College of Medicine Community,

I am writing to share the news that Paula Tracy, Ph.D., will be stepping down from her role as Director of Foundations level effective February 16, 2018. Dr. Tracy was one of the original designers of the Vermont Integrated Curriculum (VIC) and was a unanimous choice to become the Foundations Director in 2012. During her tenure as Director of Foundations of the VIC, Dr. Tracy has helped implement numerous improvements, such as the creation of the Foundations of Clinical Science course, the integration of simulation-based education, the introduction of point-of-care ultrasound training, the renovation of educational facilities, the creation of two state-of-the-art large-group active learning classrooms, the introduction of the pass-fail grading, the introduction of a class-run metabolic research project and the creation of cultural competency modules. Dr. Tracy will continue as a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and will continue to be a leader in active learning pedagogy.

Dr. Tracy is a distinguished teacher and role model who has mentored more than 100 undergraduate, graduate and medical students, and post-doctoral fellows since her arrival at UVM in 1984. She maintained an active, funded research program in the area of coagulation process, hemostasis and thrombosis, while serving in a series of leadership roles on campus and with professional organizations internationally. In acknowledgement of her many achievements in the laboratory and the classroom, UVM honored her as a University Scholar in 2003.

Appointed Professor and vice chair of Biochemistry in 1997, Paula served as Interim Chair of the Department from 2005 until 2012. From 2003 until 2015 she served as Course Director for the Nutrition, Metabolism and the Gastrointestinal System course. She has been a member of the Medical Education Leadership team, and the redefined curriculum committee as well as a past member of the College’s Committee on Advancement and Committee on Fitness. She also served on the Standards & Guidelines Committee and the Task Force on Strategic Planning. The UVM chapter of the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) presented her with the Gender Equity Award in 2005.

Dr. Tracy received a Distinguished Career Award at the International Society for Thrombosis and Hemostasis (ISTH) 26th International Congress in Berlin, Germany on July 10, 2017. The ISTH Distinguished Career Awards are presented biennially to five individuals whose career contributions and service to the Society have significantly advanced the scientific community’s understanding of diseases and disorders that affect hemostasis. In the opinion of their peers, these individuals have made significant contributions to research and education in blood coagulation.

We greatly appreciate Paula’s deep commitment to education, which has benefited our students, residents and faculty. A reception to celebrate her service will take place in the coming months.

William Jeffries
Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education