

**Where Care Changes Lives**

**“The pandemic has allowed us to demonstrate that when our partners need us—whether they’re nursing homes, the Department of Health or others—we step up. And we step up in ways that aren’t always easy, but are the right thing to do for our communities. To do that requires financial stability and strength.**



**Philanthropy is a critical part of that. Thank you for stepping up.”**

– Stephen Leffler, MD  
President and Chief Operating Officer  
The University of Vermont Medical Center

*A sign outside the main entrance to the UVM Medical Center reflects the outpouring of gratitude from the community for all of the caregivers and staff who have gone above and beyond during a difficult year. More messages appear on pages 10-11.*



## Philanthropy Highlights 2020

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# Reflections on an Unforgettable Year

2020 demonstrated in unprecedented ways the impact of health care on our community and the impact of our community’s health on all of us. Through it we have become acutely aware of our ties to one another and perhaps more cognizant and more mindful of the ripple effect of our individual choices. While COVID-19 demonstrated the domino effect of a contagion, our community—in and out of the hospital—demonstrated the ripple effect of gratitude, caring and humanity.

Throughout the pandemic, we’ve seen caregivers and staff overcome extraordinary challenges in order to care for patients and we’ve seen community members of all ages reciprocate through charitable giving, homemade signs, sidewalk art, donations of restaurant gift cards, socks and so much more.

We’ve seen scientists and clinicians collaborating across disciplines to uncover innovations in testing and treatments. We’ve seen medical students coordinating drives to deliver food and protective gear and we’ve seen nursing students volunteering to graduate early in order to join the front line.

Health care delivery systems at the UVM Medical Center, and throughout the UVM Health Network, shifted rapidly, not only to protect and serve patients, but also to ensure that health care facilities statewide received the critical materials they needed amidst a crippled, national supply chain.

The UVM Medical Center was in a position of strength when the virus hit, in part because of what philanthropy had already made possible.

**We extend our deepest thanks to you for all the ways you partner with us in service to the people of Vermont and northern New York.**

*Aerial view of our academic medical campus and greater community, summer 2020.*





# Investing Community Giving in Population Health

Through charitable giving, the people of Vermont and northern New York continue to demonstrate what caring for one another looks like, and help to protect, treat and promote human health here at home and around the globe.

These unrestricted gifts—from grateful patients, families, local businesses, employees, and so many others—are shoring up the UVM Medical Center Fund, the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals Fund and the COVID-19 Response Fund, which were all established to support high-need initiatives that hold the best chance of improving our community’s health.

In the following pages, learn about a few of these fast-tracked initiatives—all targeting efforts to relieve suffering resulting from or exacerbated by the pandemic. Without philanthropy, these programs might not have taken flight.

## Children and COVID-19; Missing Meals, Missing Data

### Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals Fund

Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals, a non-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for 170 pediatric hospitals nationwide, helps to ensure that kids receive the best care possible. Our region’s CMN Hospital is the UVM Children’s Hospital, the sole full-service children’s hospital in Vermont and the North Country.

Every dollar raised locally stays local and supports pediatric care in a multitude of ways, including an annual employee Grant Program. Following are two of the high-need projects funded in the 2020-2021 cycle.

### Food Pantry for Children’s Specialty Center.

The Children’s Specialty Center (CSC) on the UVM Medical Center’s main campus delivers health care daily to more than 100 families, many of whom are food insecure. COVID-19 has not only plunged a number of these parents deeper into economic hardship, but has reduced their children’s access to the steady, nutritious meals that in-person schooling formerly provided. As part of a coordinated effort among caregivers, social services and local partners to identify and support food insecure community members, the CSC has expanded its free onsite food pantry in order to better serve its patient families in need. *(Leah Pence)*

### Longitudinal Serosurvey of COVID-19 Antibodies in Vermont Children.

Due to early limitations in testing capacity and high frequency of asymptomatic infection, the burden of COVID-19 in children remains unclear. This project addresses this crucial gap in the epidemiology of COVID-19 in children. Through a serological survey, or serosurvey, of over 500 students and staff in the Colchester School District, the extent of COVID-19 infection and the potential roles of children, schools and school-based mitigation strategies on COVID-19 will be assessed. This study will provide important public health data and may inform plans and strategies for resuming full-time, in-person learning—a critical factor in the short- and long-term academic, social and emotional development and wellbeing of children and families. *(Benjamin Lee, MD)*

## Employee-led COVID-19 Research

### Hospital Elder Life Program: Integrating a Remote Volunteer Service.

Hospitalized older patients often experience decline in their physical and mental abilities, which makes it difficult for them to fully recover from their illness. Normally, volunteers mitigate this problem through bedside companionship. This program will adapt volunteer protocols in safe and successful ways. *(Valerie Adams)*

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### UVM Medical Center Fund

2020 marked the fifth round of grants supported by the UVM Medical Center Fund and awarded to employees needing a burst of funding to get their innovative projects off the ground. All projects funded in the December 2020 grant cycle (listed below) directly address COVID-19 and place our caregiver/investigators center stage, as academic medical centers around the nation seek to learn from our successes.

### Addressing Population Health during COVID-19: Partnering with Our Community to Increase Food Access.

This project seeks to better address food insecurity among patient families by creating an automated referral system to address patients’ essential needs, streamlining the screening and referral process and laying the groundwork for community action agencies to expand their partnerships with the UVM Health Network, community hospitals and providers. *(Kathleen Browne & Kristin Fontaine)*

### Multi-Center Trial to Control Blood Clots Linked to COVID-19.

Patients hospitalized for COVID-19 have an abnormally increased tendency toward blood clotting, which is likely contributing to disease progression and death. We’re taking part in the international “RAPID” trial to determine therapies to address this concern. *(Christos Colovos, MD)*

### Treatment of Pulmonary Stress for Severe COVID-19.

Obesity is a risk factor for severe COVID-19. This study will investigate inhibiting oxidative stress in the airway from viruses as a potential therapy in obese patients. It will also provide critical data to inform the decision to proceed with a clinical trial for obese patients suffering from severe COVID-19, and potentially yield pertinent data related to other populations found to have worse outcomes related to the virus. *(Anne Dixon, MD)*

### Longitudinal Assessment of Lung Function in COVID-19 patients.

This study seeks to define the natural history of lung function following COVID-19 among a diverse group of patients, over a meaningful timeframe. The findings will be critical to understanding how COVID-19 affects the lungs in the long term, and will also provide health care providers with guidance on how to monitor breathing in their patients who have recovered from COVID-19. *(David Kaminsky, MD)*

# Telehealth Pilot at Burlington Senior Center

**COVID-19 Response Fund**

Communities are stronger when working together. Take the Burlington Senior Providers Group, launched by the City of Burlington’s Community and Economic Development Office, in which city leaders and representatives from senior centers, healthcare organizations and other stakeholders together explore ways to better address seniors’ needs.

UVM Health Network Senior Community Relations Officer Karen Vastine has been a regular participant, bringing resources and expertise from the UVM Medical Center. “The strong collaboration and shared support forged by this group has recently allowed us to take action related to a major concern during COVID-19: the impact of isolation on seniors’ health.”

Heineberg Community Senior Center Executive Director Beth Hammond explains. “Some struggle with barriers such as lack of transportation, funds, and the physical and mental strength necessary to seek medical advice or address their loneliness. The pandemic’s many unknowns have exacerbated these barriers.”

Offering Telehealth at senior centers was proposed to help meet this need.



The idea took off, but Telehealth—which offers patients access to health care through virtual visits—requires space, computer equipment, broadband, training and staff.

“We needed to choose a center that was ready to pilot this idea,” said Sarah Kessler, UVM Health Network Telehealth Senior Program Strategist, “so that we could determine what’s needed and what works. Then we hope to roll out the program regionally and help other community-based organizations get started.”

The pilot is rapidly taking shape at Burlington’s Heineberg Community Senior Center, with a target launch in early 2021. Along with support from pilot partners, the UVM Medical Center’s COVID-19 Response Fund will help purchase Telehealth equipment for the pilot at the Center.

“Telehealth is a way to connect people,” Sarah adds. “This is a hard time. We’re losing some of that physical connection and if we can re-establish some of that connectedness in new ways, we need to.”

**To Learn More**

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**“Telehealth has proved to have a tremendous impact on access to care through the health crisis. Seniors are among those who face more barriers to care with Telehealth. We are fortunate to have this partnership to learn how we can overcome these challenges for our patients.”**

– Todd Young, UVM Health Network Director, Telehealth Services

- Telehealth Pilot Partners:**
- Age Well
  - Champlain Senior Center
  - Computers for Change
  - Heineberg Community Senior Center
  - Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors (HANDS)
  - Support and Services at Home (SASH)
  - Technology for Tomorrow
  - The University of Vermont
  - The University of Vermont Health Network

# Vermonters Contribute to COVID-19 Vaccine Trial

**COVID-19 Response Fund**

In the early days of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold across the globe, the scientific community pivoted to begin developing and testing vaccines. The University of Vermont, with its well-regarded Vaccine Testing Center (VTC), emerged as a leader. VTC Director Beth Kirkpatrick, MD, became a sought-after expert for news outlets and other institutions nationally, sharing her knowledge about the vaccine development process. Then, the UVM Medical Center was tapped as a site for a Phase 3 trial for a COVID-19 vaccine candidate. As medical center and VTC leadership planned for launch, rapid access to funding was needed to scale up an enterprise that stood to help end a pandemic that has killed millions of people worldwide.

Thankfully, the local community rose to the challenge. Through hundreds of

donations to the UVM Medical Center’s COVID-19 Response Fund, UVM was able to quickly allocate roughly \$90,000 to prepare for the trial, funds that went to train staff, purchase supplies and materials, recruit participants, and more. Donations from across the region have poured into the Fund since its founding in the early days of the pandemic to help support immediate and emerging needs and address COVID-19’s impact on patients and families, frontline caregivers and the delivery of health care.

“Support through the COVID-19 Response Fund was key to the medical center rapidly launching this vaccine trial,” says UVM Medical Center President and COO Stephen Leffler, MD. “As a result, we have been able to leverage our well-established vaccine expertise to help turn the tide in this pandemic. Our community has contributed to an effort that is changing lives on a global scale.”



Above: UVM Vaccine Testing Center Director Beth Kirkpatrick, MD  
Left: COVID-19 vaccine administered to a Burlington firefighter

**To Learn More**

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# Miller Family Thanks Employees

COVID-19  
Response  
Fund

A few months after COVID-19 struck Vermont, Stephanie Miller Taylor and Tim Miller approached President and COO Steve Leffler, MD, to talk about ways they could say thank you, through philanthropy, to the UVM Medical Center nurses, physicians and staff. As trustees of the Bob and Holly Miller Charitable Trust, created by Bob and Holly prior to Bob's passing in February 2020, they had only one requirement: that the hospital devise a plan so that every employee, regardless of role, would receive and experience in a tangible and equitable way, this recognition of their hard work and dedication.

On December 21, 2020 the Miller Family's \$2 million gift from the Trust translated to an end-of-year thank you of \$300 to all employees up to the Director level.

## Employees Thank Miller Family

Within a week of the gift, nearly 1,000 employees conveyed their gratitude to the Miller Family through an online portal.

**“Thank you so much for your generosity!  
What a difficult year this has been. My family  
and I appreciate this act of kindness immensely.”**

**“Having worked for UVMHC  
for most of my 18+ year  
nursing career, I thank you  
for all you’ve done for our  
staff and organization!  
We appreciate you!”**

**“Your belief and  
support in all that  
we do means so  
much to us  
every day.”**

“We wanted to do something for everyone on staff at the hospital from the person checking you in to the nurses delivering care,” said Stephanie and Tim in a joint statement. “We asked Dr. Leffler for suggestions on how to make a gift in the most inclusive and comprehensive way so everyone can receive the message of gratitude no matter how small or large a part they have played this past year in the UVM Medical Center’s response to the pandemic.”

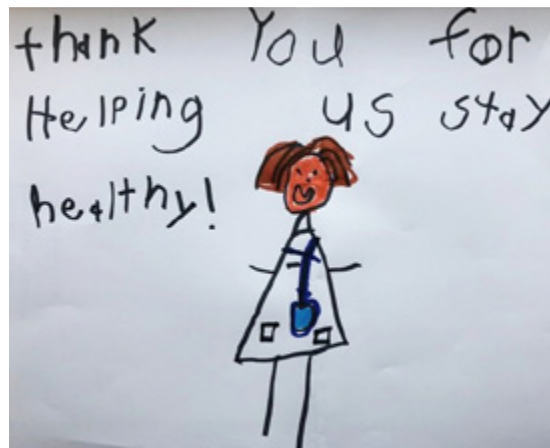
Charitable gifts of all sizes together enable our academic medical center to fulfill our research, education and clinical missions—ultimately in service to our patients. The Miller Family, like so many of our generous community members, recognized the effect of honoring the people behind that service.

“The Millers have done so much for our Medical Center over decades,” says Dr. Leffler. “For Bob and Holly it’s always been about the people. This gift is another amazing example of their incredible legacy.”

*The late Bob Miller and his wife, Holly, with Nurse Assistant Trainee Elorm Quaye at the May 2019 celebration of the Miller Building’s opening.*



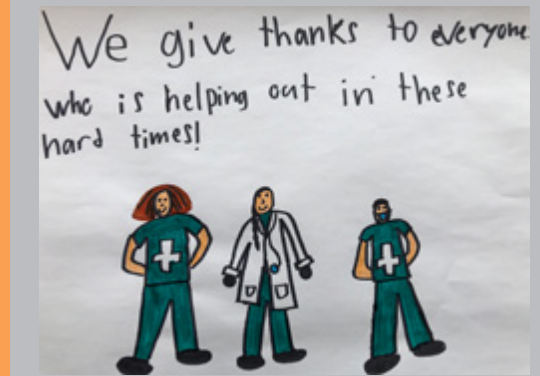
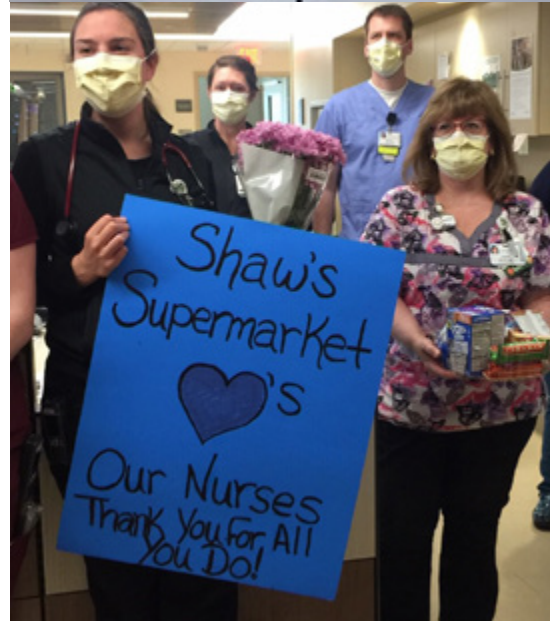




"I'm reaching out today on behalf of LaCroix Sparkling Water to recognize the UVM Medical Center and the medical staff that has shown selfless courage in keeping us safe. Their compassion, optimism and kindness do not go unnoticed. We would like to offer a product donation as a sincere 'Thank you' for their passion and selfless courage."



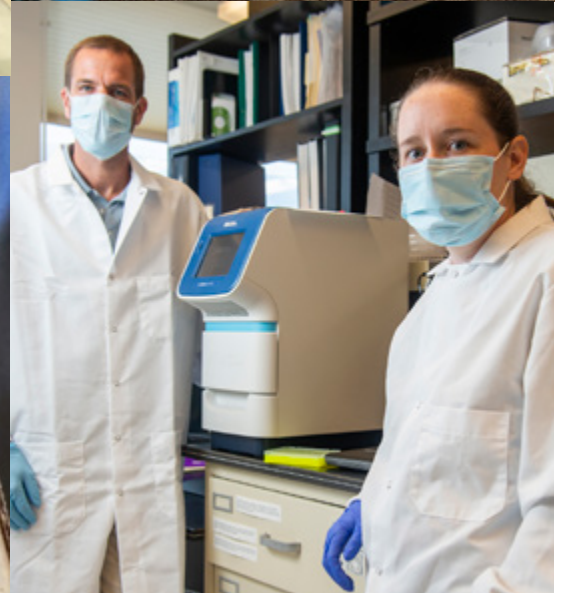
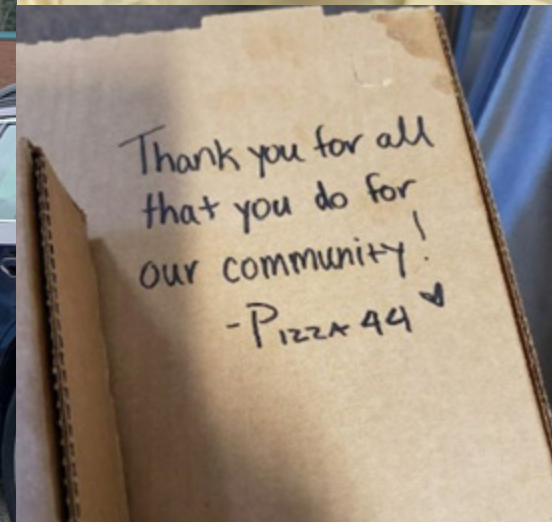
"You have all been on my mind as our state has dealt with COVID. Thanks for continuing to fight for our kids."



"We at Darn Tough are going to end up donating about 5,000 pairs of socks. This is for the first responders, people who are on their feet all day. The little things help and if our socks can make folks a little more comfortable and feel better, we're happy to help. We're neighbors. So, thank you."



"Having always appreciated the help I receive at the UVM Medical Center over the years, I appreciate the opportunity to return the help now, during the crisis we are all experiencing."





# Fund Fuels Advances in Care for Blood and Marrow Transplant Patients

## The Ellen Seuss Evans Endowment for Nursing Education

Thanks to the Ellen Seuss Evans Scholarship, three registered oncology nurses at the UVM Medical Center had the opportunity to attend a training to help advance their careers and bring life-saving skills back to their community.

The trio completed a blood and marrow transplant certification course focused on best practices in caring for patients undergoing treatment for diseases like leukemia, Hodgkin’s and anemia. The goal is for the UVM Medical Center to have the resources to provide 24/7 coverage in transplant-certified nursing care, with the certification an important first step.

Gratitude for the nursing team at the UVM Medical Center inspired the scholarship that made the training accessible. John Evans established The Ellen Seuss Evans Oncology Nurse Education Fund to acknowledge the compassionate care Ellen received after her diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Since Ellen’s death in 1998, the Fund has supported professional development for nurses. Through their ongoing support, John, who is a former dean of UVM’s Larner College of Medicine, and his wife, Josie Mercure, continue to make possible transformative opportunities for nursing staff.

**The goal is for UVM Medical Center to have the resources to provide 24/7 coverage in transplant-certified nursing care.**

# A Virtual Success for Women’s Health and Cancer Care

For the past 23 years, cancer survivors and caregivers have come together once annually to learn from and support each other during The University of Vermont Cancer Center Women’s Health and Cancer Conference. This year, although the gathering was virtual, the community spirit was as strong as ever.

Over 400 people from 12 states registered for the free October conference, including 320 from Vermont and northern New York. Nineteen sessions covered topics such as cardiac complications from cancer care, harnessing the immune system to fight cancer, genetic counseling and testing and more. Keynote speaker Helene Langevin, MD, former UVM faculty member and now-director of the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, discussed the integration of complementary and conventional care and whole person health. YouTube videos of recorded sessions have drawn more than 3,500 views.

“It helped to meet the needs of patients during COVID and continued to provide important knowledge that empowers patients and providers about the prevention, detection, treatment and survivorship of cancer,” says UVM Cancer Center Communications Director Sarah Keblin. “It’s an event supported by the community, for the community.”

As in years past, participants included cancer survivors as well as health professionals, such as nurses, radiation and mammography techs, physical therapists and others. About 40 percent of attendees earned continuing education credits for their participation.

The event has had strong community support over the years, including grants and private philanthropy from many donors. In 2018, Vermont residents Tom and Melissa Gauntlett made a lead gift as presenting supporters through the Victoria Buffum Cancer Patient Support Fund at the UVM Cancer Center. The Buffum Fund was created by Tom’s sister Vicki Buffum, a former hematology/oncology patient who, through philanthropy, wished to support and improve the experience of patients and families facing a cancer or blood disease diagnosis. The Gauntlett’s commitment to the conference honors Vicki’s legacy and helps to ensure that this valuable educational day remains free and accessible to community members.

**The Buffum Fund** The Buffum Fund addresses a wide range of hematology-oncology patients’ needs and helps them navigate the care system with greater ease and confidence.

Ad for Women’s Health & Cancer Conference virtual event

23RD ANNUAL

W

WOMEN’S HEALTH & CANCER CONFERENCE

A Free VIRTUAL Community Event Hosted By

THE University of Vermont CANCER CENTER

Special Thanks to our 2020 Presenting Supporter

THE VICTORIA BUFFUM FUND at the UVM CANCER CENTER

LEARN MORE AT VermontCancer.org

To Learn More

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# Humanity in Medicine



**Profile**  
Marissa Mendez, MD

**Scholarships:** Medical Alumni Association Scholarship; Dahl-Salem Family Endowed Scholarship Fund; John S. Poczabut, MD’41 Medical Scholarship Fund

**Degree:** UVM Larner College of Medicine, Class of 2015

**Current position:** Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellow, Bariatric, Abdominal Wall and Foregut Surgery, University of California, Davis

The humanistic aspect of medicine has been a powerful thread throughout Marissa Mendez, MD’s, medical journey, beginning with the experience that sparked her interest.

“I was very young,” says Dr. Mendez. “My cousin was incredibly sick when he was born and I remember asking my mom who were the people helping my cousin get better and my mom said, ‘the doctors’. Right then, medicine went to the forefront of my mind.”

The first in her family to attend medical school, with little guidance and no mentor, Dr. Mendez found the application process an uphill battle. Acceptance at UVM was immensely gratifying. When asked about the impact of financial aid, she says, “Scholarships lifted a bit of weight from my loan debt—and I was so grateful—but in addition to the financial support, knowing there were people out there who wanted to help students who didn’t have financial

resources but who wanted to do good in the world—that was huge for me.”

Dr. Mendez feels well-prepared for her career. “I received a great education. The knowledge base was strong, but then UVM put so much emphasis on the personal side of medicine. That humanistic focus trained me how to have the difficult conversations that better guide my patients and their families through tough situations.”

As a bariatric surgeon, those skills are called upon often. “We have a clinic each week where we talk to patients who have struggled with their weight, some for their entire lives. The stories are similar: they’ve tried so many things but life has gotten in the way. Many of them are focused on other people but then when they start our bariatric program, it’s a chance to focus on themselves. I get to watch them transform and see their lives change. It’s so rewarding.”



## Promoting Student Success

UVM’s SOAR initiative (Student Opportunity, Access and Recruitment) is the University’s highest fundraising priority, with a campaign goal of \$150 million for student scholarships and fellowships, including medical and nursing students. Financial support is critical to achieving a diverse, engaged student body and setting them on the road to success. Such support also helps UVM prepare the leaders of tomorrow—the thinkers, scientists, educators, engineers, healthcare providers, farmers, entrepreneurs, artists—who will guide our local and global communities through the complex challenges of the years to come.

# Delivering Care Indoors and Out



**Profile**  
Nick Montello, DNP

**Scholarship:** Remo and Donna Pizzagalli Student Scholarship

**Degree:** Doctor of Nursing Practice, UVM College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Class of 2019

**Current position:** Family Nurse Practitioner, Ticonderoga Health Center, Ticonderoga, NY

Nick Montello, DNP, loves his job. Philanthropy helped make his career possible. When asked what he likes most about his work, Nick says, “You don’t know what you’re going to see on any given day. It keeps me on my toes. Plus, I do home visits so I never know if I’m about to walk into a house with, say, a bunch of dogs. It’s always exciting.”

Soon after the pandemic struck upstate New York, the Ticonderoga Health Center moved their testing for acute illnesses, such as COVID-19, to an outdoor tent, to better protect patients, caregivers and staff. It was early in the pandemic’s arrival in the region, so not a great deal was known about the virus’ transmission. Despite the risks and the uncertainties (and the winter conditions), Nick volunteered to work outside on the front line.

“Back in March 2020 when we first started the outdoor testing, I was wearing heavy ice fishing boots, full snow pants, a sweatshirt, a sweater, a shell and then a gown, goggles, a face shield, gloves and N95’s. It was snowing sideways some days. It’s not something I was used to doing six months ago, but now it’s second nature.”

Nick was about to head out into frigid conditions for a four-hour shift in the tent when we caught up with him. His mission was clear: “You make do with what you have out there and do your best to treat each patient’s needs,” he said with a smile as he pulled on his ice fishing boots.



## To Learn More

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## Interdisciplinary Collaborative Burn Care

Caring for a patient with severe burns requires teamwork, deep compassion and the most up-to-date knowledge. In November of 2020, the UVM Medical Center brought together experts for the 2020 Northeast Region Burn Conference, a one-day event focused on best practices for treatment of burn injuries and rehabilitation. Made possible with financial support from the UVM Medical Center Auxiliary, the conference highlighted the UVM Medical Center's role as a premiere center for burn care in northern New England.

UVM faculty and staff took center stage during the event: Guest speakers included Richard L. Gamelli, MD'74 Green and Gold Professor in Surgery Margaret Tandoh, MD, FACS, a trauma surgeon and director of the UVM Medical Center Burn Center, and UVM Medical Center Director of Clinical Ethics and Professor of Medicine Tim Lahey, MD, MMSc.

"Our staff, patients and their families all benefitted from this conference through the knowledge-sharing of new therapies in burn care, dialogues and presentations from content experts on discipline-specific care of patients and a review of the effects of COVID-19 on burn centers," says Patrick Delaney, RN, a session moderator and programming committee member.

This year's conference set a new record for attendance, with 160 health care professionals participating. With interdisciplinary collaboration key for effective care of burn patients, the conference focused on bringing those team members together. Practitioners represented included physicians, nutritionists, nurses, physical therapists, mental health providers, first responders and others.

The Auxiliary's philanthropic investment in the conferences has had a multi-layered effect, advancing not only the care of patients, but also the coordination of care teams across disciplines.

*Margaret A. Tandoh, MD, FACS, UVM Medical Center Trauma Surgeon and Medical Director, Burn Center; UVM Larner College of Medicine Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion and Richard L. Gamelli, MD'74 Green and Gold Professor in Surgery*

### To Learn More

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The investment of Margaret Tandoh, MD, FACS, as the inaugural

Richard L. Gamelli, MD'74 Green and Gold Professor in Surgery honors her expertise in surgery and burn care while celebrating Dr. Gamelli's many contributions to the field during a career spanning four decades. The professorship, established by Dr. Gamelli and his wife, Mary, aims to improve and expand the UVM Department of Surgery's Burn Program. Dr. Gamelli spent 20 years at UVM before going to Loyola University Chicago, where he is professor emeritus at Loyola's Stritch School of Medicine. He retired in 2014 as the senior vice president and provost of Health Services and the Robert J. Freeark Professor of Surgery. He also directed the burn center. Like Dr. Gamelli, Dr. Tandoh, who is medical director of UVM Medical Center's Burn Center, has dedicated her career to acute care surgery and the treatment of trauma and burn patients. A member of the New England Surgical Society Task Force on Diversity in Surgical Leadership and co-chair of the Dean's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, she is known for her extraordinary commitment to the community.

Endowed faculty positions recognize both exceptional achievement and the potential for future accomplishment. In medicine, they are traditionally awarded to scientists and clinicians who demonstrate extraordinary scholarship in advancing human health.



Architect's rendering of the  
UVM Larner College of  
Medicine's Firestone  
Medical Research Building

## THE FIRESTONE MEDICAL RESEARCH BUILDING:

# Tackling the Biomedical Challenges of Our Time

Despite the pandemic, or perhaps because of the spotlight it has shone on scientific research, our academic medical campus is expanding as construction gets underway for the UVM Larner College of Medicine's new Firestone Medical Research Building. With its modular designs and efficiencies, this state-of-the-art facility is essential to the College's continued high-caliber contributions to biomedical science and to the work of the University and the UVM Medical Center, across disciplines.

Scientists at the UVM Larner College of Medicine are tackling some of the greatest health threats to our community: COVID-19; lung, cardiovascular and brain diseases; opiate use disorder; cancer; and disparities in rural health delivery. Expanding the Health Science Research Facility, a building occupied in 2001, the new 62,250 gross square foot facility will offer four floors of modern, high-efficiency spaces designed to fuel innovation, collaboration and discovery.

"We received final approval from the UVM Board of Trustees to begin

construction in January 2020 and then COVID-19 hit, and we had to ask ourselves if we could proceed with construction given the difficult financial times for the Medical Center, the College and the University," says the College's Dean, Richard L. Page, MD. "We had to look at the value proposition—what this facility would mean for biomedicine and for human health—and the answer was clear: we had to find a way to move forward."

The facility will be built without incurring debt. The majority of the \$44.5 million required to complete the

project will come from College reserves in combination with funding from UVM, the National Institutes of Health and philanthropic sources. Thanks to the naming gift from College alumnus Steven Firestone, MD'69, in combination with other donors, \$10.2 million of the \$20 million goal for fundraising has also been committed.

With additional support from our community, this facility will help our scientists address the vexing biomedical problems of our time, and better secure the health of future generations when it opens in late 2022.

**To Learn More**  
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### A Look Inside

On the top floor of the Firestone Medical Research Building, University Distinguished Professor Mark Nelson, PhD, and his team will have a state-of-the-art facility to continue their groundbreaking research on small vessel diseases of the brain, which are recognized as a leading cause of age-related cognitive decline and disability. Widely considered as one of the field's most preeminent researchers, Dr. Nelson's list of accomplishments over his 40-year career is long and influential, including hundreds of publications and invited lectureships and tens of thousands of journal

citations. In 2019, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the top honors a scientist can achieve.

### First Floor

The newly created Center for Biomedical Shared Resources (CBSR) will occupy the first floor, thanks to a recently awarded, highly competitive \$5.47 million National Institutes of Health biomedical facility grant. CBSR will integrate five of the leading UVM laboratory-based, shared resource core facilities, provide services to institutions across northern New England and support large, regional research programs.



# 100

1920-2020

**The University of Vermont Medical Center Auxiliary Centennial**  
*Celebrating 100 years of dedication, philanthropy and care*

Join us in saying thank you to the Auxiliary, whose members, for a century, have served patients, families, employees and our greater community with integrity, skill and passion.

Since its inception in 1920, the Auxiliary has provided vast and varied support for growing medical needs and the comfort of patients. Following are a few of the Auxiliary's critical patient-serving charitable investments:

Miller Building Orthopedics Unit  
**\$1,000,000**

Breast Care Center  
**\$1,000,000**

Cardiology Echo Lab  
**\$500,000**

Mother-Baby Newborn Nursery  
**\$250,000**

Radiation Oncology Waiting Room  
**\$250,000**

Shepardson 5 Refurbishment  
**\$100,000**

DaVinci Robotic Surgical System  
**\$100,000**

Nursing Education  
**\$100,000** (cumulative giving)

**To Learn More**  
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**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. Thank you!**

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\*Completed term, December 2020

## 2020 Philanthropy Highlights

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*Above: The success of Hospital Week enabled the Auxiliary to donate critical items such as sheets, linoleum, crockery and furniture at a time when the hospital was struggling under debt.*

*Right: Members of the Women's Auxiliary to the Mary Fletcher Hospital, established in 1920*



*Below: 2020 UVM Medical Center Auxiliary members gather by the Miller Building donor wall upon which they are recognized.*





THE  
**University of Vermont**  
MEDICAL CENTER  
**FOUNDATION**

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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