

---

# **The Commonwealth Research Initiative at VCU**

Francis L. Macrina, Ph.D.

VCU, Vice President for Research

January 25, 2008

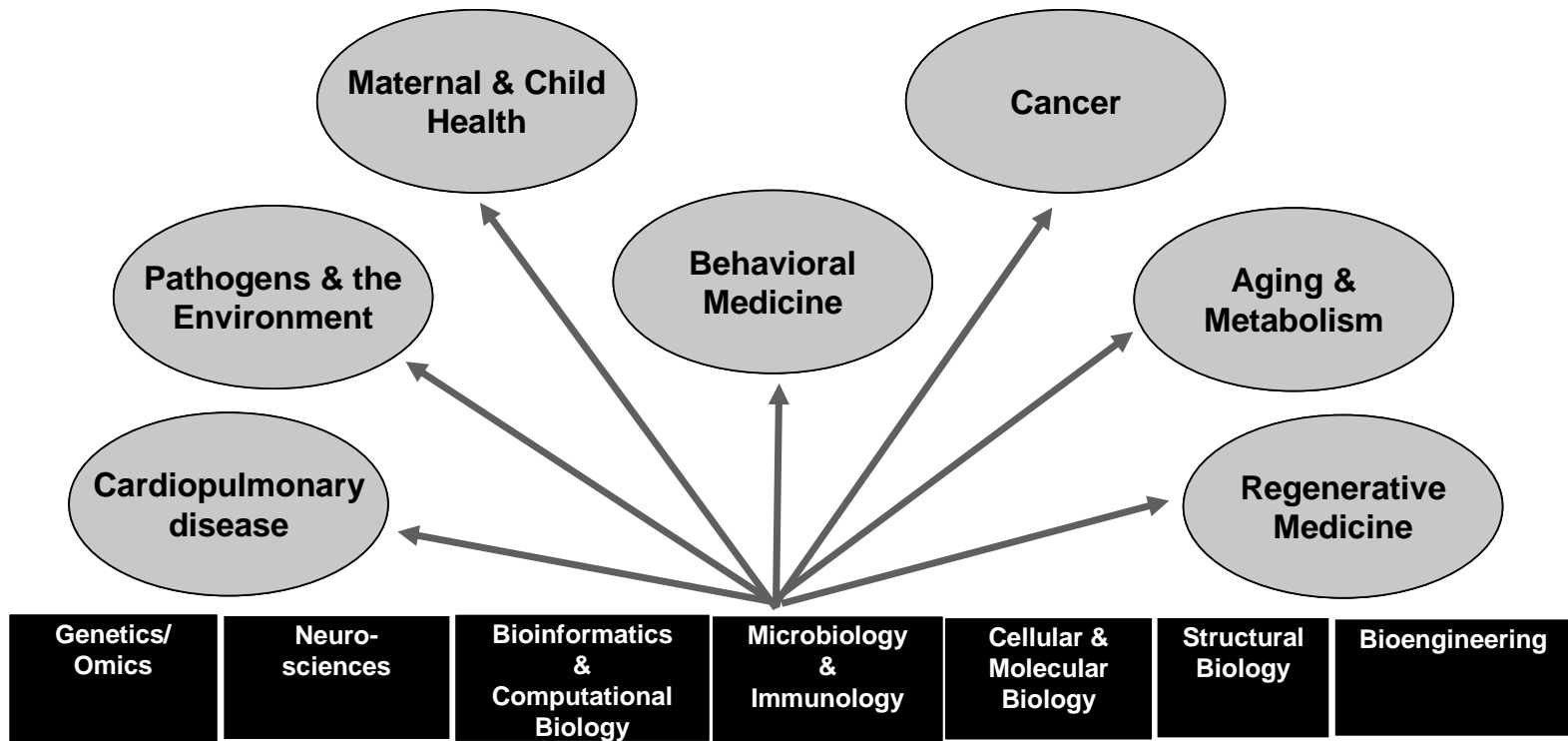
# Research as an Institutional Priority

---

- VCU Board of Visitors approved Research Strategic Plan in February 2005
- 5 Key Initiatives:
  - Expand Faculty Expertise
  - Increase Doctoral Training
  - Develop Program of Translational Research
  - Modernize Research Facilities
  - Enhance Research Core Laboratories
- Institutional commitment of more than \$100 million in operating support over six years

# A New Focus

*Transforming research based on traditional disciplines into mission-based research that is disease-oriented based on interdisciplinary teams*



# Commonwealth Research Initiative

---

- The 2006 General Assembly appropriated \$3.1 million GF in each year of the 2006-08 biennium.
  - State funds targeted for faculty recruitments, including initial salary support, start-up costs, equipment, and core lab services.
- The General Assembly required \$6.6 million NGF in matching funds annually.
  - NGF support used primarily for equipment, research facility repairs, and graduate education.

# FY07 Report Highlights

---

- 32 research faculty recruited during FY07.
  - 14 of the 32 started work at VCU before the end of FY07, bringing \$2.3 million in sponsored research with them.
  - As of September 30, 2007, these faculty members had an additional \$14.7 million in multi-year grant proposals actively under review by sponsoring agencies.
  - 18 of the 32 were hired in FY07 but did not relocate to VCU after the start of FY08.

# Faculty expertise is growing...

## ■ *Behavioral Medicine & Neuroscience*

- Pamela Knapp, Ph.D., Professor\*
- Kurt Hauser, Ph.D., Professor\*
- Steven Negus, Ph.D., Professor\*
- Michelle Block, Ph.D., Asst Professor\*
- Michael A. Fox, Ph.D., Asst Professor
- Diomedes Logothetis, Chair of Physiology and Professor\*
- Darlene Brunzell, Ph.D., Asst Professor\*
- Danielle Dick, Ph.D., Asst Professor\*
- Levent Dumenci, Ph.D., Assoc Professor\*
- Guo-Hang Fan, Ph.D., Asst Professor\*

 Washington University in St. Louis • School of Medicine

 Yale

 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
College of Medicine

## ■ *Pulmonary Medicine & Vascular Biology*

- Norbert Voelkel, M.D., Professor
- Lori Sweeney, M.D., Asst Professor

 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
AT DENVER AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
DOWNTOWN DENVER CAMPUS



## ■ *Regenerative Medicine*

- Juan Carlos Arango-Lasprilla, Ph.D., Asst Professor
- Henry Lew, M.D., Ph.D., Professor



MOUNT SINAI  
SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE

\* Faculty bringing federal research grants with them to VCU.

# And growing.

- *Pathogens & Infectious Disease*
  - Jason Carlyon, Ph.D., Asst Professor\*
  - Honjie Liu, Ph.D., Assoc Professor\*
- *Cancer*
  - Andrew Larner, M.D., Ph.D., Professor\*
  - Matthew Hartman, Ph.D., Asst Professor
  - Paul Fisher, M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor and Interim Chair, Human Genetics\*
  - Devanand Sarkar, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., Asst Professor
  - Amy Sullivan, Ph.D., Asst Professor\*
- *Maternal and Child Health*
  - Elizabeth McGee, M.D., Assoc Professor\*
- *Aging & Metabolism*
  - Shumei Sun, Ph.D., Chair of Biostatistics\*



\* Faculty bringing federal research grants with them to VCU.

# FY07 GF dollars have been spent

---

- As of 12/31/07, 100% of the first year of GF support had been spent.
  - At fiscal year end, the University had committed all of the general fund support provided in FY07, but timing issues delayed some expenditures by six months.
  - Based on VCU's recent experience, the recruitment and relocation of quality research faculty typically takes about 10 months.



# VCU exceeded FY07 matching funds requirement

---

- Research Facility Upgrades
  - Sanger – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors, New air handler on 8th
  - Sanger/Smith/McGuire – Emergency Generator
  - Richmond Academy of Medicine renovations for the Center for Clinical and Translational Research
  
- Doctoral Training Programs
  - Between FY06 and FY07, Ph.D. enrollments in the basic sciences grew from 210 to 235 – an increase of 11.9%.
  - Sponsored research and other nongeneral funds support annual tuition, fees and stipend for Ph.D. students.
    - In FY07, typical support per student in the basic sciences was about \$33,500.
    - Total cost approaching \$8 million annually.

# FY08 YTD Activities

---

- Faculty recruitments continue – 53 research positions actively under recruitment.
- Graduate enrollments expected to increase to 268 – an increase of 27.6% between FY06 and FY08.
- Facility upgrades are an on-going process
- VCU is on track to spend the \$3.1 million GF appropriated in FY08 fully by the year end.

# A More Competitive Research Enterprise

---

- In FY07, VCU sponsored awards topped \$227 million, a one-year increase of 7.9%
  - NIH funding up 4.9% at VCU at a time when many institutions have seen significant declines in funding
- VCU has become increasingly competitive among peer institutions, as evidenced by:
  - The creation of new Center for Clinical and Translational Research – application for NIH funding is under review
  - A \$10.7 million multi-year NIH program project grant award in image-guided therapy
  - A \$6.4 million NIH Center Grant award in Health Disparities
  - A \$2.5 million NIH BIRCWH (Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health) Award
  - \$6.5 million anticipated in NIH funding for research on polycystic ovary syndrome
- Importantly, VCU's focus on research has led to growth, not just within the School of Medicine, but across the University, with new partnerships emerging between Medicine, Chemistry, Psychology, and Engineering.