FY 2018 Research Highlights

FY 2018 marks a productive year in external funding at Virginia Commonwealth University. Combined awards for sponsored programs and gifts directed towards research activity totaled more than $271 million in FY 2018. VCU’s ongoing commitments to interdisciplinary approaches, faculty expertise, and the University’s investment in research infrastructure have translated into record levels of sponsored program awards for eight out of the past ten years.

- VCU has been ranked as a top 100 research university based on federal research expenditures by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for six consecutive years. We are currently ranked 97th nationally in total R&D expenditures and 81st in federal R & D expenditures.

- The Carnegie Foundation has designated VCU as a Doctoral University: Highest Research Activity, the highest ranking afforded by the Foundation. Carnegie also placed the University in the status category of Community Engaged, making it among just 56 public research institutions that enjoy both accolades.

- VCU has 36 research-related institutes and centers, including the highly-regarded Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies, the C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research and the VCU Massey Cancer Center, which has just renewed its National Cancer Institute designation for the 43rd year.

- The majority of VCU’s extramural funding in FY 2018 came from federal sources ($141 million). In addition to funding from the National Institutes of Health ($78.9 million), there was a significant number of federal, non-NIH awards (44% of total federal awards). Funding from the National Science Foundation and the Departments of Education, Justice and Defense illustrates the breadth, depth and competitiveness of VCU’s research enterprise. Private awards to VCU totaled more than $61 million.

- VCU’s research excellence is buoyed by the commitment to interdisciplinary approaches, with particular strengths in the areas of neuroscience; cancer; substance abuse and addiction, the human microbiome; and nanoscience, nanomedicine, and nanotechnology.

- VCU holds four active National Institutes of Health-funded research training grants aimed at increasing the University’s potential to make a positive impact on the number of underrepresented minority biomedical research scientists.

- In FY 2018 VCU researchers filed 185 patents, with 30 issued. VCU also received $2.7 million in licensing revenues. VCU’s Innovation Gateway is instrumental in helping VCU to build strategic industry collaborations and regional partnerships. VCU Ventures supports entrepreneurship and new venture creation.

- In addition, FY 2018 saw the renewal of VCU’s Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) through NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) that was awarded to VCU’s C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research. This $21.5 million award is the largest NIH grant ever awarded to VCU and will allow the center to support clinical research, integrate research and clinical practice and provide training to develop the clinical research workforce.