The Researching Answers to Metabolic Problems (RAMP) Lab at the University of Vermont (UVM) is recruiting a MS student starting spring/summer 2024 and/or a PhD student starting fall of 2024 broadly focused on lifestyle-driven liver diseases. Interested candidates should contact Dr. Chris Skinner directly at Chris.Skinner@uvm.edu. Please use the headline “position in liver diseases and nutrition” as the subject and include a brief description of your research interests and a copy of your CV. Currently, the pay for graduate students at UVM at both the MS and PhD level is $32,500 with full tuition coverage.

About the projects
Our lab broadly focuses on liver diseases, particularly the interactions of diet and alcohol on liver health and disease. We primarily focus on using translational mouse models but are looking to expand to more qualitative and mixed methods research. There is also ample opportunity to work on projects involving the development of novel functional food products that may be used for liver disease treatment, as well as mechanistic studies on how specific foods impact liver and metabolic health. There is great flexibility for a PhD student to develop research questions of interest to them and their future goals that fall within the broad focus of the lab.

Minimum qualifications

For MS:
- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university broadly in a health or biology field (ex. biology, biochemistry, nutrition, exercise science, public health, etc.)
- A passion for learning and working with a team to answer interesting questions
- An interest in writing and presenting scientific information

For PhD:
- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university broadly in a health or biology field (ex. biology, biochemistry, nutrition, exercise science, public health, etc.) with research experience OR a MS in a relevant field
- Desire to engage in critical thinking and exploration of new ideas
- Strong writing skills
- Experience with molecular biology techniques and/or animal handling

Preferred qualifications

For MS:
- Previous research experience
- Experience working with animal models
- Experience performing molecular biology techniques

For PhD:
- MS is preferred
- Experience or interest working with human clinical/qualitative research
- Experience working with statistical software and data analysis
About the lab
The RAMP Lab is newly established in the fall of 2023. It is led by Dr. Chris Skinner and we are excited to be ramping (no pun intended) up our research. We are currently outfitting our lab to be a standard molecular biology and physiology lab and now is an exciting time to join as we work to establish ourselves. We are housed in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences at UVM, providing excellent collaborative potential with food scientists, social scientists, animal scientists, medical scientists, and more. We are firm believers in supporting each other, working towards a common goal, work-life balance, ensuring the laboratory research experience is fun and beneficial, and promoting and supporting equity initiatives in the lab and beyond. Dr. Skinner firmly believes in supporting the goals and desires of students and is committed to working with students to achieve their desired career and research goals. You can expect a lot of one-on-one attention, regular team meetings to discuss research, support in pursuing passions (research, teaching, mentoring, etc), and a tailored plan to help you complete your graduate degree in a timely fashion.

About UVM and Burlington
UVM is a research university nestled in Burlington, VT. UVM has approximately 14,000 students, giving it a small college vibe with big college amenities. UVM has a strong track record of mentoring and supporting graduate students. UVM and Burlington are sustainability focused and excellent communities to support students. Burlington has a population of around 40,000 and is situated on the shores of Lake Champlain. It is a truly beautiful city and is known as a destination for the outdoors, food, and craft beer. Burlington is located very near several other smaller cities, including Winooski, Williston, South Burlington, and Colchester, and within 30 miles of several other more rural towns, giving students the opportunity to live in a small city or in the country. Burlington has an airport and has excellent access to major cities like Montreal and Boston, as well as bountiful outdoor activity access. We experience four distinct seasons, including cold and snowy winters, wet and cool springs, warm summers, and the most beautiful falls you will ever see.