



**VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC AND HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
3:00 - 4:30 PM¹
September 14, 2023
VCU SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
301 W. MAIN ST., THIRD FLOOR – ROOM B3187
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** *Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair*

- 2. ACTION ITEMS:** *Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair*
5 minutes (3:00 - 3:05 p.m.)
 - a. May 11, 2023 meeting minutes
 - b. Revised Academic and Health Affairs Committee Bylaws

- 3. REPORT FROM THE PROVOST** *Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*
15 minutes (3:05 - 3:20 p.m.)

- 4. REPORT FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH SCIENCES** *Dr. Marlon Levy, Interim Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO VCU Health*
15 minutes (3:20 - 3:35 p.m.)

- 5. REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION** *Dr. P. Srirama Rao, Vice President for Research and Innovation*
5 minutes (3:35 - 3:50 p.m.)

- 6. SENIOR FACULTY PANEL**

- 7. OTHER BUSINESS** *Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair*
50 minutes (3:50 - 4:30 p.m.)

- 8. ADJOURNMENT** *Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair*

In accordance with the Board's operating procedures and in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, there will be no opportunity for public comment at this meeting.

¹ The start time for the Board of Visitors meeting is approximate only. The meeting may begin either before or after the listed approximate start time as Board members are ready to proceed.

**CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY
ACADEMIC AND HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS
September 14, 2023**

OPEN SESSION

ACTION ITEMS:

- Minutes of May 11, 2023 meeting
- Revised Academic and Health Affairs Committee Bylaws

FOR INFORMATION/COMMITTEE REVIEW:

- 1) Items that may be action items at upcoming committee meeting:
 - Program Announcements: names of program proposals that will come before the committee for approval at a future meeting.
- 2) Items that the board needs to be aware of, but will not require action:
 - None

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

Report from the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (15 min.)

- Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos will provide a report with updates on activities since the committee's last meeting.

Report from the Interim Senior Vice President for Health Sciences (15 min.)

- Dr. Marlon Levy will provide updates on issues pertaining to the health sciences schools and campus.

Report from the Vice President for Research and Innovation (55 min.)

- Dr. Srirama Rao will provide a brief update followed by a panel of senior faculty who will provide a brief overview of their research and engage in discussion with the members of the committee.
- Faculty Panelists include:
 - **Nibir K. Dhar, Ph.D.**, Professor and CCI Eminent Scholar, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Director of Virginia Microelectronics Center, College of Engineering
 - **Kim McKnight, Ph.D.**, Director, VCU Center for Teacher Leadership, and Executive director, RTR Teacher Residency, School of Education
 - **F. Gerard Moeller, M.D.**, Director, Wright Center for Clinical & Translational Research, and Associate Vice President for Clinical Research, Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation
 - **Amy Salisbury, Ph.D., RN**, Professor and Director of Research, Institute for Women's Health, Associate Dean for Research, Scholarship, & Innovation, and Steigleder Endowed Chair for Research, School of Nursing
 - **Vanessa B. Sheppard, Ph.D.**, Professor and Interim dean, School of Population Health, Professor and Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Chair in Cancer Prevention and Control, and Associate director, Community Outreach and Disparities Research, Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center



VCU

Proposed revisions to Academic and Health Affairs Committee Charter and Meeting Planner

Background: As a public institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, many actions affecting academic programs and the academic organizational structure require State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) approval. SCHEV requires Board of Visitors approval for only a small number of these actions. However, VCU has developed over the years multiple internal approval steps, including BOV approval, which SCHEV does not require for most SCHEV actions. These added steps have led to VCU being out of compliance with some of SCHEV's submission deadlines, requiring additional revisions by faculty and delays to implementation which can impact student success and revenue generation.

Proposed revision: Remove the requirement for the Board of Visitors, by recommendation of the Academic and Health Affairs Committee, to approve SCHEV proposals for which the state does not require BOV approval. Only items for which SCHEV requires institutional BOV approval, and items that university leadership deems necessary for BOV review, will be brought to the AHAC. The Office of the Provost will provide AHAC/BOV with a list of all other SCHEV actions as an information item at its meetings.

Impact of revision: VCU will be able to comply with SCHEV submission deadlines and will be quicker to market with academic program actions and organizational changes requiring SCHEV approval that do not require BOV approval.

Additional steps: The revision of the AHAC Charter and Meeting Planner is part of a comprehensive and streamlined process that includes:

- Implementing SCHEV proposal cohorts with start and end dates tied to SCHEV's published guidelines.
- Restructuring university-level curriculum committees to ensure thorough vetting of certificate and degree program proposals for shared governance.
- Amending University Council bylaws to eliminate review/approval of curriculum/SCHEV proposals, which is duplicative of the work managed under the purview of the faculty by the undergraduate and graduate curriculum committees.

Revisions

Academic and Health Affairs Committee Charter: [Section IV, Part B \(lines 74-83\)](#)

Academic and Health Affairs Committee Meeting Planner: [Section IV, Part B \(page 1\)](#)

1 **VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**
2 **BOARD OF VISITORS**

3
4 **ACADEMIC AND HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHARTER**
5

6 **I. PURPOSE**

7 The primary purpose of the Academic and Health Affairs Committee is to provide oversight and make
8 recommendations to the Board on all policies and plans regarding strategic enrollment management; academic
9 quality; student matters; faculty matters; athletics; inclusive excellence and research consistent with the stated
10 goals and objectives of the University and with its academic health center, including its affiliation with the
11 Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority. Areas of responsibility include:

- 12 • Strategic enrollment management
 - 13 ○ Admissions
 - 14 ○ Retention
- 15 • Academic quality
 - 16 ○ Quality
 - 17 ○ Degrees, programs and structure
 - 18 ○ Trends
 - 19 ○ Strategic priorities
 - 20 ○ Academic program review
 - 21 ○ Online education
 - 22 ○ SACS/accreditation
- 23 • Student matters
 - 24 ○ Academic Success
 - 25 ○ Rights and Responsibilities
 - 26 ○ Concerns
 - 27 ○ Safety, satisfaction and engagement
- 28 • Faculty matters
 - 29 ○ Employment, rights and responsibilities, and professional development
 - 30 ○ Salaries
 - 31 ○ Recruitment and retention
 - 32 ○ Benchmarks and best practices
- 33 • Athletics
 - 34 ○ Academic success of student athletes and compliance with NCAA guidelines
- 35 • Research
- 36 • Inclusive Excellence
- 37 • Coordination of academic activities of health sciences schools and affiliation with the VCU Health
38 System Authority

39
40 In addition, the Academic and Health Affairs Committee provides oversight and counsel toward the
41 achievement of the mission, vision and goals of the Virginia Commonwealth University strategic plan.
42

43 The function of the Academic and Health Affairs Committee is primarily oversight. University management,
44 under the auspices of the President, the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the
45 Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO of the VCU Health System, is responsible for the
46 development, implementation, and measurement of success regarding these areas of responsibility, as well as
47 the policies and procedures for maintaining these programs and activities.

48

49 **II. COMPOSITION AND INDEPENDENCE**

50 The Academic and Health Affairs Committee will be comprised of three or more Visitors. Each member
51 must be free from any financial, family or other material personal relationship that, in the opinion of the
52 Board or Academic and Health Affairs Committee members, would impair their independence from
53 management and the University.
54

55 **III. MEETINGS**

56 The Academic and Health Affairs Committee will meet at least four times annually. Additional meetings may
57 occur more frequently as circumstances warrant. The Committee chair should communicate with the Provost
58 and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO
59 of the VCU Health System prior to each Committee meeting to finalize the meeting agenda and review the
60 matters to be discussed.
61

62 **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

63 In performing its oversight responsibilities, the Academic and Health Affairs Committee shall:

64 A. General

- 65 1. Adopt a formal written charter that specifies the Committee’s scope of responsibility. The
66 charter should be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.
67 2. Maintain minutes of open session portions of meetings.
68 3. Report Committee actions to the Board of Visitors with such recommendations as the
69 Committee may deem appropriate.
70 4. Consistent with state law, the Committee may communicate in closed session (with or
71 without members of senior management present) with general counsel and/or the executive
72 director of assurance services present to discuss matters that the Committee or any of these
73 groups believe should be discussed privately.

74 B. Academic degrees, ~~programs~~ and structure

- 75 1. Review and approve ~~all proposed new domestic and international undergraduate, graduate,~~
76 ~~and professional educational programs, research programs and proposed new degrees,~~
77 ~~academic program proposals when required by the State Council of Higher Education for~~
78 ~~Virginia (SCHEV) policy,~~ and monitor existing programs.
79 2. Review and approve proposals for the organization of the University’s academic health
80 center, including the affiliation between VCU and the Virginia Commonwealth University
81 Health System Authority.
82 3. Review **and approve** proposals for the organization of the academic structure of the
83 University **when required by SCHEV policy.**

84 C. Coordination of academic activities of health sciences schools and affiliation with the VCU
85 Health System Authority

- 86 1. Receive reports on the relationship and affiliation between the University and the Virginia
87 Commonwealth University Health System Authority and other institutions, organizations,
88 laboratories, and clinics involved in the University's academic health center, including
89 reviewing program coordination between the Virginia Commonwealth University Health
90 System Authority and academic and research programs.
91

- 92 D. Academic research activities
93 1. Review and approve research policies deemed to require Board of Visitor action.
94 2. Receive reports on research advances of faculty, interdisciplinary groups, and VCU institutes
95 and centers.
96 3. Receive reports on the relationship of research activities to local, regional, national, and
97 international economic development.
98 4. Report annually on the state of the VCU research enterprise including the total research
99 awards, expenditures, trends, and outlook.
- 100 E. Faculty and staff employment, rights and responsibilities, and professional development
101 1. Review and approve policies governing the compensation, tenure, promotion, recruitment,
102 retention, rights and responsibilities, and development of the faculty.
103 2. Review and approve policies and programs on equal employment opportunity and affirmative
104 action.
105 3. Afford an opportunity for direct communication between Board members and members of the
106 faculty and staff.
- 107 F. Admissions and retention
108 1. Review and approve policies governing the admission and retention of undergraduate,
109 graduate and professional students to all divisions of the University.
- 110 G. Accreditation
111 1. Review and approve policies and reports related to departmental, school, and institutional
112 accreditation.
- 113 H. Academic Success of Students
114 1. Review nominations and make the final selection of the recipient(s) of the Board of Visitors
115 Award at a regularly scheduled meeting in the spring of each year.
116 2. Review topical areas of interest related to the student experience.
117 3. Review major fall and spring activities.
118 4. Review and monitor student academic success.
- 119 I. Academic Success of Student Athletes
120 1. Review and oversee matters relating to the intercollegiate athletic program.
- 121 J. Student Rights and Responsibilities
122 1. Review matters (including approving policies) relating to student rights, responsibilities,
123 conduct, concerns and discipline, including matters relating to the VCU Honor System, and
124 Student Code of Conduct.
125 2. Review and oversee matters relating to student government, and appropriate student
126 participation in University governance.
127 3. Review and oversee matters relating to student organizations and extracurricular activities.
128
- 129 K. Student Services
130 1. Review and oversee matters relating to financial aid, housing services, counseling, student
131 health, safety and other student services.
132 2. Review and approve policies relating to student records.
133 3. Review report on campus safety that provides awareness of federal reporting requirement,
134 general overview of VCU safety-related statistics, and ongoing efforts to improve safety.
- 135 L. Student Communications

136 1. Afford an opportunity for direct communication between Board members and students.

137 M. International Partnerships and Collaborations

138 1. Review and approve international partnerships

Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors

Academic and Health Affairs Committee Meeting Planner

A=Annually; Q=Quarterly; AN=As Necessary	Frequency			Planned Timing			
	A	Q	AN	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
				Sep	Dec	Feb	May
Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 based on Fiscal Year (July – June)							
A. General							
1. Review, update, and approve Academic and Health Affairs Committee charter	X			X			
2a. Approve minutes of previous meeting		X		X	X	X	X
2b. Maintain minutes of meetings		X		X	X	X	X
3. Authorize investigations into any matters within the Committee’s scope of responsibilities			X				
4. Report Committee actions to the Board of Visitors with recommendations deemed appropriate		X		X	X	X	X
5. Communicate in executive session, with general counsel		X		X	X	X	X
6. Review and approve Academic and Health Affairs Committee meeting planner for the upcoming year	X			X			
7. Monitor student academic success.		X		X	X	X	X
B. Academic degrees, programs and structure							
1. Review and approve all proposed new domestic and international undergraduate, graduate, and professional educational programs, research programs and proposed new degrees , academic program proposals when required by the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) policy, and monitor existing programs.			X				
2. Review and approve proposals for the organization of the University's academic health center, including the affiliation between VCU and the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority.			X				
3. Review and approve proposals for the organization of the academic structure of the University when required by SCHEV policy .			X				
C. Coordination of academic activities of health sciences schools and affiliation with the VCU Health System Authority							
1. Receive reports on the relationship and affiliation between the University and the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority and other institutions, organizations, laboratories, and clinics involved in the University's academic health center,			X				

A=Annually; Q=Quarterly; AN=As Necessary	Frequency			Planned Timing				
	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 based on Fiscal Year (July – June)	A	Q	AN	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
				Sep	Dec	Feb	May	
including reviewing program coordination between the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority and academic and research programs.								
D. Academic research activities								
1. Review and approve research policies deemed to require Board of Visitor action.			X					
2. Receive reports on research advances of faculty, interdisciplinary groups, and VCU institutes and centers.			X					
3. Receive reports on the relationship of research activities to local, regional, national and international economic development.			X					
4. Report annually on the state of the VCU research enterprise including the total research awards, expenditures, trends, and outlook.	X				-			X
E. Faculty and staff employment, rights and responsibilities, and professional development								
1. Review and approve policies governing the compensation, tenure, promotion, recruitment, retention, rights and responsibilities, and development of the faculty.			X					
2. Review and approve policies and programs on equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.			X					
3. Afford an opportunity for direct communication between Board members and members of the faculty.			X					
4. Afford an opportunity for direct communication between Board members and members of the staff.			X					
F. Admissions and retention								
1. Review and approve policies governing the admission and retention of undergraduate, graduate and professional students to all divisions of the University.			X					
G. Accreditation								
1. Review and approve policies and reports related to departmental, school, and institutional accreditation.			X					
H. Academic Success of Students								
1. Review nominations and make the final selection of the recipient(s) of the Board of Visitors Award at a regularly scheduled meeting in the spring of each year.	X						X	
2. Review topical areas of interest related to the student experience and overall student engagement.		X			X	X	X	X
3. Review major fall and spring activities.	X					X		X
4. Review and monitor student academic success.			X					

A=Annually; Q=Quarterly; AN=As Necessary	Frequency			Planned Timing			
	A	Q	AN	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 based on Fiscal Year (July – June)				Sep	Dec	Feb	May
I. Academic Success of Student Athletes							
1. Review and oversee matters relating to the intercollegiate athletic program.	X		X				
J. Student Rights and Responsibilities							
1. Review matters (including approving policies) relating to student rights, responsibilities, conduct, concerns and discipline, including matters relating to the VCU Honor System.			X				
2. Review and oversee matters relating to student government, and appropriate student participation in University governance.			X				
3. Review and oversee matters relating to student organizations and extracurricular activities.			X				
K. Student Services							
1. Review and oversee matters relating to financial aid, housing services, counseling, student health, and other student services			X				
2. Review and approve policies relating to student records.			X				
3. Review report on campus safety that provides awareness of federal reporting requirement, general overview of VCU safety-related statistics, and ongoing efforts to improve safety.	X					X	
L. Student Communications							
1. Afford an opportunity for direct communication between Board members and students.			X				
M. International Partnerships and Collaboration							
1. Review and approve international partnerships			X				

Revised: 8/5/2013 12:53 PM
Approved by BOV: Sept. 19. 2013
Revised: 03/11/2019
Approved by BOV: 03/22/2019
Approved by BOV: 09/18/2020
Approved by BOV: 09/16/2021
Revised: 09/01/2023
Approved by BOV: (TBD)



Nibir K. Dhar, Ph.D., professor
CCI Eminent Scholar
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Director of Virginia Microelectronics Center
VCU College of Engineering

Presentation overview

Dr. Dhar will discuss the Convergence Lab Initiative and its strategy for advanced research and development, education, workforce and growth, funded with \$27M over three years by the Department of Defense. He will cover how the technologies housed under the Initiative (microelectronics, AI/ML and neuromorphic, biomedical, arts, quantum/photonics) will come together with federal and corporate partners to build new capabilities for future investment and growth.

Bio

Dr. Dhar is a fellow of SPIE and OSA (OPTICA) and a senior member of IEEE. Dr. Dhar received a Ph.D. in Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE) from the University of Maryland at College Park. In 2021, he became a professor at the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at VCU. Dr. Dhar is currently the director of the Virginia Microelectronics Center at VCU. He served for 33 years in the Department of Defense. He led the EO/IR imaging technology for the US Armed Forces. He joined Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate (NVESD) in 2014 as the Chief Scientist. At NVESD, he was involved with the R&D programs in materials, detectors, FPAs, optics, image processing, and EO/IR systems in the imaging science and technology area. He founded a workforce development effort called Innovative Discovery Science Platform (iDISPLA) that focused on STEM education and the talent pipeline for the Department of Defense. He served as the program manager at DARPA. Before DARPA, he was the branch chief and team lead in EO/IR technology at the Army Research Laboratory.

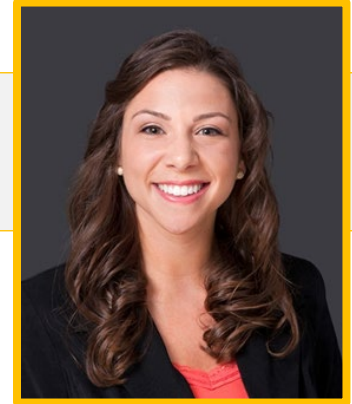
He received numerous R&D achievement awards, technology transition awards, and industry awards for his technical contributions in the field of Infrared science. He received the DARPA technology transition award (Results Matter) in 2013, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service in 2014, the Henry Levingston lifetime achievement Award in 2016, and a Technical excellence award in 2018.

He is a member of the Optical Society of America, IEEE, Eta Kappa Nu IEEE honor society, and member of Golden Key honor society. He served as an adjunct professor at George Mason University and the University of Illinois at Chicago and mentored twelve Ph.D. students in various subjects through these activities. He has published numerous technical papers and book chapters.



Kim McKnight, Ph.D.

Director, VCU Center for Teacher Leadership
Executive director, RTR Teach Residency
School of Education



Presentation overview

Dr. McKnight will discuss the RTR Teacher Residency, the program she leads, and its significant impact. Over the last 13 years, the program has been awarded over \$35 million dollars through federal, state, school divisions, and local philanthropic organizations to recruit, train, support, and retain teachers and school leaders in the Commonwealth.

Bio

Dr. Kim McKnight has directed the expansion of VCU's RTR teacher residency program in Chesterfield County Public Schools, Petersburg City Public Schools, and helped create graduate certificate pathways that increase the number of teachers in hard to staff schools. Previously, she served as an education consultant for The Cameron Foundation and project coordinator for the first year-round school in Chesterfield County Public Schools, Bellwood Elementary. From 2014 to 2017, she was a BEST in CLASS coach for teachers in City of Richmond schools. Current research topics include building trust between teachers and their students' families, facilitating strong partnerships between residents and coaches during their residency year, and supporting area school divisions who are partners of RTR. McKnight was born in Richmond and is a former National Board certified elementary school teacher in the Greater Richmond area. Please visit teachrtr.org to learn more about VCU's teacher residency program.



F. Gerard Moeller, M.D., professor

Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine
Director, Wright Center for Clinical & Translational Research
Associate Vice President for Clinical Research
Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation

Presentation overview

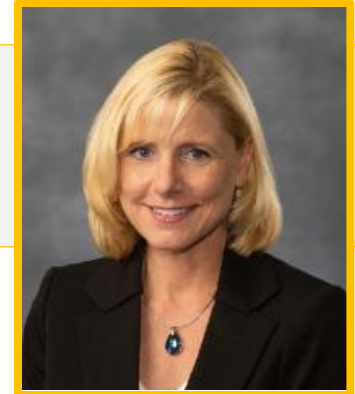
Dr. Moeller will discuss the recent funding of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) by the NIH for the next 7 years. He will discuss the national recognition of VCU in clinical research that comes with a CTSA grant, and provide an overview of the objective of that grant to Advance health equity through actively engaging diverse communities, training a diverse research workforce, and supporting translational science. He will give specific examples of high impact clinical research that the CTSA and the Wright Center have supported, including research highlighting the impact of extreme heat on healthcare costs and an innovative partnership with Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority to develop a tool kit for cities and counties to support evidence-based prevention and treatment methods to tackle the opioid overdose epidemic.

Bio

Dr. Moeller is a physician scientist who serves as the Associate Vice President for Clinical Research within the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation at Virginia Commonwealth University. He also serves as the Director of the C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research, which is VCU's clinical and translational science award funded research center. In addition, he is the VCU's Director of the Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies and Division Chair for Addictions within the Department of Psychiatry. He is board certified in Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine. He is internationally known for his research on the neurobiology of addictions as a tool to for medication develop for stimulant and opioid use disorder. He has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for his research since 1996, and currently is principal investigator on NIH grants from the National Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.



Amy Salisbury, Ph.D., R.N., professor
Director of Research, Institute for Women's Health
Associate Dean for Research, Scholarship, & Innovation
Steigleder Endowed Chair for Research
School of Nursing



Presentation overview

Dr. Salisbury will cover the NIH RECOVER Initiative in her presentation. VCU's School of Nursing is one of nine main pediatric hubs across the U.S., enrolling over 19,000 children, adolescents, and young adults, ages 0-25 into said Initiative. It is patient-centered and community-based and is the largest multi-site study in the U.S. focused on understanding, predicting, and treating post-acute sequelae from SARS-COV-2 infection (PASC) in people of all ages. The School is partnering with other VCU community-engaged programs, such as the HRSA-funded, VCU-SON Mobile Health and Wellness Program, to use novel methods to engage participants in their communities and also act as a bridge between research and care coordination.

Bio

Dr. Salisbury received a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychobiology from the University of Connecticut, a M.S. in Nursing from the University of Rhode Island, and is a licensed nurse practitioner in child and family psychiatry. She has expertise in the measurement and assessment of fetal and infant neurobehavior and sleep development. Her work includes longitudinal research examining the impact of prenatal substance use, maternal psychiatric conditions, and their treatments on neurodevelopmental outcomes. This work contributes to the evidence base for informed risk-benefit decisions for pregnant patients and their care providers and the development of novel interventions for improved outcomes for pregnant persons and their children. Dr. Salisbury joined the School of Nursing as the Associate Dean for Research in 2020, following a successful clinical research position at Women & Infants Hospital and the Alpert Medical School at Brown University for nearly 20 years. Since 2020, the research portfolio of the School of Nursing has grown by 354% in federally sponsored research. The School of Nursing has a shared vision of innovative, community-engaged research that is producing high-impact programs, interventions, and equitable health outcomes.



Vanessa B. Sheppard, Ph.D., professor
Interim Founding Dean, School of Population Health
Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Chair in Cancer Prevention and Control
Associate Director, Community Outreach Engagement & Disparities Research
Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Presentation overview

Dr. Sheppard's presentation will highlight the impact of her research program related to health inequities in Virginia. Examples of non-therapeutic intervention trials and cancer care delivery research will be discussed.

Bio

Dr. Vanessa B. Sheppard is Professor and Interim Founding Dean of the VCU School of Population Health. Prior to this appointment, she served as chair of Health Behavior and Policy in the VCU School of Medicine. Dr. Sheppard is the inaugural associate director of Community Outreach Engagement and Health Disparities Research at VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. She holds the Theresa B. Thomas Memorial Chair in Cancer Prevention and Control. Prior to joining VCU, Dr. Sheppard was tenured at Georgetown University and Assistant Director for Disparities Research at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Recognized by the NIH as a health equity expert, her research has been supported by the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute for Nursing Research, the American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen, Inc., and other entities. In 2023, Dr. Sheppard was named the American Cancer Society's Researcher of the Year. This prestigious award recognized her outstanding contributions to cancer research, advocacy, and policy and her commitment to improving cancer care for patients and families. She is currently PI and MPI on awards focused on enhancing cancer care delivery and access to clinical research for populations typically underrepresented in cancer clinical research. Her novel interventions have been the first to address disparities in uptake and adherence to adjuvant systemic therapy and hereditary cancer care for Black and Latine populations.

As a scientist committed to impacting workforce diversity, she leads and has co-led initiatives funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Cancer Institute. Her administrative contributions include significant increases in institutional research funding, founding the Office of Health Equity and Disparities Research, developing the Massey Office of Community Engagement, and founding VCU's School of Population Health to address gaps in Virginia's public and population health workforce.



VCU

Program Announcement

Board of Visitors Meeting

September 15, 2023

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) requires a two-step process in the approval of new degree programs. The first step requires institutions to bring forward to the SCHEV Council a public announcement of intent to propose a new degree program followed by a 30-day comment period. We bring the intent to propose a new degree program (program announcement) to the VCU Board of Visitors (BOV) as an information item.

The full proposal will be presented to the BOV for approval over the course of the year.

VCU submitted the following new degree program announcement to SCHEV on September 1st, 2023:

1. Master of Science, Nursing