



College of Medicine



**moveMountains**

The Campaign for The University of Vermont

**this is**  
**WHERE** 

Robert Larner, M.D. Medical Education Center

Courtyard South



# WE **build** THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

Never before have the distinctive strengths of the UVM College of Medicine so closely aligned with the needs of our state, region and nation. We educate competent, compassionate physicians who are not only excellent clinicians but also skilled communicators who know how to work with health care colleagues to deliver the best care for patients and families. More than 40 percent of our graduates choose careers in primary care. We also prepare aspiring biomedical scientists to join the front lines in advancing science, technology and policy to improve health

care for all of us. Thanks to our close ties with The University of Vermont Medical Center and Health Network and communities throughout the state, the College of Medicine is helping create health care that is as advanced as it is efficient, committed both to promoting wellness and finding new treatments and cures. This is where students and faculty aim to *move mountains*, and by supporting the College of Medicine through *The Campaign for The University of Vermont*, you can be a partner in their life-changing work. Join us.

35%  
&  
42%

35% of Vermont physicians and 42% of primary care physicians in the state graduated from the UVM College of Medicine or did a residency at The UVM Medical Center.

# ➤ Advancing Education, Research & Patient Care



Each year, nearly 6,000 students apply for just 114 seats in the first-year class at the UVM College of Medicine. Applicants are drawn here by our reputation for clinical excellence combined with a humanistic approach that values collaboration, collegiality and compassion. The College of Medicine pursues those who exhibit a genuine interest in this way of practicing medicine. Students know they will learn basic science in the context of patient care from day one, thanks to our innovative Vermont Integrated Curriculum. They know they will work with professors who are not only talented clinicians and researchers but also gifted teachers, with many recognized as members of our new Teaching Academy, which supports

excellence in teaching. Students also have the distinct advantage of attending a medical school located on a university campus, which affords opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration and projects.

As a result of this reputation, in recent years the college has recruited the most academically talented and ethnically diverse classes in our history. Nearly one-third of the most recent entering class is of African, Latino, Asian or Native American descent, and the overall median undergraduate GPA is 3.75. Our graduates move on to residencies at the best private and public universities in the United States, with 10 to 15 percent going on to Ivy League programs each year. They also report high satisfaction rates versus



“**THIS IS WHERE** a close connection binds the medical school, the hospital and the communities we serve — a connection that is only growing stronger. The opportunities created by this physical and philosophical linkage make a real difference in the health care of the state and across the region.”

— *Frederick C. Morin III, M.D., Dean*

their peers nationally, with nearly 98 percent of the Class of 2014 indicating they were satisfied with their UVM medical education.

The UVM College of Medicine is also a research powerhouse, which makes our master’s and doctoral programs extremely competitive. Our faculty is responsible for about 64 percent of all external research funding that comes into UVM, even at a time of tightening federal research budgets. Our collaborative programs and centers are internationally recognized in areas such as cardiovascular medicine, neuroscience and health behavior, cancer, lung disease, and immunology and infectious diseases. Researchers also benefit from close ties with The University of Vermont Medical Center

and Health Network, the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and other colleges across the UVM campus.

With our clinical partners, the College of Medicine is poised to meet the increasing demands of health care in an ever more complicated environment. Our faculty and students are pioneering population-based health strategies because UVM has the most comprehensive data set in the United States on the health care of an entire population, along with the support of a state committed to leading health reform. One landmark program developed here is the Vermont Child Health Improvement Project, which makes use of this comprehensive data to improve the health of children and adolescents across the state; it now

serves as a model for child health improvement programs nationwide. The College of Medicine is uniquely prepared to serve as a research and education engine for health care delivery reform in the state and a leader in national reform efforts.

We are *moving mountains* for patients... by educating a diverse group of dedicated physicians and biomedical scientists to serve across all the disciplines of medicine... by bringing hope to patients through research that advances medical knowledge... by integrating education and research to improve the quality and accessibility of patient care... and by engaging with our communities to benefit Vermont and the world. Join us.

## Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont

The campaign presents the College of Medicine with a landmark opportunity to increase support for the students and faculty at the heart of our mission. We are fortunate that nearly 35 percent of alumni support the school, which is higher than the national average and places us among the top 10 medical schools nationally for alumni participation. Just one example is Dr. Robert Larner '42, whose many gifts include the Larner Endowment and Student Loan Fund, the Larner Classroom for team-based learning, and support for the new Teaching Academy. Still, more philanthropic support is essential if we are to keep medical education affordable for the most promising students, attract and retain the highest-quality faculty, and fund initiatives that advance patient care.

Consider this: According to data from the American Association of Medical Colleges, the UVM College of Medicine ranks in the 70th to 95th percentile relative to peers nationally for funds raised through faculty efforts, such as grants and clinical income, despite the small size of our state and corresponding institutional

support. Very few public medical schools bring in more research dollars per dollar of state and university support than the College of Medicine. We are strong, we are efficient and we are a worthwhile investment.

Through *Move Mountains*, the College of Medicine will raise \$126 million to support student scholarships and fellowships, endowed faculty positions and research programs. With your support, we can strengthen our ability to train superb physicians and scientists, foster groundbreaking research to improve patients' lives and actively engage with communities in Vermont and the region.

### For Students: \$56 million

*Our Goal > Raise \$35 million in medical student aid and \$21 million in endowed fellowships to enroll the best students and minimize our graduates' educational debt.*

**Medical Student Aid:** More scholarship funding for medical students is essential to the continued health of the College of Medicine. Our graduates accumulate more debt relative to their peers nationally: In 2014, our students' average debt of \$178,055 put them above the national

average of \$167,763 for public medical schools like ours, ranking UVM 29th among the 130 U.S. medical schools reporting data. Since 2007, the college has limited tuition increases to an average of 2.5 percent, well behind our peer institutions, which has produced a dramatic drop in our cost-of-attendance rankings. Yet the College of Medicine still ranks among the top 25 percent of schools nationally in terms of student indebtedness. We must do more for our students.

By supporting medical scholarships, you will ensure that:

- The college will be able to compete for the best students. As medical school enrollments increase to address an anticipated national physician shortage, the College of Medicine must remain competitive in its financial aid offerings.
- Our students will continue to seek careers in primary care. Our state and nation need primary care physicians, and the College of Medicine is known for producing them. However, high debt levels



# this is WHERE

I help turn ideas into life-saving advances. As the E.L. Amidon Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine at The University of Vermont, Polly Parsons, M.D., is a recognized leader in the field of pulmonary and critical care medicine. Her research into acute lung injury and sepsis has led to more than 150 publications. She plays a leadership role in numerous professional organizations, including the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute and the American Thoracic Society, where she was elected secretary-treasurer in 2015 and will become president in 2018. But first

and foremost, Dr. Parsons sees herself as a mentor to her colleagues, guiding them as they search for answers to the big questions that drive their work. "We have amazing research and clinical expertise here, without a lot of egos, and this makes for a spectacular environment," she says. "I use my experience to help others launch new initiatives and move their research along from bench to bedside and, in some cases, commercialization." Dr. Parsons started the SPARK-VT program in the College of Medicine, now a university-wide effort, to help students and faculty bring innovations to market.



**The College of Medicine** attracted \$81.4 million in external research funding in 2014, which represents 64% of the total research funding for the university.

could lead students to choose more lucrative specialties in geographic regions that pay higher salaries.

- Low- to middle-income Vermonters will continue to enroll here. This is important for them as aspiring physicians and for the Vermont communities they often go on to serve. Lower-income students from all states bring a perspective that we value, and we need to ensure our program remains accessible.

Our applicants recognize the distinctiveness of the UVM College of Medicine and are often willing to secure loans for their education. However, this is neither in their best interest nor the best interest of the state and nation.

We all need the brightest students to continue choosing medicine as a career, just as we need more primary care physicians and those prepared to serve lower-income populations. Scholarships support students like Priyanka Chilakamarri '16, who has pursued research on topics ranging from the foot care needs of Burlington's homeless populations to exercise incentives for Latino youth in Danbury, Connecticut. Another is Curtis Adams '16, who plans a career as a general surgeon in medically underserved areas in northeastern Vermont and the Adirondacks. Your support for scholarships enables medical students to pursue their true passions, and this matters now more than ever.

### **Fellowships and Graduate**

**Student Support:** Even as we seek support for students just starting their medical training, the College of Medicine plays a pivotal role in developing the careers of new physicians who wish to pursue specialty fellowships and doctoral students interested in research careers. Through the campaign, you can help us create fellowships that will attract the best candidates, which in turn will build the strength and reputation of new and emerging programs in cardiovascular medicine, neuroscience and health behaviors, health and the environment, health care delivery and outcomes, gerontology, and the Vermont Cancer Center, among others. Your support will shape the next generation of clinicians



and researchers who can pioneer advances in diagnosis and treatment, disease prevention and wellness, and health care policy.

### **For Faculty: \$53 million**

*Our Goal > Create endowed professorships, chairs and director positions to attract and retain the best faculty and fuel their innovative work without limitation.*

College of Medicine faculty members are at the core of the many transdisciplinary programs that are helping solve some of the most challenging health issues of our time, from cardiovascular and brain diseases, to cancer and infectious diseases, to conditions with a strong behavioral health component, such as diabetes

and addiction. Although our faculty have been remarkably successful at garnering external funding, federal research dollars continue to decline. To attract and keep the best faculty for these programs, increase recognition for their achievements, and encourage collaborations with other disciplines and departments, the college will create more endowed positions. Endowment gifts create a perpetual source of funding that can cover a portion of a professor's salary and provide additional flexibility to advance teaching, research, student mentoring and professional activities. For example, Stephen Higgins, Ph.D., founding director of the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health, was recently named the Virginia

H. Donaldson M.D. '51 Professor in the College of Medicine, a position created to support a faculty leader who demonstrates a commitment to translational science. This endowment will provide ongoing support for Dr. Higgins and his landmark work on changing personal behaviors to reduce risk for chronic diseases.

The College of Medicine also will create positions that advance two important areas where we have great leadership potential: medical education and health care policy and delivery. Our vision is to establish professorships tied to the newly formed Teaching Academy as well as academic and career advising, which will reward faculty excellence in areas that are critical for student success. We also will create new positions for



“**THIS IS WHERE** our focus is on active learning throughout the curriculum. Medical students are not simply expected to acquire new knowledge but to demonstrate the ability to apply that knowledge to solving scientific problems, to caring for patients and their families, and to improving health care systems.”

— *William Jeffries, Ph.D., senior associate dean for medical education*

experts in health care economics, policy, delivery and effectiveness — all essential to achieving national prominence in these areas.

**For Research and Innovation:  
\$9 million**

*Our Goal > Advance our interdisciplinary education and research programs across the biomedical sciences, including neuroscience and health behaviors, and expand research and education on health care delivery.*

Biomedical sciences make up the largest and most expansive research focus at UVM. With work that ranges from studying cancer at the molecular level, to bioengineering new lungs, to saving patients in their critical first hours after a stroke, physicians and

biomedical scientists at the College of Medicine are creating new knowledge about disease and wellness at every level. Additional program support will advance this work.

One specific area of focus is neuroscience and health behavior, with research that spans from understanding the role of genes and molecules to unraveling complex behaviors, with an active translational path from bench to bedside to community and back again. These efforts underscore a focus on investigating relationships between personal behaviors and risk for chronic disease and premature death. Our researchers are working to understand the mechanisms underpinning risk and

then developing interventions and policies to promote healthy behavior. To build the college’s capabilities in neuroscience and health behaviors, we are seeking general support for laboratory space and equipment, biomedical imaging technology and the graduate education program. Also as part of the campaign, the College of Medicine will build expertise in data analysis and interpretation, which is essential to our research in health care delivery.



In so many ways, the UVM College of Medicine stands apart from other medical schools. We are the seventh-oldest medical school in the nation and about to celebrate our 200th anniversary, yet we are nationally known for our forward-thinking curriculum, student-focused learning environment and patient-centered approach. Students want to come here for their medical education, clinicians want to practice and teach here, and scientists want to conduct their research here. We truly believe that the College of Medicine represents the future of health care—not only through the physicians and scientists

we educate but also through our faculty research, our commitment to primary care and population health, and our close connection to a state that leads the way in its commitment to healthy communities and health care reform. *Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont* seeks to increase support for the students and faculty who make all of these achievements possible. Your participation in the campaign is a direct investment in the careers of physicians and scientists whose work benefits people throughout Vermont, across the nation and around the world.

For more details about any of these giving opportunities, contact:

**The University of Vermont Foundation**  
411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401  
802-656-2010 | [foundation@uvm.edu](mailto:foundation@uvm.edu)



# moveMountains

The Campaign for The University of Vermont

The time has come for UVM to assert our position as one of the nation's best public research universities. *Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont* nurtures a culture of excellence and value and supports new opportunities for research, academic success and learning beyond the classroom. We will raise \$500 million in private support to ensure that UVM is where we indeed *move mountains* — through the students we educate, the discoveries we make and the positive impact we have on Vermont and the world.



The University of Vermont  
FOUNDATION