# Philanthropy Highlights 2021

Where Care Changes Lives



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

s the Omicron wave of COVID-19 slowly subsides in our region, it is leaving a lasting impact on our community, our patients and our staff. One thing is clear: It will take time and focused effort to return to something resembling normal.

I am confident that together, we will find our way.

At The University of Vermont Medical Center, philanthropy has continuously played a key role in how well we're able to weather the storm. The pandemic has taken a toll on the hospital, and our incredible caregivers and staff have gone beyond the call of duty at every turn, missing time with family and enduring immense hardship to be present for their patients.

The pandemic has brought our regional health systems to the brink. Nearly every hospital in our area is full, leaving UVM Medical Center to bear the weight of our health system's shortage of patient beds, particularly in psychiatry and long-term care.

We've been creative and have successfully opened 40 additional beds in the last few months. To open up these beds, UVM Medical Center has taken on more traveling nurses and reduced elective surgeries, resulting in a significant loss of revenue. These have been difficult and financially detrimental decisions, but they have enabled us to ensure care for the region's most acute and emergent cases.

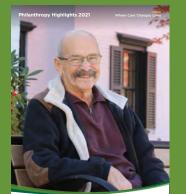
There has never been a time in our organization's history when philanthropy at all levels has been more vital. Charitable support helps us to be nimble, to adapt to the ever-changing health care environment and to be more creative in finding solutions. Your philanthropic support ensures that we are here when we are needed—today and in the future.

Knowing that our community has our back at times like this means a great deal. Thank you for investing in our academic medical center, our regional health system and the people of Vermont and northern New York.

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







## Despite the pandemic, **UVM** Cancer Center patients like Richard Ryan continued to receive critical care. On pages 10-11, find out what inspired his gift to the Lung Cancer Impact Fund ... and why he's smiling.



Community Philanthropy Fuels Employee Innovation

Meeting Vulnerable Patients Where They Are

> Sights Set on Resilient Youth



Help as You Go, Help Where You Can, Help as Much as You Can

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### COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY FUELS EMPLOYEE INNOVATION

2021 marked the sixth round of grants made possible by unrestricted gifts—from grateful patients, families, local businesses, employees and many others—to the UVM Medical Center Fund. These pooled gifts are reinvested in the employee-led innovations that hold the best chance of improving our community's health. Without philanthropy, these programs might never take flight.

### **Dementia Caregiver Support and Education Center** Grant lead: Jeanne Hutchins

There is a dire need in our region to establish a dedicated caregiver resource center to support those who provide at-home care to family members suffering from dementia. This project is the next step in establishing such a center. Supporting and educating caregivers has been proven to decrease Emergency Department use, hospitalization and placement in long-term care facilities.

## Nursing Excellence Initiative in Communication and Accountability

### Grant lead: Pamela Stevens

This project will establish a framework that guides nurses across practice settings in the delivery of care, with an emphasis on quality and safety. Communication and accountability will specifically be addressed using an evidence-based peer-review audit system. Aligning real-time feedback with the structured handoff of Patient Centered Report and Hourly Rounds, the project will seek improve-

## The Volunteer Doula Program Grant lead: Martha Churchill, CNM

Continuous labor support has been shown to improve birth outcomes. The concept of providing compassionate, culturally appropriate, affirmative support to mothers during childbirth is not new to our hospital, but this program will redouble efforts to make doula services more widely accessible.

## Transforming Emergency Care through Interdisciplinary **Trauma-Informed Care Education** Grant lead: Christian Pulcini, MD

Trauma-informed care (TIC)—a treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma—promotes health equity and creates safe environments for patients from all backgrounds to optimize their participation in treatment. As the UVM Medical Center Emergency Department experiences record-level visits, this project will help improve equity of care through a sustainable, multidisciplinary TIC education program.

# **Meeting Vulnerable Patients** Where They Are

A team of emergency care practitioners breaks down barriers to care for some of our community's most vulnerable patients.

hanks to a 2021 grant from the UVM Medical Center Fund, COPE (Community Outreach for Patient Engagement) is improving the health of marginalized populations by bringing health care directly to them and providing a clear channel of communication.

"Every time we saw the same patient repeatedly in the Emergency Department (ED), we thought: 'Wouldn't it be great if we could meet them out in the community before their illness exacerbated to this point?'" says Roz King, MSN, RN, CNL, the emergency medicine researcher and clinical ED nurse leading COPE.

King and her team have identified 96 patients who represent a small percentage of the population but a disproportionately high utilization of emergency health care. Many of these patients experience housing instability, lack a primary care relationship and have difficulty navigating the health care system.

The COPE team pairs the skill set and resource management experience of an ED nurse with the prehospital knowledge of a paramedic. During a typical patient visit, the pair will

conduct a medical assessment; screen for food security, housing and safety; and address immediate care needs. They'll develop a plan of care for the patient and continue to visit patients as frequently as daily and up to weekly, for as long as they're in the COPE pathway. Patients receive a card with instructions about how and when to contact the team by text and phone, and when to call 911.

"Donor support is so important because we're at a crisis in health care especially in the nursing world," says King, who will be collecting data to help inform their progress and measure their impact. She's also looking for ways to sustain the service.

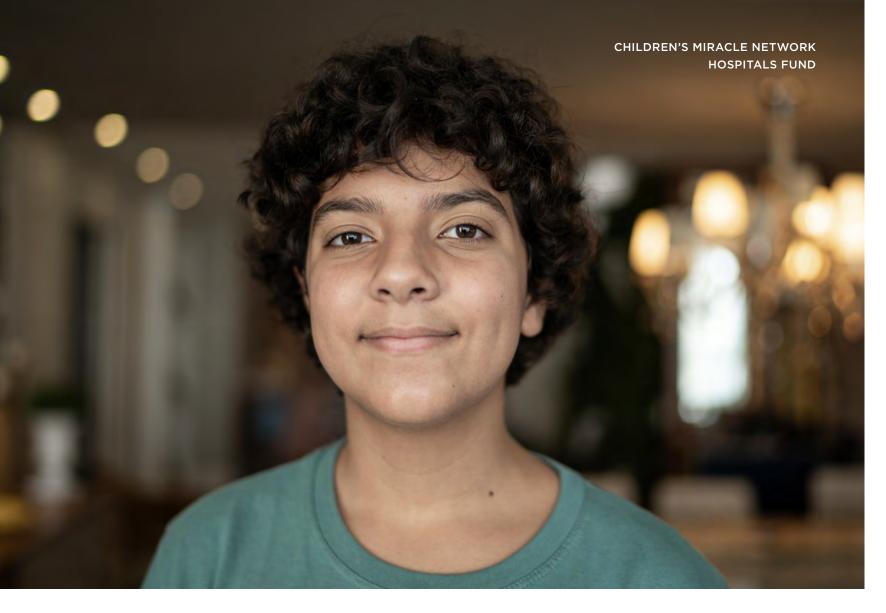
"These grant funds allow us to try something different with the hope that it will make things better for our patients," she says. "If I dream big, in the future we'll have a COPE office on wheels. We'll go out all over the state and provide the education, preventive care and basic medical interventions people need. That would be wonderful."



"Donor support is so important because we're at a crisis in health care, especially in the nursing world."

- Grant lead Roz King, MSN, RN, CNL

To learn more about powering health care innovation Allison Fiore | Allison.Fiore@med.uvm.edu | 646-229-5461 (mobile)



## **Sights Set on Resilient Youth**

Attending to the mental health needs of young people has never been more challenging, or more necessary.

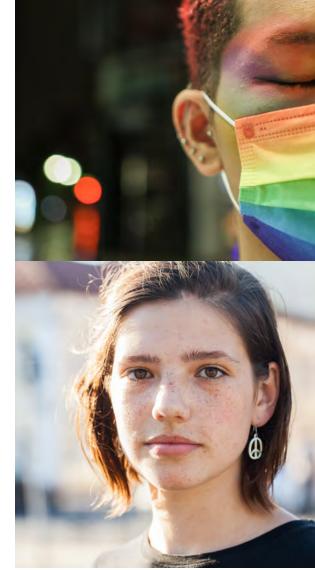


Chief Psychologist Marlene Maron, PhD, maximizes philanthropy's reach

he COVID-19 pandemic has turned a steady rise in demand into an explosion, thrusting more young people than ever into feelings of desperation and crisis.

The UVM Children's Hospital's Pediatric Psychological Services Department has for years been broadening its hospitalbased support, whether in service to patients with mental health challenges, those struggling emotionally with a medical diagnosis or ones simply having difficulty being in a hospital. The team has also expanded its reach into primary care and specialty care sites and schools and communities, with the hope of meeting young people everywhere they enter the health care system. "From everything I know about trauma," says Marlene Maron, PhD, chief psychologist in the Department of Psychological Services and clinical associate professor at the Larner College of Medicine, "whether it's medical, sexual or developmental, treatment can work. If we can help young people process and metabolize difficult experiences—loss, trauma, extraordinary terror—they have a better chance of recovering and living healthy lives."

The Department has long operated in the red, having to absorb unbillable services, teaching and training costs, and senior staff time to help ensure patients have access to psychological







services. Philanthropic support has been a lifeline, and more is needed.

"Philanthropy helps us expand our ability to help young people navigate hard times and challenges," says Dr. Maron.

Committed to connecting youth with the treatment she knows to be effective, Dr. Maron and her team are stretching their 2021 grant support from the **CMN Hospitals Fund** further than ever and expanding their presence in:





Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals, a nonprofit organization that raises funds and awareness for 170 pediatric hospitals nationwide,



helps to ensure that kids receive the best care possible. The UVM Children's Hospital—also a nonprofit—is a member of CMN Hospitals and the sole full-service children's hospital in Vermont and the North Country.

Patients and their families, community members, UVM Medical Center employees, and corporate partners contribute to the CMN Hospitals Fund through myriad channels:

- Programs: Radiothon/Big Change Roundup for Kids, Extra Life, Dance Marathon/UVM RALLYTHON
- Partners: employee giving programs, corporate matches, point of sale campaigns, cause marketing campaigns
- Events: Golf Classic, community-organized events

Every dollar raised locally stays local and helps fuel grant opportunities for innovative employee-led projects and new initiatives and technology. Preference is given to high-need programs and equipment that have a significant impact on the care, health and well-being of UVM Children's Hospital's pediatric patients.







- Adolescent medicine
- Inpatient units
- Transgender youth program
- Pediatric endocrinology
- Workforce development (including training staff with direct family contact, providers, residents and
- interns)System-wide anxiety and
- depression screening
- Referrals (eating disorders,
- gastrointestinal disorders, cystic fibrosis, cancer, etc.)

"Everybody struggles one way or another," says Dr. Maron. "It's impossible to be human and not have pain or loss. Young people depend on families and community to help them develop, build resilience and thrive. In the best circumstances, they grow to live, love and connect with others in healthy ways. When that is not possible, we are grateful for the opportunity to help."

Gifts at every level to the CMN Hospitals Fund at the UVM Children's Hospital serve our region's youth—in body, mind and spirit. Thank you.

# Help as You Go, Help Where You Can, Help as Much as You Can

One generous couple's charitable giving drives two vital programs forward.

he way we think about philanthropy is 'help as you go, help where you can, help as much as you can,'" says a generous donor couple who asked not to be named. "We want to have an impact on the people around us. And we're not so interested in them knowing where the support came from, but that somebody is there for them."

The couple's charitable investments in the UVM Medical Center reflect their interest in helping to address pressing community needs, such as food and housing security and support for aging Vermonters and their caregivers. (See opposite page.)

"Sometimes programs don't get rolling unless there's a person to spark them

or a few people to spark them and some resources to move them forward," the couple says.

COVID-19, upon arrival, provided a spark of its own.

"We have long understood the importance of strong health care and believe it's a right for all people," the couple says. "The pandemic made the situation pretty darn clear: We're all in this together. So in March 2020, we accelerated our giving. We want to do our part to ensure a strong medical environment."

Recognizing the correlation between top-flight health care and biomedical research, the couple has also invested in the UVM Larner College of Medicine's

Firestone Medical Research Building. Currently under construction, this modern, high-efficiency, 62,250 gross square foot facility will fuel innovation, collaboration and discovery and deliver real-time benefits to patients and caregivers. (Learn more on page 18.)

"When you're fortunate enough to be able to take care of yourself and your family and still have resources to give, damming them up isn't worthwhile. We say, 'They've got to flow. They've got to flow to the people."

And on behalf of those people, we say thank you.



### FOOD SECURITY:

"[The couple's] gift is the sole reason we were able to launch the IHI group and build a working team as we have with the VCHIP, Hunger Free Vermont and the State. We are not letting up and would never be here without them."

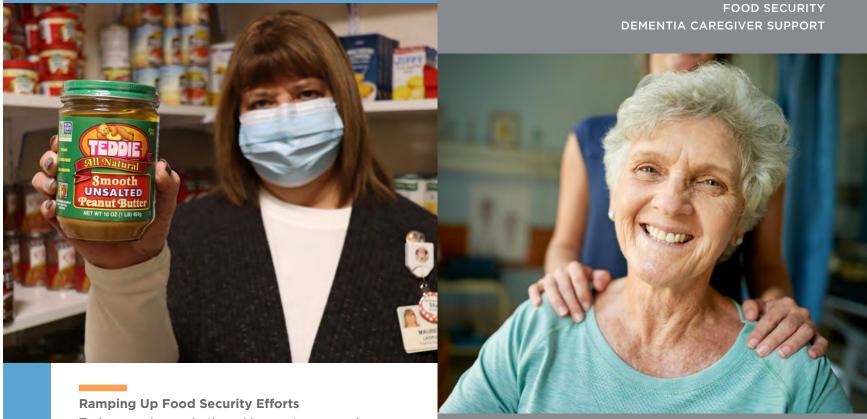
- Keith Robinson, MD'07, Pediatrician



### DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT:

"[The couple's] gift provided the institutional courage and confidence to plant a flag and make this a priority. Their flexible investment was crucial in moving this forward during a demanding and distraction-filled year."

- Michael LaMantia, MD, MPH, Geriatrician, UVM Center on Aging Director



Today, nearly one in three Vermonters experiences food insecurity. For years, Keith Robinson, MD, UVM Children's Hospital vice chair for quality improvement and population health, has been building a coalition among pediatrics colleagues and representatives of the UVM Health Network, OneCare Vermont, Vermont Department of Health, and the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) to prioritize and address population health issues impacting children and families.

With philanthropic support, Dr. Robinson and the UVM Children's Hospital team upgraded their in-house food pantry and received critical training. Their work, now part of the larger Integrative Health Initiative (IHI) Improving Population Health Action community group, brings multidisciplinary professionals-including social workers, nurses, community outreach workers, public health specialists, and representatives from such community programs as the Vermont Foodbank, Hunger Free Vermont and Feeding Chittendentogether to more effectively connect hungry families with healthy food and all the resources available to support them.



### To learn more about feeding hungry families

Shelby McGarry Shelby.McGarry@uvmhealth.org 802-999-8688 (mobile)

(*Above*) *Maureen Leopold, practice supervisor,* UVM Children's Hospital

## A Closer Look: CARERS Program

(Coaching, Advocacy, Respite, Education, Relationship and Simulation)

**Participants:** Family members who have been actively providing intensive care for someone with dementia

### Program benefits:

- Address burnout
- Manage emotions
- Develop problem-solving skills
- Increase caregiver's understanding of of dementia
- Enhance communication skills with the family caregiver and the effected person

**Vision:** Part of a five-year plan to develop a Dementia Caregiver Support and Education Center at the UVM Medical Center to meet the diverse needs of aging Vermonters and their caregivers

**Leaders:** the certified CARERS team in partnership with the UVM Center on Aging, the UVM Medical Center Memory Program and the Mt. Sinai Toronto Reitman Centre



To learn more about supporting our aging population

802-233-8816 (mobile)



## Support for the Core of Care

Nurses provide transformative service grateful patients and families, employees, and others recognize their contributions. oday's health care environment is complex and fast-moving. Technology and science have brought remarkable medical advancements, but nothing can replace the human connection. Patients still need to feel seen and heard. To be involved in decision-making. To understand what's happening and what's to come. To know they are not alone.

Nurses spend more time at the patient's side than any other clinician, whether in a hospital or an outpatient setting. Shift to shift, nurses build the most comprehensive understanding of a patient's journey and are in a position to foster a level of connection that for many patients is transformative. Charitable giving provides clear pathways for grateful patients and families, community members and local businesses, clinicians and staff to recognize nurses' professional contribution to health care and their equally valuable contribution to "human" care. These gifts provide immediate, mutual benefit; help drive continual advancements in best practices; and help shape the experience of tomorrow's patients.

Research, wellness, recognition and education are four pathways through which philanthropic investments are delivering proven impact for UVM Medical Center nurses. Following are a few of the funds providing financial resources in each pathway, along with the faces of their founding donors. (Above) Milton Rosa-Ortiz, RN, devotes himself to the care of patients battling cancer



**To learn more about empowering nurses through philanthropy** Yael Friedman Yael.Friedman@uvmhealth.org 802-233-8816 (mobile)



### RESEARCH

Leveraging nursing science to improve nursing practices, patient safety and care

The Felis Nurse Scholars Program Fund supports training in evidence-based practice and nurse-led research.

Founding donors: Sandi and Ken Felis



## WELLNESS

Initiatives uniquely tailored to support nurses' satisfaction, retention and well-being

**The Sample Fund** supports mentoring for recent UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences graduates assuming employment at the UVM Medical Center to assist with their transition into practice, improve retention and help mitigate obstacles. Founding donor: **Sally Sample, RN** 

### RECOGNITION

Award programs that validate and celebrate exceptional care and leadership

The Riley Olson Critical Care Nursing Award annually recognizes a critical care nurse who consistently demonstrates excellence.

Founding donors: Melinda and Mike White



### EDUCATION

Advanced certification and degrees, skills training and professional development

The Ellen Seuss Evans Nurse Education Fund provides annual awards for nurses seeking enhanced training.

Founding donors: John Evans and Josie Mercure



## Caregivers Honored



**Radiation Oncologist** 

*"I'm just really grateful for Dr."* Anker's role in keeping me alive for as long as possible."



Matt Kinsey, MD, MPH **Interventional Pulmonologist** 

*"Dr. Kinsey made sure I could breathe"* because if I ain't breathing, radiation isn't going to do any good."

# **Richard Ryan's Unbreakable Spirit**

When we spoke to Richard Ryan in October 2021, he'd already exceeded his life expectancy by nearly two years. Lung cancer had been taking a toll, but at every turn Ryan and his care team at the UVM Cancer Center found a path forward together.

o convey his appreciation, Ryan made a gift in honor of the five caregivers whom he credits for

extending his life. Meet a devoted father and grandfather, loyal neighbor, career construction worker and multigenerational Waddington, New York resident who chooses laughter in the face of cancer.

### **Q:** Where did your journey start?

Richard Ryan: I had a cough when I was down in Alabama. A clinic there gave me some cough medicine. When I got home I got an appointment at a place near me and they said I had cancer. Then my neighbor, Norma, comes into play. I tell her everything. She said, "Well, Richard, you can do what you want, but if you don't get your ass up to Vermont, I'll never speak to you again."

### How long have you been in treatment?

**RR:** Two years and two months. I was only supposed to live like three months. Then my doctors started their magic and 45 treatments later... here I am.



Hibba tul Rehman, MD Medical Oncologist

*"I really appreciate Dr. Rehman"* and thank her for giving me time with my kids and grandkids."

What's so strange is I haven't cried. Maybe it will happen today, but I haven't shed a tear the whole time.

### Why do you think that is?

**RR:** I think because I've accepted it and I'm ready and I'm going to get whatever I can get and be happy with it. I've gotten a whole lot more than what the original prognosis was. Cancer is pretty bad. It can be the end of the world, but it's not a dismal thing if you can wrap your head around it. I'd love to be around for the grandkids and greatgrandkids but we all know that's not going to happen. I just go for shortterm goals.

### What are some memorable moments?

RR: I was with Dr. Silverman. They have to put this camera down your nose and you go "eee" for 15 seconds and it tells them something. When I got in there, I said, "We going to go 'eee' today?" He says "yeah" and puts the thing down my nose. I did my "eee" and he said, "You sound great. Things are working good."

I said, "Well to tell you the truth, I've been practicing." He said, "I could tell you're an overachiever." (Ryan smiles.)

Also, when I couldn't talk, I thought maybe it didn't really matter that I couldn't talk. Dr. Silverman suggested that maybe it did matter. Especially for the grandchildren. Turns out he's right. It wouldn't keep me alive, but it kept me... with a reason to stay alive, I guess.

### Has anything surprised you?

**RR:** Yeah, how caring the hospital is. How great this place is.

### What prompted you to make a gift?

**RR:** I did the donation to recognize the doctors and nurses, but also I think I did it for myself. It made me feel good and right. I'm thinking that's probably the biggest check I ever wrote except for me buying a house. It was just as important to me.

Ryan extends a special thanks to the Hope Lodge in Burlington, VT where he stays during treatment.



To learn more about relieving cancer's burden on patients Lindsay Longe Lindsay.Longe@uvmhealth.org 802-598-3422 (mobile)



Damon Silverman, MD Otolaryngologist

"Dr. Silverman gave me my voice back. It meant so much to be able to communicate."



Sarah Wagner, NP **Pulmonary and Critical Care** 

*"Sarah helped me understand how"* everything was going to work. She gave it to me straight."

### BARTLETT H. AND MABLE L. STONE SCHOLARSHIP ROBERT B. BUNKER MEDICAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

# **Scholarship Recipients Rise to the Call**

Donor-funded medical scholarships help clear a path to a lifetime of service.

he fall 2021 incoming class at the UVM Larner College of Medicine applied to medical school when entire countries were locked down and governments struggled to control the COVID-19 virus.

"We've seen people step up under really difficult conditions," says Justin Henningsen, a first-year Larner student and **Bartlett H. and Mable L. Stone Scholarship** recipient. "When I moved here five years ago, it was not with the intention of pursuing a career in medicine. After seeing the need in my community, I was inspired to go back to school so I could serve the people of Vermont."

Henningsen is not a typical first-year medical student. He's a former Community College of Vermont biology professor and father of two teenagers. Working part-time at his local hospital and shadowing physicians provided the confirmation he sought. "I knew for certain that medicine is for me," he says.

Medical scholarships open doors for talented learners from diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives, allowing them to follow their passions and pursue paths that make a difference in the lives of others. A diverse student body enriches classroom and clinical learning environments, builds cultural competency and cultivates tomorrow's skilled and compassionate physician leaders.

"I have focused my entire life on surviving, on ensuring I have enough resources to make it," says Gabriela Sarriera-Valentin, a UVM undergraduate alumna from Puerto Rico who received a **Robert B. Bunker Medical School Scholarship**.

"Now I'm able to thrive," says Sarriera-Valentin. "I no longer have to work multiple jobs. I can think about what kind of physician I want to be, where I'd like to practice, how I can best tailor my education to ensure I'm giving everyone who walks into my future practice the best possible care." Sarriera-Valentin is the youngest of six children and has an extensive background in global health.

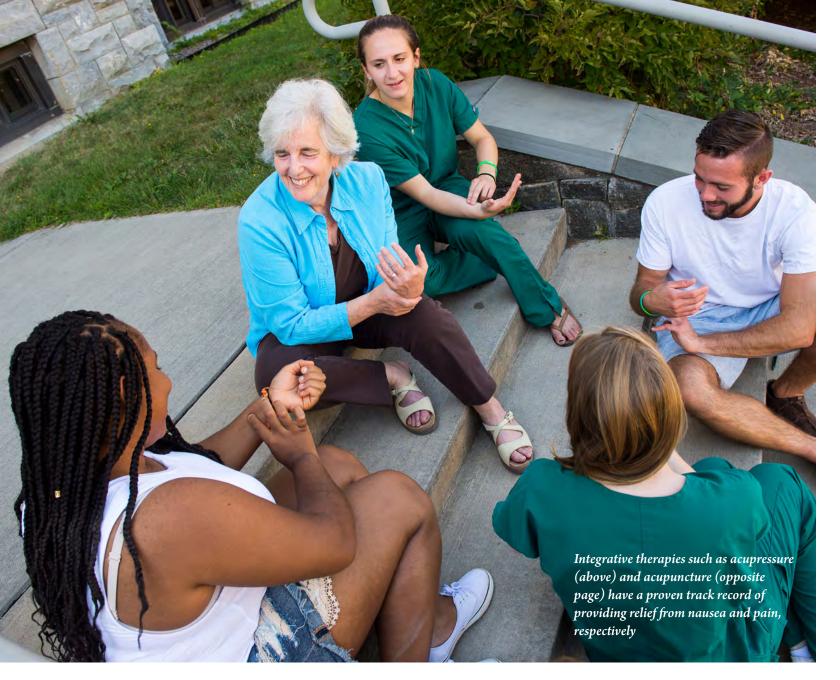
Not for 100 years have students applied to medical school in the middle of a pandemic. The Larner Class of 2025 and all students training in health care professions today—will forever remind us what "heart and science" looks like. The Larner College of Medicine fosters brilliant teachers, who educate talented students, who become the caring, knowledgeable physicians and scientists of tomorrow.



**To learn more about investing in the future of medicine** Mark Morrison | Mark.Morrison@med.uvm.edu | 540-656-4416 (mobile)



Gabriela Sarriera-Valentin '17, MD'25





### **Rubman Scholarship**

*Jeffrey Rubman, MD'71 and his* wife Carol Shulman Rubman *(center) possess a deep respect for* both the physician and nursing professions and the value of *interprofessional practice. In 2021, they doubled their* scholarship support so that a total of 20 College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Larner College of Medicine students *could benefit. Here the couple* pose with eight of the Rubman Scholarship recipients.

# **Pioneering Health Care Initiative Bolstered by** Philanthropy

Academic Health Sciences provides the hub for an emerging multi-disciplinary field focused on reducing chronic illness.

hronic, progressive and preventable health conditions are driving human suffering and rapidly increasing health costs. Over 130 million Americans are affected by chronic diseases, but our nation lacks an effective system to foster the lifestyle behavior changes that thwart them (exercise more, eat better, reduce stress). Integrative Health (IH) at UVM, a collaboration among the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the Larner College of Medicine and the UVM Medical Center, is now modeling a solution, and donor support is adding fuel.

IH focuses on the whole person, including physical, mental and emotional well-being. IH is informed by evidence and employs myriad therapeutic and lifestyle approaches and disciplines. Through education, clinical intervention, research and public policy, IH strives to modernize the existing health care paradigm to ensure that whole-person health is available to all. Interprofessional in nature, IH unites faculty, clinicians, students and researchers across disciplines and throughout the University and the Medical Center.



UVM Integrative Health innovations are often fueled by philanthropy. Here are some of the programs that charitable gifts from alumni, grateful patients, community members and others are advancing:

- Integrative Health and Wellness Coaching (established 2019) and Integrative Healthcare certificate (established 2018) programs have tripled enrollment since their inception, and graduates are in high demand.
- Open Source Wellness, a newly launched group health and wellness coaching program, focuses on improving the health and wellbeing of UVM employees.
- UVM Medical Center's Comprehensive Pain Program continues to be a national thought leader, combining traditional pain management with integrative therapies. Patients are showing significant improvements in their well-being, chronic pain acceptance, self-compassion and physical function, along with decreasing rates of depression and emergency room visits.
- The Integrative Pain Management Conference and endowed Laura Mann Integrative Healthcare Lecture Series continue to broaden bestpractices education, build interprofessional networks and attract new talent to the IH field.



 Integrative therapies at the UVM Cancer Center and the UVM Children's Hospital continue to offer supportive services to patients and families with their proven track record for controlling pain, fatigue and other side effects while improving psychological outlook and quality of life.

Pandemic-related stresses on individuals and on the health care system have shown us that preventive, proactive care is more important than ever. Donor-supported IH is paving the way to a healthier future in which more people are empowered and thriving.

To learn more about investing in nursing and health science excellence Deb Dever | Deborah.Dever@med.uvm.edu | 802-233-6866 (mobile)

# **Endowed Chair Ushers in a** New Era in Cancer Leadership, **Research and Care**

The world's best clinicians, researchers and leaders go where innovation is funded.

n November 2021, with significant support from a decades-long champion of the UVM Cancer Center, Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA, was invested as the inaugural J. Walter Juckett Chair in Cancer Research in the UVM Larner College of Medicine.

"It's critical in every institution to have a foundation of support for quality teachers and investigators, but also to provide some organizational stability, and that's the hope with the J. Walter Juckett Chair," said Juckett Foundation board member Jerome Yates, MD.

J. Walter Juckett founded and led the Sandy Hill Corporation and Sandy Hill Foundation of Hudson Falls, New York, before passing leadership to his protégé, Floyd Rourke. In 1979, after losing his beloved wife Elizabeth to cancer,



Rosemary Mackey, J. Walter Juckett Cancer Research Foundation board member



To learn more about investing in our cancer mission Lindsay Longe Lindsay.Longe@uvmhealth.org 802-598-3422 (mobile)

As director of the only academic clinical and research cancer center in Vermont, Dr. Holcombe leads more than 200 clinician-investigators and researchers engaged in a full range of basic, clinical, population-based and translational research.



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Randall Holcombe, MD, MBA

Juckett and Rourke formed the Lake Champlain Cancer Research Organization (LCCRO), a partnership with the UVM Cancer Center, to improve strategies to prevent, detect and treat cancer. Juckett passed away in 1988, and in 2019, the LCCRO was renamed in his honor.

"The Juckett Foundation's support has been vital to the research activity of the UVM Cancer Center, and to the betterment of the lives of patients and families," said Larner College Dean Richard L. Page, MD. "Their gift to support this endowed chair was key to our ability to recruit world-class leadership to take our cancer center to the next level."

Known for his pioneering cancer research within high-risk populations, Dr. Holcombe currently serves in dual roles as director of the UVM Cancer Center and chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology in the Department of Medicine. He led the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center through a successful National Cancer Institute re-designation, a mantle he intends to pick up here in Vermont.

## **Recognizing Achievement and Preparing for the Future**

Endowed faculty positions are vital in recruiting and retaining the best thinkers, the most creative researchers and the most effective teachers. They signify that the problems the holders are trying to solve, the teaching they are delivering and the changes they are trying to make in the world are important and are worthy of the university's investment and society's attention.

In medicine, endowed faculty positions are traditionally awarded to scientists and clinicians who demonstrate extraordinary scholarship in advancing human health. Following are the newly endowed chairs and professorships created in 2021 at UVM's Academic Medical Center, along

### UVM COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

### Seth Frietze, PhD

Research Green and Gold Professor in the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences

### UVM LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA J. Walter Juckett Chair in Cancer Research

### Sarah Nowak, PhD

Blodwen S. Huber Early Career Green and Gold Professor in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

### Thomas Peterson, MD

Morris Goldman '29, MD'32

### David Seward, MD, PhD

Elmer R. Huber Early Career Green and Gold Professor in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Margaret A. Tandoh, MD, FACS Richard L. Gamelli, MD'74 Green and Gold Professor in Surgery

### FIRESTONE MEDICAL RESEARCH BUILDING

## "This will help better human health."

- Acclaimed UVM Researcher, **Professor and Department Chair** Marilyn Cipolla '88, PhD'97

## Firestone Building Campaign Committee

Steve Firestone, MD'69, honorary chair David Reines, MD'72, chair Ray Anton, MD'70 James Betts '69, MD'73 Marilyn Cipolla '88, PhD'97 Arnold Goran, MD'58 James Hebert, MD'77

Frank Ittleman, MD Jeff Lawson, MD'90, PhD'92 Jennifer Lawson, MD'90 Karen Meyer '70, Hon'18 John Persing '70, MD'74 Claudia Serwer '67

# **Building for Solutions**

World-renowned advancements in cardiovascular, cancer, brain and lung research are underway on the UVM Larner College of Medicine campus. Ensuring this progress requires an investment in the future.

ith \$11 million of the \$20 nillion fundraising goal for the Firestone Medical Research Building in hand, the dedication and generosity of UVM alumni, faculty and community members grows ever clearer. Closing the \$9 million gap is critical so that Larner scientists and

researchers have the laboratories and equipment they need to do their best work and help relieve society's biomedical burdens. Donors to the building play a vital role in the new treatments and cures that will transform patient care delivered at the UVM Medical Center and far beyond.



To learn more about bolstering biomedical innovation Manon O'Connor Manon.Oconnor@uvmhealth.org 802-734-0711 (mobile)

> **Peek behind the scenes:** go.uvm.edu/firestonevideo



*Ceremonial groundbreaking, September 30, 2021 (left to right):* 

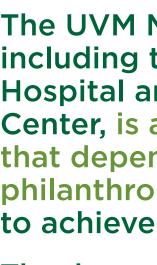


## **UVM Medical Center Statement of Values**

- We respect the dignity of all individuals and are responsive to their physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs and cultural diversity.
- We are just and prudent stewards of limited natural and financial resources.
- We foster a climate which encourages both those receiving and providing care to make responsible
- We strive for excellence in quality and care and seek to continuously learn and improve.
- We acknowledge a partnership with the community to ensure the best possible care at the right time, in the right place and by the right provider.
- We are caring and compassionate to each other and to those we serve.
- We communicate openly and honestly with the community we serve.

- "In the past year, I have witnessed the most incredible acts of generosity and selflessness that I have ever seen in my career. Whether between a caregiver and a patient, a community member and a staff member, or colleague to colleague, people have been showing up for one another and their community."
- Stephen Leffler, MD, President and Chief Operating Officer, UVM Medical Center





# Thank you!

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### **2021 Philanthropy Highlights**

Editor, Principal Writer & Photographer Annie Seyler, UVM Medical Center Four

Contributing Writer Stephanie Kloss

## The UVM Medical Center, including the UVM Children's Hospital and the UVM Cancer Center, is a not-for-profit hospital that depends on private philanthropic support to achieve its mission.

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

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