

The Commonwealth Research Initiative at VCU

Education Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee

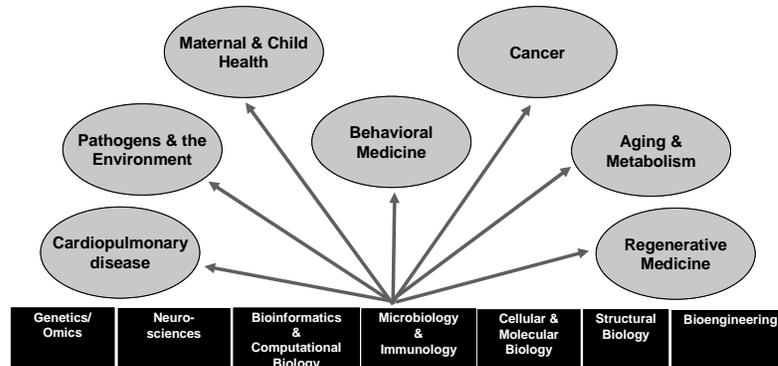
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February 5, 2008

Research as an Institutional Priority

- VCU Board of Visitors approved Research Strategic Plan in February 2005
- 4 Key Initiatives:
 - Expand Faculty Expertise
 - Increase Doctorate Training
 - Develop Program of Translational Research
 - Modernize Research Facilities
- Institutional commitment of more than \$100 million in operating support over six years

A New Focus

Transforming research based on traditional disciplines into mission-based research that is disease-oriented based on interdisciplinary teams



Commonwealth Research Initiative

- The 2006 General Assembly appropriated \$3.1 million GF in each year of the 2006-08 biennium.
 - State funds targeted for faculty recruitments, including initial salary support, start-up costs, equipment, and core lab services.
- The General Assembly required \$6.6 million NGF in matching funds annually.
 - NGF support used primarily for equipment, research facility repairs, and graduate education.

FY07 Report Highlights

- 32 research faculty recruited during FY07.
 - 14 of the 32 started work at VCU before the end of FY07, bringing \$2.3 million in sponsored research with them.
 - As of September 30, 2007, these faculty members had an additional \$14.7 million in multi-year grant proposals actively under review by sponsoring agencies.
 - 18 of the 32 were hired in FY07 but did not relocate to VCU after the start of FY08.

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Faculty expertise is growing...

- *Behavioral Medicine & Neuroscience*
 - Pamela Knapp, Ph.D., Professor*
 - Kurt Hauser, Ph.D., Professor*
 - Steven Negus, Ph.D., Professor*
 - Michelle Block, Ph.D., Asst Professor*
 - Michael A. Fox, Ph.D., Asst Professor
 - Diomedes Logothetis, Chair of Physiology and Professor*
 - Darlene Brunzell, Ph.D., Asst Professor*
 - Danielle Dick, Ph.D., Asst Professor*
 - Levent Dumenci, Ph.D., Assoc Professor*
 - Guo-Hang Fan, Ph.D., Asst Professor*
- *Pulmonary Medicine & Vascular Biology*
 - Norbert Voelkel, M.D., Professor
 - Lori Sweeney, M.D., Asst Professor
- *Regenerative Medicine*
 - Juan Carlos Arango-Lasprilla, Ph.D., Asst Professor
 - Henry Lew, M.D., Ph.D., Professor



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And growing.

- *Pathogens & Infectious Disease*
 - Jason Carlyon, Ph.D., Asst Professor*
 - Honjie Liu, Ph.D., Assoc Professor*
- *Cancer*
 - Andrew Larner, M.D., Ph.D., Professor*
 - Matthew Hartman, Ph.D., Asst Professor
 - Paul Fisher, M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor and Interim Chair, Human Genetics*
 - Devanand Sarkar, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., Asst Professor
 - Amy Sullivan, Ph.D., Asst Professor*
- *Maternal and Child Health*
 - Elizabeth McGee, M.D., Assoc Professor*
- *Aging & Metabolism*
 - Shumei Sun, Ph.D., Chair of Biostatistics*



* Faculty bringing federal research grants with them to VCU.

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FY07 GF dollars have been spent

- As of 12/31/07, 100% of the first year of GF support had been spent.
 - At fiscal year end, the University had committed all of the general fund support provided in FY07, but timing issues delayed some expenditures by six months.
 - Based on VCU's recent experience, the recruitment and relocation of quality research faculty typically takes about 10 months.

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VCU exceeded FY07 matching funds requirement

- Research Facility Upgrades
 - Sanger – 3rd and 7th floors, New air handler on 8th
 - Sanger/Smith/McGuire – Emergency Generator
 - Richmond Academy of Medicine renovations
- Doctorate Training Programs
 - Between FY06 and FY07, Ph.D. enrollments in the basic sciences grew from 210 to 235 – an increase of 11.9%.
 - Sponsored research and other nongeneral funds support annual tuition, fees and stipend for Ph.D. students.
 - In FY07, typical support per student in the basic sciences was about \$33,500.
 - Total cost approaching \$8 million annually.

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FY08 YTD Activities

- Faculty recruitments continue – 53 research positions actively under recruitment.
- Graduate enrollments expected to increase to 268 – an increase of 27.6% between FY06 and FY08.
- Facility upgrades are an on-going process
- VCU is on track to spend the \$3.1 million GF appropriated in FY08 fully by the year end.

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A More Competitive Research Enterprise

- In FY07, VCU sponsored awards topped \$227 million, a one-year increase of 7.9%
 - NIH funding up 4.9% at VCU at a time when many institutions have seen significant declines in funding
- VCU has become increasingly competitive among peer institutions, as evidenced by:
 - The creation of new Center for Clinical and Translational Research – application for NIH funding is under review
 - A \$10.7 million multi-year NIH program project grant award in image-guided therapy
 - A \$6.4 million NIH Center Grant award in Health Disparities
 - A \$2.5 million NIH BIRCWH (Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health) Award
 - \$1.3 million anticipated in NIH funding for research on polycystic ovarian syndrome
- Importantly, VCU's focus on research has led to growth, not just within the School of Medicine, but across the University, with new partnerships emerging between Medicine, Chemistry, Psychology, and Engineering.