



For Immediate Release
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Vermont Medical Society Foundation Awards Scholarship to UVM College of Medicine Student

Laura Nelson awarded Dr. Mildred Reardon Scholarship

Montpelier, Vt. (Nov. 18, 2019) – The Vermont Medical Society’s Education and Research Foundation (VMSERF) has awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at The University of Vermont student **Laura Nelson**. The recipient was honored at the Vermont Medical Society’s 206th Annual and Collaborative Meeting held November 2nd, in Stowe, Vt.

Each year VMSERF gives one or more scholarships to medical students who are committed to practicing medicine in Vermont and to caring for the health of Vermonters. The scholarship program was created to encourage young physicians to return to Vermont after completing their residency training and is named in honor of Dr. Mildred Reardon, a faculty member at the Larner College of Medicine at UVM, who was instrumental in forming the Foundation.

A member of the Class of 2021 at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, Nelson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Neuroscience from Middlebury College.

Nelson grew up in Chittenden County and after achieving her degree at Middlebury, worked as a Medical Assistant at Affiliates in Obstetrics & Gynecology in Burlington, Vermont. Ms. Nelson plans to pursue the field of psychiatry and would like to return to Vermont after her residency, in order to help alleviate challenges the more rural areas of the state face in accessing

mental health services. For Laura, stigma in accessing necessary psychiatric care is heightened by the lack of availability. She says, "I truly believe that if we wish to lessen the stigma of seeking psychiatric care, we must start by providing it more widely, thus increasing local knowledge and cultivating a culture of normalcy around psychiatric care."

Please join us in congratulating Ms. Laura Nelson as this year's Dr. Mildred Reardon Scholarship award winner.

About the Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation:

The VMSERF is a nonprofit charitable organization sponsored by the Vermont Medical Society and organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. The purpose of VMSERF is to advance the public good by supporting educational and research activities in the field of health.

About the Vermont Medical Society: The Vermont Medical Society is the leading voice of physicians in the state and is dedicated to protecting the health of all Vermonters and improving the environment in which Vermont physicians and physician assistants practice medicine. The Society serves its 2,400 members through public policy advocacy on the state and federal levels, as well as by providing legal, administrative and educational support, producing a rich flow of news and information and offering member benefits that increase medical practice effectiveness and efficiency. For more information, visit www.VTMD.org.