

Dear colleagues,

As many of you will have read [last week](#), in response to the Feb. 14 “Dear Colleague” letter from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, the university will undertake a review of the Research strategic plan in light of new federal guidance. We will continue to provide updates as this process continues.

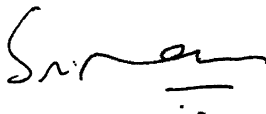
From a federal research funding perspective, we have seen several NIH study sections now posted on the [Federal Register](#). While this is welcome news, it does not yet account for the currently cancelled or postponed sections, or provide any clarity on council meetings which provide the final approval for funded grant proposals.

As we await additional updates to court cases and executive orders, please continue to check the [federal research updates website](#) for the most current advice and recommendations. At this time, no other institutional changes are being implemented and I request you to continue to submit your grants as planned and consult with your unit level leadership to discuss your individual research studies and plans.

Finally, as we approach next month’s [Research Weeks](#), I encourage you to join us in celebrating your colleagues and the groundbreaking research that we continue to conduct here at VCU. I hope you will consider joining me for the [State of the Research](#) on April 15 and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at department, school and college events throughout the month.

While the current federal research landscape is challenging and uncertain, we must remember to take time to celebrate the progress that we have already made and remind ourselves that the research that we do at VCU not only advances the frontiers of science, discovery and innovation, but also impacts the communities and the patients we serve, as well as leads to significant economic development in the region and the commonwealth. This is not the time to slow down - the research you do matters. I look forward to learning about your continued research impact in the weeks and months to come.

Thank you for all that you do and with my best wishes,



Sriram

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