

PHILANTHROPY HIGHLIGHTS 2022



THE *University of Vermont* MEDICAL CENTER
FOUNDATION

WE ARE THE REGION'S SAFETY NET HOSPITAL.

We take transfers from other hospitals. We take uninsured patients. We take Medicaid patients. We feed, house and care for patients who are ready to relocate to long-term care and specialty care facilities but for whom no beds are available. We take everyone.

We serve approximately 1 million residents in Vermont and northern New York annually. Together with UVM's Larner College of Medicine and College of Nursing and Health Sciences, we are Vermont's academic medical center and we are a hub of research and innovation for the UVM Health Network's six partner hospitals and home health and hospice provider.

We are Vermont's sole Level I Trauma Center. We are Vermont's sole children's hospital. We are the community hospital for Chittenden and Grand Isle county residents.

We are your neighbors, friends and family.

Since our founding, we have been a not-for-profit hospital. There has never been a period in our organization's history when we have relied on philanthropy more.



Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for providing us with resources that help us face these most challenging times with hope and innovation. Working together, we are improving lives.

– *Stephen Leffler, MD*
President and Chief Operating Officer,
UVM Medical Center

PHILANTHROPY HIGHLIGHTS 2022

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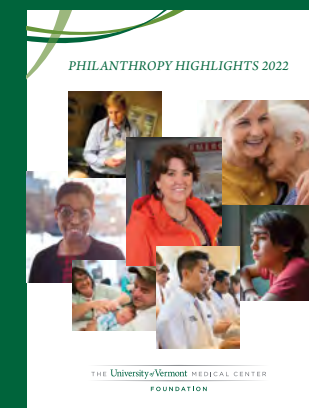
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On the Cover

Behind every patient's care are researchers, learners, faculty, staff, leadership, clinicians and a dedicated community of donors.



HEATHER LINK, MD

EXPANDING OUR REACH WITH YOUTH

School-based telehealth pilot improves healthcare access for local students

Philanthropic support from northern New England law firm Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC has fueled a three-year pilot partnership with the UVM Children's Hospital Pediatric Primary Care Division to deliver technology, equipment and real-time clinical support to nursing teams in five school-based health centers in the Burlington and Winooski school districts.

This innovative program improves local youth's access to healthcare, amplifies the value and impact of school-based health centers for families and school communities and elevates the vital care coordination that enables nurses to bring students, families and care teams together to help children thrive.

With Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC's funding, participating schools' health center nurses can now facilitate telehealth visits between students and UVM Children's Hospital pediatricians utilizing a new iPad-based system that interfaces with instruments in the doctors' offices. From routine health checks to medical support for more sensitive needs such as mental and reproductive health, this video and

remote technology eradicates some of the barriers that many families in the Burlington and Winooski school districts face—transportation, language, work restrictions—and alleviates interruptions in learning caused by students having to miss classes for in-office appointments.

For nurses, the program fortifies their ability to stay in step with the rapidly growing and increasingly complex needs of today's students while increasing opportunities to screen for social determinants of health, such as food insecurity, housing instability and other significant barriers to child and adolescent health.

"One of our guiding principles is serving in—and giving back to—the communities in which we work," says attorney Peter Kunin, Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC managing partner and chief executive officer. "This program does just that."

"DRM's funding has infused our mission with energy," says UVM Children's Hospital pediatrician Heather Link, MD, "and enabled us to advance the scope of our reach within the greater Burlington children and adolescent communities."



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BRIDGING A GAP

Charitable giving drives progress on a mobile cancer education and screening vehicle to support rural communities

Survival rates improve when cancer is detected early but for many of our rural neighbors, regular cancer screenings are out of reach. The barriers they face accessing health care—a shortage of nearby primary care practitioners, steep transportation costs, challenges taking time off work—exacerbate inequities in health outcomes leaving rural communities with a higher prevalence of cancer, more acute morbidity and higher rates of mortality than their urban counterparts.

Identifying pathways for improved cancer screening and care for our rural neighbors is a multi-tiered, cross-departmental priority for the UVM Cancer Center, the UVM Larner College of Medicine and the UVM Health Network and philanthropy is already fueling innovation. In an effort to bridge theory and practice, Jan Blomstrann has made a gift through the Trout Lily Foundation to the UVM Cancer Center to support the design and launch of a mobile outreach vehicle—a resource that's proven effective in improving health care utilization in rural areas elsewhere in the country. "As a metastatic melanoma survivor, I know how critical early detection and treatment are. I want to do everything I can to lower barriers to care, especially for people living in more isolated rural communities."

The new vehicle will enable clinicians to conduct skin checks to detect potential abnormalities, to analyze blood for genetic screening and research and to share education materials to empower patients in their health maintenance. Cutting-edge camera technology will provide a real-time link to cancer experts at the hospital while body composition devices and other equipment will readily evaluate other known factors that predispose people to cancer. The vehicle will deliver information to help people today while generating data to benefit future generations through cancer research.

"At the UVM Cancer Center, we're driven to reduce the burden of cancer in Vermont and northern New York. Philanthropy for the Cancer Center van will expand access to life-saving information and leading-edge research and enable us to build connections with our community partners in service of rural residents," says UVM Cancer Center Director Randall Holcombe, MD, MBA.

Thanks to Ms. Blomstrann and other donors, Dr. Holcombe plans to deploy the van in summer 2023.



OVERCOMING DISPARITIES

(L) BETH ZIGMUND, MD, AND (R) MOLLY LAWRENCE, MPH

Supporting equitable expansion of telemedicine

Telemedicine has powerful potential to improve access to a broad range of medical services, particularly for patients who experience chronic barriers to care. Understanding the causes and scope of existing disparities in access during an era when telemedicine is rapidly expanding is essential to bridging the health equity gap and connecting with patients who need our services.

Disparities specific to digital health have not yet been studied in our health system, so with support from a 2022 UVM Medical Center Fund grant, Beth Zigmund, MD, and Molly Lawrence, MPH, have launched a pilot study to uncover the barriers in access to telemedicine services so that disadvantaged populations—including those of marginalized groups, those with public or no insurance, as well as rural, disabled, elderly, and low-income patients—are not further left behind as telemedicine services expand. For example, Vermont’s rural communities suffer

from persistent physician shortages, high poverty rates, food insecurity, poor or no insurance coverage, long travel times to medical appointments and lack of reliable and affordable transportation. The state’s large refugee and immigrant populations face barriers to language accessibility services across all points of care.

Through outreach and engagement with disadvantaged populations in our region, the study will ultimately produce a roadmap to support the equitable expansion of telemedicine across the UVM Medical Center and Health Network.

“Understanding the challenges faced by underserved and marginalized patients and determining the resources necessary to resolve those barriers is critical to the equitable and inclusive design and rollout of telemedicine moving forward,” says Dr. Zigmund. “Without the charitable support that has made our grant funding possible, we would run the risk of exacerbating existing disparities rather than addressing them.”

Gifts from grateful patients, families, employees, local businesses and many others fuel patient-focused, employee-led healthcare innovations through a dynamic annual grant program, now in its seventh year.



MENDING OURSELVES, TOGETHER

Health equity summit advances culturally humble, patient-centered care

Health disparities and inequities in our local and global communities fuel human suffering, poor health outcomes and institutional inequities within organizational, governmental, legal and social systems while costing billions each year in avoidable health care spending.

To formally address health disparities and inequities in Vermont and northern New York, the UVM Medical Center, the UVM Health Network and UVM convened an inaugural health equity summit, *Mending Ourselves, Together*. The October 20, 2022 event brought healthcare providers and staff, educators and community partners together to explore pathways to dismantling institutional inequities, strengthening community engagement and elevating patient experiences. The summit was funded by philanthropy, with gifts to the UVM Medical Center Fund and support from Northfield Savings Bank, Community Bank, OneCare Vermont, Iroquois Healthcare Association, the UVM Medical Center Auxiliary, Elizabethtown Community Hospital and UVM’s Larner College of Medicine, College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Office of the Vice Provost for

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

With compelling keynotes from DEI experts Heather McGhee and Benjamin Danielson, MD, plus small-group workshops, the summit drew more than 800 registrants, virtually and in-person. Participants built understanding, shared language and cross-sector partnerships, explored ways to create a more inclusive healthcare community, deepen trust and communications and advance culturally humble, patient-centered care.

Last fall, MARRISA COLEMAN, PsyD, UVM Medical Center’s Vice President of DEI, envisioned a summit to inspire and bring cohesion among our institutions and community organizations around advancing health equity. UVM Health Network’s Senior Quality Improvement Partner Geera Demers and Senior Community Relations Officer Karen Vastine co-chaired the collaborative planning committee comprised of representatives from eight institutions.

Without philanthropic support, this milestone event would not have been possible. The role of host will alternate between the UVM Medical Center and UVM from year to year. UVM will host the 2023 summit.



To learn more about powering innovations in health care, contact

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“Geriatric medicine is about supporting and maintaining function among older adults so they can live happily and independently for as long as possible.”

– Michael LaMantia, MD, MPH
 Holly and Bob Miller Chair in Memory and Aging
 Director of UVM’s Center on Aging
 UVM Medical Center’s Chief of Geriatrics and
 Medical Director of Long-Term Care Services

“The Auxiliary’s charitable investment in programs to support aging community members will help bring relief from suffering. What’s more important than that?”

– Jeanne Pizii
 UVM Medical Center Auxiliary President

A SHIFT OF AGES

Empowering aging adults through philanthropy

Key Partners

- UVM Center on Aging

- UVM College of Education and Social Sciences

- UVM Medical Center Memory Program

- UVM Medical Center Division of Geriatric Medicine

- Burlington Aging Council

- Vermont Division of Aging, Disability, and Independent Living

- Vermont Department of Public Health

The Baby Boomer generation is the largest in U.S. History. Soon all of its living members will be age 65 or older, facing the unique challenges of late-life and likely relying on health care more than at any other time in their lives. Without the infrastructure or workforce to care for this population, how will our nation meet their needs?

With Vermont ranking first among states with the largest share of residents aged 65+, the UVM Medical Center, the UVM Health Network and UVM’s Larner College of Medicine and College of Nursing and Health Sciences have been actively cultivating and sharing resources and expertise to better address this population’s unique needs and prepare for the future.

Philanthropic investments are vital to the innovations, workforce enhancements and expanded services that will help older adults in Vermont and northern New York live their best lives. Under the leadership of Michael LaMantia, MD, MPH, here are a few of the donor-supported initiatives that are having transformative impact.

Growing Our Caregivers Center: Family members who are providing at-home, informal care to aging loved ones need more support. We’ve brought an evidence-based program to Vermont (and the U.S.) that is equipping at-home caregivers with skills to improve the manageability and sustainability of their role.



To invest in programs that support your aging loved ones, contact

Lauren Mauter
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Expanding Enrichment Programs: Older adults stay in hospitals for longer periods than younger adults. With charitable support, we are launching a pilot program designed to elevate cognitive engagement, behavioral and emotional health, sleep and resilience for hospitalized older patients with the ultimate goal of improving their healing and quality of life.

Specialty Skills Training for Healthcare Providers: Philanthropic investments have helped us meet a demonstrated need for geriatric medical expertise among healthcare providers across Vermont, enabling us to deliver monthly telemedicine seminars on the diagnosis, management and support of persons with dementia.

Educating the Next Generation of Practitioners: Charitable donations are enriching educational opportunities for tomorrow’s workforce in myriad ways, including mentoring for junior faculty in geriatric medical specialties; connecting undergraduates with internships, research or volunteer placement in the aging network; and building a pipeline of aging experts through UVM’s social work program.





(L- R) JOHN DICK, MD, KATHERINE DICK, CHRISTOPHER PAUL KHOURY, MD AND LINDA COREY

IN GRATITUDE TO NURSES

Dedicated Class of 1967 alumni build nursing pipeline through new scholarships

Katherine Dick and Linda Corey first met as nursing students at UVM in the early 1960s. Even though life took them to different parts of the country after they graduated from UVM's College of Nursing and Health Sciences in 1967, their friendship endured. Now, they're both giving back to the university that brought them together and provided them a strong foundation for meaningful careers.

Katherine and her husband, John, have established the Katherine and John Dick II, MD, Nursing Scholarship to benefit residents of Vermont "entering the field they so highly value." John, a third-generation physician who received his medical degree from UVM, has great respect for nurses thanks in part to his experiences as a child. In 1949, when he was eight years old, he contracted polio, which required 10 weeks in the hospital and around-the-clock nursing care. Katherine devoted much of her distinguished nursing career to serving children. For many years, she worked as a high school and elementary school nurse. She has also stayed engaged with UVM over the years and in 2019 was awarded UVM's Janet Austin Alumni Award for her dedication as a volunteer alumna.

The Linda J. Corey '67 Scholarship, established by Linda and her husband, Christopher Paul Khoury, MD, is for graduate students entering the field of nursing geriatrics. Not only does the scholarship honor Linda's career, it is a testament to her long-standing commitment to give back so that others can succeed. An eighth-generation Vermonter who was able to attend UVM with help from loans and scholarships, Linda was inspired by this experience to help poor women change their economic circumstances no matter how challenging. She joined the founding Board of Directors for the San Diego-based Women's Empowerment International and has helped to fund hundreds of loans to disadvantaged women locally and globally.

Linda has also made significant contributions to the field of nursing across the spectrum of clinical work, teaching and research in her specialty of psychiatric and mental health nursing, including at medical centers affiliated with the University of Colorado, Yale University, the University of California at San Diego and UVM.



LINDA COREY (L) AND KATHERINE DICK (R)

"Our students learn to reach across divides for the benefit of patients and become leaders among the next generation of culturally competent health professionals. Their deep and broad education—both in the classroom and in clinical environments at the UVM Medical Center—foster their ability to see the world through multiple lenses and contribute to human health at the highest level."

– Noma Anderson, PhD
Dean, UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences



NOMA ANDERSON, PhD



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GUIDANCE THROUGH THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Community gifts fund a frontline position to aid families with children in crisis

A DISTRESSING TREND

Combatting the rise of workplace violence in healthcare settings

“I never imagined a day in health care when we would have to wear slash-proof jackets to protect ourselves against workplace violence,” says UVM Medical Center nurse Laura Dattilio, RN. “Sometimes we can recognize the predictors and de-escalate the situation; other times we can’t. Many of us feel vulnerable. It’s hard to set aside fear.”

An unforeseen consequence of the pandemic, violence by patients, family members and visitors against our employees has infiltrated the workplace with an intensity and volume that could not have been predicted. In fiscal year 2019, 87 assaults were documented. In fiscal year 2022, 172.

“We don’t yet fully understand why it’s happening,” says Dattilio, a member of the employee-led Workplace Violence Committee, “but we recognize a correlation with the hospital’s increased rules and visitation restrictions, skyrocketing mental health needs and the reality that we have all had to think about our mortality and who we can trust in a different way. People come to our hospital more stressed than ever.”

Thanks to a UVM Medical Center Fund Grant, the availability and breadth of personal protective equipment (PPE) will improve. At present, Code 8 PPE Carts (“Code 8” signifying a behavioral emergency in which backup is needed) are too few, too centralized and inadequately stocked. With the infusion of grant funding, by April 1, 2023, every inpatient unit will have its own cart, all unit staff will have direct access and carts will be comprehensively stocked with protective gear.

“The Emergency Department has been a huge model for us in the inpatient units. They’re showing us how you get up after a crisis and still hold space to process what happened,” says Dattilio, the grant lead. “This is a complex issue. You simply can’t quantify the value of safety, but we know that healthcare workers are invaluable to our community.”

While philanthropy addresses this particular, tangible PPE need, UVM Medical Center leaders and the Workplace Violence Committee are continuously working to design and implement strategies to mitigate violence, protect employees and support healing when trauma occurs.



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The Emergency Department (ED) has been the main point of entry for youth experiencing mental health crises. At a time when long-term placement beds are scarce in our region, many have spent weeks in the ED, where a psychiatrist would perform an initial patient assessment, but the responsibility of navigating the mental health system would fall predominantly on patients’ families.

To elevate support for families, a 2022 CMN Hospitals Fund Grant enabled the UVM Children’s Hospital to add a social worker to the frontline, giving youth and families entering the ED the extra benefit of a case manager with extensive knowledge of the system and a case coordinator

to help liaise with treatment teams, schools (by law, education cannot be interrupted), outpatient providers, long-term facilities and community agencies.

As a result, families have felt less burdened, the quality of care coordination has improved, ED wait times have dropped and more children and adolescents have been able to return home for outpatient treatment. The “Children and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychology Consult Service Social Worker” pilot was so successful, the position has been adopted in the fiscal year 2023 annual operating budget. Without philanthropy, creating this vital position would not have been possible.

Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals Fund

The UVM Children’s Hospital is a member of the national network of CMN Hospitals and the sole full-service children’s hospital in Vermont and the North Country. Every dollar raised locally stays local.

Patients and families, schools, community organizations, area businesses, UVM Medical Center employees and many others contribute to the fund through local business fundraising activities and events such as Big Change Roundup for Kids/Radiothon, Extra Life, the Golf Classic and UVM-student run RALLYTHON/ Dance Marathon.

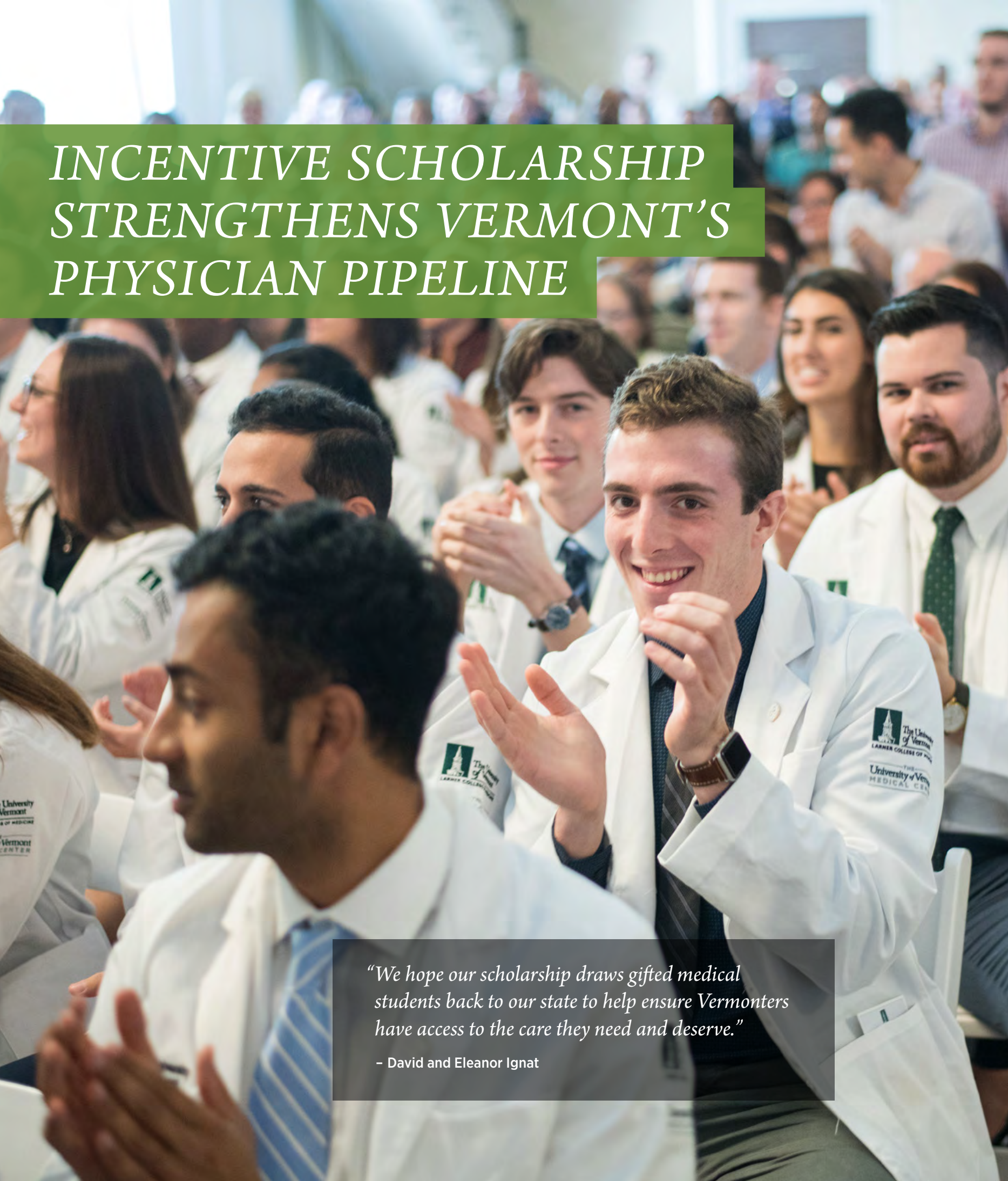
How do these funds impact local children?

- Expanded pediatric patient services, such as child abuse screening and mental health support;
- Life-saving equipment;
- Pediatric research that drives breakthroughs and cures;
- Charitable care;
- Educational resources;
- Grants for innovative employee-led projects, new initiatives and technology.



Pictured above, members of the Workforce Violence Committee, left to right: James Lehneman, Interim Director, Facilities Management & Environmental Services; Gary Scott, Vice President, Hospital Services; Mike-Ann Young, Director, Security, Parking & Transportation; Charlie Zea, Manager, Security & Parking; Laura Dattilio, RN, Pediatric Nurse; Heather Kendrew, Director, Environmental Health & Safety; Greg Klimas, OCC/Environmental Health Program Manager

INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP STRENGTHENS VERMONT'S PHYSICIAN PIPELINE



"We hope our scholarship draws gifted medical students back to our state to help ensure Vermonters have access to the care they need and deserve."

– David and Eleanor Ignat

Responding to a persistent workforce challenge: increasing the number of physicians in the state

David and Eleanor Ignat, longtime philanthropic supporters of the UVM Medical Center, Porter Medical Center and UVM, have endowed a fund to provide incentive scholarships to UVM Larner College of Medicine students who make a commitment to return to Vermont after their residency/fellowship program(s). This incentive scholarship aims to strengthen the physician workforce pipeline into Vermont, as the state competes nationally and globally to attract and retain an appropriate and geographically distributed physician workforce.

The UVM Office of Primary Care's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program, established in 1996 to improve access to quality health care through its focus on workforce development, plays a key role in administering the new incentive scholarship/loan forgiveness program. AHEC's statewide infrastructure and long history working with communities on local and regional healthcare workforce challenges provides a strong foundation for success.

"Collaboration and coordination are critical when it comes to healthcare workforce development," said Elizabeth Cote, director, Office of Primary Care and AHEC, UVM Larner College of Medicine.

The new Ignat incentive scholarship program strategically complements existing UVM, state, federal and employer-based incentive programs to ensure the maximum impact on Vermonters' health care.

Fourth-year medical students are eligible to receive the scholarship which is initially issued as a loan. They can complete their residency/fellowship training anywhere they choose, then return to Vermont within a year and complete one year of full-time service or two-years of half-time service to have the loan forgiven (i.e., it converts to a scholarship). If recipients do not return to practice in Vermont within one year of completing their training, they must repay the loan/incentive scholarship with interest.

The program is open to Larner College students in all medical specialties, a coordinated distinction that makes it complementary to existing programs with more narrow eligibility criteria. "Physician workforce shortages in primary care are well-documented and chronic. Vermont also needs psychiatrists and general surgeons, especially in rural areas," said Cote.

"Philanthropy can have a tremendous impact on workforce development and provides the greatest opportunity to innovate," said Cote. "With the Ignats' gift, we identified areas of unmet need and designed a program that responds to those gaps. To strengthen the workforce pipeline, to meet the needs of Vermonters, requires longitudinal commitment, careful coordination, thoughtful design—including an evaluation plan, and pooled resources from government, education, employers, philanthropy and many others—a sincere in-it-together philosophy for collective impact."

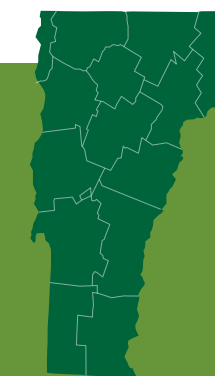


To learn more about investing in the future of medicine through scholarships, contact

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Working together to increase the supply of physicians throughout the state

41% of the primary care physician workforce and 29% of specialists in Vermont received medical training through UVM's Larner College of Medicine and/or residency at the UVM Medical Center

*Source 2018 Physician Census Statistical Report published by the VT Department of Health

“Dad’s generosity came from a place of knowing what it meant to struggle and wanting to relieve that burden for others.”

– Tim Miller and Stephanie Miller Taylor

MILLER FAMILY ANSWERS COMMUNITY’S CALL

Gift enables launch of renovation project to help relieve the crisis of access and overcrowding in the Emergency Department

When beloved local businessman and philanthropist Bob Miller passed away in the UVM Medical Center’s Emergency Department (ED) in February 2020, family members were at his bedside. Although the quality of care was exceptional—skilled, attentive and respectful—they found the environment extremely challenging. The volume of patients, inadequate space and absence of privacy intensified the family’s distress amidst a pivotal and deeply personal transition.

As the pandemic struck, bringing with it unfathomable demands on the ED, Tim Miller and Stephanie Miller Taylor, Bob’s children, began to see an opportunity to facilitate immediate and lasting change. In the wake of their experience during their father’s passing, they felt strongly that dramatic improvements to the ED were paramount and that their philanthropy could fuel it. ED renovations were already a hospital priority, but funding wasn’t available.

With input from clinicians and staff, floor plans are now underway that reflect the real-time needs of today’s ED with an eye on long-term sustainability. In the initial phase, the goal is dedicated pediatric space and safety upgrades for the benefit of patients, families and staff. Tim and Stephanie’s express wish for private end-of-life space for families will be fulfilled in the second phase of renovations.



Emergency Medicine Lead Ramsey Herrington, MD, FACEP, Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, UVM Larner College of Medicine and Chair, Emergency Medicine Specialty Council, UVM Health Network.



To learn more about bolstering emergency care through charitable giving, contact

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“The Emergency Department is the safety net for our community. As access to health care has become increasingly challenging nationwide, the demand for increased ED space and staff to take care of our community has risen exponentially. Through the Miller family’s generous donation, we will be able to provide specialized, separate space for our pediatric patients and their families while also improving Department safety for all.”

– Kristin Baker, RN, BSN
Emergency Department Nurse Manager

SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US

Global pediatric health research and service boosted by newly endowed fund

Fifty years ago, Jeffrey Horbar, MD, and his wife, Irene, served as teachers at the Asra Hawariat School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Founded by the revered humanitarian Asfaw Yemiru, the school educates the most needy and destitute children in the city, instilling them with knowledge and hope.

Horbar, the Jerold F. Lucey Professor of Neonatal Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, UVM Larner College of Medicine and Senior Pediatrician, Vermont Child Health Improvement Project never forgot meeting Yemiru, a man who had himself lived on the streets as a child laborer after coming to Addis Ababa from the countryside at just nine years old. Yemiru's determination and selfless devotion to vulnerable children inspired the trajectory of Horbar's career as a neonatal medicine specialist and president, CEO and chief scientific officer of the Vermont Oxford Network (VON), a nonprofit organization based in Burlington, Vermont, dedicated to improving outcomes for all newborns across the globe.

Now, a professorship at UVM honors Yemiru's legacy and furthers VON's mission. After Yemiru's death on May, 8, 2021, the board of directors for VON endowed a fund establishing the Asfaw Yemiru Green and Gold Professorship in Global Health.

The Professorship supports global health research and service by a faculty member of UVM's Larner College of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics engaged in global health programs. The inaugural holder, Danielle Ehret, MD, MPH, was introduced to Yemiru by Horbar and also became inspired by his life's work. A neonatologist and associate professor of pediatrics, she serves as director of global health at VON and has conducted extensive research on global health issues relating to high-risk newborns in low- and middle-income countries around the world.

At the ceremony celebrating the new professorship, Ehret cited Asfaw's values as something she holds close, considering it a "personal responsibility to lead a career that he would be proud of, and to be an incredible mentor, sponsor and friend to mentees for generations to come."



DANIELLE EHRET, MD, MPH,
AND JEFFREY HORBAR, MD



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On a Mission to Improve Newborn Health



The Vermont Oxford Network (VON) is a nonprofit voluntary collaboration dedicated to helping all newborns across the globe realize their fullest potential by improving the quality, safety and value of care. Based in Burlington, the organization has more than 1,400 member hospitals worldwide, and maintains the world's

largest voluntary databases for very low birth weight infants and NICU admissions. Long-term partnerships with health care providers in resource-limited communities drive sustainable data-driven quality improvement, leading to improved quality of life for children globally.

GETTING AHEAD OF HEREDITARY CANCER SYNDROME

Donor-supported research aims to improve patient experiences and reduce patient distress

Inherited genes can play a role in the development of some types of cancer, such as breast, ovarian, colon and uterine cancer. For patients with hereditary cancer syndrome, early detection and screening are important in preventing cancer or detecting it at a more treatable stage.

Clinical care for patients with hereditary cancer syndrome is rapidly evolving and requires a complex multidisciplinary approach. Unfortunately, the burden of coordinating care often falls on patients, especially those living in rural areas where access to care may be more limited.

Thanks to a Clinical Investigator Development Initiative grant from the J. Walter Juckett Cancer Research Foundation, UVM Cancer Center hematology/oncology physician Kara Landry, MD, is developing a program that will help coordinate care and prevention strategies for patients with hereditary cancer syndrome thereby improving patient experiences and reducing patient distress.

“This research project will inform our understanding of how to best care for this patient population and provide preliminary data for future interventions,” says Dr. Landry. “I am grateful for the Juckett Foundation’s support to make my research possible. This work is very meaningful to me. Both of my parents have been affected by cancer, and I recently lost my father to pancreatic cancer. I find caring for patients with cancer to be a truly rewarding profession. Preventing cancer is my ultimate goal.”

KARA LANDRY, MD



MARTIN LEWINTER, MD

SEED FUNDING FUELS JUNIOR INVESTIGATORS

Grateful patient invests in innovation

A patient inspired by the expertise of cardiologist Martin LeWinter, MD, has contributed \$50,000 to a fund that supports the next generation of researchers bringing leading edge innovation to patients.

The grateful patient from Texas made the gift to The Martin M. LeWinter Young Investigator Award, which offers small competitive grants to junior investigators who need seed money to start their cardiology research. The Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont, which was founded in 2002 to support interdisciplinary research on heart and vascular diseases, administers the program.

The patient contacted LeWinter after a troubling diagnosis: He was told he may be suffering from a rare condition called recurrent idiopathic pericarditis. Since LeWinter is one of only a handful of specialists nationwide with expertise on this condition, the patient sought him out. His interactions with LeWinter—and his gratitude for the support when he needed it—prompted the gift to encourage innovation that benefits other cardiology patients.

For LeWinter, who has had a long and distinguished career both treating patients and conducting research on heart failure and cardiomyopathy, the gift is a testament to how patients can make a difference.

“It’s always very meaningful when a patient sees fit to express their gratitude by making a gift and when they contribute to an endowment like this one, they help us attract a critical mass of highly creative people who are at the forefront of biomedical research,” LeWinter said. “Teaching and patient care benefit greatly, mutually reinforcing each other.”

Charitable investments play a vital role in the discovery of treatments and cures that transform patient care and health outcomes and in the evolution of knowledge and understanding that pushes the biomedical field forward. Gifts from community members in 2022 helped drive critical advancements across a wide spectrum of research areas, including **anesthesiology, biochemistry, cancer, cardiology, diabetes, endocrinology, epilepsy, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pathology, pediatric leukemia, neurology and neurosurgery.**



To learn more about investing in our work toward a cancer-free world, contact

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To learn more about how gifts from grateful patients are impacting health care and our workforce, contact

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FIRESTONE MEDICAL RESEARCH BUILDING



MILESTONE IN MEDICINE

Firestone Medical Research Building supports further research for improved patient care

As UVM's Larner College of Medicine celebrates its 200th year, the Dr. Frederick and Mrs. Bobbie Firestone Medical Research Building opens its doors to a new century of biomedical breakthroughs.

On October 27, 2022, leaders from across UVM, the Larner College of Medicine and the UVM Health Network, medical alumni, faculty, staff, students, research trainees and donors braved the chill to join the grand opening of the Firestone Medical Research Building. Exemplifying the university and college's commitment to research excellence, student success, patient care and community service, the Firestone Building also reflects the dedication and generosity of UVM alumni, faculty and community donors, particularly lead donor Steve Firestone, MD'69.

In his remarks, National Academy of Sciences Scholar, Chair and University Distinguished Professor Mark Nelson, PhD, captured the heart and spirit—the promise—the Firestone Building holds.

"The quest for knowledge is eternal. Discoveries made in the Firestone Building will impact human health at local,

state, national and international levels. The building will support topflight investigators in lung and cancer research, provide a hub for the NIH-funded Vermont Center on Cardiovascular and Brain Health and so much more.

"What does the Firestone Building mean to me? I don't just see a building. I see investigators working together. I see the chance conversations and observations, the synergy and serendipity that fosters discovery.

"We will train and mentor young scientists: undergraduates, Masters' students, doctoral and medical students, postdoctoral trainees and junior faculty. But what is our legacy? Yes, it's our research, but our true legacy is our trainees, students and colleagues who build upon our work. Since my arrival at UVM, I have had sixty postdoctoral fellows and a dozen graduate students. They are now colleagues and friends . . . family.

"As you look at the building, essentially empty now, envision a bustling environment of investigators. Generations of scientists will probe the mysteries of biomedical science here."



To learn more about driving discoveries through philanthropy, contact

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Pictured above (R-L) Dylan Casey; Steve Firestone, MD'69; Richard Page, MD; Suresh Garimella, PhD; Patty Prelock, PhD; Keith Robinson, MD'07; Sarah Lindenfeld; Gordon Jensen, MD, PhD; Rick Morin, MD; H. David Reines, MD'72; Matt Cooke; Kiera Malone. (Photo: David Seaver)



THE UVM MEDICAL CENTER, INCLUDING THE UVM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND THE UVM CANCER CENTER, IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT HOSPITAL THAT DEPENDS ON PRIVATE PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION. THANK YOU!

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2022 Philanthropy Highlights

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The Academic Health Sciences Development and Alumni Relations team secures and manages private philanthropic support for the UVM Medical Center, including the UVM Children's Hospital and the UVM Cancer Center; the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences; and the UVM Larner College of Medicine. Our collaborative work involves close partnerships with leadership, clinicians, faculty and a vast, dedicated community of donors.

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