Carol Lee Phillips, MD, Professor Emerita of Pediatrics, passed away on December 28, 2018. Dr. Phillips, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics (1983-1993), served as Associate Dean for Admissions (1977-1983) and then Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the University of Vermont (UVM) Larner College of Medicine (1985-1994).

Dr. Phillips came to Vermont in 1959 after earning her bachelor’s degree at Douglass College in New Jersey and her MD degree at Yale Medical School, where she also completed her internship in Pediatrics prior to coming to Vermont for her pediatric residency. She left Vermont in 1963 to do training in pediatric virology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston only to return in 1966 where she joined Drs. Jim McKay and Jerry Lucey as the third member of the Department. She went on to contribute actively to the growth and development of our Pediatrics Department, rising to Professor in 1976 in her role as the state’s only board-certified pediatric infectious disease specialist for many years, publishing over thirty peer-review manuscripts related to immunization and virology. At a national level, Dr. Phillips served on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Infectious Diseases (1985-1991) and was the Associate Editor for the 1988 and 1991 editions of the Red Book, the definitive infectious disease manual published by the AAP and used nationally and internationally by all pediatricians.

Locally, Dr. Phillips served the pediatricians of the state in her leadership roles as well as actively participating in improving health care in her local community. She was the recipient of the Vermont State Chapter of the AAP’s Green Mountain Pediatrician of the Year award, as outstanding pediatrician in our state, and received the “Heart of the Community Award” in 2014 from the Lund Center for over 20 years of dedicated service as their consulting pediatrician and as a board member to that organization. She also served as an epidemiologist for the Vermont Department of Health after her retirement as Chair and Associate Dean.

On a personal note, Lee devoted herself to fostering the careers of faculty and trainees who were fortunate to train while she led the department and served as Associate Dean for Admissions and then Academic Affairs. New faculty members were welcomed to the Department and community with a home-cooked meal in her home. She was always available for sound advice and was viewed by colleagues as a brilliant pediatrician, teacher, and friend. No one was more humble. Most importantly,
she was a devoted wife to her late husband Charles Alan Phillips, MD who passed away in 1994, and to her four children and 8 grandchildren. She trailblazed and was a model for women in academic medicine and as a result, she has enabled many women to further their academic careers while balancing family responsibilities, thanks to her mentorship and guidance.

We extend our deepest sympathies at this time to the Phillips family, We will miss her dearly but her legacy will carry forward by all of us at the University of Vermont fortunate to work with and learn from her.

Lewis R. First, MD  
Professor and Chair  
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