

Update on FY 2021 Sponsored Awards Portfolio

Dear VCU research community,

As VCU continues to advance its research mission, I am pleased to announce another institutional milestone of record sponsored research funding in FY 2021. We made significant progress in expanding our reputation as a major urban, public research university whose work benefits its community locally, nationally and globally. Our research enterprise, even while challenged by a pandemic, looks ahead to new horizons.

Combined awards for sponsored programs, including grants, contracts and other funding types directed towards research activity, totaled \$362,906,366, a jump of more than 8% over the previous year's \$335 million. Research funding grew in nearly every college and school on the MCV, Monroe Park and Qatar campuses.

Over the last three academic years, our sponsored funding has grown by more than 25%, reflecting the commitment of our faculty and students to addressing societal grand challenges in pursuit of our institutional mission.

Sponsored Awards FY2011 - FY2021

Bar graph showing an 8% growth over previous years

Awards by Major Source FY2014 - FY2021

Bar graph showing where the funds come from (Industry, State, Federal, Other).

VCU's research portfolio across the MCV and Monroe Park campuses represents diversified funding from federal, state, industry and other private funding agencies. The university received \$165 million in total extramural federal funding: 57% from the National Institutes of Health (\$93.4 million, up 1.8%) and 43% from other federal agencies (\$71.9 million).

Industry funding jumped 51% over FY 2020 to \$56.6 million, including \$32.5 million for clinical trials. Industry investment in testing potential therapeutics for COVID-19 patients helped to drive some of this funding increase. Additionally, VCU received \$3.76 million in royalty and licensing income from faculty inventions licensed to companies, with some of the funding used to support "proof of concept" funding to mature and validate new innovative technologies.

Awards by Source FY2021

Doughnut chart showing where the funds come from (NIH, DOD, other DHHS, VAMC, university flow through, NSF, US DoED, other federal, Industry, state, other, and the total federal funding). This graph shows that there has been an 8% increase over the previous fiscal year.

For the past decade, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has ranked VCU as a top 100 research university based on research expenditures. VCU ranks 65th in R&D expenditures among public research universities. VCU remains one of only 28 public institutions to have both a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center and a clinical and translational science award funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. VCU is one of 67 universities nationwide classified by the Carnegie Foundation as an “R1 Doctoral University – Highest Research Activity,” the foundation’s highest ranking, as well as its prestigious “Community Engagement” status. This recognition places VCU among an elite class of public research institutions that enjoy both distinctions.

Awards by School/ College FY2021

Doughnut chart showing what colleges / schools received the most funding (Wilder, Other, Business, Social work, Nursing, Health Professions, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Engineering, Education, Humanities and Sciences, Arts (including VCUQ), and Medicine).

This varied portfolio of funded projects with substantial potential for impact reflects the growing breadth, depth and competitiveness of our VCU research enterprise. Please join me in recognizing and acknowledging the accomplishments of our community of scholars and those engaged in the creative process on Monroe Park and MCV campuses. Their groundbreaking research has a tremendous impact on the human experience we strive to elevate.

Later this month, you will hear from me and President Michael Rao about the bold and ambitious One VCU Research Strategic Priorities Plan, which serves as a framework to streamline investments leading to increased funding and growth, ultimately advancing excellence in research at VCU. More details will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

P. Srirama Rao, Ph.D.

Vice President for Research and Innovation

These are some of the notable grants and funding highlights of FY 2021, representing the rich diversity of our research:

- Multiple grants from the NCI, totaling \$16.2 million, expanded [Massey Cancer Center’s research](#) on finding causes and cures for cancers of the breast, pancreas, lung, head and neck, and bladder, as well as aggressive childhood cancers and a study to explore racial disparities in care for Black patients.
- [Massey specialists were awarded \\$5 million from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) to implement a lung cancer screening and precision oncology program within the Central Virginia Veterans Affairs Health Care System
- [VCU received \\$7.3 million as a result of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ four-year contract with Phlow Corp. to accelerate the Medicines for All Institute’s initiative](#) to

bring manufacturing of vulnerable pharmaceuticals and their ingredients back to the United States

- [Securing the nuclear energy infrastructure](#)
- [\\$2M grant supports programs for elementary students at risk](#)
- [Massey awarded \\$2.3M to study treatments for prostate cancer](#)
- [Determining links between genetics and alcohol use disorder](#)
- [“Mindful Moms” intervention for pregnant women](#)
- [VR used to explore the role of fear in youth at risk for violence and crime](#)
- [A danceable CCI research update](#)
- [\\$1.6 FDA funding for computer methods to evaluate pediatric intranasal medication delivery](#)
- [VCU-led promising new treatment for sickle cell](#)
- [Wright Foundation grants \\$16 million to the VCU Wright Center](#)
- [NSF grant to advance VCU undergraduate student success in mathematics](#)
- [CDC funds VCU invention to end the cycle of gun violence](#)
- [CDC \\$1.6M grant to study prevention of school employee sexual abuse of students](#)
- [Research grants focus on preventing adverse childhood experiences, trauma](#)
- [\\$5.4M grant to study how chemotherapy can weaken the heart and how to protect it](#)
- [Exploring new virulence factors related to the uniqueness and complexity of periodontitis](#)