

# The Doctors are In

The UVM Alumni House opened in September, and the Larner College of Medicine is well represented in the structure, thanks to more than 30 dual-degree alumni who contributed to the fundraising effort to name a space in the new venue. In recognition of a leadership gift, the room has been named the **Harry J. Anton, '37 M.D.'40 & Raymond J. Anton, M.D.'70** Medical Alumni Association Room. Alumni House is a welcoming location where alums from across the class years can gather when they return to campus for reunion and various other events.

This effort was endorsed by the Alumni Executive Committee of the Medical Alumni Association. The College gratefully acknowledge these medical alumni who contributed \$5,000 or more to this unique fundraising effort:

Ray Anton M.D.'70  
 Cheryl Davis '74, M.D.'78  
 Susan Pitman Lowenthal '65, M.D.'69  
 A.Rees Midgley '55, M.D.'58  
 Marvin Nierenberg '57, M.D.'60  
 Kenneth Sartorelli '82, M.D.'87  
 Paul Rutkowski '59, M.D.'63  
 Ruth A. Seeler '58, M.D.'62  
 John Tampas '51, M.D.'54  
 H. James Wallace Jr. M.D.'50\*  
 H. James Wallace III '83, M.D.'88  
 H. Alan Walker '60, M.D.'63

\* indicates deceased



For information about how you can support the Larner College of Medicine, please contact the Medical Development and Alumni Relations Office.

**moveMountains**  
 The Campaign for The University of Vermont

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[www.uvm.edu/medicine/alumni](http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/alumni)

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### A New Chapter

An alumnus's record-setting support for the future of medical education opens a new horizon for his alma mater. With a \$100 million commitment, the College charts a path toward a future of fully active learning education.

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### Anesthesia at *The House*

From the earliest days of the "ether cone," to modern techniques tailored to the tiniest of infants, the practice of anesthesiology has a rich and nuanced history. A new book from University of Vermont Associate Professor of Anesthesiology Joseph Kreutz, M.D., ten years in the making, chronicles the development of the specialty at UVM.

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### All in the Genes

Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Debra Leonard, M.D., Ph.D., is leading the charge nationally to bring genomic information to bear in medical decision making.

By Sarah Zobel

### WebXtras in this issue:

- See more photos and video of the White Coat Ceremony
- See photos and video of the College's Naming Ceremony, as well as a video on the life of Robert Larner, '39, M.D.'42

Go to: [uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine](http://uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine)



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**ON THE COVER:** Class of 2018 medical student Soraiya Thura wears a prototype white coat at the College naming ceremony. Photo by Erin Post

The Larner College of Medicine is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Check in to see what's happening today!



## FROM THE DEAN

Since my last message to you, a very noticeable change has occurred here at the College — our new name. We’ve never been strangers to the process of change. A vibrant medical school is always undergoing improvement that reflects the ever-changing nature of the health care landscape. That is particularly necessary

in medical education, where a dynamic curriculum keeps students on the leading edge of knowledge, and trains them to be the lifelong learners their future patients deserve.

Our naming as The Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at the University of Vermont is directly connected to this process of improvement. It recognizes an act of generosity that is impressive in its size, but also deeply meaningful in its relationship with the core mission of the College — the education of future physicians.

This is no ordinary gift. The \$100 million lifetime giving commitment by the Larners is an outgrowth of the decades-long relationship Dr. Larner has had with his medical alma mater. Indeed, there can be no greater affirmation of the value of an institution than the continuing support of someone whose career was formed here.

This gift is the culmination of a philanthropic plan that Dr. Larner began almost 40 years ago. He wanted to give in a way that would inspire others to give, and so began the Larner Loan Fund. Today, more than 1,800 alumni have been inspired to join in contributing, and the fund has supported nearly 1,300 medical students. But that was just the start.

Over the last decade, Dr. Larner became interested in medical education technology and innovation, and his support for the College included everything from the purchase of five cardiopulmonary simulators to the building of the College’s first team-based learning classroom that set the stage for our transition to active learning.

With the Larners’ support, the College has been moving away from lecture-based courses and toward team-based learning, simulation, flipped classrooms, and other engaged learning activities. Recent initiatives include digitizing the entire curriculum, creating new innovative classrooms that facilitate active learning, building an enhanced simulation center to help students learn clinical skills, and recruiting an endowed Professor of Medical Education to lead the Teaching Academy in the development of new and enhanced teaching techniques.

Dr. Larner not only supported every one of those initiatives with philanthropy, he encouraged and challenged us to be more innovative and dream even bigger — asking “what would it take to be second to none?”

With his latest philanthropy, he completes that commitment. In fact, he has over-delivered. It is now our awesome responsibility to deliver on his goal for medical education. It is a challenge we welcome.

**Frederick C. Morin III, M.D.**

Dean, The Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at The University of Vermont

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The University of Vermont

LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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## COLLEGE NEWS

### Vice President Biden Brings “Cancer Moonshot” to UVM

“If you are ever going to be involved in cancer research, this is the moment,” Vice President **Joe Biden** told a packed Davis Center ballroom at the University of Vermont on October 21. “This is the inflection point.”

Earlier that week, Biden presented to President Obama the recommendations developed by the “Cancer Moonshot” task force. In January, the president put Biden at the helm of the \$1 billion national initiative, which aims to rapidly accelerate the pace of development of effective cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies. The initiative’s goal is to double the rate of progress by achieving a decade’s worth of advances in five years.

The effort is a personal battle for Biden, who lost his son Beau to glioblastoma in 2015. His passion to find a cure was evident in his comments to the Vermont audience, composed primarily of members of the UVM and UVM Health Network community, as he discussed all he has learned from leading the initiative.

“What I’ve found out is the incredible diversity of disciplines that are needed to ultimately get to the bottom of what causes a mutant gene to become mutant — what causes it to become cancer,” he said.

When Biden concluded his remarks, co-panelist **Gary Stein, Ph.D.**, director of the UVM Cancer Center, remarked that Biden’s vision “resonates incredibly well with the culture in Vermont, what the university does, and what the Vermont Cancer Center does, because here what you have is an emphasis on communication and collaboration.” The focus at UVM and in Vermont, he said, is on creating “a partnership between a clinician, a scientist and a patient.”

**Debra Leonard, M.D., Ph.D.**, a leading expert in molecular pathology for genetics, cancers and infectious diseases and chair



Among the panelists joining Vice President Biden at the Cancer Moonshot Roundtable were UVM Cancer Center Director Gary Stein, Ph.D., left, and U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, right.

of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, also participated in the discussion.

“What’s amazing here in Vermont is that we have the opportunity to change how we’re caring for cancer,” Leonard said. “I basically came here because I could be at the intersection of healthcare reform and genomic medicine.”

### Anne Huot, Ph.D.’90 Honored at Graduate Student Research Showcase

The UVM Medical Alumni Association (MAA) hosted the 2016 Graduate Student Research Showcase Program on October 18, at which **Anne E. Huot, M.S.’88, Ph.D.’90**, president of Keene State College in N.H., and the 2016 MAA Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award Recipient, delivered the keynote presentation.

The annual Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award honors a graduate of the Larner College of Medicine’s Ph.D. or M.S. programs who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in their field and in public service and commitment to the College community.

Huot has dedicated her career to the transformative power of education and the opportunities higher education presents for contributing to and bettering society.

In her current role as president of Keene State College, Huot brings a vision that is informed by her experience as a first generation college student, a native of New Hampshire, and an educator with extensive background in public higher education.

From 2007 to 2013, Huot served as provost and vice-president for academic affairs at The College at Brockport, State University of New York, during which time she created an Office for Diversity,

established a School of Business and Graduate School, and revised the general education program to introduce interdisciplinary teaching and learning. She has also served as associate provost and executive vice provost for the Office of Academic Affairs, State University of New York-System Administration in Albany, and she was a member of the University of Vermont faculty for fourteen years, including serving in the role of Graduate College executive dean.

Huot has said that her training as a scientist informs her work as a university leader, allowing her to see problems from multiple angles, test hypotheses, and use data to inform decision-making.



Anne Huot, Ph.D.’90



Ralph Budd, M.D., at UVM's 2016 Commencement

Avila Garners National Change Maker Award

Maria Mercedes Avila, M.Ed., Ph.D., program co-director of Vermont Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (VT LEND) and assistant professor of pediatrics, has received the 2016 Local Hero Award from the Child Mind Institute. Avila was selected out of four finalists from across the U.S. via a crowdsourcing process as the winner of the Local Hero Award, one of five National Change Maker awards the organization gives out. She was honored for her work eliminating



Maria Mercedes Avila, M.Ed., Ph.D. at the National Change Maker Awards

inequality in access to resources for children and youth at the margins.

Rosen Assumes Leadership Role at WCHN Clinical Campus

Jonathan Rosen, M.D., former associate dean for medical education and associate professor of medicine at Albany Medical College, has been appointed dean of undergraduate medical education at Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN). Rosen joined the Albany Medical College faculty in 1986 and has held a number of medical education-related positions, including medical director of the Clinical Competency Center for 18 years,

and co-theme leader of the Clinical Skills course for 16 years. In his new role, Rosen will supervise the College's education programs in the WCHN, which includes Danbury Hospital, Norwalk Hospital and New Milford Hospital.



Jonathan Rosen, M.D.

Irvin Receives Crapo Lifetime Achievement Award at 2016 ATS Conference

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) Assembly on Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF) selected Charles Irvin, Ph.D., professor of medicine and director of the Vermont Lung Center, as the inaugural recipient of the RSF 2016 Robert Crapo Lifetime Achievement Award for Pulmonary Diagnostics. The award recognizes individuals who have dedicated their life's work and achieved significant

accomplishments in the field of pulmonary diagnostic testing. A national and international expert in pulmonary physiology and asthma pathogenesis, Irvin also serves as associate dean for faculty affairs for the College.



Charles Irvin, Ph.D.

Budd Named University Distinguished Professor

Professor of Medicine Ralph Budd, M.D., was honored as a University Distinguished Professor during UVM's 215th Commencement Ceremony on May 22, 2016. An internationally recognized physician-scientist, his research on the mechanisms of autoimmunity has garnered him numerous awards and research grants totaling over \$60 million. A prestigious Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences, Budd was elected in 2012 as a member of the Association of American Physicians. In addition, he is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and a past UVM University Scholar.

ACR Honors DeStigter with Global Humanitarian Award

Kristen DeStigter, M.D., has received a 2016 Global Humanitarian Award from the American College of Radiology (ACR) Foundation for her efforts to expand access to ultrasound imaging to underserved areas of Africa. DeStigter received the award at the ACR Foundation's annual Crossroads of Radiology conference in May in Washington, D.C. She is the John P. and Kathryn H. Tampas Green and Gold Professor and interim chair of the Department of Radiology, DeStigter co-founded the nonprofit organization Imaging the World (ITW) in 2008 with Brian Garra, M.D., former UVM radiologist and current chief of radiology research at the Veterans Healthcare Administration in Washington, D.C. Imaging the World has adapted ultrasound technology into a usable and sustainable model that allows health care providers in remote areas and poor countries to make basic life-saving diagnoses.



Kristen DeStigter, M.D.

Upton to Serve as Diversity & Inclusion Liaison

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry Michael Upton, M.D.'94, has joined the Office of Diversity & Inclusion as Faculty Development Liaison. He will continue his clinical and service responsibilities as he takes on this additional new role supporting the development, implementation and assessment of diversity and inclusion initiatives for faculty development.



Michael Upton, M.D.'94

From the Blog

“HERE TO HELP” ADDRESSES NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS

by Jasmine Robinson '19

In a post for the Larner College of Medicine student blog this year, Jasmine Robinson '19 wrote about the motivation behind her Schweitzer Fellow project, which focuses on the homeless population in Burlington, Vt.

My first night on earth was spent in a shoebox; my mother had separated from my father and my mother, older brother, and I were homeless. With a baby and a toddler with autism, and after incurring a job-related disability, it was hard for my mother to find a place for us to live, and we moved many times. Eventually we settled in a dingy motel in Westchester, New York.

My mother relied on food pantries, and soup kitchens at local churches to feed our family of three. One of the soup kitchens also gave away clothing and toys that had been donated. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were provided by various organizations each year. By the time I was three, my mother found us a one-bedroom apartment in a pre-war building in Larchmont, New York. She made very little money working as an instructor at NYU College of Dentistry, earning a one-thousand-dollar annual stipend which restricted us to an extremely tight budget. My brother and I shared the small bedroom while my mother slept on a broken-down sofa. My mother was promoted to assistant professor the following year, but still earning a wage insufficient to support our family. We became eligible for assistance

“With my family living in close quarters, lacking stability for such an extended period of time, I had no sense of space and respite. I realized in that moment that we hadn’t been living; we had merely been surviving.”



from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, through which we obtained a three-bedroom apartment in the same building.

The moment I stepped into my own room, I felt a tranquility like never before. With my family living in close quarters, lacking stability for such an extended period of time, I had no sense of space and respite. I realized in that moment that we hadn’t been living; we had merely been surviving. Somehow, while often not easy, I found a way to thrive in a community where we lacked the support of those around us due to our circumstances. As I became older, I realized that obstacles are often hidden opportunities for growth, understanding, and a new-found appreciation for what I did have. Primarily, I was fortunate to have a mother who sought out services and help when we needed it, in an attempt to better the lives of her children.

My early childhood experiences cultivated a desire to address the pressing needs of others. As a future physician, I aspire to be a valued leader in my community and address the concerns of the underserved in a larger capacity. As a first-year medical student at the College of Medicine, and as a fellow of the New Hampshire/Vermont chapter of The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, I have the opportunity to do exactly that.

As a fellow, I’m required to design and implement a year-long service project.

Mine focuses on helping people who are homeless more easily access services offered by the city of Burlington. At the “Here to Help” clinic, people who are homeless will be able to access basic necessities such as hot showers, haircuts, and health screenings. They will also get a hot meal and be given toiletry bags. Staff from Burlington’s Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO) will be able to meet and interact with the unsheltered, and begin to build trusting relationships and triage them to permanent housing in a timelier manner.

Our principal goal is to house 10 percent of those who are currently homeless by April 2017. The central locality of the “Here to Help” clinic at First United Methodist Church will help make service organizations more accessible to people who are homeless and, hopefully, increase the opportunities for the unsheltered to connect with service providers that meet their specific needs.

Another important part of this project is to have the community embrace and welcome back into society those who have been estranged for many years. With the help of local volunteers at this clinic, the community can help restore hope and support change for those in great need. This clinic will cater to the needs of the clients, changing throughout the year to meet expectations that will best suit those who attend. Over time, I hope this project will become self-sustaining and will boost community morale. I’m ecstatic to see the support this project has already received from various community organizations, and am very hopeful for its future success.

This essay originally appeared on the College's uvmmedicine blog. Read other entries at: [uvmmedicineblog.wordpress.com](http://uvmmedicineblog.wordpress.com).



# CAMPAIGN NEWS

"The time has come for UVM to move forward, to pursue excellence with even greater confidence and to assert our position among the nation's finest public research universities. To move mountains is to change lives. This is our passion and our calling."

— UVM President Tom Sullivan



**\$40.6**  
MILLION  
FY16

Gifts to the Larner College of Medicine  
between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016

## College of Medicine Celebrates Banner Year of Giving for FY16: \$40.6 Million

In conjunction with the launch of the "Move Mountains" campaign in October 2015, the University of Vermont Foundation set new records in its fundraising activities on behalf of the University during fiscal year 2016, surpassing historic milestones reached a year ago for both commitments and receipts from donors. Gifts to the Larner College of Medicine played a major role in helping achieve these results, earning **\$40.6 million** of the university's record-setting \$76,758,513 in new fundraising

commitments between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. *Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont* supports four strategic areas of focus — student access and affordability, faculty endowments, new and renovated facilities, and academic programs. Even before the September 23 announcement of the new \$66 million commitment from Robert and Helen Larner, the College had achieved more than 75 percent of its campaign goal of \$125,850,000. That goal is now being revised upward.

## Million Dollar Bequest Funds Student Scholarships

**Roy Morse, M.D.**, one of 48 men to graduate in the UVM College of Medicine Class of 1905, dedicated his life to caring for patients in the Boston area as a traditional country doctor. More than 100 years later, medical students continue to benefit from his legacy thanks to a \$1 million donation recently received through a trust established by his daughter, **Florence Morse Clark**. Herself a UVM alumna from the Class of 1934, Clark sought to honor her father's commitment to family medicine and serving local communities through funding medical student scholarships.



Above: The Class of 1905 photo shows Dr. Roy Morse at far right, shaded.



John Gould, M.D.'64, with recent Gould Scholar Michael Cunningham, M.D.'15, and Sheryl Gould, BSRN'64

## Family and Friends Honor Dr. Gould, Support Scholarship Fund

At the time of his death in September of 2015, **John Gould, M.D.'64**, was remembered as a gifted teacher, researcher, and writer who made an indelible mark on the field of orthopaedic surgery. Friends and family honored this legacy by contributing in his memory to the scholarship fund he and his wife founded at the UVM College of Medicine. The outpouring was significant: The fund received 33 donations, adding over \$10,000 to the scholarship, a testament to Dr. Gould's legacy as an influential researcher and

mentor to generations of physicians. His wife, **Sheryl Gould**, herself a graduate of UVM's College of Nursing and Health Sciences, has contributed an additional \$25,000, bringing the fund total to over \$100,000. In establishing the scholarship, the Goulds pointed to UVM's focus on ethics and the humanistic practice of medicine and nursing as influential to their life's work. The goal of the scholarship is to "ease the financial burden so that our 'professional children' can continue the mission to serve, to practice, and to teach."

## David Babbott, M.D., Caring and Seeing Award Benefits from New Gift

The **David Babbott, M.D.**, Caring and Seeing Award was established in 2003 by his wife, **Meredith**. It perpetuates the ideals Dr. Babbott brought to his work as a professor of medicine and long-time director of medical education at the College. An additional \$15,000 from the estate of Dr. Babbott will provide further funding for this award, which goes to a fourth-year medical student who shows excellence and personal attentiveness in patient

care, strong relationships with faculty, and a commitment to the educational mission of the College. Dr. Babbott died August 23, 2015 at the age of 87. He was remembered for his "excellent listening skills, insightful questions, and deep commitment to students' and colleagues' professional growth," and for his service as a role model and mentor for generations of medical students, residents and junior colleagues at UVM.



David Babbott, M.D.



L to R: Marcelle Leahy, David Reines, M.D.'72, Nina Totenberg, and U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy

## Reines and Totenberg Donate Time, Pledge Additional Scholarship Support

**David Reines, M.D.'72**, and his wife, **Nina Totenberg**, National Public Radio legal affairs correspondent, have long been supporters of the University of Vermont, contributing their time and expertise to the institution. Totenberg served as 2015 Commencement Speaker for the University, and received an honorary degree that same year. In the fall of 2016, she served as emcee for a night of recognition to celebrate philanthropists Bob and Holly Miller and the new inpatient wing to be named in their honor at UVM Medical Center. Dr. Reines has served on the UVM Foundation Leadership Council for the past two years, and was recently promoted to the UVM Foundation Board of Directors. Larner College of Medicine students also benefit from their generosity, as the couple has continued to grow an endowed scholarship fund they established in 2013. Additional major gifts since the scholarship's founding, including \$25,000 contributed this year, ensure that deserving medical students will be able to receive important financial support for years to come.

For more information about supporting the Larner College of Medicine, please contact the Medical Development and Alumni Relations Office.

[www.uvm.edu/medicine/alumni](http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/alumni)

# "I WILL PRACTICE MEDICINE WITH CONSCIENCE AND DIGNITY."

On October 7, in UVM's Ira Allen Chapel, 118 first-year medical students at the Larner College of Medicine uttered those words from "The Oath" as part of a major career milestone: receiving their first white doctors' coats.

Two short months ago, members of the Class of 2020 began their journeys as medical students. While UVM's newest class of future doctors still have years of classwork and training ahead of them, receiving their white coats formally signaled their entry into the realm of patient care. **Candace Fraser, M.D.**, associate professor of family medicine and the 2016 UVM faculty recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, delivered the keynote presentation at the ceremony. **Fred Mandell, M.D.'64**, president of the Medical Alumni Association, delivered a welcome on behalf of all alumni.



See a photo gallery and video of the White Coat Ceremony at: [uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine](http://uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine)



Andy Duback

## Research Notebook



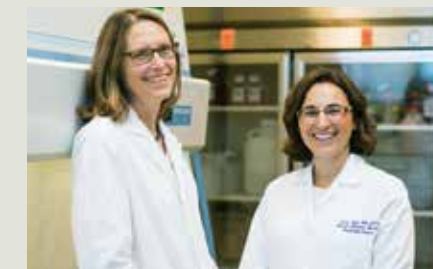
### Research Excellence Honored

The College held the inaugural Celebration of Research Excellence on November 1. Participants heard a report on the state of research at the College from Senior Associate Dean for Research **Gordon Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.**, and a keynote address from **Lita Proctor, Ph.D.**, program director for the

Human Microbiome Project in the Division of Genome Sciences at the National Institutes of Health. Faculty awardees honored at the ceremony were: (right to left) **Jason Stumpff, Ph.D.**, **Ralph Budd, M.D.**, **Charles Irvin, Ph.D.**, and, accepting for recipient **Sarah Heil, Ph.D.**, **Stephen Higgins, Ph.D.**

### UVM Clinical Trials Lead to First FDA Approved Cholera Vaccine in U.S.

The University of Vermont's Vaccine Testing Center played a major role in testing a groundbreaking new vaccine to protect against cholera infection. The vaccine — called Vaxchora — became the first cholera vaccine to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration in June of 2016, after human challenge trials at UVM and two other national sites: the University of Maryland and University of Cincinnati. UVM researchers, **Caroline Lyon, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor of medicine, and **Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D.**, professor of medicine and director of the Vaccine Testing



Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D. and Caroline Lyon, M.D., MPH.

Center, note that the need for a vaccine has been heightened due to the increased number of cholera outbreaks since 2005.



Robert Gramling, M.D., M.Sc.

### Gramling's JAMA Oncology Study Addresses Doctor-Patient Miscommunication

A study in *JAMA Oncology* from **Robert Gramling, M.D., M.Sc.**, and colleagues, finds that patients report far more optimistic expectations for survival prognosis than their oncologists, due to patients' misunderstanding of their oncologists' clinical judgment. Gramling holds the Holly and Bob Miller Chair in Palliative Medicine at UVM.

David Seaver, LCOM Design & Photography

### Sprague Study Finds "Dense Breasts" Diagnosis Varies Widely Among Radiologists



Brian Sprague, Ph.D.

Although more than half of U.S. states now require physicians to report breast density information to patients, new research led by Assistant Professor of Surgery **Brian Sprague, Ph.D.**, shows that breast density assessment is subjective and highly variable across radiologists. His paper was published in July of 2016 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.



Meres Rincon, Ph.D.

### Rincon and Champagne's Discovery Could Help Boost Flu Vaccine Response

A relatively unknown molecule that regulates metabolism could be the key to boosting an individual's immunity to the flu — and potentially other viruses — according to research reported this July in the journal *Immunity*. The study, led by UVM doctoral student **Devin Champagne** and **Mercedes Rincon, Ph.D.**, a professor of medicine and an immunobiologist, discovered that a protein called methylation controlled J — or MCJ — can be altered to boost the immune system's response to the flu. Co-authors on the *Immunity* study include UVM colleagues **Tina Thornton, Ph.D.**, research associate; **Karen Fortner, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor; **Rui Yang**, predoctoral student; and former UVM doctoral student **Ketki Hatle, Ph.D.**, as well as research colleagues in Spain, Korea, Colorado and Connecticut.