Patient and Family Members' Perceptions of the Role of Palliative Care in Late-Stage Heart Failure Care | Metzger M, Norton S, Quinn J, Gramling R | State of the Science: Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science | Washington D.C. | October 2011

Prognosis Communication in Palliative Care | Gramling R, Norton S, Ladwig S, Metzger M, Deluca J, Epstein R, Quill T, Alexander S | National Palliative Care Research Center & American Cancer Society Kathleen Foley Research Symposium | Quebec, Canada | October 2011

Direct Observation of Prognosis Communication in Palliative Care | Gramling R, Norton S, Ladwig S, Metzger M, Deluca J, Epstein R, Quill T, Alexander S | The Science of Compassion: Future Directions in End-of-Life and Palliative Care Research | National Institutes of Health | Bethesda, MD | August 2011

Patient and Family Members' Perceptions of the Role of Palliative Care in Late-Stage Heart Failure Care | Metzger M, Norton S, Quinn J, Gramling R | The Science of Compassion: Future Directions in End-of-Life and Palliative Care Research | National Institutes of Health | Bethesda, MD | August 2011

Impact of Familial Risk Assessment for Chronic Diseases on Perceptions of Risk and Worry: A Study of Dose and Disease Effects | Wang C, Sen A, Nease D, Ruffin M, Gramling R, Acheson LS, O'Neill S, Rubinstein W | Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference | Washington, DC | April 2011

The Conversation Bank Cohort: A Feasibility Study | Gramling R, Ladwig S, Metzger M, Deluca J, Epstein R, Quill T, Norton S | American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Conference | Vancouver, Canada | February 2011

Prognostication in Advanced Illness | Distinguished Lecture Series | Maine General Medical Center | Waterville, ME | June 2010

The Impact of Family History Assessment on Disease Risk Perceptions: Results from the Family Healthware Impact Trial (FHITR) | Wang C, Gramling R, Sen A, Ruffin M, Nease D, Acheson LS, O'Neil S, Rubinstein W | Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference | Seattle, WA | April 2010

Prognostic Uncertainty: Understanding the Relation Between Risk Perception and Behavior | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | Miami Beach, FL | October 2009

Family History and Perceptions about Risk and Prevention for Chronic Diseases in Primary Care: a Family Healthware Impact Trial Report | Acheson LS, Wang C, Zyzanski S, Gramling R, O'Neil S, Rubinstein W, Lynn A, Ruffin M, Nease D, Family Healthware Impact Trial (FHITR) Group | North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Conference | San Paolo, Puerto Rico | November 2008

Evaluating a Web-Based Resident Education Intervention for Teaching Pediatric Asthma Care | McGookin E, Hallet J, Campbell J, Gramling R | Pediatric Academic Society Annual Conference | Honolulu, HI | May 2008

Raising Public Awareness of Heritable CHD Risk and 15-year CHD Survival among Adults with a 1st Degree Family History: the Pawtucket Heart Health Program Experience | Gramling R, Roberts M, Zierler S, Klein W, Eaton CB | International Conference on Communication in Healthcare | Charleston, SC | October 2007

Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer Risk in Under-Resourced Environments | Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Breast Care Educational Workshop | Ormylia, Greece | June 2007

Screening for Genomic Cancer Risk | Invited Lecture Series | Colby College | Waterville, ME | April 2007

Prospective Association of Serum Selenium and CHD, Stroke, CVD, and All-Cause Mortality: NHANES III Mortality Follow-up Study | Eaton CB, Roberts M, Gramling R, Lu B | American Heart Association 47th Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology | Orlando, FL | February 2007

Relation Between Self-Rated Cardiovascular Risk and Cardiovascular Death: a Self-Fulfilling Prophecy? | Gramling R, Roberts M, Zierler S, Lu B, Eaton C | North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Conference | Tucson, AZ | October 2006

Screening for Heritable Breast Cancer Risk in General Medical Practice | Medical Grand Rounds | University of Crete School of Medicine | Heraklion (Crete), Greece | June 2006

Clinical and Epidemiological Characteristics of Screening Tests | University of Crete School of Medicine | Heraklion (Crete), Greece | June 2006

Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer Risk in Under-Resourced Environments | Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Breast Care Educational Workshop | Ormylia, Greece | June 2006

Relationship between Soliciting Family Medical History in General Practice and Cancer Worry among Women with a First-Degree Family History of Breast Cancer | Gramling R, Anthony D, Lowery J, Leighton N, Anton-Culver H, Ballinger L, Ma D, Bowen D | 9th Annual International Conference on the Psychosocial Impact of Genetic Testing for Hereditary Cancer | Philadelphia, PA | June 2005

A Clinically Useful and Patient-Centered Tool for Recognizing Cancer Worry among Women with a Family History of Breast Cancer | Gramling R, Trask P, Clark M, Rakowski B, Bowen D | North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Conference | Orlando, FL | October 2004

HeartAge: a Patient Activation Tool for Cholesterol Management | Eaton C, Goldman R, Parker D, Cover R, Ahern D, Borkan J, Gramling R | North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Conference | Alberta, Canada | November 2003

Translating ATP III Cholesterol Management Guidelines into Practice: Physician Barriers and Facilitators Regarding Use of a Computerized Shared Decision-Making Tool | Gramling R, Borkan J, Ahern D, Goldman R, Cover R, Parker D, Eaton C | North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Conference | Alberta, Canada | November 2003

Are there Sex Differences in Transdermal Nicotine Replacement Therapy Efficacy? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis | Munafo M, David S, Bradburn M, Bowes L, Gramling R | North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Conference | Alberta, Canada | November 2003

Predicting for Prevention: Communicating about Familial Cancer Risk | Gramling R, Scalia J | Genetics in Primary Care: a Brown-Oxford Trans-Atlantic Videoconference | Providence, RI | March 2003

Family Physician Risk Communication Skill Perceptions in the Era of Predictive Cancer Genetics | Gramling R, Nash J, Siren K, Eaton C, Culpepper L | North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Conference | New Orleans, LA | November 2002

Susceptibility Genetics in Family Practice | Gramling R and Culpepper L | American Academy of Family Practice National Research Network Convocation | Kansas City, MO | July 2002

Genetic Susceptibility for Cancer Prevention in Family Practice: Prevalence and Stratification of at-Risk Patients and their Preventive Health Behaviors | Gramling R, Hickner J, Galliher J, Culpepper L | National Research Service Award Annual Conference | Washington D.C. | June 2002

Ethics and Genetics in Smoking Cessation (expert panelist) | Georgetown University | Washington, D.C. | June 2002

Family Physician Expectations for the Effects of Predictive Genetic Testing on Patients' Preventive Behaviors | Gramling R, Culpepper L | Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Spring Conference | San Francisco, CA | April 2002

Workload and Characterization of Genetic Susceptibility Testing in Primary Care Practice: a Pilot Study | Gramling R, Culpepper L | Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Northeast Regional Meeting | Mystic, CT | October 2001

Teaching Genetics in Family Practice: the Example of Breast Cancer | Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Northeast Regional Conference | Mystic, CT | October 2001

Workload and Characterization of Genetic Susceptibility Testing in Primary Care Practice: a Pilot Study | Gramling R, Culpepper L | North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Conference | Nova Scotia, Canada | October 2001

Workload and Characterization of Genetic Susceptibility Testing in Primary Care Practice: a Pilot Study | Gramling R, Culpepper L | National Research Service Award Annual Conference | Atlanta, GA | June 2001

An Exploration of Medical Student Experiences with an Innovative ONLINE Journal Writing Curriculum | Gramling R, Wiecha J | Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Conference | Denver, CO | May 2001

Knowledge and Preparedness of High-Altitude Hikers | Medical Grand Rounds | Maine General Medical Center | Waterville, ME | November 1999

Knowledge and Preparedness of High-Altitude Hikers | Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Resident/Student Annual Conference | Kansas City, MO | July 1998

ORIGINAL RESEARCH JOURNAL ARTICLES (formal mentee/advisee underlined)

Dewoolkar AM, Bonson K, Rizzo DM, **Gramling R**. Hysteresis Curves: Scalable measures of lagged conversation events for communication science. *Journal of Pain & Symptom Management*. 2026. Feb;71(2):e208-e210.

Tarbi EC, Ambrose N, Hutchinson R, Anderson E, Han PK, Reblin M, **Gramling R**. “I get it, talking over a screen is tough”: An exploratory analysis of clinician connection-building communication practices in rural telepalliative care encounters. *Patient Education and Counseling Innovations*. 2025. Jan 25;6:100377.

Mossman B, Hoerger M, **Gramling R**, Prigerson HG, Epstein R, Voss H, Maciejewski P, Perry L, Duberstein P. The Patient-Caregiver Dyad and End-of-Life Care: The Role of Caregiver Personality in Disrupting Gender-based Norms. *Journal of Pain & Symptom Management*. 2024. May;67(5):e393-e398.

Javed A, Rizzo DM, Suk Lee B, **Gramling R**. SOMTimeS: Self Organizing Maps for Time Series Clustering and its Application to Serious Illness Conversations. *Data Mining & Knowledge Discovery*. 2024. 38(3):813-839.

Gramling R, Bennett E, Rizzo DM, Arnoldy FL, Curtis K, Hegg L, Honstein H, Porter J, Pratt S, Richards W, Tarbi E, Reblin M, Thambi P, Agrawal M. Developing a Direct Observation Measure of Therapeutic Connection in Psilocybin Assisted Therapy Dosing Sessions: a Feasibility Study. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2023. Dec;26(12):1702-1708.

Matt JE, Rizzo DM, Javed A, Eppstein MJ, Gramling CJ, Manukyan V, Dewoolkar A, **Gramling R**. An Acoustical and Lexical Machine Learning Ensemble to Detect Connectional Silence. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2023. Dec;26(12):1627-1633.

Arnoldy FL, Garrido M, Wong A, Pratt S, Braddish T, Brown G, Reblin M, Rizzo DM, **Gramling R**. Protocol for a Scalable StoryListening Intervention for Grief-Related Loneliness During COVID-19. *Palliative Medicine Reports*. 2023. Aug 8; 4(1): 208-213.

Sanders JJ, Blanch-Hartigan D, Ericson J, Tarbi E, Rizzo D, **Gramling R**, van Vliet L. Methodological innovations to strengthen evidence-based serious illness communication. *Patient Education & Counseling*. 2023. Sep;114:107790.

Elbers DC, La J, Minot J, Brophy MT, Do NV, Fillmore F, Dodds P, **Gramling R**, Danforth C. Sentiment analysis of medical notes for lung cancer patients in the Department of Veterans Affairs. *PLoS One*. 2023. Jan 25;18(1): e0280931.

Cattermole TC, Schimmel ML, Carpenter RL, Callas PW, **Gramling R**, Bertges D, Ferranti KM. Integration of Palliative Care Consultation into the Management of Patients with Chronic Limb Threatening Ischemia. *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. 2023. Aug;78(2):454-463.

Reblin M, Wong A, Arnoldy F, Pratt S, Dewoolkar A, **Gramling R**, Rizzo DM. The StoryListening Project: Feasibility and acceptability of a remotely-delivered intervention to alleviate grief during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2023. Mar;26(3):327-333.

Hutchinson R, Anderson E, John L, Rizzo DM, Eppstein MJ, **Gramling R**, Han PK. A Formative Mixed-Method Study of Emotional Responsiveness in Telepalliative Care. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2022. Aug;25(8):1258-1267.

Cheung K, Smoger S, Tamura MK, Stapleton RD, Rabinowitz T, Lamantia M, **Gramling R**. Content of TelePalliative Medicine Conversations with Patients in Rural Dialysis Units. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2022. Aug;25(8):1208-1214.

Hoerger M, **Gramling R**, Epstein R, Fenton JJ, Mohile S, Kravitz R, Mossman B, Prigerson HG, Alonzi S, Malhotra K, Duberstein P. Patient, Caregiver, and Oncologist Predictions of Quality of Life in Advanced Cancer: Accuracy and Association with End-of-Life Care and Caregiver Bereavement. *PsychoOncology*. 2022. Jun;31(6):978-984.

Gramling CJ, Durieux BN, Clarfeld LA, Javed A, Matt JE, Manukyan V, Braddish T, Wong A, Wills J, Hirsch L, Straton J, Cheney N, Eppstein MJ, Rizzo DM, **Gramling R**. Epidemiology of *Connectional Silence* in Specialist Serious Illness Conversations. *Patient Education & Counseling*. 2022. Jul;105(7):2005-2011.

Edelen M, Rodriguez A, Huang W, **Gramling R**, Ahluwalia S. A novel scale to assess patient experience of feeling heard and understood in ambulatory palliative care. *Journal of Pain & Symptom Management*. 2022. May;63(5):689-697.

Gramling R, Javed A, Durieux BN, Clarfeld LA, Matt JE, Rizzo DM, Wong A, Braddish T, Gramling CJ, Wills J, Arnoldy FL, Straton J, Cheney N, Eppstein MJ, Gramling D. Conversational Stories & Self Organizing Maps: Innovations for the Study of Uncertainty in Healthcare Communication. *Patient Education & Counseling*. 2021. Nov;104(11):2616-2621.

Clarfeld L, **Gramling R**, Rizzo D, Eppstein M. A general [Markov] model of conversational dynamics with application in serious illness communication. *PLoS One*. 2021. Jul 1;16(7):e0253124.

Tarbi E, **Gramling R**, Bradway C, Meghani S. "If it's the Time, It's the Time": Existential Communication in Naturally-Occurring Palliative Care Conversations with Individuals with Advanced Cancer, Their Families, and Clinicians. *Patient Education & Counseling*. 2021. Dec;104(12):2963-2968.

Tarbi E, **Gramling R**, Bradway C, Broden EG, Meghani S. "I Had a Lot More Planned": A Mixed Methods Inquiry into the Existential Dimensions of Prognosis Communication with Adults with Advanced Cancer. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2021. Sep;24(10):1443-1454.

Cheung K, Tamura M, Rabinowitz T, Lamantia M, **Gramling R**. Feasibility and Acceptability of TelePalliative Medicine Consultation in Rural Dialysis Units. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2021. Sep;24(9):1307-1313.

van den Broek-Altenburg E, **Gramling R**, Gothard K, Kroesen M, Chorus C. Using Natural Language Processing to Explore Heterogeneity in Moral Terminology in Palliative Care Consultations. *BMC Palliative Care*. 2021. Jan 25;20(1):23.

Gramling R, Straton J, Ingersoll LT, Clarfeld LA, Hirsch L, Gramling CJ, Durieux BN, Eppstein MJ, Rizzo DM, Alexander SC. Epidemiology of Fear, Sadness and Anger Expression in Palliative Care Conversations. *Journal of Pain & Symptom Management*. 2021. Feb; 61(2):246-253

Hirsch L, Rizzo DM, Straton J, Clarfeld LA, Gramling CJ, Durieux BN, Eppstein MJ, **Gramling R**. Does hospital room environment affect serious illness conversation dynamics? *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2021. Jan;24(1):3-4.

Ross L, Danforth C, Eppstein MJ, Clarfeld LA, Durieux BN, Gramling CJ, Hirsch L, Rizzo DM, **Gramling R**. Story Arcs in Serious Illness: Natural Language Processing Features of Palliative Care Conversations. *Patient Education & Counseling*. 2020. April;103(4):826-832.

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PATENTS and TRADEMARKS

Conversation Analytics Systems for Identifying Conversation Features (U.S. Provisional Patent #63/507,627; Filed 12 June 2023; Applicant: University of Vermont; Role: Co-Inventor with Donna Rizzo)

Conversation Analytics For Identifying Conversation Features, and Related Systems, Methods, and Software (U.S. Patent Application # PCT/US2024/033534; Filed 12 June 2024; Applicant: University of Vermont; Role: Co-Inventor with Donna Rizzo)

HEARD & UNDERSTOOD (U.S. Trademark Application Class 9 #98650699 & Class 42 #98648190; Filed 16 July 2024, Successfully Registered pending use May 2025; Applicant: University of Vermont; Role: Co-Inventor with Donna Rizzo)

SELECTED MEDIA

Vermont Public Radio | "Focusing in on Palliative Care" | www.vpr.org/post/focusing-palliative-care#stream/0 | May 2016

University of Vermont | "Listening at the End of Life" | www.uvmhealth.org/medcenter/news/listening-at-the-end-of-life | June 2016

Seven Days | "UVM Pilots an End-of-Life Doula Program" | <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/uvm-pilots-an-end-of-life-doula-program/Content?oid=15381011> | May 2018

Mosaic Science | "How can doctors find better ways to talk - and listen - to patients close to death?" | <https://mosaicscience.com/story/end-of-life-care-conversations-dying-palliative-doctors-linguistics-ai/> | August 2019

The Atlantic | "The Meaning of Silence in Conversations About Death: Could AI teach doctors when to stop talking?" | www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/08/ai-could-help-doctors-talk-about-death-empathy/596929/ | August 2019

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Vermont Public Radio | "Helping Families Deal with Death and Grief During the Coronavirus Crisis" | www.vpr.org/post/helping-families-deal-death-and-grief-during-coronavirus-crisis#stream/0 | April 2020

Vermont Public Radio | "End-Of-Life Wishes in A Pandemic" | www.vpr.org/post/end-life-wishes-pandemic#stream/0 | June 2020

Seven Days | "It's in the Building: How COVID-19 Overwhelmed a Burlington Nursing Home" | <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/its-in-the-building-how-covid-19-overwhelmed-a-burlington-nursing-home/Content?oid=30518875> | June 2020

University of Vermont Foundation | "The One in the Room: Palliative Medicine in the Age of COVID-19" | <https://soundcloud.com/user-63490647-274832881/the-one-in-the-room-palliative-medicine-in-the-age-of-covid-19> | June 2020

VT Digger | "COVID Conversations: How to Speak Up and Remain Friends" | https://vtdigger.org/sponsored_content/uvm-covid-conversations-how-to-speak-up-and-stay-friends/ | November 2020

MarketWatch | "'So many people are terrified of death.' Death doulas provide end-of-life support" | <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-one-thing-we-all-share-is-that-were-going-to-die-death-doulas-provide-end-of-life-support-11662662774> | September 2022

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WCAX-TV Across the Fence | "The Vermont Conversation Lab at UVM" | <https://youtu.be/J65TfMGqKrs?si=mRn-HblJem7Jlv0a> | August 2023

TIME | The Language of Hospice Can Help Us Get Better at Discussing Death | <https://time.com/6509741/hospice-talking-about-death/> | December 2023

Seven Days | "Vermont's Studying Psychedelic Therapy, but Approval Would Take Time" | <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/news/vermonts-studying-psychedelic-therapy-but-approval-would-take-time-41972221> | October 2024

Maine Public Radio | "Psilocybin" | <https://www.mainepublic.org/show/maine-calling/2025-05-05/psilocybin> | May 2025