
Leadership changes at the VCU Core Labs – Genomics, High Performance Research Computing, and Bioimaging

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VCU Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation

Dear colleagues,

VCU's core laboratories facilitate a broad variety of our innovative research in the biomedical, life, physical and social sciences. Some of these core laboratories are institutional, while others are associated with specific schools, programs or departments. However, *all* are available to VCU researchers, typically on a fee-for-service basis. VCU and the OVPRI are committing significant new funding for the cores as part of the university's implementation of the [Strategic Research Priorities Plan](#), which encourages investing in forward-looking research that improves the human condition.

I am very pleased to announce changes to leadership and operations at three of [VCU's core laboratories](#):

VCU Genomics Core



Karolina Aberg, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Pharmacy, and **Gregory Buck, Ph.D.**, professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, now serve as co-directors of the [VCU Genomics Core](#). The core is undergoing significant changes to

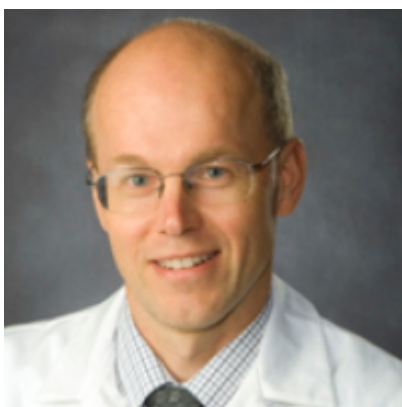
customize and develop new services, expand standardization of procedures to evaluate and maintain quality control, adjust laboratory space, upgrade instrumentation, and add a new customer service support process. With OVPRI support, the core will add a new manager and a bioinformatician to its staff. In addition to a new website, Drs. Aberg and Buck will unveil other upgrades at an event later this spring. For more information or to receive an invitation to the event, please contact the [Genomics Core staff](#).

High Performance Research Computing Core



Lane Carasik, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical and nuclear engineering, now directs the VCU [High Performance Research Computing Core](#) (HPRC) facility, formerly known as the CHiPC core. HPRC is modernizing its high-performance computing systems, including operating systems, software, and submission systems for each cluster. Core staff will work with users to ease the transition to the modernized submission systems for each cluster as they are updated. The computing core will soon launch a redesigned website and additional personnel, hired with OVPRI support, will allow the core to expand its user support services of the HPRC Clusters and increase use by the VCU community. If you are interested in learning more about HPRC and its potential uses, please contact [Dr. Carasik](#).

Bioimaging and Applied Research Core



Frank Corwin, Ph.D., and Sundaresan Gobalakrishnan, Ph.D., both assistant professors in the Department of Radiology, now co-direct the VCU [Bioimaging and Applied Research Core](#) (BARC), formerly known as the Center for Molecular Imaging. The core is

equipped with modern PET/SPECT/CT and MRI instruments, as well as instruments supporting alternative modalities such as photoacoustic imaging and fluorescence molecular tomography. An additional imaging technician will help the core increase the number of users and provide more research support services. Drs. [Corwin](#) and [Gobalakrishnan](#) also plan to provide leadership in VCU's colleges and schools with an overview of the changes and new resources. Contact them to learn more.

Information about recent changes at cores jointly supported by the OVPRI and Massey Cancer Center, whose websites have also been updated, are in the [archived newsletters](#) on the center's website.

To provide sustained support, all core users are required to acknowledge the use of core resources in their publications. Suggested citation language is available on each core website. Researchers will also find text suitable for direct inclusion in grant applications. Please contact the individual core directors or [Paul Fawcett, Ph.D.](#), director of research infrastructure for additional information about these invaluable resources for the VCU research enterprise. Finally, I would like to thank Paul for his overall effort in leading enhanced user experience, improved work flow and advances in the quality and services of VCU's core laboratories.

Regards,

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