

IMAGINE . . .



A rural oncology training program with fellowship experiences and training in rural healthcare delivery.



A mobile lab-on-wheels that brings cancer science to schools in rural Vermont.



Primary care providers collaborating with cancer specialists in the care of rural cancer patients.



Nutritional consultative support for patients in rural communities undergoing cancer therapy.

VERMONT'S \$1,000,000/YR INVESTMENT WILL:

- 1 Address the oncology workforce shortage in Vermont
- 2 Invest in STEM education for our rural schools
- 3 Provide cancer patients better care, closer to home
- 4 Improve cancer patient outcomes

UVM CANCER CENTER BY THE NUMBERS:



"THE FOUR PILLARS"

CLINICAL CARE

Clinical care guided by subspecialty expertise / Clinical trials and clinical research supported by the academic medical center / Cancer Center network provides services across the State.

RESEARCH

Brings federal \$\$ into Vermont which generate economic impact with a 2.5x multiplier effect / Creates new jobs unique to the academic center / Ongoing growth will increase more with achievement of NCI designation.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Clinical and research activities focused on the cancer issues most relevant to Vermonters / Statewide partnerships to deliver cancer education / Supports the Vermont Cancer Plan with prevention, screening, and research activities.

EDUCATION

Provides a pipeline of cancer clinicians for the State / Generates alumni who reside in VT / Supports education and training from K-12 school through early career professionals.

THE UVM CANCER CENTER IS POISED TO BE A NATIONAL LEADER DELIVERING A NEW MODEL FOR RURAL CANCER CARE.

1 ADDRESS THE ONCOLOGY WORKFORCE SHORTAGE IN VERMONT.

What it is: A Rural Oncology Fellowship Program will establish a pipeline of Vermont-trained oncologists to address current and future workforce shortages across the State. Funding will support expansion from 6 to 9 three-year oncology fellowships, rotations through rural oncology practices, and certificate-level training in public health and rural healthcare delivery. Over the next 10 years, 36 fellows are projected to receive experiences and training in rural cancer care delivery.

Why it matters: Vermont is facing a critical shortage of oncology providers. Offering training experiences in rural communities and educating oncology fellows in the practice of rural cancer care delivery will create a specialized pool of future oncologists to serve Vermont's rural communities.

2 INVEST IN STEM EDUCATION FOR OUR RURAL SCHOOLS.

What it is: The BioMobile Discovery Lab is ready to launch in 2025! This lab-on-wheels is part of a comprehensive program designed in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Education. The "classroom" is a mobile lab outfitted with all the equipment needed for students and teachers in rural schools to conduct cell biology experiments using advanced microscopy techniques. This program serves both educators and students through a professional development workshop for rural educators and a capstone hands-on cell biology research experience for rural students.

Why it matters: Rural students have fewer opportunities to develop a 'science identity.' Providing rural high school students with advanced science experiences will highlight the opportunities of a STEM career and inspire them to be our next generation of physicians and scientists serving Vermont. This initiative is complementary to the UVM Cancer Center's annual "Careers in Cancer" program that currently serves students in Chittenden County.

3 PROVIDE CANCER PATIENTS BETTER CARE, CLOSER TO HOME.

What it is: A Cancer-Primary Care Partnership will provide UVM Cancer Center-led educational training for Vermont-based primary care providers (PCPs) in the management of patients with cancer and toxicities of newer therapies, particularly those that stimulate the immune system.

The program also establishes an infrastructure of support for PCPs at Vermont's 200+ primary care practices. Each year, it will incorporate 20 new practices selected from rural regions represented by patients receiving care at the Cancer Center, with the goal of creating a network encompassing more than half of Vermont's primary care practices within 5 years.

Why it matters: Primary care providers can be uncomfortable caring for cancer patients on active therapy; this results in patients having to travel to their oncologist for medical issues that could potentially be addressed closer to home. Establishing these formal collaborations will provide PCPs with the support they need so that patients can receive more of their care—particularly managing side effects from chemotherapy—close to home.

4 IMPROVE CANCER PATIENT OUTCOMES.

What it is: Through the Remote Nutritional Consultative Support for Rural Cancer Patients program, registered dietitians at the UVM Cancer Center will provide nutritional consultative support for cancer patients at treatment sites across rural Vermont. Funding will allow expansion from a single site pilot study being conducted in collaboration with Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington to each of the oncology practices across the state.

Why it matters: Cancer patients from rural areas die at higher rates than cancer patients in urban areas. Adequate nutrition during cancer treatment can reduce treatment side effects, improve quality of life, and reduce cancer mortality. But there aren't enough dietitians across Vermont to serve patients' needs, particularly those in rural communities. Providing nutritional consultative support through a tele-video format for patients from rural areas will be one way to address these cancer outcomes disparities.