



University of Vermont/Fletcher Allen Health Care
Department of Medicine

<http://www.med.uvm.edu/medicine/HP-DEPT.ASP?SiteAreaID=513>

Winter 2009 Newsletter

Welcome to the second quarterly Department of Medicine newsletter. Although we put the last newsletter together barely three months ago, there is a wealth of new news from the Department. The Department continues to grow and members of the department continue to excel in clinical care, research, education, and service. It is truly impossible to capture all of the achievements and contributions.

Happy Holidays to all.

Polly Parsons



Welcome to New Faculty



Steve Emmons, MD joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor in Hematology/Oncology.

<http://www.med.uvm.edu/medicine/hemonc/HP-DEPT.ASP?SiteAreaID=513>

Steve went to medical school at the University of Arizona and received his degree in May 2000. He completed his internship and residency at the University Medical Center/University of Arizona. Prior to completing a fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at the University of Vermont in 2009, he worked as a Hospitalist/Intensivist at Northwest Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona. Steve is the Medical Director for the Oncology Department at Adirondack Medical Center where he sees patients two days per week. He will also be building a practice at FAHC with a focus on melanoma and brain tumors. He has a research interest in developmental therapeutics.

The Cardiology Division has expanded its regional network by recruiting two cardiologists to live and work in northern New York. **Dr. Nader Elgharib** sees patients at Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone, NY. **Dr. Anthony Tramontano** sees patients at Canton-Potsdam Hospital.

http://www.fletcherallen.org/services/heart_health/specialties/cardiology/

Dr. Nader Elgharib



BOARD CERTIFICATION: Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease

CLINICAL INTERESTS: General Cardiology, Coronary and Non-Coronary Intervention

Medical School:

Saint Joseph University School of Medicine, Beirut, Lebanon (1999)

Residency:

Internal Medicine, Johnson City Medical Center and Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Johnson City, TN (2003)

Fellowship:

Cardiovascular Diseases, Montreal Heart Institute, Montreal, Canada (2007)

Interventional Cardiology, Montreal University Hospital, Montreal, Canada (2008)

Interventional Cardiology, Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Center (2009)

Dr. Anthony Tramontano



BOARD CERTIFICATION: Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease, Nuclear Cardiology

CLINICAL INTERESTS: General Cardiology, Non-invasive Testing

Medical School:

St. George's University College of Medicine, Grenada, West Indies (1999)

Residency:

Internal Medicine, SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY (2002)

Fellowship:

Cardiology, Winthrop-University Hospital and SUNY Stony Brook HSC, Mineola, NY (2008)

Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging, New York University Langone Medical Center, New York, NY (2009)



Leadership: Several faculty members have recently been invited into leadership roles, both locally and nationally.

Steven Ades, MD

Leader of GI Multidisciplinary Clinic

Chaired the Northeastern Genitourinary Oncology Symposium – March 2009

Elizabeth Chen, MD

Member, NSF CISE Review Panel

Member, Meetings Committee, American Medical Informatics Association

Naomi Fukagawa, PhD

NKF-Associate Editor, The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (since 2007)

Richard Galbraith, MD

Chair, FASEB Clinical Research Committee

Steven Grant, MD

Appointed first director of the FAHC Faculty Practice Physician Career Center. Dr. Grant will continue as Associate Director of the Primary Care Internal Medicine Hospitalist Service.

Steven Grunberg, MD

President of the Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society (2009-2010)
Treasurer of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer
Board of Directors of Lyric Theatre of Vermont

Chris Holmes, MD

Dr. Holmes was nominated to serve on the Platelet Scientific Subcommittee for the American Society of Hematology

Benjamin Littenberg, MD

Brookings Institution High Value Health Care Project Expert Panel for Lab Data Integration for Diabetes Care Improvement, 2009

Polly E. Parsons, MD – Chair of the Research and Education Committee for the Faculty Practice.

Allen Repp, MD

Dr. Repp was appointed Director of the PCIM Hospitalist Service.

Kathryn Schwarzenberger, MD – appointed Secretary of Women’s Dermatological Society

Renee Stapleton, MD

Associate Editor of the Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (JPEN)



Education: Education is a key part of the Department of Medicine. In addition to teaching undergraduate, medical and graduate students, residents, and fellows, the faculty contribute to the education of our community through several venues including participation in regional CME courses, Medical Grand Rounds, and Community Medical School. In the past year faculty gave more than 130 presentations in our region. To appreciate the full breadth and depth of the faculty commitments, see the complete listing of these presentations.

<https://www.med.uvm.edu/medicine/TB1+BL.asp?SiteAreaID=627>

News In Medicine Residency

At the recent VT/NH American College of Physicians meeting the FAHC/UVM team won the Doctor's Dilemma competition in a near dead heat with Dartmouth! The team, Drs. Will Corbell, Sarah Mooney, Scott Johnson and Nick Lim, will now go on to compete at the ACP Doctor's Dilemma. To read more about the success of the residents see their blog at: <http://imvermont.blogspot.com/>

News In Education

Medical School Palliative Care Project

UVM College of Medicine was awarded grant support from the Y.C. Ho/Helen and Michale Chiang Foundation and the Medicine College of Wisconsin/EPERC to expand palliative care education. **Dr. Tania Bertsch** is the PI on this project.

Jan Carney, PhD – shares her expertise in Pandemic Flu Course

Bonita Libman, MD is the Fellowship Training Program Director in the Rheumatology Division.

Primary Care Internal Medicine plans for its hospitalists to take a more active role in the inpatient general medicine teaching programs through a proposed restructuring of the teams.

Jennifer Villa, MD joined our Endocrinology Division as a new Fellow beginning July 1, 2009



Congratulations!

Anne Dixon, MD and **Beth Kirkpatrick, MD** were both nominated by the University of Vermont to attend the AAMC Women Faculty Development Seminar and were subsequently accepted into the program. Last year Marie Wood, MD and Kathryn Schwarzenberger, MD attended.

Blueprint for Health project and Patient Centered Medical Home by various local and national media sources. - The medical home project at Aesculapius led by **Dr. Jennifer Gilwee** has received special attention from Governor Jim Douglas, Congressman Peter Welch, and others. Dr. Gilwee has made national presentations in Atlanta and San Diego regarding this ongoing project.

Virginia Hood, MD has been nominated as the President-elect 2010-2011 of the American College of Physicians (ACP). ACP is the largest organization representing Internal Medicine with more than 125,000 members.

The **Infectious Disease Unit** received a competitive award for significant expansion of the Title III grants.

<http://www.med.uvm.edu/medicine/id/TB1+I+C+RL.asp?SiteAreaID=573>

Beth Kirkpatrick, MD – Dr. Kirkpatrick will be supporting two students for the 4th Annual Lumberras Tropical Medicine Course in Lima, Peru.

Thomas Lahiri, MD and **Laurie Whittaker, MD** – The Cystic Fibrosis Center at The Children’s Specialty Center Fletcher Allen Health Care and the University of Vermont has been selected as one of the 2009 recipients of the annual Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s Outstanding QI Processes and Accomplishments.

Bonita Libman, MD has been selected as a 2010 recipient of the American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation/Amgen/Wyeth Rheumatology Fellowship Training Award.

Allen Repp, MD was elected a Fellow in Hospital Medicine by the Society of Hospital Medicine -- part of the inaugural class of fellows.

Halle Sobel, MD became a Fellow of the American College of Physicians this fall.



PUBLICATIONS: Members of the Department of Medicine continue to publish in the leading medical journals and contribute to state-of-the-art textbooks of medicine. The list below highlights just a few of those contributions.

Elizabeth S. Chen, Indra Neil Sarkar. MeSHing molecular sequences and clinical trials: A feasibility study *Journal of Biomedical Informatics*, In Press, Corrected Proof, Available online 20 October 2009

Cushman M, O’Meara ES, Folsom AR, Heckbert SR. Coagulation factors IX through XIII and the risk of future venous thrombosis: the Longitudinal Investigation of Thromboembolism Etiology. *Blood* 2009;114:2878-83.

Ganesh SK*, **Zakai NA***, van Rooij FJA*, Soranzo N*, Amith AZ, Nalls MA, Chen MH, Kottgen A, Glazer N, Dehgen A, Kuhnel B, Aspelund T, Yang Q, Tanaka T, Jaffe A, Bis JCM, Verwoert GC, Teurner A, Fox CS, Guralnik JM, Ehret GB, Rice K, Felix JF, Rendon A, Eiriksdottir G, Levy D, Patel KV, Boerwinkle E, Rotter JI, Hofman A, Sambrook JG, Coresh J, Lumley T, Uitterlinden AG, vanGils JM, Launer LJ, Cupples LA, Oostra BA, Zwaginga JJ, Ouwehand WH, Thein SL, Meisinger C, Deloukas P, Nauck M, Spector T, Gieger C, Gudnason V, van Duikn CM, Psaty BM, Ferrucci L, Chakravarti A, Greinacher A*, O’Donnell CJ*, Witterman JCM*, Furth S*, **Cushman M***, Harris TB*, Lin JP*. Multiple loci influence erythrocyte phenotypes in the CHARGE consortium. *Nature Genet* 2009;41:1191-8. *contributed equally as first and last authors.

Goldman GD, Altmeyer S, Sambandan P, Cook JL. Development of cerebral air emboli during Mohs micrographic surgery. *Dermatol Surg* 2009; 35:1-8

Casey AS, Kennedy CE, **Goldman GD**. Mohs Surgery: How ACMS fellowship directors practice. *Dermatol Surg* 2009; 35: 747-56.

Burnside ES, Davis J, Chhatwal J, Alagoz O, Lindstrom MJ, Geller BM, **Littenberg B**, Kahn CE, Shaffer KA, Page CD. Probabilistic Computer Model Developed from Clinical Data in National Mammography Database Format to Classify Mammographic Findings. *Radiology* 2009; 251:663-672.

General Dermatology. Text edited by **Kathryn Schwarzenberger, MD**, Andrew Werchniak, Christine Jo

A new publication in the *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology* by Jennifer Ather in the laboratory of **Matthew Poynter** (Medicine), performed in collaboration with **Dr. Benjamin Suratt** (Medicine) and Dr. Yvonne Janssen-Heininger (Pathology), reports that airway epithelial NF-kappaB activity functions as both a positive and a negative regulator of lung injury in response to inhalation of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). This paper capitalized on two genetically-modified mice developed in the UVM Transgenic mouse core, directed by **Dr. Mercedes Rincon** (Medicine), and suggests that while airway epithelial NF-kappaB activities modulate NO₂-induced pulmonary inflammation, additional NF-kappaB-regulated functions confer partial protection from lung injury.



RESEARCH

CDC Hypertension Registry Project

This recently completed project, funded by the CDC and directed by **Drs. Pat King** and **Charles Maclean**, involves the development of a patient registry for patients with hypertension, similar to the ongoing diabetes registry. It involved three PCIM sites at Burlington, Williston and Essex.

Grant Funding: Our faculty achieved an impressive success rate with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 supplement and challenge grant applications (17 out of 45) with total new funding in the amount of \$6.1M. The funding included two highly competitive challenge grants awarded to **Dr. Neil Zakai** and **Dr. Naomi Fukagawa**. A bulk of this stimulus funding will be used to enhance existing research infrastructure, invigorate ongoing projects, and stimulate promising research through pilot projects.

UVM Transdisciplinary Research Initiative (TRI)

<http://www.uvm.edu/~ovpr/?Page=workinggroups/charge.php>

The goals of the TRI are to bring greater focus and distinction to the University's research and scholarly enterprise; to enhance opportunities for faculty to participate in quality research; and to energize the culture of graduate and undergraduate education at

UVM . These are important goals in an era of limited resources. The leadership of UVM has proposed eight potential "Spires of Excellence" and faculty of the DOM are participating on steering committees for three of the Spires including: Biological Sciences & Bioengineering (Chair: **Drs. Richard Galbraith and Jason H.T. Bates**); Food Systems (**Dr. Naomi Fukagawa**); and Complex Systems (**Dr. Charles Irvin**).

Dr. Beth Kirkpatrick recently received a federal contract for \$514,000 from the Navy Medical Center to study "Homologous Protection from infection with *Campylobacter jejuni*." This award also includes **Drs. Kristen Pierce, Carrie Lyon, and Ann Fingar** as additional investigators.



CLINICAL NEWS

Hospitalist Program

Implementation of new hip fracture co-management service, a joint venture with the PCIM hospitalist service and FAHC orthopedics, led by **Dr. Florian Foerg**.

Plans to expand the PCIM hospitalist service in the summer of 2010 to provide inpatient general medical care for patients of all community MD referred patients.

Cardiology

Extension of regional STEMI program. Our cardiologists previously established a local STEMI program for patients with acute MI and currently have one of the best door to balloon times in the country for those patients. Under the leadership of **Dr. Harry Dauerman**, they are now expanding that program to the region.

State-Wide Heart Failure Network. Under the leadership of **Dr. Martin LeWinter**, the Cardiology Unit has collaborated with the State of Vermont to develop a state-wide Heart Failure Network.

Endocrinology

The Division of Endocrinology has recently collaborated with our colleagues in pediatric endocrinology to establish a Pediatric-Adult Endocrine Transition clinic. The transition to an adult specialty clinic can be stressful for the patient, the patient's family and providers. The purpose of this clinic, which takes place every 3 months, is to ensure the successful and relatively seamless transition of care between our two divisions. The transition clinic offers an opportunity for pediatric patients and their families to meet with the adult endocrinologist and review the location and resources available at the adult endocrine clinic. Additionally, at the conclusion of each transition clinic, an interdisciplinary team that includes social work, nutrition and diabetes educators, reviews the patient's care and updates the adult provider on any key issues that may impact further treatment.

PRISM – The Electronic Health Record

Implementation of PRISM at the Aesculapius practice as the first FAHC ambulatory site to go live with a fully electronic ambulatory medical record. Given Burlington is scheduled to go next on January 13, 2010. Other primary clinics and the medicine subspecialty clinics will implement PRISM over the spring and summer of 2010.



History: See our updated list of DOM contributions to Medicine - <https://www.med.uvm.edu/medicine/TB1+BL.asp?SiteAreaID=624>