

SPRING 2018

# The CHART

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE NEWS AND NOTES

Larner College of Medicine | University of Vermont Medical Center



GOLDMAN ELECTED AS AMERICAN COLLEGE OF MOHS SURGERY LEADER — Page 3

From leading national organizations to spearheading important community events, our faculty have a long history of service above and beyond their clinical responsibilities. We want to continue to celebrate these accomplishments as well as ensure that all members of the Department of Medicine have the opportunity to engage with each other and the community in meaningful ways. To that end, we're continuing to implement new programs that help our physicians thrive.

The support starts when new faculty arrive at UVM, with a four-part orientation program that introduces department members to the key people and resources available for guidance related to research grants, the promotion and tenure process, educational scholarship and more. A Department of Medicine mentorship program matches all junior faculty with a mentor to help them navigate career decisions. And an awards program brings our department together to celebrate the varied accomplishments of faculty in the clinic, in education, and in research. All of these efforts help to address an important issue affecting physicians across the country: morale. At our 2016 department-wide retreat, we began many meaningful conversations that I hope to continue. Our goal is to help our faculty maintain



*Polly E. Parsons, M.D.  
 Professor and E.L.  
 Amidon, M.D.'32  
 Chair of Medicine*

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Meet the Scientist & Mentee

the same energy and enthusiasm that brought them to medicine in the first place, as it's this inner drive that propels us forward to tackle new challenges.

In this issue of *The Chart*, we have no shortage of faculty members who are inviting that next challenge and stepping up to leadership roles at the national, state and university levels. Glenn Goldman, M.D., division chief for dermatology and a nationally recognized clinician and researcher, will soon begin a three-year leadership term with the American College of Mohs Surgery. Read more about his work in a story on page three. Allen Repp, M.D., our vice-chair for quality, has been named Governor-Elect Designee for the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Physicians, a role that helps to ensure Vermont physicians have a strong voice at the national level. And here at the University of Vermont, Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D., has been appointed to lead an important interdisciplinary department, microbiology and molecular genetics. That our faculty continue to be called on to serve in these high profile roles speaks well to our collective expertise and our reputation for excellence at UVM and across the country.

As always, thanks for reading, and we hope you enjoy this spring 2018 issue of *The Chart*.

On the Cover: Glenn Goldman, M.D.

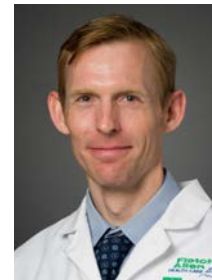
Photo by David Seaver

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**Repp Named Governor-Elect Designee for VT American College of Physicians**



*Allen Repp, M.D.*

**Allen Repp, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, has been named Governor-Elect Designee for the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Physicians. He begins his four-year term in the spring of 2019 after one year of training. As Governor, Repp will serve as the official representative of the College for the Vermont Chapter, providing a link between members at the local level and leadership at the national level. Repp received his medical degree from University of Texas Southwestern in 1999, and completed his residency in internal medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

**Kirkpatrick Appointed Chair of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics**



*Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D.*

**Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Infectious Disease, has been appointed chair of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the Larner College of Medicine and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Kirkpatrick's appointment was effective March 1, 2018, when founding chair and University Distinguished Professor Susan Wallace, Ph.D., stepped down. A nationally and internationally recognized physician-scientist and specialist in infectious diseases, translational immunology, and global vaccine development, Kirkpatrick launched the Vaccine Testing Center (VTC) in 2001. Kirkpatrick will retain leadership of the VTC and will continue to see patients in her role as an infectious disease specialist at the UVM Medical Center.



*Teaching Academy inductees*

**Celebrating Educational Scholarship and Teaching**

The Department of Medicine was well-represented in the newest group of inductees into the UVM Larner College of Medicine Teaching Academy during a ceremony in January of 2018.

**Master Teacher**

**Varun Agrawal, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Nephrology  
**Andrew Hale, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Disease  
**Amanda Kennedy, Pharm.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine  
**Mark Pasanen, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine

**Member**

**Garth Garrison, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine  
**Rosy Hill, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/ Geriatrics

**Joel Schnure, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism  
**Paul Slavik, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine

**Protégé**

**Vishal Shah, M.D.**, internal medicine resident  
**Emily Hadley Strout, M.D.**, internal medicine resident  
**Kramer Wahlberg, M.D.**, internal medicine resident



## Honors and Awards

**Jason Bates, Ph.D. (1), and Anne Dixon, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (2)**, both professors in the Division of Pulmonary

Disease and Critical Care Medicine, have been named fellows of the American Thoracic Society.

**(3) Jan Carney, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, was invited to serve as vice chair of the national Health and Public Policy Committee of the American College of Physicians (ACP) beginning in April of 2018. She serves as Vermont ACP Governor until the spring of 2019.

**(4) Jennifer Gilwee, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/ Geriatrics, was named a fellow in the American College of Physicians in November of 2017.

**(5) Steven Lidofsky, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, is a member of the Public Policy Committee for the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

**(6) Peter Moses, M.D.**, former professor in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, was recognized with an emeritus professorship from the University of Vermont on the occasion of his retirement after 23 years of service. He started a new position as medical director for new drug development at Takeda Pharmaceuticals in March of 2018.



### Dragonheart Vermont to Partner With UVM Cancer Center

This year, Integrative Therapies at the UVM Cancer Center will be the Pledge Partner for the annual Dragon Boat Festival on August 5, 2018. Evidence supports the value of many integrative therapies for controlling cancer-related side effects and improving quality of life. Funds raised will be used to expand massage, acupuncture and yoga opportunities for cancer patients and survivors. We are excited to partner with Dragonheart Vermont and encourage you to join a team. For more information, visit [dragonheartvermont.org](http://dragonheartvermont.org).

## Goldman Elected as American College of Mohs Surgery Leader

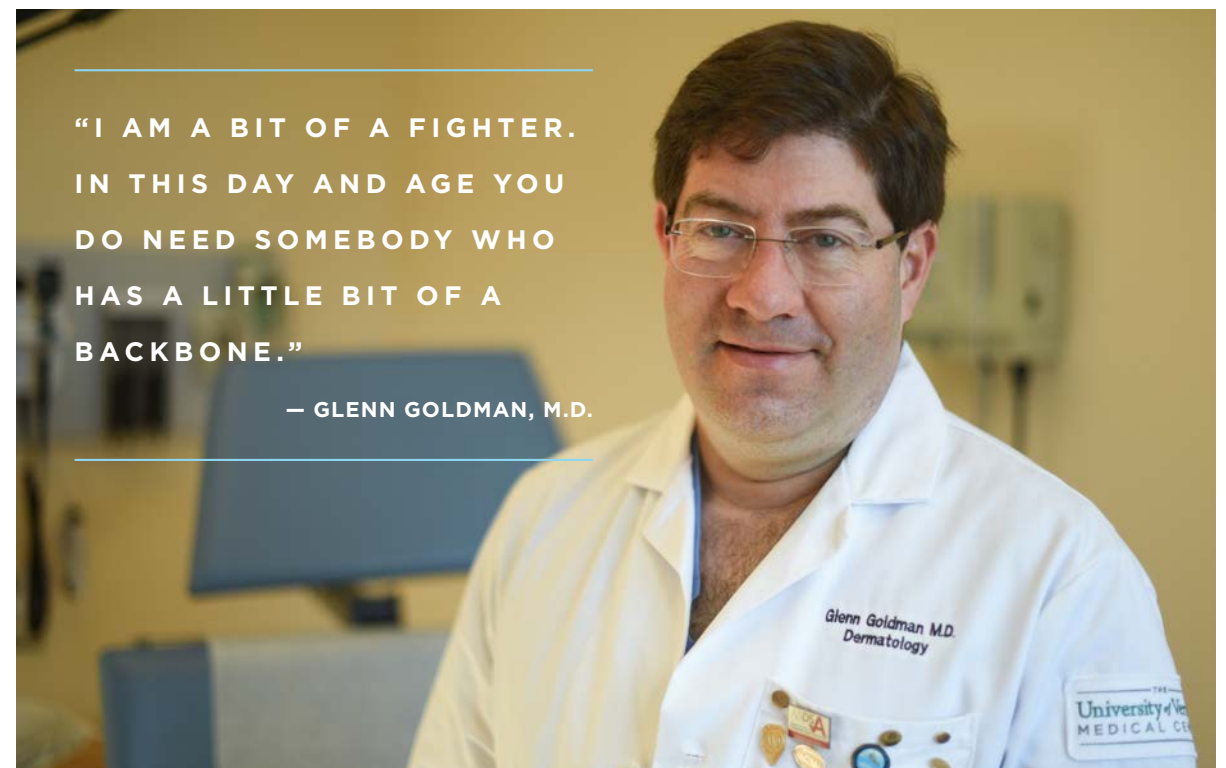
In May of 2018, Glenn Goldman, M.D., professor and chief of the Division of Dermatology, begins a three-year leadership term with the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS), an organization of physicians dedicated to the effective treatment of skin cancer. He assumes the elected role with an eye towards making improvements to quality measures and the fellowship match, as well as continuing to advocate for payment models that are sustainable for the field.

Goldman takes the helm of the organization in 2021, after serving one year as vice president, and a term beginning this spring as secretary/treasurer. ACMS currently boasts about 1,200 members, all of whom have completed a one-to two-year fellowship in Mohs surgery and

dermatologic oncology, following their three years of dermatology residency training. The organization dates back to the late 1960s, when the creator of Mohs surgery, Frederic Mohs, M.D., founded it and served as its first president. His namesake procedure is considered the gold standard for treatment of the two most common types of skin cancer.

Goldman's history with ACMS runs deep: He has been a member for over 20 years, has served on the fellowship training committee, and was the chairman of the Scientific Committee in 2007, when he ran the annual National Meeting. His former position as ACMS representative on the

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RVS Update Committee (RUC) of the American Medical Association, the group that makes recommendations to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding valuation and payment, helped him gain a deep knowledge of the financial side of practicing medicine. He has also provided advice to fellow physicians through the organization. A popular column he writes for the ACMS newsletter, called "Ask Glenn," addresses questions about proper coding and billing for Mohs surgery.

During his term as a leader for ACMS, Goldman has several wide-ranging goals. He hopes to improve the quality of the fellowship match and "ensure fairness for physicians matching into dermatologic surgery." Another focus will be involving more dermatologic surgeons in a national campaign called Improving Wisely, which addresses quality improvement by creating physician-level metrics for standards of care.

Quality improvement overall looms large as an issue he'll focus on during his tenure. Since many quality metrics are subjective, like patient satisfaction surveys, he says it's hard for surgeons to take specific actions to advance care. Creating standardized measures focused on "real, definable quality," like rate of infection, rate of bleeding, and cost per procedure, will help physicians make quantifiable gains in quality and improve patient care.

His work on the RVS Update Committee has provided a solid grasp of how healthcare policy

and financial management shape the practice of medicine, and he's committed to continuing to improve how physicians are compensated for their work and time. Tackling this complex issue requires knowledge but also conviction, a trait that Goldman points to as one that will serve him well as president of ACMS.

"I am a bit of a fighter," he says. "In this day and age you do need somebody who has a little bit of a backbone."

After graduating from Cornell University Medical College in 1991, Goldman completed residency training at Yale New Haven Hospital and a surgery fellowship in dermatology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He came to the

University of Vermont in 1996, and became a full professor in 2008. The division has grown substantially during his time at UVM; when he first arrived in Burlington, Goldman was the only Mohs surgeon in Vermont. Now the division includes 10 dermatologists, four of whom are trained in Mohs surgery. He founded the highly competitive dermatology residency program, and the fellowship program in dermatologic surgery. Goldman has published widely on dermatologic surgery and oncology topics, including co-authoring a book, titled *Facial Flap Surgery*, that has become an important resource for practitioners. He also serves on the board of directors of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery and leads the international efforts of that organization. ■

**Goldman File**

- **M.D.: Weill Cornell Medicine**
- **Internship: New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, Internal Medicine**
- **Residency: Yale University School of Medicine, Dermatology**
- **Fellowship: University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Dermatologic Surgery**

# Navigating the Electronic Health Record Upgrade & Transition

As the UVM Medical Center upgrades Epic and brings additional UVM Health Network hospitals into the system over the next five years, physicians and healthcare professionals will have the opportunity to make important decisions about usability and workflow.

**Ray Keller, M.D.**, director of medical informatics at UVM Medical Center, says the goal is to have clinical staff drive how the system functions as much as possible at every turn, making sure that it meets the needs of providers and patients.

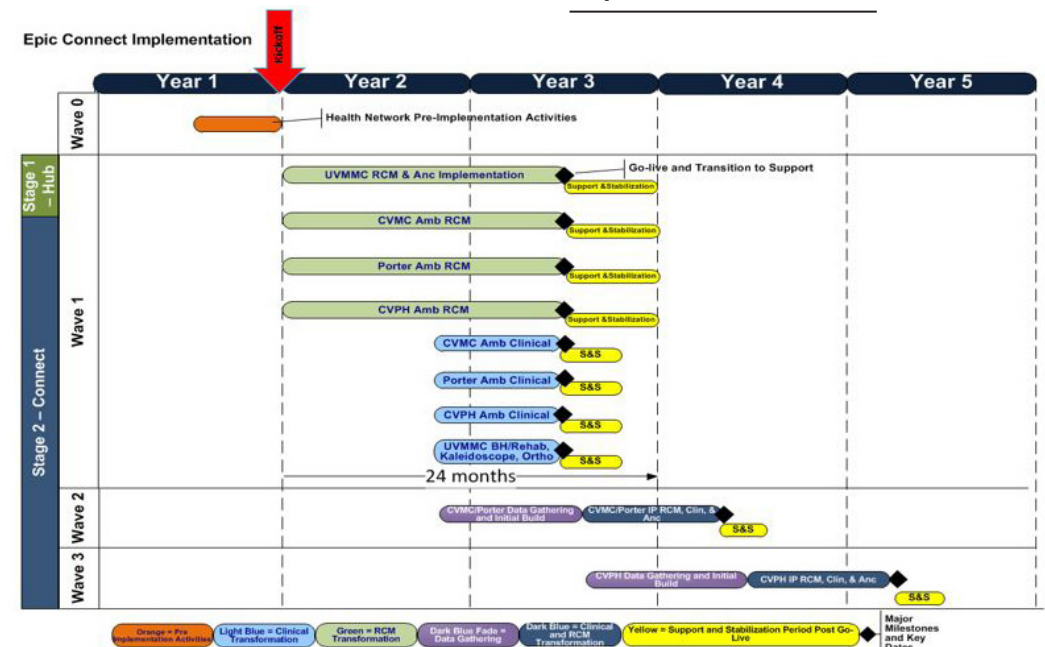
First up is a "double upgrade" to the current platform, which will move the medical center from the 2015 version to the newest 2018 release. The IT team will also be transitioning scheduling and admission, discharge and transfer (ADT) platforms to Epic, creating a more streamlined communication flow.

Plans include a five-year timeline for bringing network hospitals and clinics into the Epic system, after a successful kick-off event in April. With staff at different locations at varying degrees of familiarity with the platform, some physicians and healthcare providers will have the opportunity to become "super users" who are trained to provide ongoing support to their colleagues.

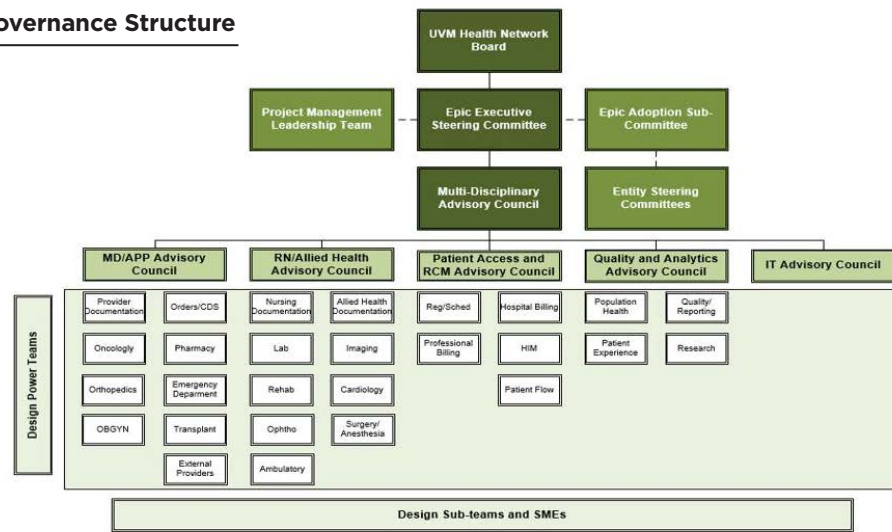
The governance structure for the Epic roll-out includes 27 design power teams, groups composed of physicians, nursing staff and other healthcare professionals who are tasked with making the vast majority of the decisions around functionality for their specific area. Epic provides recommendations for the composition of teams, as they have a deep understanding of the expertise necessary through successful roll-outs at institutions across

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## Implementation Timeline



**Epic Rollout Governance Structure**



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the country. The goal, says Keller, is to make sure providers across different departments and specialties have a system that meets their needs.

“Some enhancements require knowledge of how the system is used,” says Keller. “This needs to be led by clinical operations.”

Five advisory councils are tasked with making decisions that affect the system more broadly, while the Epic Executive Steering Committee and the Multidisciplinary Advisory Council oversee the entire process. All of these groups will stay in place after the roll-out; they will continue to provide crucial input on upgrades and new features into the future.

**Rachel McEntee, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, has been tasked with serving on the provider documentation power team, and **David Ziegelman, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/ Geriatrics, is on the ambulatory power team. **Julie Lin, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Dermatology, who serves on the orders power team, emphasizes that input from physicians during this “huge undertaking” will ensure its success.

“We’re going to need people to help out; we need to be at the table,” she says. “The leadership needs to be from the clinical side.”

The required time commitment varies throughout the process, but design power team members can expect to spend anywhere from six to 12 hours per week on the project depending on which phase it is in. Advisory council members can expect a two- to six-hour weekly commitment.

Ultimately, the goal is to improve patient care by creating a system that shares information between providers and locations as seamlessly as possible.

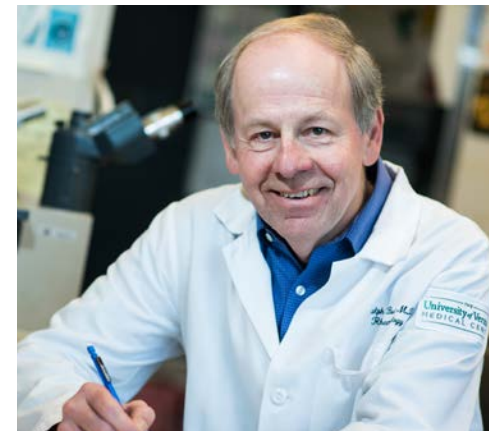
Providers who are interested in serving on a design power team or advisory council are encouraged to contact their division chief for further information. ■

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Use your [uvmhealth.org](http://uvmhealth.org) email address to request access to the Epic User Web, accessed via [epic.com](http://epic.com). This portal provides information about upgrades and features, and connects all Epic users across the country with each other to share information and answer questions.

**New Discovery in Budd Lab**

Through research in his lab, **Ralph Budd, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Immunobiology, has recently been able to identify candidate ligands for a subset of T cells known as gamma/delta T cells. These accumulate at sites of inflammation, such as in Lyme disease and rheumatoid arthritis. Almost nothing is known regarding what these T cells recognize. His lab has produced a soluble T cell receptor from a synovial gd T cell to use in flow cytometry to determine which cells express the ligand(s).



Ralph Budd, M.D.

**Department Faculty Patents Celebrated**

Several Department of Medicine faculty members were honored for new patents at the annual Invention 2 Venture Conference on April 5, 2018 hosted by UVM’s Office of Technology Commercialization. They include:

- Jason Bates, Ph.D.
- Markus Meyer, M.D.
- Peter Spector, M.D.
- Jeffrey Spees, Ph.D.

**Regenerative Medicine Consortium Designation a Result of Department Faculty Leadership**

UVM has joined the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI) through its BioFabUSA program, a recognition of the university as a leader in the field of regenerative medicine. Several Department of Medicine faculty have been key to UVM’s success in this area, including **Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.**,

professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, and **Jeffrey Spees, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, both of whom have worked to develop a multi-disciplinary program focused on basic science, commercialization, entrepreneurship and biotechnology training.

The university also has a robust biomedical engineering program. An undergraduate degree program in that discipline, under the leadership of **Jason Bates, Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, and **Jeff Frolik, Ph.D.**, recently joined existing masters and doctoral degree programs.

ARMI is a non-profit, federally sponsored consortium dedicated to making the large-scale manufacture of engineered tissues and tissue-related technologies practical, to benefit existing industries and grow new ones.



Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.



Jeffrey Spees, Ph.D.



Jason Bates, Ph.D.

### Grant Highlights

**Steven Lidofsky, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, is principal investigator at UVM Medical Center for “A single arm open Label multicenter study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of glecaprevir/pibrentasvir in treatment naïve adults with chronic hepatitis C virus genotypes 1- 6 infection and aspartate aminotransferase to platelet ratio Index  $\leq 1$ .”

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has awarded **Matthew Poynter, Ph.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, an R01 grant (R01 HL142081) to evaluate using in vivo mouse models to determine whether therapeutic augmentation of ketone body concentrations in the circulation elicit improvements in obese inherent and allergic asthma.

### Presentations

An abstract on fecal microbiota transplant in ulcerative colitis by **Peter Moses, M.D.**, professor emeritus in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, was selected for presentation at the annual scientific meeting of the American Gastroenterologic Association in Washington D.C. in June of 2018.

**Marie Sandoval, M.D.**, associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics, presented at the annual meeting of the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG). Her presentation, titled “Can We Increase the Rate of Obtaining Advance Directives in Our Primary Care Clinics,” was honored with a 2017 NAPCRG Pearl, an award given to the top research studies presented that will impact clinical practice.

**Kim Dittus, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, and **Elvira Umyarova, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, presented with fellow research team members Nancy Gell, PT, Ph.D., and Christine Vatovec, Ph.D., a project, titled “BeMobile: A randomized control trial of a novel, technology-based intervention to support physical activity in cancer survivors,” at the combined meeting for the Cancer Control and Population Health Science (CCPHS) and Host Factors and Tumor Progression (HFTP) on February 8, 2018. The research was funded through an American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant.

### Publication Highlights

**Hale A**, Snyder G, Ahern J, Eliopoulos G, Ricotta D, **Kemper Alston W**. When are Oral Antibiotics a Safe and Effective Choice for Bacterial Bloodstream Infections? An Evidence-based Narrative Review. *Journal of Hospital Medicine* 2018;13:online first 2/27/2018

Culver BH, Graham BL, Coates AL, Wanger J, Berry CE, Clarke PK, Hallstrand TS, Hankinson JL, **Kaminsky DA**, MacIntyre NR, McCormack MC, Rosenfeld M, Stanojevic S, Weiner DJ; ATS Committee on Proficiency Standards for Pulmonary Function Laboratories. Recommendations for a Standardized Pulmonary Function Report. An Official American Thoracic Society Technical Statement. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2017 Dec 1;196(11):1463-1472.

**Morley KW**, Butler LK, MacCormack MA, Tiger JB. Surgical Pearl: The Pinch Stitch. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2017; 77(3):e75-e76.

Hare BD, **Thornton TM**, **Rincon M**, Golijanin B, King SB, Jaworski DM, Falls WA. Two Weeks of Variable Stress Increases Gamma-H2AX Levels in the Mouse Bed Nucleus of the Stria Terminalis. *Neuroscience*. 2018 Mar 1;373:137-144.

**Ziegler CM**, **Bruce EA**, **Kelly JA**, **King BR**, **Botten JW**. The use of novel epitope-tagged arenaviruses reveals that Rab5c-positive endosomal membranes are targeted by the LCMV matrix protein. *J Gen Virol*. 2018 Feb;99(2):187-193. PMID: 29393022

### The Big Reveal: Match Day 2018

UVM celebrated Match Day — the annual rite of passage that ignites a senior medical student’s career — on Friday, March 16, 2018. In a few short months, the Department of Medicine will be welcoming two Class of 2018 graduates as residents: **Kenyon Bolton**, who matched into internal medicine, and **Julia Shatten**, who will be completing a preliminary medicine year at UVM before heading to University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for ophthalmology. **Laurie Leclair, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine and director of the Cardiovascular, Renal and Respiratory Systems course, was chosen by students to deliver special remarks at the beginning of the ceremony.



Kenyon Bolton '18 (above) and Julia Shatten '18 (left)

## Meet the New Chief Residents for 2018-2019

### Internal Medicine Chief Residents



A Brookline, Mass., native, **Elena Kozakewich, M.D.**, attended Haverford College and completed a post-baccalaureate program at the University of Pennsylvania. She worked in a zebrafish research laboratory at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute before attending Albany Medical College. Elena hopes to pursue a career in pulmonary and critical care medicine.



**Gatha Nair, M.D.**, grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, completing her undergraduate education at Arizona State University. She attended medical school at the University of Arizona College of Medicine—

Tucson, and was drawn to UVM Medical Center for internal medicine residency because of its collegial environment, strong academic tradition and its setting in beautiful Burlington, VT. After chief residency, she intends to pursue a career in cardiology and academic medicine.



**Heather Wright, D.O.**, grew up in Oxford, Mass., and studied biomedical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. She spent three years working in a research laboratory at Brigham & Women’s Hospital, which inspired a career in medicine. She attended the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine, and intends to pursue a career in hematology/oncology.

### Dermatology Chief Residents



**Patrick Benson, M.D.**, attended Colby-Sawyer College before graduating from the UVM Larner College of Medicine in 2015. He plans to pursue a career in general/pediatric dermatology and dermatopathology.



**Corey DeWitt, M.D.**, attended Dartmouth College and received his medical degree from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. He plans to pursue additional training in procedural dermatology.

## Committee Spotlight Q&A

**Q&A with Benjamin Suratt, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine and chair of the Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Committee (RPT)

**Q. What is the mission of the Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Committee?**

**A.** Three subcommittees comprise the RPT committee: The Clinical Scholar Evaluation and Reappointment Subcommittee; the Tenure Pathway and Promotions Subcommittee; and the Volunteer Pathway Reappointment Subcommittee. The committees not only assure that faculty dossiers are properly vetted before going to the Dean's Office for reappointment or promotion, but also (perhaps more importantly) they provide constructive feedback to the faculty on what they should focus on during the next reappointment cycle to move towards promotion or to maintain Volunteer status.

**Q. What are some important current projects from the committee?**

**A.** Perhaps the greatest change in the RPT system (and one that is still unfolding) is the transition to a new standardized CV format, required for all faculty going for reappointment or promotion. This has allowed all promotion tracks (except Tenure Track, unfortunately) to get rid of the greensheets that are used elsewhere on campus. Next, the College will be transitioning to an electronic (web-based) form of the CV, allowing us to draw most if not all of the data we currently request repeatedly from faculty. Let me reiterate my promise to all faculty to have their complete CVs uploaded by Department of Medicine personnel when the system goes live (later this year) if their current CVs are in the standard College of Medicine format. Otherwise, you're on your own.



Benjamin Suratt, M.D.

The committees all work in concert with the department-wide focus on faculty development. With the current (spring) cycle of reminders for faculty to meet with their mentors, we are sending all junior faculty who have recently gone through the reappointment process their RPT Committee evaluations to help them focus on the suggestions made by the committee during their mentor meetings.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- **RPT deadlines and requirements:**  
Suzanne Lee, Division of General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics Administrative Assistant
- **Faculty development and mentoring:**  
Erin Montgomery, Larner College of Medicine Faculty Development Coordinator

**“The Tenure Pathway and Promotions Subcommittee is composed of experienced clinician scientists and basic scientists who help faculty careers stay on track as they progress through the promotion and tenure process. This not only ensures that high academic standards are maintained for the benefit of the institution, but also that our talented faculty are given the best opportunities to succeed.”**

— JASON BATES, PH.D., TENURE PATHWAY AND PROMOTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR



**“The Volunteer Pathway Reappointment Subcommittee meets once a year to review the files of volunteer faculty up for reappointment. Current members are Garth Garrison, Roberta O’Brien and myself. Our volunteer faculty make significant contributions to the educational and research missions of the department, and they are crucial to the success of our medical student teaching programs.”**

— CLAUDIA BERGER, M.D., VOLUNTEER PATHWAY REAPPOINTMENT SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR



**“As faculty at UVM we wear so many different hats. We’re involved in scholarly activity, research, and curriculum development, and we teach medical students and residents in addition to clinical service. The role of the Clinical Scholar Evaluation and Reappointment Subcommittee is to recognize all of the different pieces that go into reappointment so this important work can be acknowledged at the college-wide level.”**

— KRISTEN PIERCE, M.D., CLINICAL SCHOLAR EVALUATION AND REAPPOINTMENT SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR



**In the Media**

On September 26, 2017, *Vermont Business Magazine* highlighted the appointment of **Adam Atherly, Ph.D.**, as the first Director of Health Services Research at the UVM Larner College of Medicine. Atherly, who is also a professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics, joins the College from Colorado School of Public Health where he served as a professor of health systems, management and policy.



Adam Atherly, Ph.D.

**Timothy Plante, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics, was quoted in a story in *Verge*, titled "Early research suggests a phone case might be able to measure blood pressure." The article, published March 7, 2018, discusses the new case as well as

research done by Plante and colleagues on a smartphone app that has since been discontinued that was shown to be unreliable in measuring blood pressure.



Timothy Plante, M.D.

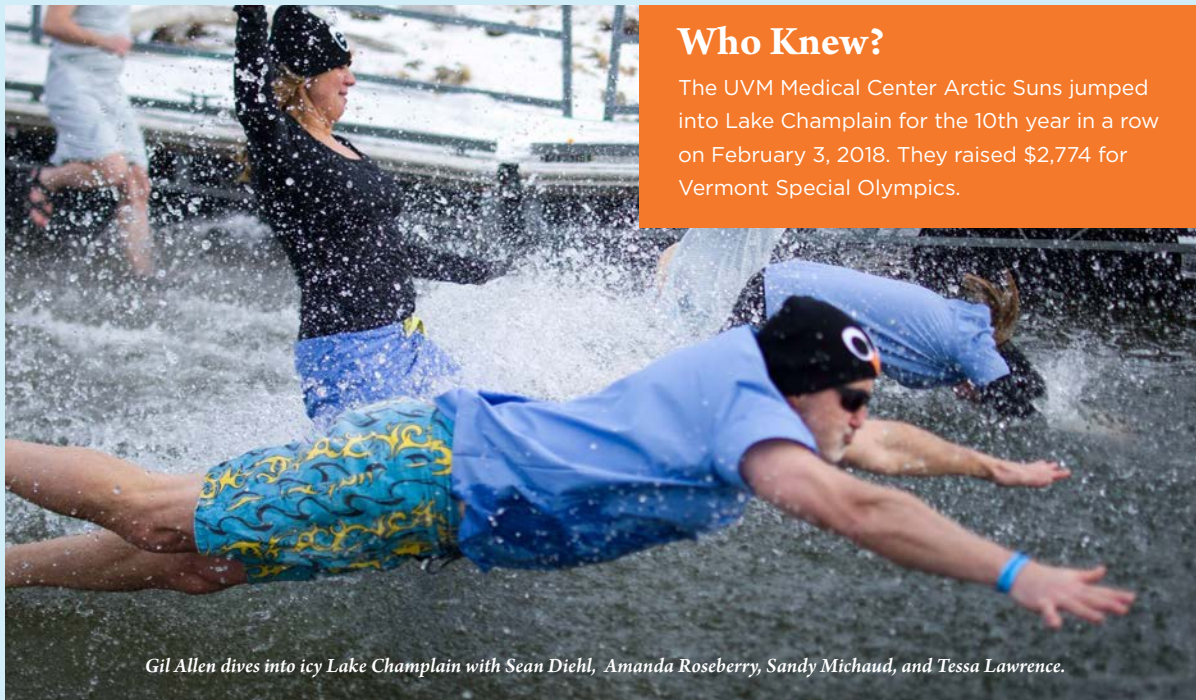
**Garth Garrison, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, was a guest on Vermont Public Radio's Vermont Edition on January 26, 2018. He spoke about what is currently known about smoking, smoking marijuana specifically, and cancer.



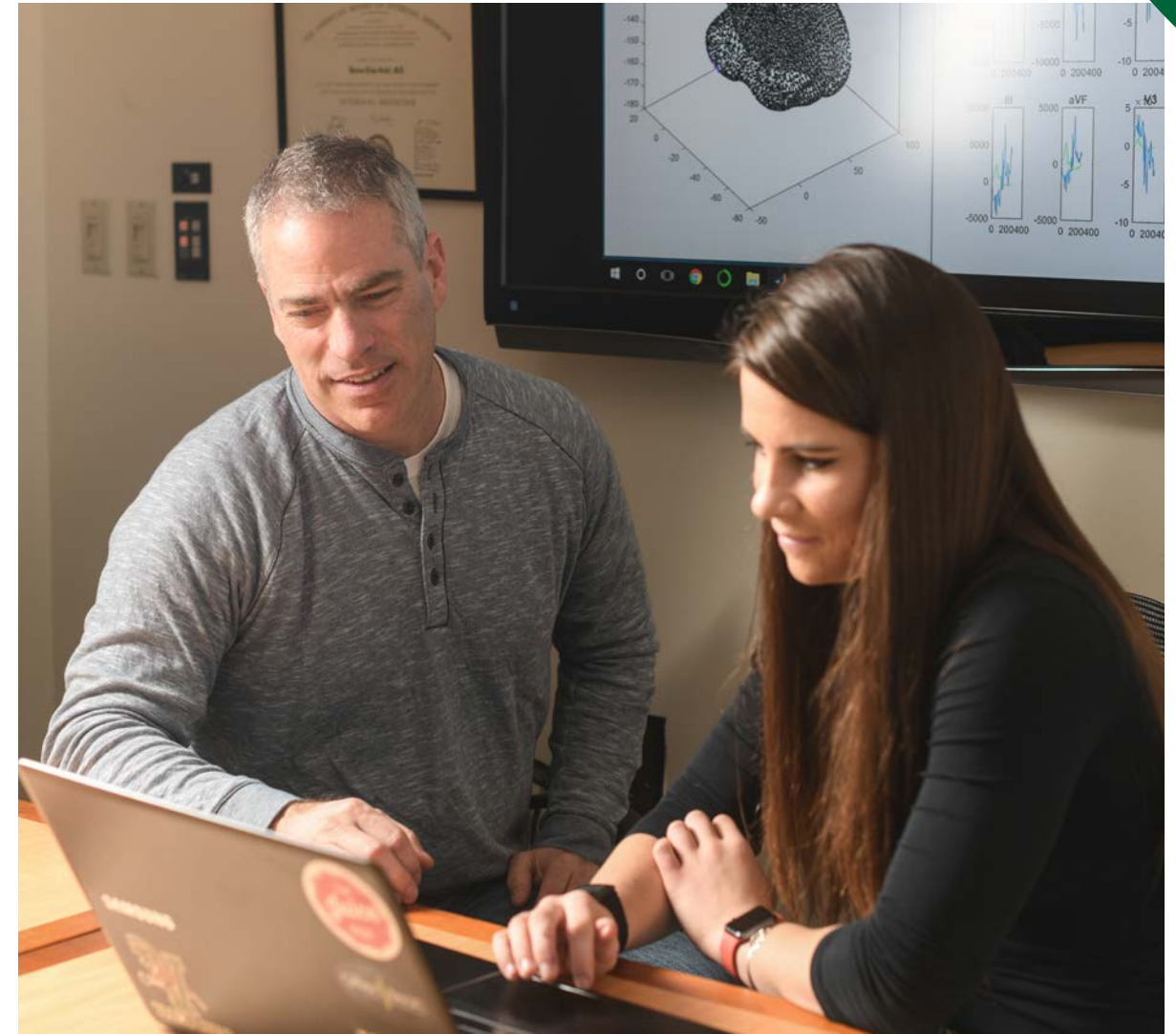
Garth Garrison, M.D.

**Who Knew?**

The UVM Medical Center Arctic Suns jumped into Lake Champlain for the 10th year in a row on February 3, 2018. They raised \$2,774 for Vermont Special Olympics.



Gil Allen dives into icy Lake Champlain with Sean Diehl, Amanda Roseberry, Sandy Michaud, and Tessa Lawrence.

**PETER SPECTOR, M.D. AND LARA WEED '19**

**Peter Spector, M.D.**, professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, has made it a priority to bring students into his lab, where he focuses on a condition called atrial fibrillation. He feels his work benefits as a result. He met **Lara Weed '19**, a junior in UVM's Biomedical Engineering Program, after he gave a guest lecture in one of her classes. After her enthusiastic questions generated a conversation about research opportunities, a partnership was formed. She's now creating a genetic algorithm

based on thousands of data points from real EKGs to visualize the electrical activity of the human heart. For Spector, Weed's work serves as the foundation for what stands to be an important teaching tool. And it's a great education for both mentor and mentee. "We built this program from a blank sheet of paper," says Spector. "I believe that active learning is better than passive learning for faculty as much as students."





The University of Vermont  
LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE  
University of Vermont  
MEDICAL CENTER