



# VCU

## Office of Research spotlights...

October 2012

Mid-Atlantic Twin Registry



### Goal:

The MATR is designed to facilitate research efforts while maintaining exemplary standards of human research subject protection. As the liaison between research groups and potential twin participants, the MATR helps support study recruitment efforts and the achievement of study goals.

### Description:

The Mid-Atlantic Twin Registry, which is part of VCU's Office of Research, is a population-based registry comprised of over 50,000 adult and juvenile twins/multiples willing to consider taking part in health and behavior related research. Data and samples from twins provide researchers with the unique opportunity for an improved understanding of the relationship between a trait, its heritability and the effect an individual's environment has on the expression of that trait. Shedding light on this gene-environment dynamic allows the scientific community to gain insight that may improve disease treatment and prevention as well as our understanding of what drives certain human behaviors.

This unique resource has a thirty year history at Virginia Commonwealth University and has already helped support scientific contributions in the national and international scientific and medical communities. The MATR continues to grow and develop in ways that match today's research needs.

A current MATR initiative involves growing and maintaining the **MATR Biological Sample Repository (MATR Repository)**, which currently houses whole blood DNA and plasma samples from a subset of MATR twins. These samples are available for access through the MATR, and researchers at both VCU and other institutions are encouraged to utilize this resource for their research.



### What services can the MATR provide?

- ✕✕ Support developing sample collection efforts
- ✕✕ Document and IRB submission development
- ✕✕ Access to DNA in MATR Repository
- ✕✕ Database matching
- ✕✕ Mailed questionnaires
- ✕✕ Phone surveys/interviews
- ✕✕ In-home interviews
- ✕✕ Web surveys
- ✕✕ Newsletter and website advertising



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