



## September 2024

### Observances

09/01-09/30 | [National Suicide Prevention Month](#)

09/01-09/30 | [National Recovery Month](#)

09/02 | [Labor Day](#) (University Closed)

09/15-10/15 | [Hispanic-American Heritage Month](#)

09/22 | [Mabon/Alban Elfed/Autumnal Equinox](#) (Pagan/Wiccan/Druid)

### Events

09/08 | **Vermont Pride 2024** – 12:00 pm-5:00 pm, Downtown & Waterfront Park – [Learn More Here](#)

09/16 | **Family Medicine Hybrid Grand Rounds** – *Anti-Fat Bias in Medicine* – Dr. Michelle Dorwart, MD, MPH, 8:00 am-9:00 am, Davis Auditorium & [Zoom](#)

09/18 | **Gender Equity Education Series** – *The Gendered Brain: Gender Identity in Neurology* – Dr. Z L'Erario, MD, MSW – 12:00 pm-1:00 pm, [Zoom](#)

9/19 | **Teaching Academy IAMSE 2024 Fall Webinar Series** – *Disability in Medicine: Why We Need More Disabled Physicians* – Dr. Lisa Meeks, PhD, MA – 12:00 pm-1:00 pm – [Email for Zoom Link](#)

09/20 | **Women's Health and Cancer Conference** – *Oncology & the Environment* – 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Davis Center & Online – [Register Here](#)

09/20 | **Medical Education Grand Rounds** – *Challenges and Opportunities for Wellbeing in Healthcare* – Dr. Marcelo Bento Soares, PhD – 12:00 pm-1:00 pm, MedEd 300 & [Email for Zoom Link](#)

09/23-09/27 | **Dean's Celebration of Excellence in Research**



If you are feeling alone and having thoughts of suicide—whether or not you are in crisis—or know someone who is, don't remain silent. Talk to someone you can trust through the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#). Call or text 988 or chat the lifeline.

[Find more information about suicide and recognizing suicidal behavior.](#)

## Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) News

### 2024-2025 Event Preview

Welcome to the new academic year!

During the 2024-2025 season, ODEI promises an exciting array of sessions, thought-provoking content, invaluable networking opportunities, and more.

Here are some highlights for September:

#### 9/4/24 – Suicide Prevention Month Information and Tabling Event

Stop by our table in the Given Courtyard to grab a ribbon and join us in raising awareness of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a dedicated time to come together with passion and strength to address this difficult topic.

Given Courtyard, 11:45 am – 1:00 pm.

#### 9/9/24 – Larner Prayer and Meditation Space Opening + Ribbon Cutting

Given D201 A, 3:00 – 3:30 pm

The Prayer and Meditation space will serve the holistic wellness of our faculty, staff and students and allow individuals to experience a place for peace, prayer, meditation and/or quiet reflection throughout the day.

#### 9/18/24 – Gender Equity Education Series

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, Zoom

*The Gendered Brain: Gender Identity in Neurology* – Mackenzie L'Erario, MD, MSW

#### 9/30/24 – Imbasciani LGBTQ Health Equity Lecture

5:15 pm -7:00 pm, Carpenter Auditorium & Zoom

*Improving the Way LGBTQ People are Cared for Throughout Life, and Especially at the End of Life*  
– Carey Candrian, PhD

### Paving the Way for Health Equity: UVM's NAYR Program



## New American Youth **ON THE RISE**

The Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at UVM, along with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the College of Education and Social Services, has recently received a \$1.3 million grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to sponsor a new mentorship and science enrichment cohort program, New American Youth on the Rise (NAYR), aimed at guiding girls from immigrant backgrounds into college careers in health sciences.

The NIH's R25 Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) will provide more than \$1.3 million in funding to the program over the next five years to introduce health science career options to middle and high school girls from immigrant and first-generation American backgrounds throughout Chittenden County, Vermont. The NIH grant is particularly notable as it is the university's first SEPA.

[Read More→](#)

## Announcements

### Join the Gender Equity Listserv



Want to keep up to date on Gender Equity events and initiatives?

Join the [Gender Equity Listserv](#).



### Become a Faculty Mentor to a Medical Student

The LCOM Mentors program pairs medical students who are members of groups underrepresented in medicine with faculty members and/or residents who have common interests and goals. This relationship can support the medical student (the mentee) to become familiar with institutional expectations, networks, and practices that are relevant to productivity and advancement at the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM).

For more information contact [Eileen CichoskiKelly](#), program director or to sign up, please [fill out this short form](#).

## **Graduate Student Presenters Needed- Introducing the Libraries' Graduate Student Sandbox Series**

The UVM Libraries are seeking postdoctoral and graduate students looking to present their research for the pilot session of the graduate student sandbox series. The series is for graduate students and postdocs across colleges and campus to come together in a low-stakes setting to learn about one another's research, provide feedback, practice with research presentations, and connect. This venue allows participants to practice, enhance, and experiment with their research communication skills and incorporate peer review. This series also supports the growing emphasis on graduate and postdoctoral student support, interdisciplinary studies, and scholarly communication. Presenters from any discipline, from history to microbiology and molecular genetics, are encouraged to present.

The pilot session will be on October 16 at 12 p.m. in a TBD location. If you are interested in presenting, please email [amalia.dolan@uvm.edu](mailto:amalia.dolan@uvm.edu) and [emma.parks@uvm.edu](mailto:emma.parks@uvm.edu).

## **National Hispanic Health Foundation Clinical Research Webinar Series: “To Shape our Future: Increase Hispanics in Clinical Research”**

Join us for a transformative webinar September 25, 7-8 pm, with Equitable Breakthroughs in Medicine Development (EQBMED). This isn't just another discussion - it's a powerful call to action. We'll dive into the urgent challenges and opportunities for increasing Hispanic representation in clinical research and explore actionable steps to develop more inclusive therapeutics for Hispanics within the healthcare system.

[Register Now→](#)

## **From the AAMC**

### **6 common myths about diversity, equity, & inclusion**

As DEI efforts face criticism and are being defunded in some states, DEI leaders say the work is essential to improving health care for all. A new [AAMC fact sheet](#) on DEI in medical schools further explores this important issue.

[Read More→](#)

## **Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society: An NIH-wide effort for health equity**

With its launch in September 2023, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Fund Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society (ComPASS) program began support of a first-of-its-kind community-led research program to study how underlying structural factors within communities affect health. The NIH is directly funding community organizations to study how factors such as access to healthy food, transportation, safe spaces, employment opportunities, and quality health care can impact health outcomes.

[Read More→](#)

### **AAMCNews: COVID is surging again. Here's the latest on new variants, updated vaccines, and masking**

The latest, highly contagious subvariants are driving infections, but new vaccines expected this fall may help stem the tide of another wave — if people get immunized.

[Read More→](#)

### **Webinar on Improving Access to Mental Health Care by Revising Licensing and Credentialing Processes**

In collaboration with the Council of Deans (COD), the AAMC will host a webinar on September 9 from 5-6:15 PM ET, titled "Addressing Systemic Barriers to Accessing Mental Health Care Along the Continuum: Advocating for Changes to Licensing and Credentialing Processes." Panelists from the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, and Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation will share stories about cross-organizational efforts to evaluate and eliminate probing questions about physician applicants' mental health, addiction, or substance use present in licensing and credentialing processes. The discussion will provide useful strategies for members of the academic medicine community to use when advocating for changes to mental health disclosure questions used by state medical boards or partner hospital and health systems in their regions.

[Register Now→](#)

### **Register for AAMC CHARGE webinar on advocating for health equity**

Achieving health equity and ensuring all communities thrive requires systems-level change to policies and regulations. Join the AAMC's [Collaborative for Health Equity: Act, Research, Generate Evidence](#) (CHARGE) on Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. ET for a webinar and discussion about the many ways to advocate for health equity. Hear from experts from diverse sectors who are advocating for health equity every day, from the halls of Congress to their own communities or through comment letters to federal agencies.

[Register Now→](#)

## **AAMCNews: Ozone: An unseen health threat makes a comeback with climate change**

U.S. laws have reduced ground-level ozone since the 1970s, but scientists warn that rising temperatures will fuel more of the gas and stall pollution reduction.

[Read More→](#)

## **AAMCNews: Why do people respond to stress and trauma so differently? The emerging field of neuroresilience may have answers**

A multidisciplinary approach to studying and treating brain disorders is shedding light on the physiological mechanisms that may be behind psychological distress.

[Read More→](#)

## **New article examines social needs screening in academic health systems**

A new article co-authored by the AAMC and published in *Population Health Management* explores screening for social needs, which has gained traction as an approach to addressing social determinants of health, but it faces challenges regarding standardization, resource allocation, and follow-up care. A year-long study conducted by the AAMC uses integrated data from conferences, surveys, and key informant interviews to examine the integration of social needs screening into health care services within academic health systems (AHS). The authors' analysis unveiled eight key themes, showcasing AHS's active involvement in targeted social needs screening alongside persistent resource allocation obstacles.

[Read More→](#)

## **New 'Academic Medicine Podcast' episode on accessibility and inclusion in the clinical learning environment**

On a new episode of the "Academic Medicine Podcast," Theresa Papich, MD, Lisa Meeks, PhD, MA, and Timothy Gilbert, MD, join host Toni Gallo to discuss ways to foster an accessible and inclusive learning environment for medical students with disabilities and left-handed medical students during surgical training. They explore partnering with students, reducing bias and raising awareness around disability and inclusion, and addressing the hidden curriculum to create an inclusive learning environment where students feel welcome and supported throughout their medical education. The episode is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and anywhere podcasts are available.

[Listen Now→](#)

## Articles of Interest

### **The “Hispanic Paradox” intrigues a new generation of researchers determined to unravel it**

By Usha Lee McFarling

For 40 years, researchers have unsuccessfully tried to explain — or debunk — the “Hispanic Paradox,” the finding that Hispanic Americans live several years longer than white Americans on average, despite having far less income and health care and higher rates of diabetes and obesity. Now, armed with more comprehensive data, powerful genomic tools, and a rich cultural awareness of the communities they study, a new generation of scientists is finally making headway.

[Read More→](#)

### **Global issues are taking a major toll on young people’s mental health**

By Christina Caron

The mental health of adolescents and young adults has been on the decline and it’s partly because of “harmful megatrends” like financial inequality, according to a new report published on Tuesday in the scientific journal *The Lancet Psychiatry*. The global trends affecting younger generations also include wage theft, unregulated social media, job insecurity and climate change, all of which are creating “a bleak present and future for young people in many countries,” according to the authors.

[Read More→](#)