THE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF VERMONT

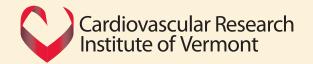
THE CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF VERMONT is dedicated to reducing the incidence, morbidity, and mortality of heart and vascular diseases through improving prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

By fostering collaborations among departments at The University of Vermont and The University of Vermont Medical Center, the Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont encourages the critical thinking that challenges assumptions and promotes excellence in clinical practice.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont (CVRI) seeks to foster cardiovascular research. We accomplish this mission by promoting collaboration, highlighting research accomplishments in cardiovascular disease, and supporting career development. In the pages that follow you will see the mission of the CVRI brought to life as we highlight efforts designed to improve the care of patients with cardiovascular disease and highlight achievements that include grant funding, participation in clinical trials, and the publication of research findings.

In July 2017, the University of Vermont invested Benedek Erdos, M.D., Ph.D. as the inaugural Bloomfield Early Career Jim Ray, who was an avid cyclist who died of heart disease in Professor in Cardiovascular Research. Dr. Erdos was 1996. Early Career Investigators in cardiovascular research are the selected by the Board of Directors of the CVRI who felt beneficiaries because funds raised by this ride in 2017 were used that he was exceptionally well qualified for this prestigious to support attendance of early career scientists and physicians honor. Dr. Erdos has pioneered an innovative hypothesis at leading-edge conferences and educational forums. Additional that brain-derived neurotrophic factor may be a common support for early career investigators is provided by a gift from mediator of hypertension. His research uses novel genetic Paul Millman (also a member of the Cardiovascular Leadership tools that could change our ability to treat hypertension and Council) and his company, Chroma Technologies. This funding prevent cardiovascular events because hypertension is a supports summer research projects in cardiovascular disease by major cause of morbidity and mortality. The Board felt that first-year medical students. the support provided by this Professorship should enhance the likelihood of success for this talented junior investigator. The Early Career Advisory Committee of the CVRI actively Dr. Martin Bloomfield, an alumnus of the University of promoted cardiovascular research and enhanced collaboration Vermont and a member of the Cardiovascular Leadership through a series of events designed to encourage scientific Council, has chosen to give back to his alma mater in a exchange. This spring, the Early Career Advisory Committee meaningful manner by endowing this Professorship that is awarded small grants to junior investigators. The selection process designed to both recognize and support an extraordinary has been educational for both the applicants and the Early Career early career investigator in cardiovascular research. Advisory Committee, who were provided with a "grant review boot camp" by their Board advisor, Dr. Mary Cushman.

Mark Ray, another member of the Cardiovascular Leadership Council, raises money in support of research to treat and prevent heart disease through an annual event, the Jim Ray Memorial Heart Ride. Mark has raised nearly \$170,000 since the inaugural ride in 2000 in memory of his late father,



David J. Schneider, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.H.A.

Director Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont

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

Director of Cardiovascular Services University of Vermont Health Network

We are proud of the accomplishments achieved in cardiovascular research at the University of Vermont. Thank you for taking the time to learn about these accomplishments in the pages that follow.

Cardiovascular Research News

CUSHMAN PRESENTS STUDY ON INCREASED TV VIEWING & BLOOD CLOT RISKS AT AHA



Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc.

T isk of blood clots increases with the $\mathbf{\Gamma}$ amount of time spent watching television. even if people get the recommended amount of physical activity, according to preliminary research presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2017 in Anaheim, Calif., November 2017..

"Watching TV itself isn't likely bad, but we tend to snack and sit still for prolonged periods while watching," said Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc., co-author of the study and professor of medicine at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont and a CVRI Board of Directors member.

Prolonged TV viewing has already been associated with heart disease involving blocked arteries, but this is the first study in a western population to look at blood clots in veins of the legs, arms, pelvis, and lungs called venous thromboembolism or VTE.

Among 15,158 middle-aged (45-64 years) participants in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study, researchers found that the risk of developing a venous thromboembolism for the first time was:

• 1.7 times higher in those who reported they watch TV "very often" compared with those who watch TV "never or seldom":

• 1.8 times higher in participants who met recommended guidelines for physical activity and reported watching TV "very often" compared with those who reported watching TV "never or seldom";

• Increased with more TV viewing both for life-threatening clots in the extremities and those in the lungs; and while obesity was more common in people who watched more TV, in the study only about 25 percent of the increased risk could be explained by the presence of obesity. "Think about how you can make the best

use of your time to live a fuller and healthier life. You could put a treadmill or stationary bike in front of your TV and move while watching. Or you can delay watching TV by 30 minutes while you take a walk. If you must see your favorite show, tape it while you are out walking so you can watch it later, skipping the ads," said Cushman, who is also the director of the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Program at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Each year, it is estimated that between 300,000 to 600,000 people in the U.S. develop venous thromboembolism. Besides avoiding prolonged TV watching, people can lower their risk by maintaining a healthy weight and staying physically active.

Other co-authors on the research presentation are Yasuhiko Kubota, M.D., and Aaron R. Folsom, M.D., M.P.H., of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health: Neil Zakai, M.D., M.Sc., of the UVM Larner College of Medicine; and Wayne D. Rosamond, Ph.D., M.S., of the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health.

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute funded the study.

ADES' CARDIAC REHAB EXPERTISE FEATURED IN CONSUMER REPORTS ARTICLE

hilip Ades, M.D., CVRI Distinguished Investigator and UVM Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine provided his cardiac rehabilitation expertise for a 2017 Consumer Reports Health article titled, "What's Missing from Your Heart-Attack Recovery Plan."

Part of the problem, as Ades explained, is the lack of geographically available options. "There are too few in many big cities, and in rural areas you could be a 3-hour drive from the nearest cardiac rehabilitation center," he says. "Physical activity improves fitness, and if fitness is improved it's easier to do daily activities. Even small improvements in physical function can greatly improve quality of life and self-esteem, and lead to overall better health."



Philip Ades, M.D.



Andrew Lombardo, UVM graduate student in molecular physiology and biophysics.

3D MODEL SYSTEM ILLUSTRATES HOW MOLECULAR MOTORS NAVIGATE

T n cells, cargo that contains tiny packages of critical biological materia L are transported by teams of minuscule myosin molecular "motors" along complex actin filament "highways." How these motors reach their destination when confronted with numerous intersections without GPS is a mystery. In a study published in the July 2017 issue of Nature Communications, University of Vermont researchers, including several associated with the CVRI, built three-dimensional (3D) actin highways with intersections as well as under- and over-passes within microfluidic chambers to emulate the complicated highways that myosin motors encounter in cells.

"We challenged motors to navigate their cargo along suspende filament tracks through intersections with the intention of understanding how teams of these motors work together when face with a directional dilemma," says **Andrew Lombardo**, a graduate student in molecular physiology and biophysics at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont.

He and colleagues in the lab of David Warshaw, Ph.D., chair of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics and a CVRI Board of Director member, used tiny, 3-micrometer-sized beads in these special chambers, as structural supports to spin a web of suspended actin filament highways between the beads.

"Similar to a tightrope artist carefully walking between two buildings, myosin motors bind to the suspended actin highways

al	while carrying their cargo and 'walking' along these tightropes,"
	said Lombardo. He and his colleagues observed that the motors
r	were surprisingly adept at moving their cargo through the complex
	physical and directional challenges presented by these 3D highways.
	"Actin filaments and intersections are numerous in the cell – for
	the motors, it's like navigating a city," says Lombardo. "However, you
	would never make it across town if you turned at every intersection."
:	In fact, myosin motors prefer to turn at intersections when such
	intersections are formed on flat surfaces. But when suspended 3D
	highways and intersections were created, teams of motors now carry
ed	their cargo in a relatively straight line through the intersections
	despite the option to turn or stop.
ed	"This simple model transport system provides a window into
	one of the most fundamental processes that occurs in every single
	cell within the human body," says Lombardo.
	In addition to Lombardo and Warshaw, co-authors on the study
	include UVM Molecular Physiology and Biophysicists Shane Nelson,
rs	Ph.D., Yusuf Ali, Ph.D., Research Engineer Guy Kennedy, and CVRI
	Distinguished Investigator Kathleen Trybus, Ph.D., as well as Sam
	Walcott of the Department of Mathematics, University of California,
	Davis. This work was funded by the National Institutes of Health,
	National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and
	Space Administration.



Cardiovascular **Research: Serving** the Patient

hysician scientists can find inspiration \mathbf{P} – and solutions – in every corner of an academic medical center: the clinic, the research arena, or while teaching. That's how Peter Spector, M.D., a University of Vermont professor of medicine and director of electrophysiology at The UVM Medical Center, came to co-develop — with Professor of Medicine and engineer Jason Bates, Ph.D. - a three-dimensional computational model of a human heart called Visible EP.

No matter the source of the inspiration, its ultimate focus remains the same: the development of new knowledge that can be put to use to offer better, more successful treatments and therapies to improve patients' lives.

The software technology that Spector and Bates built is as remarkable as their collaboration. Spector came to the table with the vision of the final product and a deep understanding of electrophysiology and how the heart works, but was unfamiliar with the programming process. Bates

possessed programming skills and expertise in computational models. Together, they produced a technology that very accurately models the electrical behavior of the human heart, to the smallest level of detail. Bates and Spector created Visible EP (which stands for "electrophysiology") as a means to gain a better understanding of how to cure the most common abnormal heart rhythm – atrial fibrillation (AF) – which afflicts more than five million people in the U.S. alone. Previous treatments had been less than adequate.

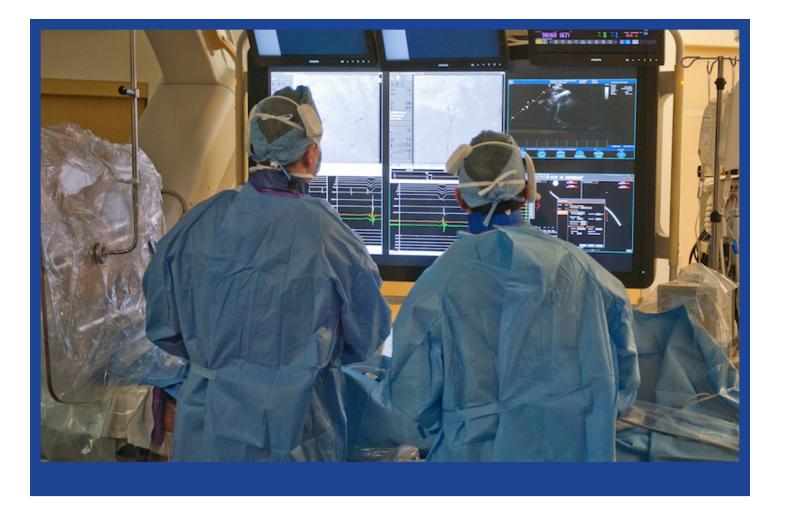
The result of their teamwork is a program that mimics the behavior of the heart from every aspect, as well as features the ability to provide unpredictable responses — a phenomenon called emergent behavior. While the parts of the heart and the rules of interaction have been programmed into the system, the computational heart model's reaction is entirely emergent, says Spector. "We've made, essentially, a living,

Research Focus

breathing, interactive human heart," he says. "It will sit there and beat in what would be the equivalent of a normal rhythm; you can induce every sort of abnormal heart rhythm that you can imagine that a patient could have, and it's all happening on a computer screen."

Visible EP's emergent behavior feature makes it an attractive tool for medical education, as well as research applications. Because it can't be readily seen, electrophysiology has been regarded as a particularly difficult specialty to teach; the field was waiting for just such a teaching tool as Visible EP.

Spector uses the Visible EP technology in his arrhythmia research lab. Using this computer model, combined with studies of the real human heart, the group has proposed a new approach to analyzing an individual patient's electrical activity and to using this information to guide a new type of ablation. In addition, the team has developed a new catheter, signal processing



algorithms and a mapping approach for treatment of AF. This work was initially sponsored by a generous grant from the Evslin Foundation.

One patient who typifies the beneficial outcomes that come from cardiovascular research is Paula Desseau of Essex Junction, Vt. Desseau has lived life with atrial fibrillation — "afib," as she refers to it — for many years.

"Any exertion that I did, my heart would go into afib," says Desseau. "You would never know when it would go into afib," she says, and each occurrence would be a cause for major concern, and a trip to the emergency department.

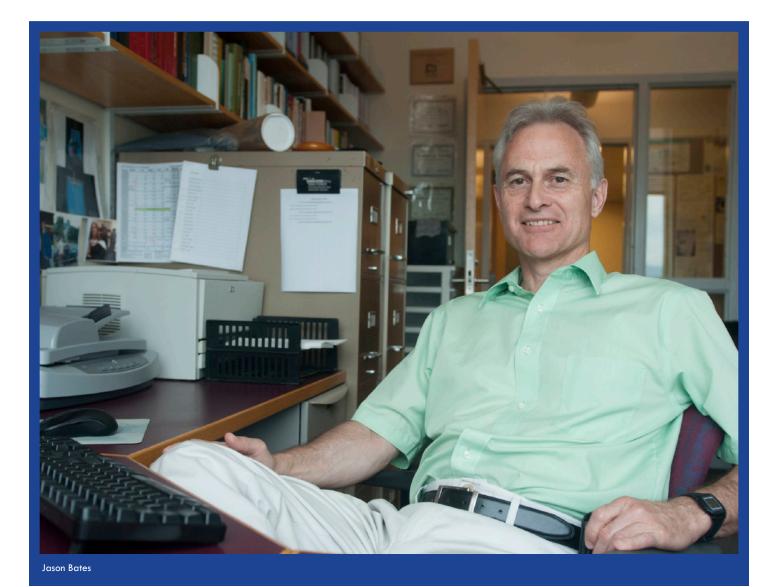
After Paula's third ablation treatment, Spector and his care team expected to find that with some of the ablations they'd created, the



Paula Desseau

scars had healed up.

"We discovered, much to our chagrin, that none of the scars has healed up," recalls Spector. "If you look it up in a textbook, there's no next move. We were stuck with pulling catheters out, waking Paula up, and telling her, 'I'm sorry, there's nothing we can do for you.' But we knew from the work that we're doing in the research lab that that's not true. We used our catheters in a way that's guided by the research work we'd done to tell us where we thought the fibrillation was coming from. We did a little bit more ablation than we had done already. That little bit made all the difference. Paula remained in normal rhythm for years after



that final procedure."

That research-based difference is something Paula Desseau thinks about every day.

"I don't know if I'd be here today if Dr. Spector had not done all he did for me," she says.



Dr. Benedek Erdos Invested as Inaugural Bloomfield Professor

Benedek Erdos, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, was invested in a formal ceremony on July 31, 2017 as the inaugural Martin E. Bloomfield '56, M.D.'60 and Judith S. Bloomfield '59 Early Career Professor in Cardiovascular Research.

The endowed professorship was established by Dr. Marty Bloomfield, a dualdegree UVM alumnus and retired cardiologist, and his wife Judy, a fellow Catamount and retired psychologist. Dr. Erdos is receiving funding for two years, with potential funding for a third year, to support his research project: "Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor, a Novel Hypothalamic Mediator in Hypertension."

Designed to significantly increase our understanding of the mechanisms of blood pressure regulation, the proposed studies in the Erdos Lab may help to identify novel therapeutic targets to treat hypertension.

This faculty position is particularly significant because it marks the first time ever at the University of Vermont that an earlycareer professorship has been endowed. As federal funding for research becomes more competitive, private philanthropy can help launch promising young careers with the potential to benefit not only the University of Vermont, but society at large.

The Bloomfields' decision to focus their philanthropic impact on an earlycareer professorship is based on personal experiences. At the time when Dr. Bloomfield was beginning his own career, research funding was not readily available. Years later, the Bloomfields' son Dan — also a cardiologist – benefited early in his career through research funding from an endowed assistant professorship that serves as the inspiration for their gift.

Following remarks from UVM Foundation President and CEO Shane Jacobson, UVM President Tom Sullivan and Larner College of Medicine Dean Rick Morin, Dr. Erdos was presented with a medallion in front of family, friends, colleagues and students in the Hoehl Gallery at the Larner College of Medicine on the UVM campus. After receiving his medallion, Dr. Erdos invited Dr. Bloomfield to the podium to present the donor with a matching medallion, which was followed by comments from Dr. Bloomfield.

Now a revered campus tradition, the formal investiture ceremony recognizes the importance of endowed positions and is one of the highest honors UVM can bestow on its faculty members and the generous donors who make it possible.

Dr. Erdos received his medical degree and Ph.D. from Semmelweis University in Budapest, the oldest medical school in Hungary. Following post-doctoral work at Wake Forest University, he held research positions at the University of Florida prior to arriving at UVM in 2014.

Dr. Erdos' research supports the mission of the CVRI, which leverages the worldclass research facilities as well as clinical capabilities of the Larner College of Medicine and the UVM Medical Center to reduce the incidence, morbidity and mortality of heart and vascular diseases. Dr. Bloomfield in 2017 joined the Cardiovascular Leadership Council, a group of community members who serve as ambassadors for the CVRI.

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Scholarly Events

The Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont (CVRI) brings outstanding scientists in cardiovascular medicine to The University of Vermont as Visiting Professors.

A gift from Martin Bloomfield, M.D.'60 enables CVRI to host the Burton E. Sobel Visiting Professor series, which honors Burton E. Sobel, MD, the Founding Director of CVRI. In addition to formal lectures, each Sobel Visiting Professor participates in meetings with early career investigators and a "Scholar's Tea," where selected early career investigators meet as a group with the Visiting Professor to discuss any topic and ask any question that may come to mind.

BURTON E. SOBEL VISITING PROFESSOR SEMINARS

May 31 - June 1, 2017

ROBERT A. HARRINGTON, M.D. Arthur L. Bloomfield Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine, Stanford University Chair, FDA Cardiovascular and Renal Drugs Advisory Committee and host of a regular podcast on theheart.org: The Bob

Harrington Show

- Seminar: Education and Research in an Era of Quality, Big Data, Precision Medicine, and Digital Health
- Interactive Discussion: Social Media in Medicine: How social media is being used to access and disseminate science to both scientists and the public

October 4 – 6, 2017

DAVID C. GOFF, JR., M.D., PH.D. Director, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute • Medicine Grand Rounds: Eliminating Cardiovascular

Disparities through Community-Engaged Research: A thought exercise

• Interactive Discussion: Where's the Funding Going: NHLBI Strategic Vision implementation for the **Division of Cardiovascular Sciences**

The Early Career Visiting Professorship was launched in 2017 by CVRI's Early Career Advisory Committee (ECAC). These professorships bring to campus a successful early career investigator for a series of events focusing on trainees and junior investigators.

EARLY CAREER VISITING PROFESSOR SEMINAR

October 29 - 31, 2017

BENJAMIN PROSSER, PH.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, Pennsylvania Muscle Institute, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania and The American Heart Association's 2017 "Outstanding Early Career Investigator"

- Research Seminar: Inotropy via Cytoskeletal Regulation
- Interactive Discussion: Establishing Independence: Lessons learned in starting a new lab



Nels Olson, Ph.D., assistant professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and ECAC Chair (left) presents Benjamir Prosser, Ph.D., with the ECAC's "Rising Star Award" for impressive achievement early in his research career.



David C. Goff, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. delivers his Medicine Grand Rounds, "Eliminating Cardiovascular Disparities Through Community-Engaged Research: A thought exercise," on October 5, 2017 in the Davis Auditorium of the University of Vermont Medical Center. Dr. Goff's visit was supported by the Martin E. Bloomfield, M.D. '60

Connecting **Our Scholars**

The Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont encompasses the full range of scholarship, from young scientists and physicians at the start of their careers to our Distinguished Investigators with decades of notable work to their credit. Through travel awards, research seminars, and an Early Career Advisory Committee available to them, junior investigators who are affiliated with the CVRI have plenty of rich opportunities to interact with and learn from their more experienced colleagues.

CVRI TRAVEL AWARDS

American Heart Association EPI/Lifestyle 2017 Scientific Sessions

Portland, OR – March 2017 Daniel Douce, M.D.

Fellow, Hematology and Oncology, Department of Medicine **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Association of sickle cell trait with common electrocardiographic abnormalities in the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) study

American College of Cardiology 66th Annual **Scientific Sessions**

Washington, DC – March 2017 Mehdi Rambod, M.D.

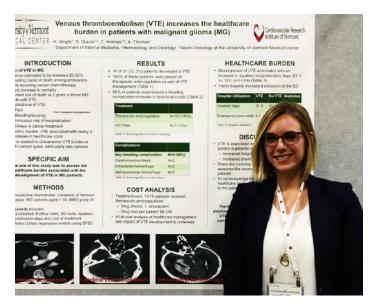
Fellow, Cardiovascular Division, Department of Medicine **POSTER PRESENTATION:** New-onset platypnea orthodeoxia and old patent foramen ovale: To close it or not to close it?

Society for Reproductive Investigation 64th **Annual Scientific Meeting**

Orlando, FL – March 2017 Theresa Nga-Ling Ko, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences

ORAL PRESENTATION: Venoarterial signaling (VAS) modulates shear stress-induced gestational uterine artery expansive remodeling



Aaron Gelinne, B.S.

Medical Student, Larner College of Medicine Class of 2019s **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Remodeling and altered biomechanics of the mouse abdominal aorta during and after pregnancy

Carole McBride, Ph.D.

Research Specialist, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences

POSTER PRESENTATIONS (4): Placental underperfusion and its clinical associations

Amyloid precursor protein products are associated with vessel stiffness and hypertension in subsequent pregnancy

Women with prior preterm preeclampsia have elevated inflammation and endothelial dysfunction compared to nulliparous women

Bone mineral density is decreased in women who develop preeclampsia

International Society for Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism – Brain 2017

Berlin, Germany – April 2017 Siu-Lung (Kelvin) Chan, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Research Analyst, Department of Neurological Sciences **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Increased infarction and hemorrhagic transformation in aged spontaneous hypertensive rats: Role of collateral CBF

Experimental Biology 2017 Chicago, IL – April 2017

Daniel M. Collier, Ph.D.

Research Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Extracellular histones induce propagating Ca2+ influx, Ca2+ overload, and endothelial cell death in resistance-sized mouse mesenteric arteries

Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

New Orleans, LA – May 2017 Sreedivya Chava, M.D.

Fellow, Cardiovascular Division, Department of Medicine **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Coronary CT angiography to detect severe coronary artery disease prior to transcatheter aortic valve replacement

International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis 26th Congress

Berlin, Germany – July 2017

Laura M. Havnes, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Biochemistry **ORAL PRESENTATION:** Clot-bound thrombin characterization of plasma clots in a flow reactor

Military Health System Research Symposium 2017

Kissimmee, FL – August 2017 Maria Cristina Bravo, Ph.D.

Faculty Scientist, Department of Biochemistry

POSTER PRESENTATION: Computational assessment that utilizes composition data from distinct patient cohorts to help determine procoagulant dynamics in burn patients over time

American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, 22nd **Annual Scientific Session**

Kansas City, MO – September 2017 Sherri Khadanga, M.D.

Fellow, Cardiovascular Division, Department of Medicine **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Ratio of myocardial uptake to blood pool activity in dual-time-point 18F-FDG PET for the diagnosis of cardiac sarcoidosis

TCT – Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics

Denver, CO – October 2017 Amir Azarbal, M.D.

Fellow, Cardiovascular Division, Department of Medicine **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Acute kidney recovery in patients undergoing transcatheter aortic valve replacement

American Heart Association Annual Scientific Sessions

Anaheim, CA – November 2017 Lakshmi Nambiar, M.D.

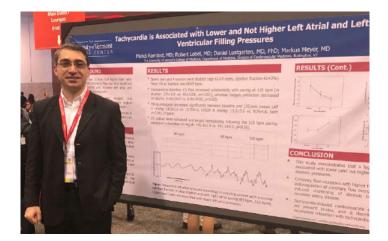
Fellow, Cardiovascular Division, Department of Medicine **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Left ventricular end-diastolic volume predicts exercise capacity in patients with a normal ejection fraction

Mehdi Rambod, M.D.

Fellow, Cardiovascular Division, Department of Medicine **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Tachycardia is associated with lower and not higher left atrial and left ventricular filling pressures (shown below)

American Society of Hematology Atlanta, GA – December 2017 Heather Wright, DO

Resident, Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine **POSTER PRESENTATION:** Venous thromboembolism (VTE) increases the healthcare burden in patients with malignant glioma (MG) (shown left)



Research Funding: 2017 Highlights

Understanding the causes and consequences of cardiovascular disease, from the molecule to the patient to populations to policy, drives a robust research enterprise at the University of Vermont, and represents a significant portion of the \$85 million in funding received by the Larner College of Medicine in 2017. Grant funding comes from federal, state, corporate and non-profit sources; below is a sampling of current awards.

Cardiac Muscle

National Institutes of Health Funding

NIH 5R01 HL122744

Tachycardia-Induced Sarcolemmal Calcium Extrusion Defect in Patients with Diastolic Dysfunction PI: Markus Meyer, M.D. \$1,800,000

NHLBI U10 HL110342

Heart Failure Research Network -Vermont, New York and Ouebec Regional Clinical Center PI: Peter VanBuren, M.D. \$1,150,000

NHLBI R01 HL118524

Myofilament Based Mechanisms of Diastolic Dysfunction in HFpEF PI: Martin LeWinter, M.D. \$1,044,000

R01 HL126909-01

Cardiac Myosin-Binding Protein C: Molecular Modulation Actomyosin Function PI: David M. Warshaw, Ph.D. \$468.000

Ro1 AR067279

Skeletal Myosin-Bindina Protein C: Molecular Structure and Function PI: David M. Warshaw, Ph.D. \$192,500

RO1 GM078097

Mutational Studies of Processive Mvosin Motors PI: Kathleen Trybus, Ph.D. \$248,630

R01 GM094229

Mvosin Va Cargo Transport: In Vitro Model Systems PI: David M. Warshaw, Ph.D. \$346,500

R21 CA1911532

Alternative Exercise Modalities to Improve Skeletal Muscle Function in Cancer Survivors PI: Michael Toth, Ph.D. \$130,500

Ro1 HL078888

Genomics and Pharmacodynamics of Statin-Related Rhabdomvolvsis Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. No cost extension

No1 HC95170

Jackson Heart Study - Specimen Repository Subcontract PI: Nancy Jenny, Ph.D. \$46,139

NIH/NIAMS R21 AR069199

Prevention of Skeletal Muscle Adaptations to Traumatic Knee Injury and Surgerv PI: Michael Toth, Ph.D. \$132,000

Ro1 AI132378

Structure and Function of the Plasmodium Myosin XIV-acting Glideosome PI: Kathleen Trybus, Ph.D. \$260,295

UO1 HL084904

Heart Failure Network Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$375,883

NIH/NIAMS Ro1 AR065826

Skeletal Muscle atrophy and Dysfunction in Human Cancer PI: Michael Toth, Ph.D. \$271,172

NIH/NIA Ro1 AG050305

Skeletal Muscle Atrophy and Dysfunction Following Total Knee Arthroplastv PI: Michael Toth, Ph.D. \$294,306

NIH/NIA Ro1 AG04725

Sex-specific Adaptations to Different Resistance Exercise Programs in Older Adults Site PI: Michael Toth, Ph.D. \$377,039

Clinical Trials/Industry Support

Medtronic

The Heart Rate 80bpm Study PI: Markus Meyer, M.D. \$50,000

CoreValve® Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement in Patients at Low Risk for Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement Site PI: Harold Dauerman, M.D. \$250.000

AdaptResponse Clinical Trial Local PI: Joseph F. Winget, M.D. \$67,550

Product Surveillance Registry 09-167 Registry Study: Patients who have received specific leads in the past 30 days, examining the longevity of the system/leads once implanted PI: Robert Lobel, M.D. \$250.000

Capricor. Inc.

Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase I/II Study of the Safety and Efficacy of Intracoronary Delivery of Allogeneic Cardiosphere-derived Cells in Patients with an Anterior Myocardial Infarction and Ischemic Left Ventricular Dysfunction (ALLSTAR) Local PI: Matthew Watkins, M.D. \$326.000

St. Jude Medical

Quadripolar Pacing Post Approval Study PI: Daniel Lustgarten, M.D., Ph.D. \$17,250

Dauerman Research & Education Funding

Acute Kidney Recovery after TAVR: Northern New England Cardiovascular Disease Study Group PI: Richard Solomon, M.D. Acute Kidney Recovery after TAVR: 1 Year Follow Up Site PI: Harold Dauerman, M.D. Trainees: Amir Azarbal, M.D. (Fellow); Katherine Kurchena (medical student); Erika Mendoza (undergraduate student)

Acute Kidney Recover after TAVR vs. Surgical AVR PI: Harold Dauerman, M.D., Senior Investigator for the Northern New England Cardiovascular Disease Study Group Trainees: Rony Lahoud, M.D. (junior faculty)

Temporal Trends in Tricuspid Valve

Surgery and Outcomes: A Report of the Nationwide Inpatient Sample Senior Investigator: Harold Dauerman, M.D.

Trainees: Rony Lahoud, M.D. (junior faculty); Ashwini Sharma, M.D. (Fellow)

Edwards Lifesciences

Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement to UNload the Left Ventricle in Patients with ADvanced Heart Failure: A randomized trial (TAVR UNLOAD) Site PI: Harold Dauerman, M.D. \$250,000

UVM REACH 17-0505

Inflammatory BioMarkers in Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction PI: Johannes Steiner, M.D. \$10,000

Luitpold Pharmaceuticals

A Randomized, Double-Bllind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Investigate the Efficacy and Safety of Injectafer® (Ferric Carboxymaltose) at Treatment for Heart Failure with Iron Deficiency (HEART-FID) Site PI: Johannes Steiner, M.D.

Mass General Hospital

Voice Changes Predict Heart Failure (VOICE-HF) Site PI: Johannes Steiner, M.D.

Vascular Biology /

Thrombosis

National Institutes of Health Funding

R01 1HL121706

Regulation of Myoendothelial Function by Signaling Microdomains in Hypertension PI: Mark T. Nelson, Ph.D. \$325,981

T32 HL007594

Thrombosis and Hemostasis Program for Academic Trainees PI: Robert J. Kelm, Jr., Ph.D. NCE

R01 HL131181

K+ Sensing and Electrical Signaling by Kir Channels in Brain Vasculature PI: Mark T. Nelson, Ph.D. \$435,348

Ro1 NS093289-01

Targeting Parenchymal Arterioles in Acute Stroke Treatment PI: Marilyn J. Cipolla, Ph.D. \$1,653,665

NIH/NHLBI PO1 HL095488-01

Calcium Signaling in the Cerebrovascular Unit in Health and Disease PI: Mark T. Nelson, Ph.D. Project 1 and Administrative Core PI: Mark T. Nelson, Ph.D. \$7,831,664 Project 3: Cerebrovascular Function During Ischemia and Reperfusions PI: Marilyn J. Cipolla, Ph.D.

\$1,900,000

UM1 HL120877 Analysis and Characterization of Trauma-Induced Coagulopathy Project 1: Mechanism and Extent of Thrombin Generation in TIC PI: Kenneth Mann, Ph.D. Project 2: The Role of Factor Xla in TIC PI: Saulius Butenas, Ph.D. Project 6: The Coagulation and Fibrinolysis Interface PI: Kathleen Brummel-Ziedins, Ph.D. Project 12: Effects of Histones, Polyphosphates (polyp) and Thrombin on Native Endothelium in Trauma PI: Mark T. Nelson, Ph.D. Central Lab Director: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$23,769,600

RO1 NS045940-10 The Role of the Blood-brain Barrier in Seizure during Pregnancy and Preeclampsia

PI: Marilyn J. Cipolla, Ph.D. \$1,667,970

HHS N2682015000031

Multiethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) Task 1 and 3 Repository Maintenance Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$94,418 Task 2 - Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy. Ph.D. \$276,379

U01 AG050499

Enabling Reduction of Low-grade Inflammation in Seniors (ENRGISE) Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$131,412

R01 HL120854

T-cell Subsets as Risk Factors for CVD in CHS and Mesa Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$178,556

R01 HL125032

Immune Function and the Risk of Cardiovascular Disease among HIV+ and Uninfected Veterans Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$221,384

R01 HL126542

Targeting Hypercoagulation to Reduce Inflammation in Treated HIV Disease Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$141.825

R01 HL126543

Role of Innate Immunity in HIV related Vascular Disease: Biomarkers and Mechanisms Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$13,059

HHSN268201600006P

CHS Biorepository Support Services \$54,005

U01 HL130114

CHS Research Resources for the Cardiovascular Health of Older Adults Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$13,290

R01 HL133860

Contemporary Venous Tissue Sodium, Inflammation and Blood Thromboembolism Treatment Pressure in MESA Subcontract PI: Neil Zakai, Ph.D. Subcontract PI: Margaret Doyle, Ph.D. \$108.263 \$104,199

R01 AG053325

Non-esterified Fatty Acids and Cardiometabolic Disease in Older Adults Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$200,352

1UH2NS100605

Microalial. Inflammatory and Omics Markers of Cerebral Small Vessel Disease in the CHARGE Consortium Subcontract PI: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$332,262

NINDS NS041588

Etiology of Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke Mortality Subcontract PI: Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc. \$233,243

NHLBI HL59367

Epidemiology of Venous Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Subcontract PI: Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc. \$223,963

R01 N5080850

Impact of Disordered Mineral Metabolism on Stroke and Cognitive Impairment Subcontract PI: Nancy Jenny, Ph.D.

\$6,904

R01 HL093009

Mediators of Atherosclerosis in So. Asians Living in America Subcontract PI: Nancy Jenny, Ph.D. \$24,682

R01 HL132264 NIH/NHLBI

Vascular Protection by HGF/IaG Protein Complexes that Activate RYK PI: Jeffrey Spees, Ph.D. \$1,619,373

BARDA: Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority

Establishment of a Minipiq Model of Ionizing Radiation-induced Thrombocytopenia, Coagulopathies and Measures of Associated Vascular and Organ Injury Subcontract PI: Kathleen Brummel-Ziedins, Ph.D. \$271.800

R01 HL131579

R01 HL136636

Capillary Control of Cerebral Blood Flow, and Its Disruption in Small Vessel Disease PI: Fabrice Dabertrand, Ph.D. \$1,250,000

R01 HL134371

Shear Stress-induced Maternal Uterine Vascular Remodeling During Pregnancy PI: George Osol, Ph.D. \$268,250

NIGMS CoBRE P-20

Project: Incentives Targeting Gestational Weight Gain in Overweight and Obese Low Income Women Project PI: Ira Bernstein, M.D.

R01 HL132947

Thrombosis Genetics in African Americans Co-I: Russell Tracy, Ph.D. \$311,641

Po1 HD03192116A1

National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health - Wave V Subcontract PI: Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc. \$405,472

R01 HD087061

Social Context, the Life Course, and Genetic Transcription in Add Health Subcontract PI: Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc. \$31,911

R01 AG023629

Exceptional Survival: Trajectories to Function Subcontract PI: Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc. \$14,895

K99 HL129045

Immune Activation and Immunosenescence Biomarkers and Cardiovascular Disease Risk PI: Nels Olson, Ph.D. \$111,512

American Heart Association Funding

Founders Affiliate Grant-in-Aid 16GRNT31160006

Role of PURB in Controlling the Phenotypic Plasticity of Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells PI: Robert J. Kelm, Jr., Ph.D. \$154,000

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Funding from Other Agencies

Naval Health Research Center NHRC BAA 13-001

Complex Systems Approachs to Characterizing Trauma Induced Coagulopathy PI: Kathleen Brummel-Ziedins, Ph.D. \$2,613,270

European Union 666881 Horizon 2020

Small Vessel Disease in a Mechanistic Perspective: Targets for Intervention - Affected Pathways and Mechanistic Exploration for Prevention of Stroke and Dementia PI: Mark T. Nelson, Ph.D., for WP1; Co-PI for WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5 \$162,610

British Heart Foundation

Imaging Small Artery Endothelial Calcium Signals in Human Obesity: Does Damage to TRPV4 Channel Function Explain Endothelial Dysfunction? Clinical Research Training Fellowship at UVM for Majid Ahmed. Co-PIs: Adam S. Greenstein, Ph.D., and Mark T. Nelson, Ph.D. £164,006

Fondation Leducq

Pathogenesis of Small Vessel Disease of the Brain North American Coordinator: Mark T. Nelson, Ph.D. \$251,085

Totman Medical Research Trust Cerebrovascular Research

PI: Mark T. Nelson, Ph.D. \$150,000

Clinical Trials/Industry Support

Sanofi

Odyssey Outcomes Trial Local PI: Friederike Keating, M.D. \$56,000

Boston Scientific

EVOLVE SHORT DAPT: A National Registry of 3 Months Dual Antiplatelet Therapy in Conjunction with SYNERGY Bioresorbable Polymer Drug Eluting Stent for Patients at High Risk of Bleeding, National Steering Committee Site PI: Harold Dauerman, M.D. \$300,000

Quadripolar CRT-D on Currently Approved Lead SystemS (CROSS X4) Local PI: Joseph F. Winget, M.D. \$250,000

Evaluation of the WATCHMAN LAA Closure Device In Patients with Atrial Fibrillation Versus Long Term Warfarin Therapy (PREVAIL) Local PI: Daniel Lustgarten, M.D., Ph.D. \$168,613

Prospective Randomized Evaluation of the WATCHMAN LAA Closure Device In Patients with Atrial Fibrillation Versus Long Term Warfarin Therapy (PREVAIL) and Continued Access to PREVAIL (CAP2) Local PI: Daniel Lustgarten, M.D., Ph.D. \$250,000

Janssen Pharmaceuticals, LLC

Novel Markers of Thrombotic Risk PI: David J. Schneider, M.D. \$372,000

Bayer Healthcare

GALILEO: A Randomized Trial of Antiplatelet versus Antithrombotic Strategy with Riviroxiban to Improve Outcomes after TAVR Site PI: Harold Dauerman, M.D. \$100,000

Measurement of sPLA2-IIA Protein Levels and Assessment of Associations with Cardiovascular Disease Subcontract PI: Nancy Jenny, Ph.D. \$115,912





With the start of each new academic year, the University of Vermont welcomes new medical students, trainees, and faculty to campus.

On August 30, CVRI's Early Career Advisory Committee hosted the first annual

Welcome Soiree

The event, held in the Garden Atrium at UVMMC, provided an opportunity for newcomers to meet others interested in cardiovascular research and learn about the programs and funding available through CVRI.





Robert Harrington, M.D., Arthur L. Bloomfield Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Stanford University and host of a regular podcast on theheart.org (The Bob Harrington Show), leads a discussion on social media in medicine in the Health Science Research Facility at the Larner College of Medicine during his visit to campus in May 2017.

Research Publications: 2017 Highlights

Across our academic medical center campus, throughout the region, and around the world, teams of physicians and scientists are dedicated to reducing the incidence, morbidity, and mortality of heart and vascular diseases through improving prevention, diagnosis and treatment. We are pleased to present a sampling of publications and high-profile presentations from our University of Vermont colleagues engaged across a wide range of cardiovascular research.

Cardiac Muscle

AbouEzzeddine OF, McKie PM, Dunlay SM, Stevens SR, Felker GM, Borlaug BA, Chen HH, Tracy RP, Braunwald E and Redfield MM. Suppression of tumorigenicity 2 in heart failure with preserved ejection fraction. J Am Heart Assoc. 2017;6:doi 10.1161/ JAHA.116.004382.

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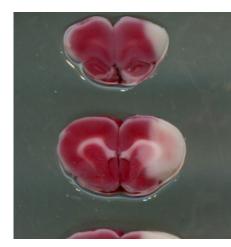
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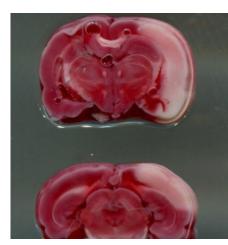
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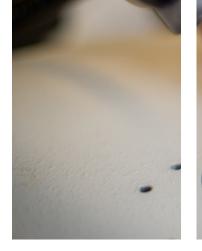
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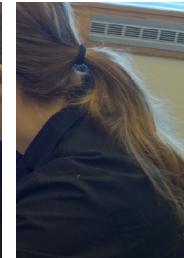
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Patent Activity

Researchers associated with the CVRI have pursued innovations in a wide range of patentable areas concerning cardiovascular health, from devices and systems to new methods and research aids.

Patent Application 2017/0121407 Oxidized LDL as a biomarker for neurological complications of pregnancy Marilyn J. Cipolla, Ph.D.

U.S. Patent 9,706,935 Peter Spector, M.D. CATHETER SYSTEMS AND RELATED METHODS FOR MAPPING, MINIMIZING, AND TREATING CARDIAC FIBRILLATION

U.S. Patent 9,693,699 Peter Spector, M.D. Jason Bates, Ph.D. METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR MAPPING CARDIAC FIBRILLATION

Scholarly **Presentations**

A sampling of CVRI researchers invited to speak at national and international meetings.

American Heart Association International Stroke Conference

Houston, TX – February 2017 Marilyn Cipolla, Ph.D.

Sanguinate[™] Opens Collaterals, Improves Reperfusion and Decreases Infarction in Spontaneously Hypertensive Rats

Japanese Circulation Society

Kanazawa, Japan – March 2017 Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc. Current Use of Antiplatelet Agents for Acute Coronary Syndromes in the United States

Trans-NIH Workshop on Chronic Inflammation Biomarkers in Disease Development and Prevention

Rockville, MD – May 2017 Russell Tracy, Ph.D. Development of Chronic Disease Biomarkers Based on Inflammation and Adaptive Immunity

International Society for Advancement of Cytometry 32nd Congress

Boston, MA – June 2017

Margaret Doyle, Ph.D.

Cellular Biomarker Discovery: Assay Validation and Quality Control in High-Throughput Population Studies with an Eve Towards Clinical Utilization

International United Leukodystrophy Foundation Meeting

Minneapolis, MN – July 2017

Fabrice Dabertrand, Ph.D.

Capillary Control of Cerebral Blood Flow, and Its Disruption in Small Vessel Disease

International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis 2017 Congress

Berlin, Germany – July 2017 Nels Olson, Ph.D.

A Basal-State Monocyte Gene Transcription Profile is Associated with Circulating Levels of Th1 Cells: the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA)

International Symposium on Resistance Arteries

Manchester, UK – September 2017 Mark Nelson, Ph.D. Keynote Speaker: Capillaries as Decoders of Neural Rhythm in the Brain: Translating thought into blood flow

International Symposium on Resistance Arteries

Manchester, UK – September 2017 Marilyn Cipolla, Ph.D. Regulation of Vascular Resistance in the Brain: Physiology and Pathophysiology

Alliance Sante Ouebec Quebec, Canada – October 2017 Russell Tracy, Ph.D. The Research University of the Future

International Symposium on Collaterals to the Brain

Los Angeles, CA – November 2017 Marilvn Cipolla, Ph.D. Impact of Hypertension on Pial Collateral Function

American Heart Association Annual Scientific Sessions

Anaheim, CA – November 2017

Neil Zakai. Ph.D.

Curbing the Atherothrombotic Risk in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus Frontiers in Medicine: Risk Stratification and Management of Acute Pulmonary Embolism

American Society of Hematology 59th Annual Meeting

Atlanta, GA – December 2017

Neil Zakai. Ph.D.

Recurrent Cerebral Sinus Thrombosis: Why was anticoagulation not enough?



From left: Drs. Schneider, Dauerman, Cipolla, Warshaw, Nelson, Bernstein and Cushman.

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