



VCU

Board of Visitors

**VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC AND HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

May 9, 2024

2:00 p.m.¹

**James Branch Cabell Library
901 Park Avenue – Room 303
Richmond, VA**

**DRAFT
MINUTES**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, *Chair*

Dr. V. Dale Jones, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Rooz Dadabhoy

Mr. Steven DeLuca

Ambassador Carmen Lomellin, *virtual pursuant to Code Section 2.2-3708.3(B)(3) where the member's principal residence is over 60 miles from the meeting location – Arlington, VA*

Mr. Keith Parker

Dr. Clifton Peay

Mr. P2 Sandhu

Hon. Todd Haymore, *Rector*

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. H. Benson Dendy, III

Hon. Peter Farrell

Ms. Ellen Fitzsimmons

Mr. Edward McCoy

Rev. Tyrone Nelson

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.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Michael Rao, *President*

Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, *Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Andrew Arroyo, *Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Jill Blondin, *Associate Vice Provost for Global Initiatives*

Dr. Hernan Bucheli, *Interim Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management and Student Success*

Dr. Joseph DiPiro, *Associate Vice President for Health Sciences, Faculty Affairs*

Dr. Aaron Hart, *Vice President for Student Affairs*

Dr. Srirama Rao, *Vice President for Research and Innovation*

Ms. Jamie Stillman, *Executive Director of Academic Operations, Office of the Provost*
Presidential Cabinet of VCU

VCU students, faculty and staff

Members of the media

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair of the Academic and Health Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The public was able to view the open session of the meeting via livestream at <https://mssvideo.vcu.edu/BOV>.

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Parris-Wilkins asked the committee to consider approving three items that were provided in advance for review: the committee meeting minutes for March 21, 2024, the committee meeting minutes for April 11, 2024, and the proposal to create a BS degree in Exercise Physiology in the College of Humanities and Sciences. On a motion duly made and seconded, each of the two items were approved. The meeting minutes are posted at <https://bov.vcu.edu/meetings/minutes/>. The program proposal brief is attached hereto as **Attachment A** and is made a part hereof.

REPORTS

Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos and Dr. Jill Blondin provided an update on VCU's international enrollment strategy and progress. Dr. Sotiropoulos noted that significant progress had been made toward the goal of enrolling 2,000 international students by 2028. Applications and acceptances are up in all degree categories; enrollments will be reported this fall. Dr. Blondin used SCHEV data to provide an overview of the percentage of international students at the five R1 institutions in Virginia. It was noted that SCHEV counts VCU Qatar students as international, while VCU does not. The members requested a definition of international students at a future meeting. Mr. Sandhu and Ms. Dadabhoy offered their support in the recruitment of students from India. Ambassador Lomellin encouraged increasing connections at embassies. A copy of the Drs. Sotiropoulos and Blondin's presentation is attached hereto as **Attachment B** and is made a part hereof.

Dr. Joseph DiPiro provided updates on issues pertaining to the health sciences schools and campus. Dr. Parris-Wilkins noted the significance of the new Adult Special Needs Dental Clinic as a vital need in the community and thanked Dr. and Mrs. Roger Wood whose \$500,000 gift made the clinic possible. A copy Dr. DiPiro's presentation is attached hereto as *Attachment C* and is made a part hereof.

Dr. Srirama Rao provided an update on the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation's collaborative efforts to create efficiencies and reduce administrative burden. The report highlighted streamlining processes to enhance human research and clinical trials, and effectively sharing data and informatics. He also provided a brief update on VCU's 2024 Research Weeks. As a followup the board requested Dr. Srirama Rao to provide a full report on research institutes and centers at a future committee meeting. A copy of Dr. Srirama Rao's presentation is attached hereto as *Attachment D* and is made a part hereof.

GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION MANDATES

Dr. Parris-Wilkins reminded the committee that Rector Haymore said earlier this year that this committee would discuss whether now is the time to add another graduate mandate for our undergraduate students. Specifically, whether incoming students should be required to take one of 12 courses on racial literacy in order to graduate from VCU. She noted that the committee is not discussing the content of the courses, but rather the graduation mandate.

Dr. Parris-Wilkins asked Provost Sotiropoulos to provide additional input. Dr. Sotiropoulos shared his support for the efforts of the faculty in their work to create the requirement and the courses to fulfill it while meeting every policy requirement throughout the four-year process. The faculty secured votes of affirmation and re-affirmation across our governing bodies. Dr. Sotiropoulos acknowledged the board's authority to determine university graduation mandates.

Dr. Valerie Robnolt, the faculty BOV representative, shared the faculty senate resolution and explained that this mandate was strongly supported by students and faculty and was vetted through the appropriate means. A copy the resolution is attached hereto as *Exhibit A*. A Some board members expressed concern about whether the board's involvement in this matter was governance or management. Legal counsel advised that legally the board has the authority, however exercising it is not a legal matter. When asked his position, President Rao acknowledged the board's authority and shared that he supports the courses. He suggested the provost come back to the board with information about general education requirements.

Dr. Clifton Peay made a motion to delay the implementation of the mandated requirement and have senior leadership provide more information with regard to unanswered questions. The motion was seconded and then there was deliberation. Multiple board members said that they needed more information and that leadership should share this information at the June meeting.

The Provost shared that the bulletin for courses was launched in March and students have begun registering, so it is important to make a timely decision.

Mr. Steve DeLuca then made a motion that the university incorporate racial literacy courses as options within the existing Areas of Inquiry section of the General Education curriculum. After continued conversation Mr. DeLuca withdrew his motion.

Dr Peay then moved that the matter be postponed so that the full board can engage in conversation around the topic at the full Board of Visitors meeting on May 10, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Parris-Wilkins adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Attachment A

Virginia Commonwealth University Proposed Program Brief Proposal to create a Bachelor of Science degree program in Exercise Physiology

Overview

Virginia Commonwealth University seeks approval for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Exercise Physiology at the Monroe Park Campus in Richmond, VA. The proposed program will be administered by the Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences in the College of Humanities and Sciences.

The intent of the Exercise Physiology degree is to prepare students to serve as leaders of fitness, health and conditioning programs in corporate, commercial, university, and clinical settings that provide exercise programming for apparently healthy individuals and those with chronic disease. Within the Exercise Physiology Core, students will develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors to evaluate health habits and risk factors, conduct fitness assessments, write appropriate exercise prescriptions, and motivate individuals to modify negative health habits as well as maintain positive lifestyle behaviors. Students will develop a solid science foundation and understanding of the human body through additional science courses (e.g., Biology, Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Chemistry, and Psychology) that will support their understanding of Exercise Physiology concepts. Other unique strengths of the proposed BS degree in Exercise Physiology include advanced coursework in both applied and clinical Exercise Physiology, research practices within Exercise Physiology, and career development/job skill acquisition through experiential learning. Additionally, students will be eligible to take the internationally recognized American College of Sports Medicine Exercise Physiologist (ACSM-EP) certification examination during their last semester in the program.

Delivery Format

The proposed program will be offered in a face-to-face delivery format.

Target Implementation Date

Fall 2025

Demand and Workforce Development

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows a growth of 10% for exercise physiologists and 12% job growth for health educators. Similarly, the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) shows growth for both fields, with exercise physiologists demonstrating 12% growth and 14% growth for health educators.

External Competition

There currently are no public institutions in Virginia that offer a degree program in Exercise Physiology. There are six institutions that offer B.S. degrees in Kinesiology and Exercise Science: George Mason University, Hampton University, Longwood University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, and University of Virginia. Additionally, the College of William and Mary offers a B.A./B.S. in Sports, Kinesiology, and Physical Education/Fitness.

Target Population

The intended target audience for the program is individuals interested in a broad range of careers such as exercise physiologists and health educators. This degree program is also intended for students who are interested in pursuing advanced degrees in fields such as physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Impact on Existing Programs

VCU currently offers a BS degree in Health, Physical Education, and Exercise Science (HPEX) with two concentrations: Exercise Science and Health Science. The proposed degree will replace the concentration in Exercise Science.

Impact on Faculty

The Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences at VCU has eight existing full-time faculty positions (8 FTEs). These faculty will be involved with teaching core and other required courses in the proposed B.S. degree program. The department also has three part-time faculty and two adjunct faculty that will be involved with teaching core and other required courses in the proposed B.S. degree program.

Funding

The proposed degree program will therefore require a total of 10.5 FTE by the target year 2028-2029. No additional faculty will be needed for this degree program, therefore no additional resources are needed. The program will be supported by resources already in place to sustain existing academic programs, including student support services (enrollment services, library support, and career services) and faculty support services.

Alignment with the VCU Mission

The proposed B.S. degree in Exercise Physiology aligns closely with VCU's stated institutional mission. At its core, Exercise Physiology is a "translational" academic discipline that fosters integration of multidisciplinary basic and applied research to "improve the quality of human health". The proposed degree core will seek to build on a strong science foundation (i.e., biology, chemistry, human anatomy, human physiology, and psychology) to support our students' understanding of the complex, integrative aspects of the acute responses and chronic adaptations to an exercise stimulus. Exercise Physiologists, and therefore the field of Exercise Physiology, benefits from historical and current "interdisciplinary collaborations", that have continued to improve our understanding of the role of exercise in improving the human condition with a focus on the most effective ways to "preserve and restore health for all people". For the proposed degree this will be accomplished through a curriculum with "core values of diversity, inclusion and equity that provide safe, trusting and supportive" classroom experiences that exceed the needs of our diverse study body. Additionally, the program will provide "real world" internship opportunities "that furthers civic engagement, inquiry, discovery, and innovation"

Next Steps

- April 25 – University Committee on Academic Affairs (UC-AA) Meeting
- May 2 - University Council (UC) Meeting
- Electronic Vote - President's Cabinet
- May 10 - Board of Visitor's Meeting (BOV)

Attachment B

VCU's Enrollment Strategy: International Segment

Academic and Health Affairs Committee

May 9, 2024

Fotis Sotiropoulos, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jill E. Blondin, Ph.D.

Associate Vice Provost for Global Initiatives



VCU International Enrollment Strategy

By **2028** VCU will **double** our international student enrollment.

Fall 2022: **Baseline**

999

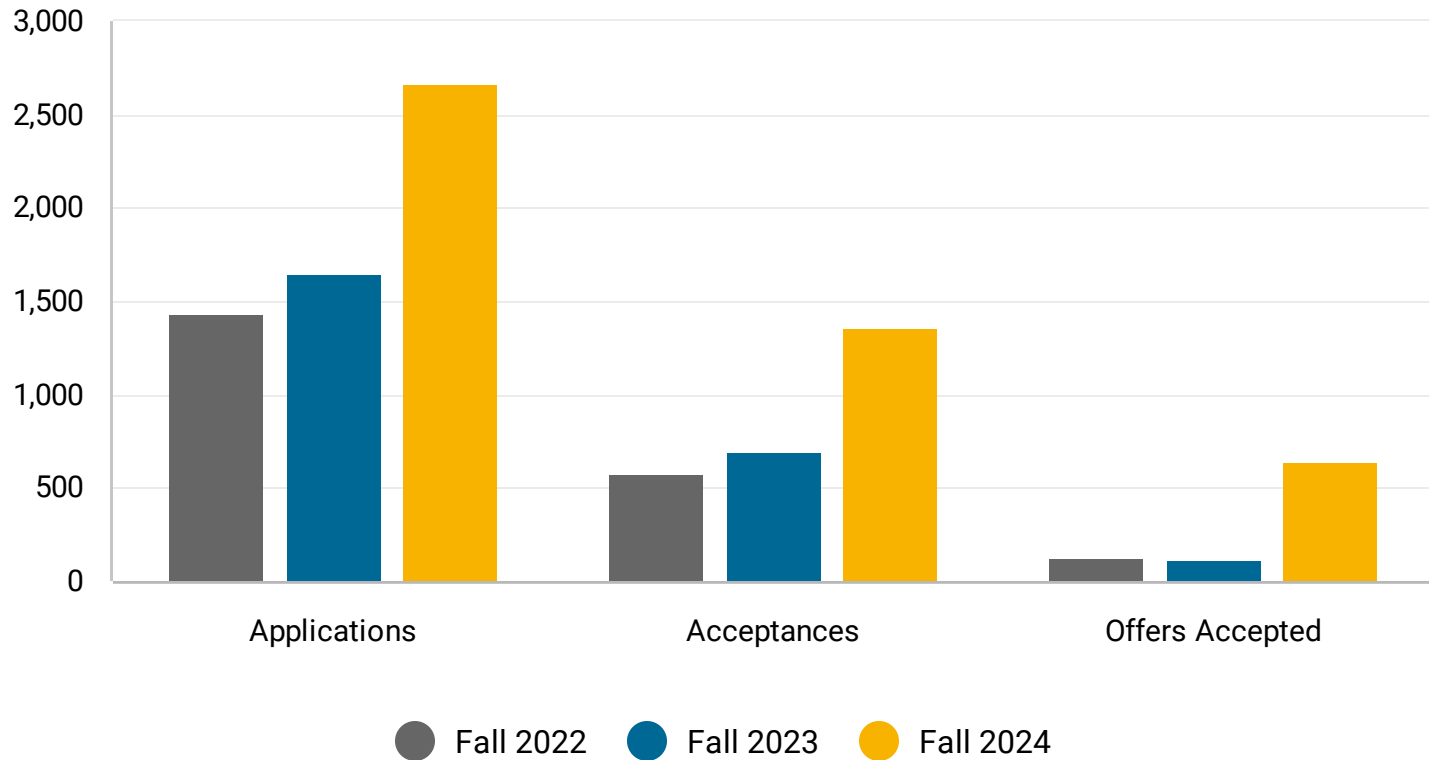
Fall 2028: **Goal**

2,000

Investments are making a difference

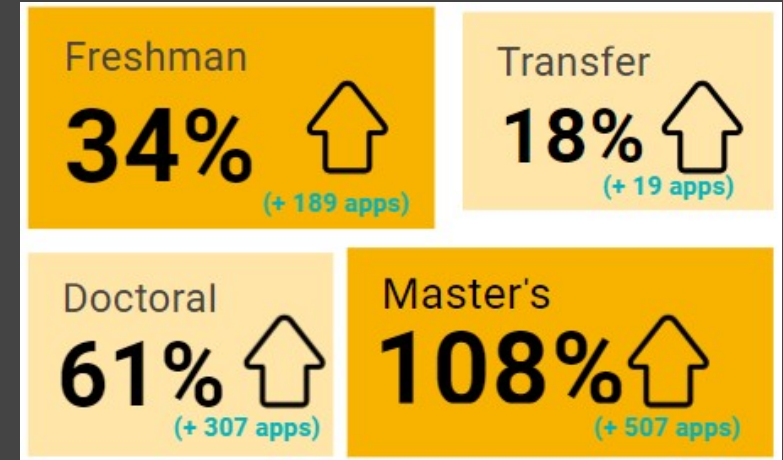
International Admissions:

Year-to-Date (as of May 3, 2024)



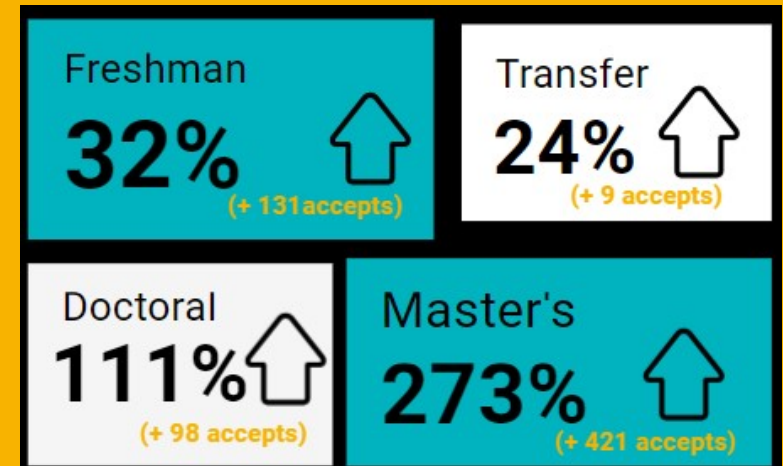
2024 Applications

over 2023 (as of May 3, 2024)



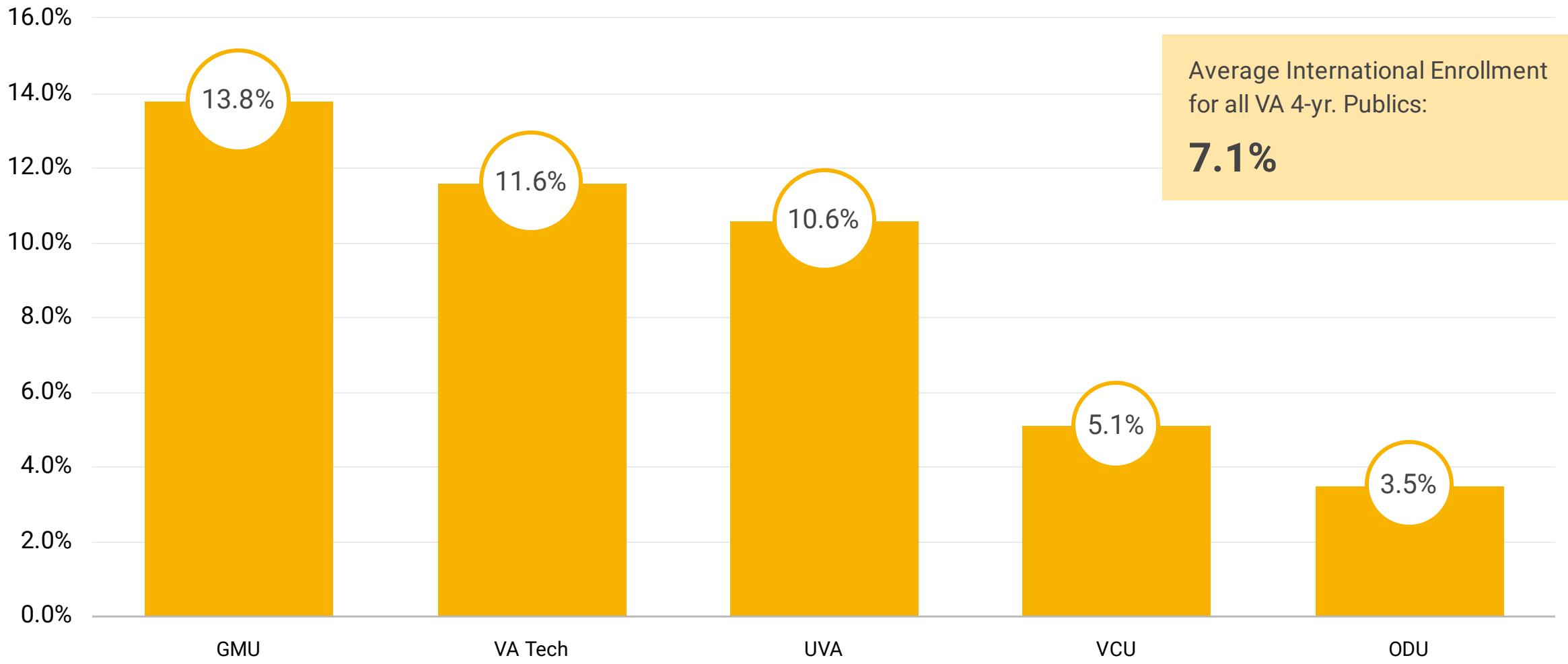
2024 Acceptances by VCU

over 2023 (as of May 3, 2024)



Percentage of International Enrollments

VA R1 schools



Fall 2023, source: SCHEV

Launching international enrollment strategies

In the past year, VCU has elevated international enrollment internally



Addressed barriers

- I-20 process moved to GEO
- Internal Transcript review VS asking applicant to apply externally
- English language requirements updated



Facilitated innovation

- Graduate Education Innovation Program with a special tuition rate
- Assist academic units with application process
- Focus on knowledge acquisition through GEO-led workshop series



Elevated collaboration

- Hired Director of Global Partnerships & Outreach
- Increased Embassy engagement
- Engaged VCU leadership

Global Education Office



Office of the President

Strategic Enrollment Management



Office of the Provost



Student Affairs



Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation



Institutional Research & Decision Support



Colleges, Schools, Interdisciplinary Units

Collaboration

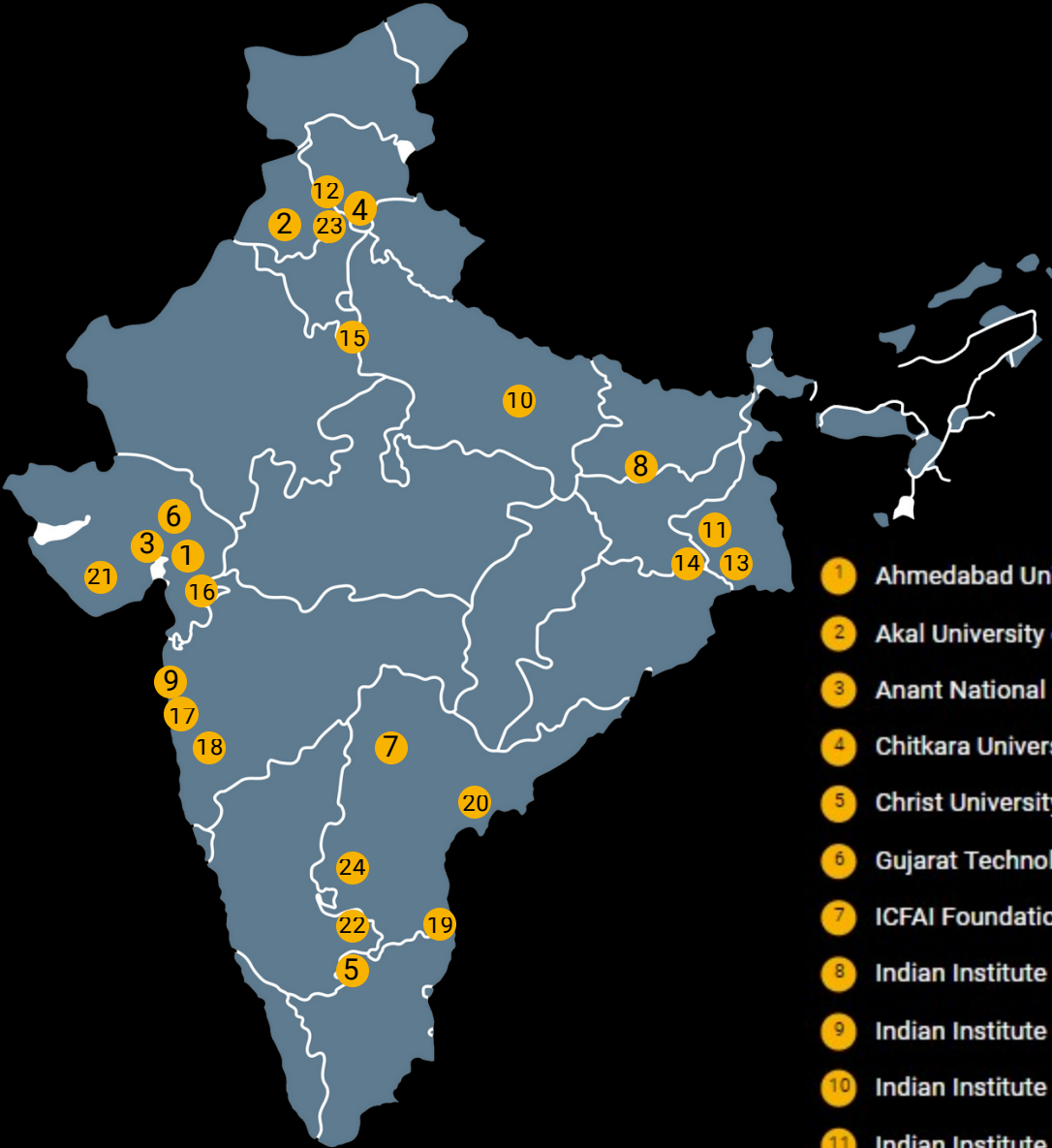
The collective and enhanced commitment of units across VCU's Richmond campuses and VCU Qatar has provided critical momentum.



Snapshot of VCU International Partnerships



India



- 1 Ahmedabad University
- 2 Akal University (Kaldigarh Trust)
- 3 Anant National University
- 4 Chitkara University
- 5 Christ University
- 6 Gujarat Technological University
- 7 ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education
- 8 Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bodh Gaya
- 9 Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay
- 10 Indian Institute of Technology (BHU)
- 11 Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
- 12 Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences
- 13 Jain University
- 14 Liver Foundation West Bengal
- 15 Lovely Professional University
- 16 Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
- 17 Manipal University
- 18 MIT World Peace University (WPU)
- 19 Mohan Babu University
- 20 National Institute of Design
- 21 Nirma University
- 22 NITTE (Deemed to be University)
- 23 Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research
- 24 Presidency University

International enrollment plan moving forward

Next Steps



- 1 Use international partnerships as enrollment drivers
- 2 Identify and implement partnership-driven recruitment pipelines
- 3 Improve performance-based funding models for internationalization
- 4 Enhance and coordinate communication and yield efforts
- 5 Consider special tuition rate for visiting international students
- 6 Continue building infrastructure and improving enrollment processes
- 7 Expand the number of non-thesis master's degrees
- 8 Improve global rankings
- 9 Create a culture of care

Discussion

Attachment C

Report from Health Sciences

Joseph DiPiro, PharmD
Associate VP for Health Sciences

For
Marlon Levy, MD, MBA
Interim Senior Vice President for Health
Sciences and CEO VCU Health



Highlights

Former Director of CMS, **Don Berwick** featured as Parrott Lecture Speaker March 21st at CHP urging for a reorientation towards values-driven policies and actions to promote health equity and well-being.

Nearly 250 VCU Health physicians and related medical professionals recognized as “Top Docs”

Health Professions fundraising record for FY24 at \$4.2M

Residency Match Day

Medicine – 99% match rate, VCU, Hopkins, YNHH, UVa, Vanderbilt, WF Baptist, Georgetown, NYU

Pharmacy – 88% match rate, VCU, Hopkins, UPenn, Georgetown, UPitt, Emory, NY-Presb, Duke, St. Jude

Dentistry – Nation leading 97% clinical board pass rate

US News WR Rankings

Health Professions	Health Administration #3
	Nurse Anesthesia #6
	Rehabilitation Counselling #6
	Occupational Therapy #14
	Physical Therapy #29
Medicine	#64 (research & primary care)
Pharmacy	#19
Nursing	#31 BSN, #78 DNP
Dentistry	No USNWR national rankings (#17 in NIH funding)

Student Wellbeing

- Focus on food and housing insecurity
- Gather data on student needs in each of the schools
- Subject of recent health sciences retreat with Dr. Aaron Hart's team

Health Sciences Enrollment

- Positive 5-year growth, particularly in undergraduate programs
- Stable enrollment in first-professional programs
- Opportunity for further growth in undergraduate enrollment in Health Professions, Pharmacy, and Nursing

Accreditation

- Rehabilitation Counselling received full 8-year reaccreditation by CACREP
- Medicine – awaiting preliminary report, June LMCE meeting review

Organization Growth and Realignment

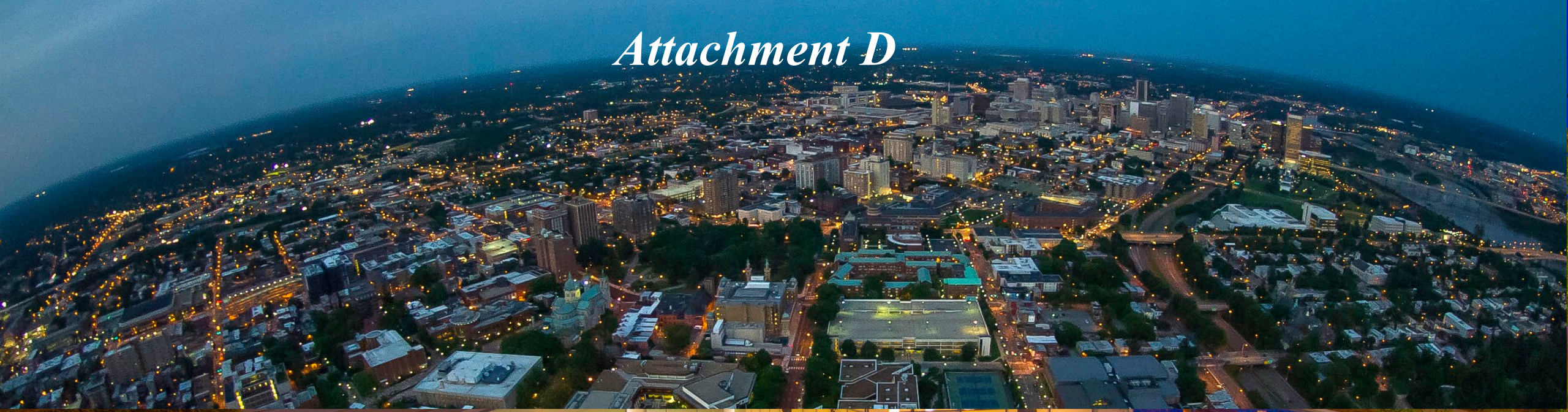
- Health Sciences Pathways
 - Expand accelerated / guaranteed admissions to graduate and professional programs
- BS Pharmaceutical Sciences approved by SCHEV
- School of Medicine:
 - Precertification MS in Anatomy
 - Renaming Anatomy & Neurobiology to Neuroscience
 - Merging Physiology & Biophysics, Human & Mol Genetics, Biochem & Mol Biology into one department
- School of Dentistry: Establishing Adult Special Needs Dental Clinic (\$500,000 gift from Dr. and Mrs. Roger Wood).

Recruitment and Appointments

- Mary K. Daly, MD, Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
- Huiping Zho, PhD, Interim Chair of Microbiology and Immunology
- Fadi Salloum, PhD, Interim Chair, Physiology & Biophysics
- Updates on Dean searches:
 - College of Health Professions
 - School of Nursing
 - School of Population Health

Discussion

Attachment D



Creating efficiencies and reducing administrative burden in human research

P. Srirama Rao, Ph.D.

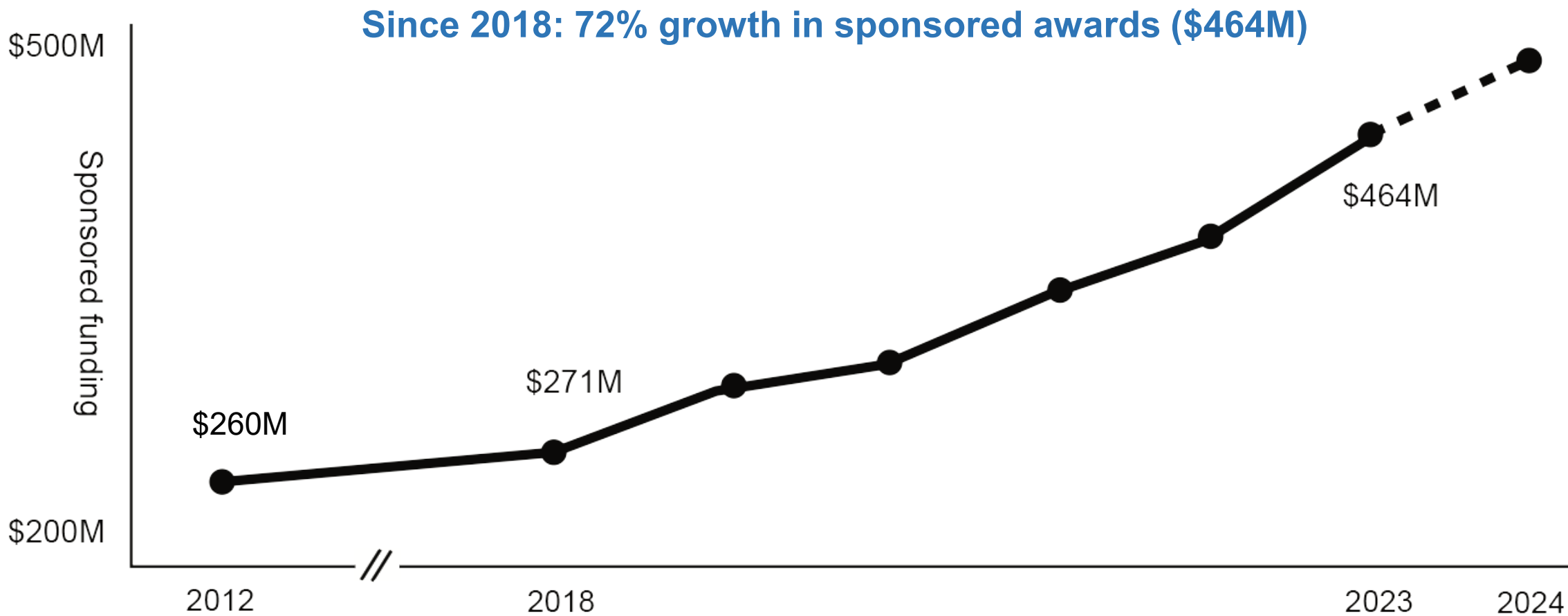


VCU

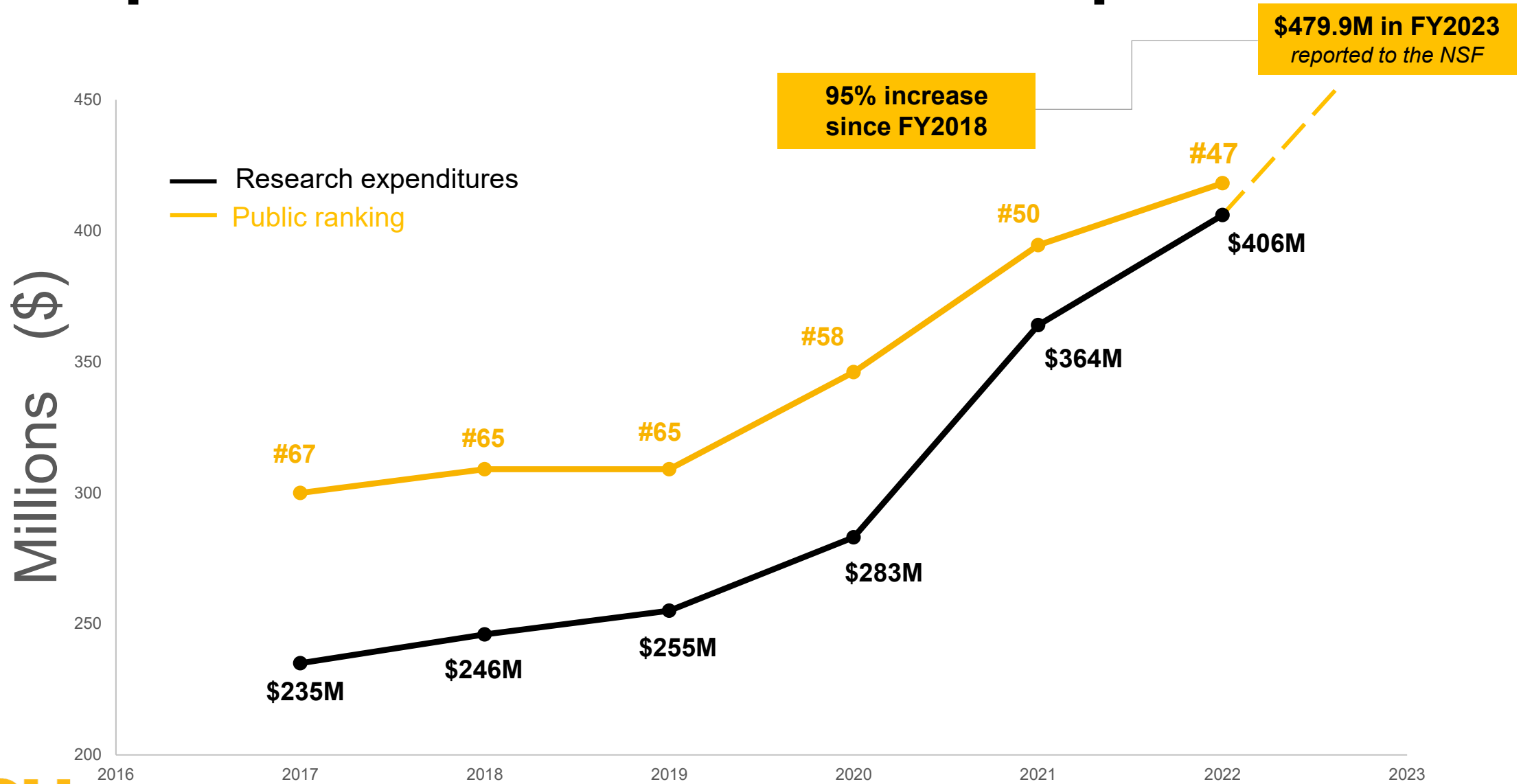
Research and Innovation

WE ARE THE UNCOMMON.

VCU Research is growing exponentially



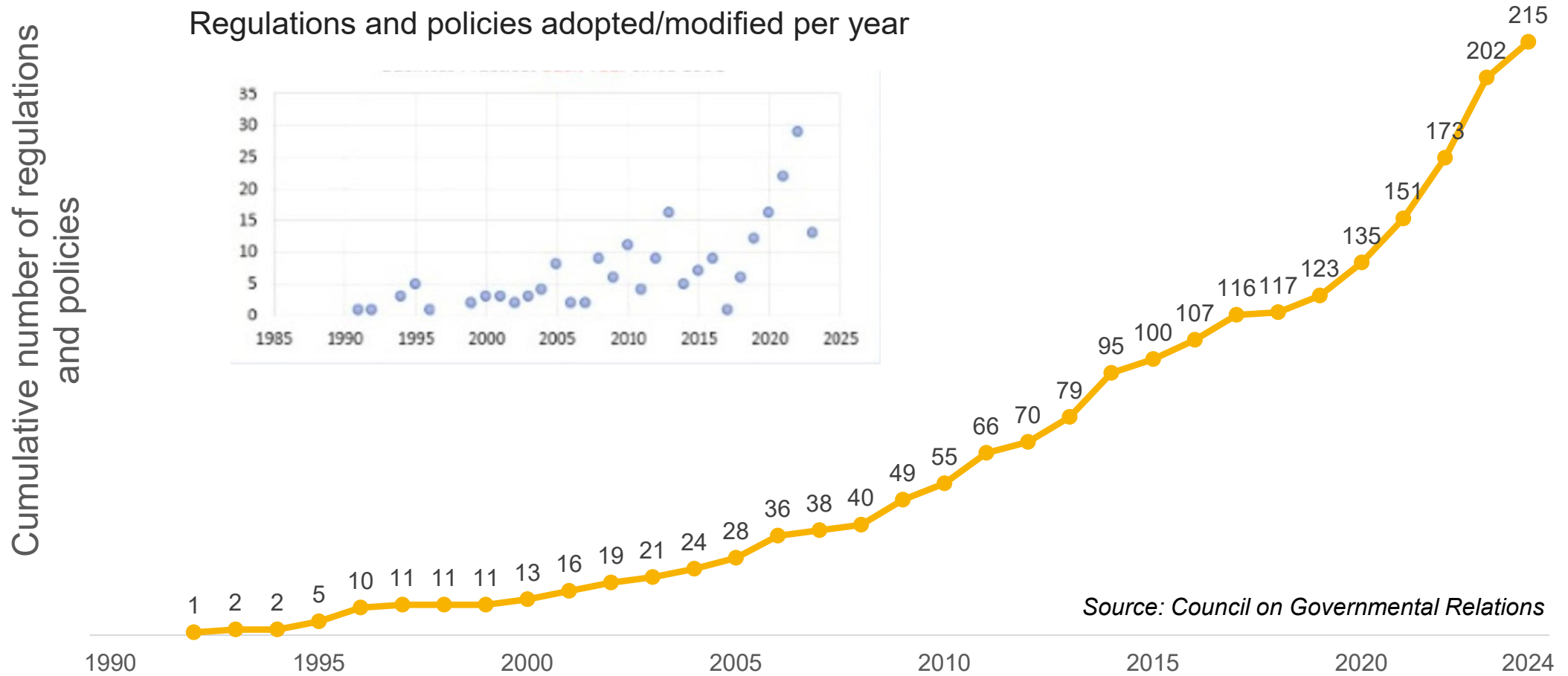
An update on VCU's research expenditures



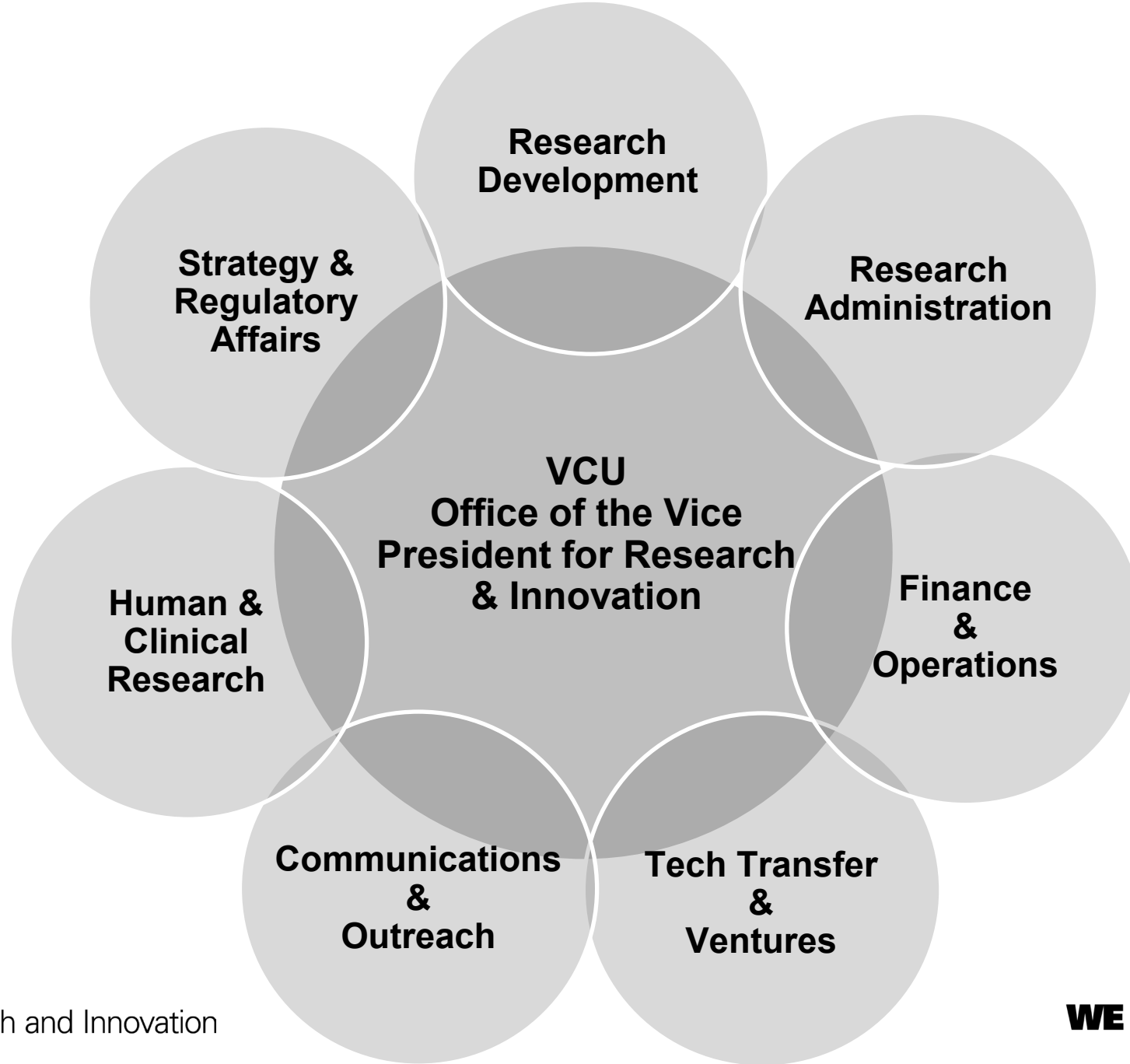
VCU

Research and Innovation

Since 2013, there has been a **172% increase** in total regulations and policies adopted/modified that affect federal research



Source: Council on Governmental Relations







Streamlining processes for human research and clinical trials

HUMAN RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS INITIATIVE



CO-CHAIRS

Arturo P. Saavedra, M.D.
*Dean,
School of Medicine*

Gerry Moeller, M.D.
*Associate vice president for
clinical research, OVPRI*



SUB-COMMITTEES



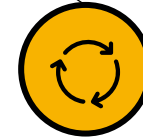
STRATEGIC



REGULATORY



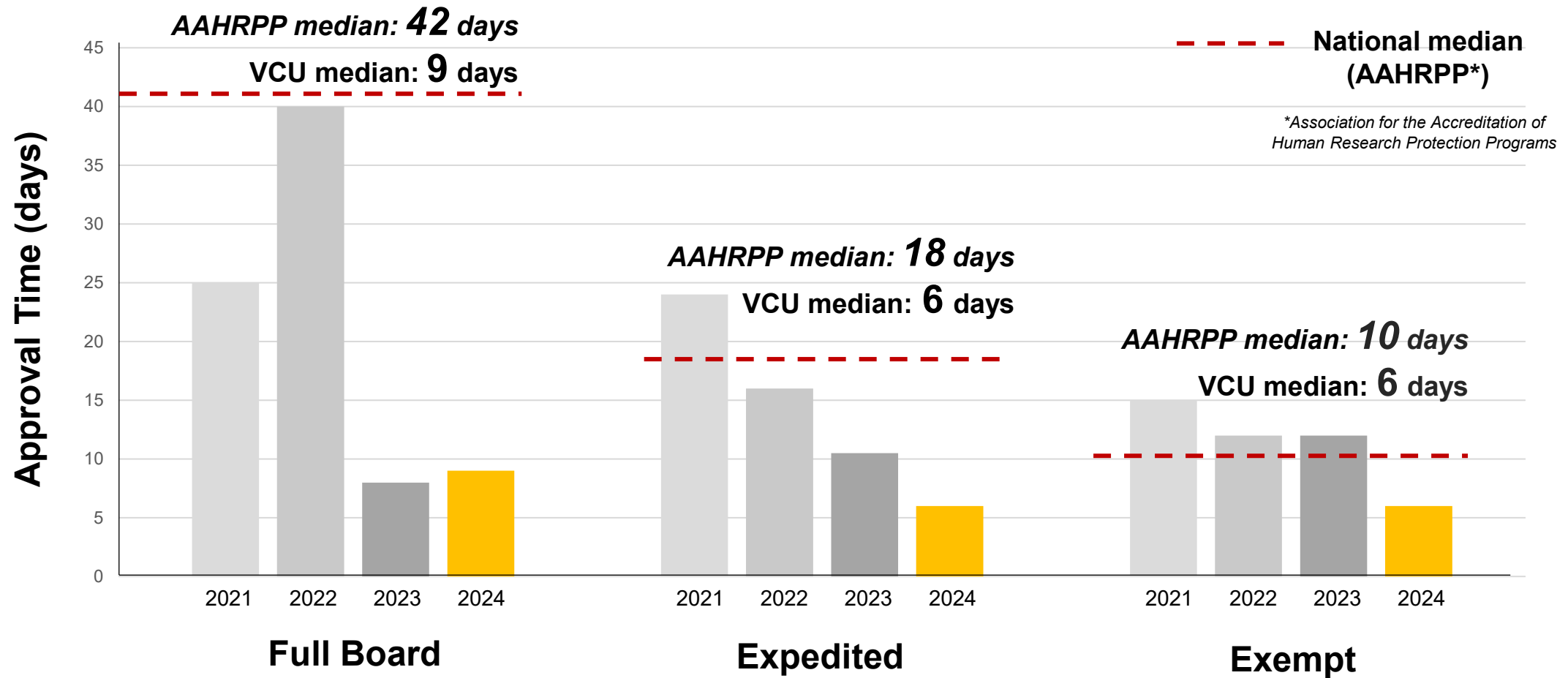
BIO-INFORMATICS



OPERATIONS

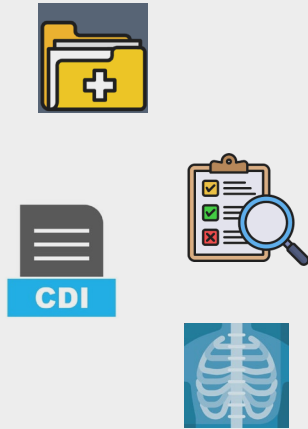


Improving VCU IRB turnaround time



Managing secure data and informatics

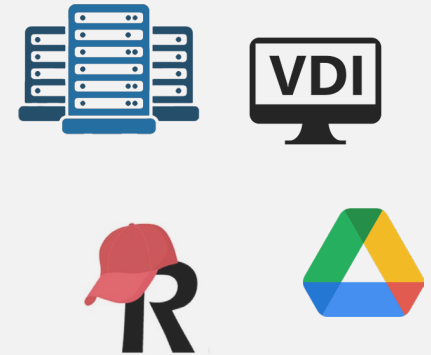
PROTECTED DATA



REGULATIONS/POLICY

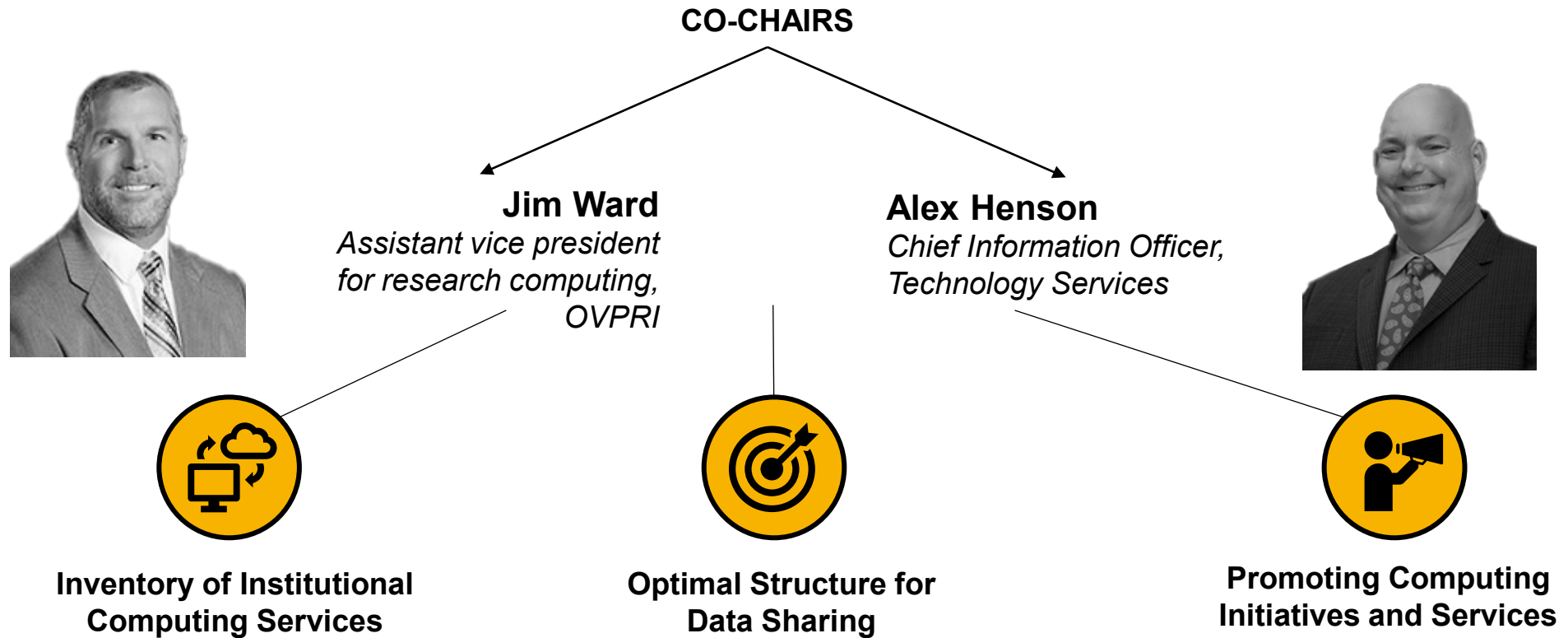


PROCESSING/STORAGE



Secure sharing of data and informatics

Research Computing Environment Review Committee





VCU

Research Weeks 2024

UNLIMITED IMPACT



VCU

Research and Innovation

WE ARE THE UNCOMMON.

50+ Research Weeks events across our campuses in April 2024

VPRI's
State of the
Research (R)

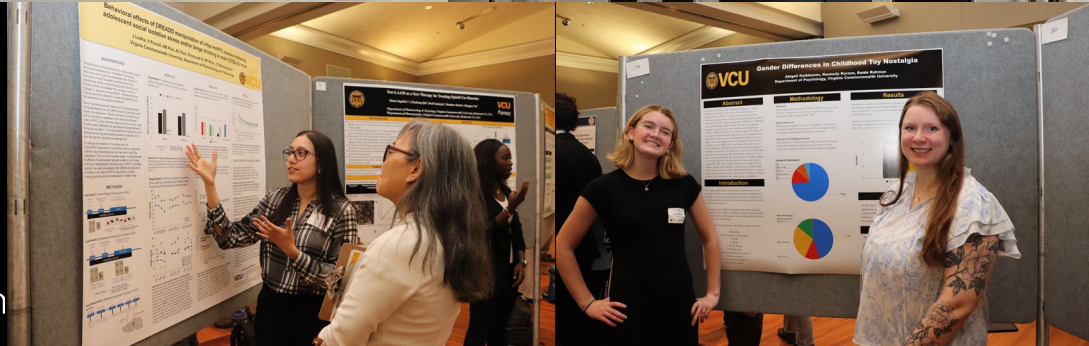


Keynote address by
19th CDC director (L)



Engineering
Research Showcase (L)

Graduate (L) and
undergraduate (R) poster
symposiums





Thank you!

P. Srirama Rao, Ph.D.



VCU Research and Innovation

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