Partnership for People with Disabilities
Hello!

Parthy Dinora (padinora@vcu.edu)

- Interim executive director of the Partnership.
- Been at the Partnership in various roles for 19 years have been focused on expanding research for the past 7 years.
The Partnership

- Virginia’s University Center for Excellence in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (federally funded since 1985, 1 of 67 and the only one in Virginia).
- @120 staff, 40 projects, @ $11+ million in federal and state funding, areas of emphasis: early childhood, education, health and community living
- Work across VCU Arts, Business, Dentistry, Genetics, Nursing, Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Education, Medicine, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Rehabilitation Counseling and Social Work
Mission

To partner with stakeholders in the intellectual and developmental disability community and faculty and staff throughout Virginia Commonwealth University to provide culturally competent and engaged research, education, direct services, and information sharing to ensure people with disabilities and their families can live, learn, work and play together as a part of their community.
### How we address VCU strategic research goals

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<tr>
<th>Enriching the human experience</th>
<th>Achieving a just and equitable society</th>
<th>Optimizing Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>Creating tools and evidence based strategies to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families</td>
<td>Focused on reducing the impact of inequality, discrimination and disparities for people with disabilities and other intersecting identities</td>
<td>Creating interventions and collecting and analyzing data to promote health outcomes for people with disabilities.</td>
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### Examples of Partnership Research

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Title</th>
<th>Sponsoring Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Predictors of Enhanced Outcomes for People with IDD (US-NIDILRR)</td>
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<td>Leadership Empowerment for Abuse Prevention Efficacy Study (US-DOJ)</td>
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<td>Special Olympics International Health Outcomes (US-CDC)</td>
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<td>Study of cultural brokering for families of children with disabilities</td>
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<td>Health and Mental Health Outcomes of People with IDD (OSU US-NIDILRR)</td>
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<td>COVID Vaccine Confidence Study for People with IDD and their Families (US-ACL)</td>
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Collaborative Relationships at the Partnership

VCU Schools & Departments
- Work across VCU - Arts, Business, Dentistry, Genetics, Nursing, Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Education, Medicine, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Rehabilitation Counseling and Social Work

People with Lived Experience
- A Life Like Yours
- Self-Advocacy Alliance
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Virginia Centers for Independent Living

Community Based Organizations & School Divisions
- 40 Community Service Boards, 500+ Private IDD providers, 132 school divisions, 40 early intervention systems and 100+ screening clinics and child care centers in Virginia

Partnership for People with Disabilities

State Agencies
- Health, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Social Services, Medical Assistance Services, Education, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Blind/Visually Impaired

Virginia DD Network Partners
- Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, disAbility Law Center of Virginia

Other State and National Partners
- National Association of State Directors of Developmental disability Services,
- Human Services Research Institute,
- Association of University Centers, other Universities, Family Voices, American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of Maternal & Child Health programs, Special Olympics International

Advocacy Organizations
- The Arc of Virginia, Autism Society chapters, and Down Syndrome Associations,
Our vision for the future of the Partnership

- Serve as a hub for VCU IDD research
- In collaboration with multiple schools and investigators, secure multiple Center-based and other large federal grants (IDDRC, ARRT, DRRP, RRTC, PCORI)
- Create and promote practice & policy links for VCU IDD research in the state, nationally, and internationally
RIC Plans

▪ 1) A comprehensive UCEDD-wide research plan with identified goals, objectives, and activities for each Partnership content area to share with collaborators.

▪ 2) Increased awareness of the Partnership across VCU campuses through enhanced collaborative relationships across VCU schools.

▪ 3) *On top of our current output,* increase interdisciplinary research funding proposals by 4 in 2021-25 and 6 in 25-26.

▪ 4) *On top of our current output,* increase manuscript production by 6 a year.

▪ 5) A postdoctoral position is shared between SOE & the Center & increase training opportunities for students of across our core functions.
We are **seeking your advice and support** to better **connect with faculty** across VCU to bring together talent and to maximize competitiveness of VCU research proposals related to IDD.

We have **very strong ties** to people with disabilities and families, community-based organizations, and state and federal agencies who have a demonstrated history of collaborating with us and supporting research to practice.
Thank you!

Any questions?

You can find me at:

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