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Dr. Beth Kirkpatrick is Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics (MMG) as well as Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at the Robert Larner, MD College of Medicine, University of Vermont. Dr. Kirkpatrick earned her B.S. in Biology and Political Science at Bates College. She obtained her M.D. from Albany Medical College and trained as a resident and chief resident in Internal Medicine at the University of Rochester. Dr. Kirkpatrick performed a clinical and research-focused Fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, in Baltimore.

Dr. Kirkpatrick has been a faculty at the University of Vermont since 2000. She remains active in the clinical care of inpatients with infectious diseases and the education of medical students, residents, and fellows. She was the Associate Dean for Clinical Research (2014-2016). She currently serves on the Medical Group Finance Committee of the UVM Medical Center and is a member of the College of Medicine Advisory Committee, the major governing body for the Larner College of Medicine.

In 2002, Dr. Kirkpatrick founded the UVM Vaccine Testing Center (VTC) which focuses on decreasing the burden of infectious diseases in resource-poor countries and built the infrastructure to perform formal phase I-III vaccine trials and human experimental challenge models. Paired with its human immunology and microbiology expertise, the VTC focuses on vaccine development, natural history of disease, and the human immune responses to infection or vaccination. The multi-disciplinary team has helped to develop the research careers of multiple physician-scientists and PhD faculty (both in the US and with its global partners) and has trained pre-medical students, medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty in clinical and translational research.

She also serves as principal investigator of the Translational Global Infectious Diseases Research (TGIR) Center, an NIH-funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence and has successfully competed for a second 5-year phase (2023-2028). The TGIR trains and mentors the next generation of junior faculty toward independently funded research careers in Global Health/ Infectious Diseases. Junior faculty span multiple colleges and include clinician-scientists, basic scientists, bioinformaticians, and computer scientists. She serves on the board of directors of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and on the World Health Organization's Polio Research Committee.

In 2018, Dr. Kirkpatrick became Chair of a research-intensive basic science department. Offering degrees in Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, Bioinformatics and Biochemistry, the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics uniquely bridges the College of Medicine/UVM Medical Center and the UVM undergraduate campus by offering intensive exposure to biomedical research and human health. Faculty recruitment and mentoring efforts have significantly expanded the size and diversity of faculty and its research funding in Microbiology, cancer-associated DNA damage and repair, and Bioinformatics.