

RESEARCH STRATEGIC PLAN

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

A man and a woman are sitting at a wooden desk, looking at a laptop. The man is pointing at the screen, and the woman is typing on the keyboard. In the background, there is a large monitor displaying various charts and graphs. The overall scene suggests a collaborative research or clinical setting.

UVM LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE RESEARCH STRATEGIC PLAN

The Department of Medicine is one of the strongest research entities within the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine (LCOM). Faculty and staff in the Department have a consistent record of success in research that has recently grown to historically high levels of support despite significant internal and external challenges.

To continue this success and address both acute and long-standing challenges, the Department of Medicine Research Committee developed a draft Strategic Plan for Research in the winter of 2021/22, culminating in a Strategic Planning Retreat in June 2022. The resulting Strategic Plan is the product of thoughtful discussion and deliberations of the Committee and outreach to faculty and staff across the Department.

The overarching goal of this Plan is to enhance the research mission of the Department by guiding leadership and informing decision making towards funding, policies, procedures, and personnel. Specific goals and priorities are listed under **three areas of focus: Faculty, Communication and Philanthropy, and Administration.**

Working together, we believe that we can increase our research success and improve the health and clinical care of those living in Vermont and beyond.

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Cover photo: Peter Spector, M.D.,
and graduate student Lara Weed

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Department of Medicine is the largest Department within LCOM, including more than 200 faculty members spread across 12 Divisions. Our faculty engage in a rich array of basic and applied research spanning the scientific spectrum, from fundamental laboratory-based research to clinical trials to epidemiological studies, and are supported by talented staff, doctoral students, post-doctoral and clinical fellows, and residents.

Individual research projects and center-based resources are supported by federal, state, foundation and industry grants and contracts, surpassing \$20 million in fiscal year 2022.

The Department is home to numerous research centers and programs that support research within the Department and across the College and broader University.

FY2022 By the Numbers



\$18,181,463

UVM RESEARCH
FUNDING

292 NUMBER OF
PUBLICATIONS

175 NUMBER OF
ACTIVE AWARDS

\$2,206,073
UVMCLINICAL TRIAL
RESEARCH FUNDING

213 NUMBER OF
FACULTY

Centers and Programs

- Cardiovascular Research Institute
- Vermont Center for Cardiovascular and Brain Health
- Vermont Lung Center
- Quality Program



FACULTY

Goal: Enhance the research productivity of existing early-, mid-, and late-career faculty, foster their retention, and promote the recruitment and development of early and mid-career investigators.

- Retain productive early-, mid-, and late-career faculty with financial support, space, staff, and time incentives that reward highly productive/funded investigators.
- Develop new research faculty from ranks of trainees and early career faculty by establishing a research mentorship program and funding to provide protected time for research training and productivity.
- Develop effective research mentors by establishing a training program for established early- and mid-career faculty.
- Work with LCOM, UVM, and University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMMC) administration to develop resources and policies to assist with dependent care, emphasizing the need for on-site childcare.
- Develop departmental funding initiatives to improve competitiveness for extramural funding.
- Improve accessibility to electronic health record data for research and improvement science.
- Promote entrepreneurship through existing internal UVM mechanisms, including I-Trep and UVM Innovations Office personnel interactions with individual faculty.



COMMUNICATION AND PHILANTHROPY

Goal: Increase the visibility of the research programs, faculty, and individual projects both internally and externally to enhance opportunities for collaboration and philanthropic support.

- Promote awareness of Department of Medicine research internally and externally through traditional and new media via collaborations with the media/public relations offices at LCOM, UVMHN, and UVM.
- Support visibility of research programs/faculty by professionally maintaining and updating department and division web pages on at least a quarterly basis.
- Develop and implement standard faculty research portfolios to foster collaborations across Divisions and more broadly across LCOM and UVM.
- Add or develop dedicated administrative support to interface with LCOM, UVM, and University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN) publicity and philanthropic mechanisms.
- Collaborate with LCOM/UVMHN/UVM Foundation/ Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) to identify philanthropic sources and fundraising strategies to support departmental (and interdepartmental) research programs, themes, and/or individual projects/ investigators.



ADMINISTRATION

Goal: Improve research administrative structures and resources and ensure regulatory compliance, with the goal of improving the research environment and reducing regulatory and other burdens on faculty and staff.

- Develop the Research Committee to focus on accomplishing goals/tasks put forth in the Departmental Research Strategic Plan, with creation of sub-committees to fulfill specific strategic goals.
- Develop an oversight team of administrators and investigators to identify new opportunities for efficiencies, trouble shoot problems, and, reduce administrative burdens on research faculty and staff.
- Ensure compliance with pre-clinical and human subject research regulations by providing opportunities for faculty training and by linking faculty with dedicated, well-trained staff.
- Establish uniform standards for industry-sponsored pre-clinical and clinical trial research that address PI effort support and improve efficiency of study development/activation.
- Enhance existing administrative support for identification of funding sources, pre-award grant writing, assistance with grant submissions, and post-award grant management and financial oversight, assuring adequate support for early career scientists.
- Conduct regular review of the effectiveness of programs and policies within the Department, focused on improving the productivity, retention and recruitment of faculty engaged in research.

