I did not anticipate the start of my role as helping lead the Medical Alumni Association to be marked by a global pandemic. Dare I say things can only improve from here? I am reminded of my time in Vermont, through medical school, residency and beyond and how it was marked as much by unpredictability as anything else.

As a first-year student, everything seems simultaneously scary and wonderful (as a first-year resident, more of the same). And as a Vermont resident, seeing a beautiful sunrise the same day as driving through a 12-inch snowstorm gives one a new perspective on uncertainty. I feel like that now, with the uncertainty amplified several times over, and I am sure many of you do too.

As we all navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, I hope you also feel as I do the strength of our Larner College of Medicine family. Our medical education has prepared us for this moment. We are in this together.

In August, we welcome the newest class of medical students into our family. This year, the Medical Alumni Association has partnered with Dean Page and Medical Student Education to provide each student a copy of Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning, a book that provides a sound introduction to the learning methods they’ll be experiencing during their medical education. I’m eager to get to know members of the Class of 2024 through our White Coat note writing tradition, and I look forward to witnessing their transformation into the able and compassionate physicians the world needs right now.

Although Medical Reunion will look a little different this year, with a remote gathering in the works for the fall, I know it will be a fun-filled, joyous time of connection and celebration. We’ll be celebrating our Medical Alumni Association award winners and get together online for talks and events. Most importantly, we will reflect on our time together in Vermont, plan for days yet to come, and appreciate the present more than ever.

I appreciate all of you, and all you do for your communities and for each other.

Omar Khan, M.D. ’03
President
UVM Medical Alumni Association
2014s

David Link, associate professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation at UVM, was awarded a $1 million grant by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases to train up to 150 new orthopaedic surgeons to treat young people with childhood-onset scoliosis.

2020s

Kevin Strong, M.D., has published a novel in which the main characters are among the first COVID-19 patients in Vermont. "I wanted to write a story that was a little bit of a mystery, but also included medical terminology," he said.

William Timbers has been appointed director of the UVM Medical Center’s COVID-19 response efforts. He previously served as interim chief medical officer for the hospital.

Jasmine Robinson, M.D.’20

To support students like Jasmine, visit go.uvm.edu/givemed

A Note of Thanks

In this ongoing series, Vermont Medicine shares a note of thanks from a student for the support they’ve received from alumni. Jasmine Robinson, M.D.’20, gives thanks for scholarship support in her letter:

Dear Alumni,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart and express how appreciative I am of your generous gift. As a single parent in medical school, I have always been concerned about my projected student loans, and how to pay them off before my daughter goes to college (she’s currently six). Your generosity has helped to ease some of those pressures, and both my daughter and I are extremely grateful.

All my love,

Jasmine Robinson

future OB/GYN
The Medical Alumni Association Awards are presented every year at the Celebration of Achievements Ceremony at Reunion. The Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award will be presented at the Dean’s Celebration of Research Excellence.

Distinguished Academic Achievement Award

Presented to alumni in recognition of outstanding scientific or academic achievement.

A. Bradley Soule Award

Presented to an alumnus/a whose loyalty and dedication to the Larner College of Medicine most emulate those qualities as found in its first recipient, A. Bradley Soule, M.D.`28.

When a pre-medical student asked Dr. Mandell what it meant to be a doctor, he said, “To be a doctor, in the true sense of the word, is to use that almost mystical combination of science and a kind heart to make decisions, to give ear to the voice of the patient and to respond to those who call out to us. That is what gives doctors the thumping heart to believe in what they have to do. This was the signature of my medical school and the roll of the drums that set me off.” Although Dr. Mandell entered medical school wanting to be a surgeon, he left as a pediatrician with guidance from his mentor, Dr. Jerry Lucey. While serving as a pediatric resident at Children’s Hospital, Boston, Dr. Mandell found his passion in serving the underserved, caring for children of Boston’s Romani community. Dr. Mandell was invited to join the medical staff at Children’s Hospital, Boston, and received an appointment at Harvard Medical School. He founded the Massachusetts Center for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and became vice-chair of the National SIDS Foundation. Dr. Mandell served on the American Academy of Pediatrics and Indian Health Service research teams investigating possible causes for the high rate of SIDS on Native American reservations. In honor of his commitment to the health needs of The Tribal Nations, and his over 20 years of work with the Lakota Sioux, Dr. Mandell was presented his highest award, the Eagle Feather, at the Kicking Bear PowWow.

His continued interest in native peoples led him to work with the Chacapoya Indians and the Huaorani people in the Amazon, as well as with Project Hope to build a Children’s Hospital in Pudong, China. The Boston Chasidic Community honored him with their Award for Humanitarian Service. In addition, he continues to provide pediatric care at a rural clinic in Nicaragua.

A post-pleasant of the Alumni Executive Committee, Dr. Mandell has received UVM’s Lifetime Achievement Award and the Larner College of Medicine Service to Medicine and Community Award. Harvard Medical School awarded him the Dean’s Lifetime Achievement Award. In his hometown, he was the recipient of their Notiva San Award. Dr. Mandell has authored numerous scientific papers, served as editor of Pediatric Alert, and published three works of historic fiction.

Says Dr. Mandell: “Over the years I have learned more than I have given. The medicine men I have met have influenced my life in their wisdom and their understanding of disease and cure. Their poignant message transcends culture. Everyone person you touch has a soul.”

Robert Larner, M.D.`42 Student Award

Presented to a current student(s) for his or her outstanding leadership and loyalty to the College and one who embodies Dr. Larner’s dedication to not only supporting his medical alma mater, but to inspiring others to do as well.

Sidney Hilker

UVM Larner College of Medicine, Class of 2021

Early Achievement Award

Presented to alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years in recognition of their outstanding community or College service and/or scientific or academic achievement.

T. Mike Hsieh, M.D.`05

Director of Male Fertility and Men’s Health Center; Assistant Professor of Surgery, Department of Urology, UC San Diego Health System

Heidi Schumacher, M.D.`10

Assistant Superintendent, Health and Wellness, Washington, D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education

SERVICE TO MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY AWARD

Presented to alumni who have maintained a high standard of medical service and who have achieved an outstanding record of community service or assumed other significant responsibilities not directly related to medical practice.

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE ALUMNI AWARD

Presented to an alumnus/a from the UVM Larner College of Medicine’s Ph.D. or M.S. programs who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in basic, clinical or applied research, education, industry, public service, humanitarianism; and/or outstanding commitment to the Larner College of Medicine community. Marilyn Cipolla, Ph.D.`97 Professor, Department of Neurological Sciences, UVM Larner College of Medicine

2021 Nominations

Do you know a class member deserving of recognition? Send in your nominations for the 2021 awards to: med.uvm.edu/alumni

2020 MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Full biographies of the awardees can be found at med.uvm.edu/alumni
UVM’S HEALTHCARE HEROES ARE ‘DARN TOUGH’

UVM Health Network employees on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic now have a supply of Darn Tough socks to keep them comfortable through long days on their feet thanks to a generous gift from the Vermont company.

In April, the Northfield-based company donated 5,000 pairs of socks to the UVM Medical Center and other UVM Health Network affiliates including Porter Medical Center and Central Vermont Medical Center.

The donation highlights the giving spirit of Vermonters and the deep respect healthcare professionals enjoy in the community. “Darn Tough is a great Vermont story and we think this is a wonderful way to make a connection between a company like Darn Tough and a place like the UVM Health Network,” says Kevin MacAteer, chief development officer for academic health sciences at the UVM Medical Center Foundation. “So thank you, Darn Tough. We really appreciate it. Our health care heroes are ‘Darn Tough,’ and we love having your socks.”

SUPPORTING DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

When she was growing up, UVM Professor of Neurological Sciences Diane Jaworski, Ph.D., remembers her parents bringing her to volunteer at a soup kitchen, one of many ways they encouraged their daughter to give back. Her father, Witosz “Vic” Jaworski, a Polish displaced person who immigrated to the U.S. after World War II, and her mother, Jane (nee Czyczewski), who was born in the U.S. to Polish immigrants and wanted to be a nurse, but could not afford university, always stressed the importance of education and service to others. They would tell their children: “You may not have what you want, but you have what you need. Many don’t have what they need. We need to help them.”

This generosity of spirit inspired Jaworski to create a new fund at the Larner College of Medicine, named for her parents, the first specifically for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI). In addition to supporting ODEI-specific initiatives, the fund allows ODEI leaders to allocate dollars to a variety of student groups engaged in advocacy.

In her 25-plus years at UVM, Jaworski has been at the front lines of diversity and equity work. She serves as an advisor to the American Medical Women’s Association and the Social Justice Coalition (SJC) and is a member of the Dean’s Advisory Committee for Diversity and Inclusion. The medical students she mentors—particularly the student-led SJC, a group that has worked with faculty to weave teaching about social justice into the curriculum—inspire her to stay engaged.

“I see the wonderful work the SJC is doing with the health disparities curriculum,” she says. “I want to support those efforts.”

To give now to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: go.uvm.edu/giveodei

MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION

Adam Ross ’22 keeps a piece of paper tucked to the wall above his desk. It’s a brief note from Vito Imbasciani, Ph.D., M.D. ’85, that Ross discovered tucked in the pocket of the white coat he received as a first-year Larner College of Medicine student in September of 2018. For the last few years, Imbasciani and other Larner alumni have delighted in writing notes to the College’s newest medical students, to be discovered during the white coat ceremony.

“I appreciated that someone was willing to reach out as an alum—someone who might be able to help guide me,” Ross says. As it turned out, the two had much to bond over, starting with the fact that Imbasciani—who practices urology with the Southern California Permanente Medical Group—lives in Los Angeles. Ross is a native of the city. In addition, Ross, who hopes to engage in policy work, has been interested to learn about that aspect of Imbasciani’s current position as secretary for the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Even more significantly, Imbasciani’s long-time support of underserved populations resonated with Ross.

“I’m one of the few men of color in my class, and his work to increase diversity in classes has been inspirational,” says Ross, adding that he hopes to incorporate community outreach in his own practice. He says having “Uncle Vito” as mentor has been “eye-opening and frame-shifting.”

Imbasciani’s munificence grew in part out of his experience as a 28-year officer in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, completing four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and was forced to keep his sexuality hidden. In 2014 at Larner, Imbasciani and his husband, George DeSalvo, founded their eponymous endowed LGBTQI lecture series to address disparities in healthcare delivery within that community. It was the first of its kind in the nation. More recently, Imbasciani and DeSalvo established an endowment to increase diversity at the Larner College of Medicine.

Of his philanthropy, Imbasciani says, “I do it out of a sense of gratitude, to pay back. The best way of doing that is to give opportunities to people just starting their career in medicine. I do it by mentoring, and by trying to reduce their financial burden, so they can become more effective more quickly when they graduate.”

To give online today, visit: go.uvm.edu/givewhitescat20

Vito Imbasciani, Ph.D., M.D. ’85

The University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine
Medical Development & Alumni Relations Office
(802) 656-4044 | medical.giving@uvm.edu | med.uvm.edu/alumni

GROUP FOCUS

FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE

The consensus on the Spring 2020 photo is that the very tired looking woman leaning against the counter is Mary Maloney, M.D. ’77. Facing away from the camera is likely the late Jane Wolf, M.D. ’77. The mustachioed gentleman in the subject of some debate; he could be Mark Rolerson from the Class of 1978, or Dr. David Frantz, or then-intern Peter McElfresh. Mary Maloney ID’s him as “David Miller, if memory serves me well. I was on my medicine AI, and we were admitting late at night. He was reviewing the old records, and I was trying to stay awake.” Howard Nadworny ’78, noted that Mary Maloney “was also an amazing goalie for the women’s intramural hockey team. My recollection is that she was never scored on.”

In addition to Drs. Maloney and Nadworny, thanks to Allan Freedman ’77, Susan Snyder ’77, George Baiccia ’73, Delta Marjorner ’77, and Michael Hummons ’78 for their contributions.
OBITUARIES

William A. Eddy
Dr. Eddy, age 94, of Waitsfield, died March 31, 2020. Born in Hartford, Conn., to Charles and Mary Eddy, he was educated at Framingham Union (West) High School, Saint Vincent High School in Kilmarnock, Va., and the University of Utah. Dr. Eddy received his undergraduate and medical degrees from UVM.

Richard Charles Wolff
Dr. Wolff died February 27, 1994, in New York City. He earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1950 and was admitted to the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1950. He received his medical degree at New York University in 1961 as a meteorology student in 1943 and was commissioned a lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He was stationed on U.S. Navy ships in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Albert A. Romano
Dr. Romano died December 13, 2019. Born October 11, 1927, he served in the U.S. Navy as a radio technician from 1945 to 1946. After receiving his medical degree from UVM, he completed internships in New York, Mass., and moved to Agawam, Mass., to build his family practice. He retired from private practice in 1987 at the age of 80.

Robert Clayton Parker
Dr. Parker died June 8, 2020, at his home in Inlanda at the age of 86. Born in Andover, N.H.; Dr. Parker received his medical degree from UVM in 1962 and interned at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1963, he was aisha to the University of Chicago and in 1964 he returned to the University of Chicago.

Dr. Bicknell died March 2, 2020. Born August 16, 1935, he received his medical degree in 1961 and interned at Upstate Medical University in 1962. In 1963, he was entering the U.S. Army Medical Corps in April of 1961, served in the military in several countries and returned to the University of Vermont.

In the early 1960s, Dr. Bicknell entered the Vermont Medical School (VMS) and then attached to a military hospital in Southern Italy. In the late 1960s, his practice consisted of the office of the chief of staff in the Army.

In 1974, he retired for the first time from the Army and resumed a practice of his own in Vermont. In 1979, he returned to the Army as a consultant and provided support for the Army's Office of Research and Development.

In 1980, Dr. Bicknell returned to the service, becoming a consultant to the Army and worked with the Army's Office of Research and Development. He retired from the Army in 1985 and remained active in the private practice of medicine.

Jeffrey Adrian Schumacher
Dr. Schumacher died at his home in Williston, Vt., on June 11, 2020, at the age of 66. Born in Honeoye Falls, N.Y., Dr. Schumacher received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1984 and completed his residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital Medical Center of the University of Denver.

Dr. Schumacher was a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, and he was the director of the UVM Children's Hospital, where he served as the director of the pediatric residency program.

Dr. Schumacher was a devoted husband, father, and son, and he will be deeply missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Tanya, his son, Andrew, and his parents, Edward and Phyllis Schumacher.

Dr. Schumacher's love for medicine began when he was a child, and he never stopped learning. He was a dedicated educator, and he had a passion for teaching and mentoring the next generation of physicians.

Dr. Schumacher's contributions to medicine were recognized with numerous awards, including the UVM School of Medicine's Distinguished Alumnus Award, the UVM School of Medicine Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award, and the UVM School of Medicine's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Jack J. Winfield
Dr. Winfield died of COVID-19 on May 25, 2020. He was born in 1967 and was the first black physician to complete medical school in West Virginia. He was a graduate of the University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed his residency training at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Winfield was a proud member of the West Virginia Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He was dedicated to improving the health of his patients and his community, and he will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Dr. Winfield is survived by his wife, Melinda Myrick, and their two children, John and Grace. He is also survived by his parents, Jack J. Winfield Sr. and Marsha Winfield.

Dr. Winfield was a highly respected and beloved member of the West Virginia medical community, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Malinda (Melody) Charlie Myrick
Dr. Myrick died on May 5, 2020. Born on July 12, 1979 in Portland, Ore., Dr. Myrick obtained her bachelor’s degree from Portland State University and her medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. She completed her residency training in general surgery at UCLA and her fellowship training in vascular surgery at the University of California, San Francisco.

Dr. Myrick was a passionate advocate for underserved populations and was deeply committed to improving health outcomes for all patients. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and colleagues.

Dr. Myrick is survived by her husband, Andrew, and their two children, Jack and Lily. She is also survived by her parents, Melody and Randy Myrick.

George ‘Ted’ Winfield
Ted Winfield died on May 25 after contracting COVID-19. A graduate of the College of Medicine at Mount Sinai with an M.P.H. from the University of Pennsylvania, he was a member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians. He was a partner in a medical practice in New York City and had been working for a medical consulting company.

Dr. Winfield was a devoted husband, father, and son, and he will be deeply missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Melinda, his son, John, and his parents, Jack J. Winfield Sr. and Marsha Winfield.

Dr. Winfield was a highly respected and beloved member of the West Virginia medical community, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

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June 5, 2020
1:10 P.M. – 1:18:46 P.M.
Staff and students at the University of Vermont Medical Center and the Larner College of Medicine, masked and spaced 6 feet apart, silently take a knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds on June 5, 2020, in support of #WhiteCoatsForBlackLives. The brief vigil—marking the amount of time George Floyd was held down by police—was part of a national call to action by medical students focused on police brutality and systemic racism.

PHOTO: RYAN MERCER
The College welcomed the new physicians of the Class of 2020 in a totally new way: through the most extensive live online commencement ceremony held at a medical school during the pandemic.

Faculty, staff, students and alumni are rising to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic through leading edge research, compassionate patient care, and innovative community outreach.

Anne Dougherty, M.D., and Sarah Heil, Ph.D., along with a team of Ugandan colleagues, adapted an intervention used in Vermont to understand how women in Nakaseke, Uganda, might reduce unintended pregnancies.