PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS

Your generosity has once again been a catalyst for a remarkable year of advancing knowledge, capabilities and progress at VCU Massey Cancer Center. It is my great pleasure to share this Philanthropic Review with you.

The 2017 fiscal year was defined by the successful application for renewal of our designation from the National Cancer Institute. The application review and site visit were highly rigorous, but we were well-prepared and well-positioned, thanks to intense focus over the last five years fueled by your steadfast support. The result was the best report from our peer reviewers that we have ever received. I have never been more proud of the researchers, clinicians, staff members and community members whose commitment to our mission was validated so strongly in this review process.

I am eager to continue this momentum as we embark on the execution of Vision 2021, the strategic plan that will ensure the alignment of our mission, goals and priorities over the next five years. Attaining NCI Comprehensive status remains a top priority for Massey, VCU and VCU Health, as indicated by the reflection of Vision 2021 priorities as key components of the Make It Real Campaign, the largest university-wide fundraising endeavor in VCU’s history. Obtaining this elevated distinction will bring added recognition that, in turn, will bolster our cancer research by retaining and attracting top talent, grant funding, philanthropic support and state funding.

Throughout this report, I am proud to share just a few of the scientific breakthroughs, clinical advances and other notable achievements that your gifts have helped support. I hope you connect with us throughout the year to stay abreast of scientific advancements, new ways we are serving our patients and the growing cadre of leaders who are helping position us as a preeminent cancer research institution.

Your investment is a demonstration of advocacy for our ultimate mission of creating a world without cancer. I am grateful to continue to earn your support and partnership.

Thank you.

Gordon D. Ginder, MD
Lipman Chair in Oncology
Director, VCU Massey Cancer Center

“...I have never been more proud of our researchers, clinicians, staff members and community members.”
LEGACY OF A LIFETIME

Prior to her death at age 102 in January 2017, Jeanette Lipman’s legacy at Massey Cancer Center was already profound. One of the cancer center’s founding philanthropists, Lipman made numerous transformational gifts to the cancer center over her lifetime, including the establishment of the Eric and Jeanette Lipman Endowed Chair, held by director Gordon Ginder, and several research funds including the Carol Jean Lipman MacFarlane and Ann Debra Lipman Cancer Research Fund, named in honor of her two daughters both lost at a young age to breast cancer.

Following her death, the legacy was compounded with estate gifts to Massey totaling $2.5 Million. The gifts supplemented the previously established research fund, established a new Jeanette S. Lipman Cardio Oncology Research Fund and qualified for the Glasgow Incentive, a match that doubled the gifts’ impact to $4.5 Million.

“Jeanette and her late husband, Eric] were extremely committed to VCU Massey Cancer Center... She served as a member of our Advisory Board from its inception through her death, and her generous investment in science and medical research has had lasting impact on Massey Cancer Center’s growth,” said Dr. Gordon Ginder.

“She had a spirit of grace, dignity, strength and generosity. There is no doubt our community is a better place because of her philanthropic spirit.”

— Mike Gracik

MASSEY CLUB

Massey Club is a dedicated group of philanthropic leaders who have a strong tradition of unrestricted annual giving of $1,000 or more within a single fiscal year. The need for contributions from our community of donors has never been greater. Limited federal funding hinders our progress and could prevent promising breakthroughs from ever becoming realized. Massey Club gifts are used immediately and allow us to address the urgent priorities of the cancer center.

From July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017:

463 Massey Club donor families contributed
more than $1.3 M in unrestricted annual giving funds
with an average gift of $2,710.

Overall, Massey Club donors generously contributed 76% of our total unrestricted philanthropic funding.

These funds are essential to Massey’s ability to support innovative research, jump start new research concepts and recruit new scientific leaders.

IMPACT OF MASSEY CLUB INVESTMENT

Thanks in large part to Massey Club donors, two dynamic leaders joined Massey in the fall of 2016:

Dr. Vanessa Sheppard was welcomed as associate director for disparities research and co-leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control research program. She is leading Massey’s efforts to advance collaborative, high-priority disparities and minority health research and holds the Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Foundation Chair in Cancer Prevention and Control.

Dr. Patrick Nana-Sinkam is chair of the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine and is a member of both the Cancer Cell Signaling and Cancer Prevention and Control research programs, conducting leading research developing novel blood-based tests for the early detection of lung cancer. He holds the Linda Grandis Blatt Endowed Chair in Cancer Research.

One of Jeanette Lipman’s (center) numerous gifts to Massey honored a longtime staff member, Fran Householder (center left), with the naming of an office in the Goodwin Research Laboratory. Also pictured (left-right), Mike Gracik, longtime friend and Advisory Board member; Dr. Gordon Ginder, and Susan Gracik.

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PARADIGM SHIFT FOR PANCREATIC CANCER

In 2016 nearly 53,000 people were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and four out of every five diagnoses are expected to result in death, according to statistics from the National Cancer Institute. Thanks to philanthropic support, Massey researchers are taking exciting steps in combatting this deadly form of cancer.

Emma Fields, MD, led a study to look back and analyze pancreatic cancer patient outcomes using the traditional standard of care. By reviewing the records of all the patients who had surgery for pancreatic cancer at VCU Health from 2003–2015, it was revealed that 40 percent had negative margins after surgery, meaning no cancer was detected in the tissue surrounding a tumor site. Subsequent treatments received by each patient were then assessed and it was determined that, regardless of whether a patient received radiation or chemotherapy, a negative margin following surgery was the strongest indicator of a successful outcome.

This analysis prompted a next level of investigation to explore if giving patients neoadjuvant (pre-operative) therapy to shrink the tumor before surgery increases the chance of a negative margin during surgery, and if it makes surgery an option for some patients who were previously deemed inoperable.

Andrew Poklepovic, MD is testing this hypothesis in a Phase 1 clinical trial. The study is investigating the use of neoadjuvant therapy, consisting of at least two months of standard chemotherapy followed by concurrent chemoradiation for five-and-a-half weeks. The trial’s purpose is to determine the safety of the treatment. It will compare the response of 36 patients to three different dosage levels.

Dr. Fields is also the lead investigator on another Phase 1 clinical trial using CivaSheet®, an implantable, bioabsorbable form of internal radiation therapy that is placed in the area of the resected tumor during surgery. It emits targeted radiation in one direction and shields healthy tissue in the other for 50–70 days. In May, Massey’s team became the first in the world to implant the CivaSheet® in a patient for the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

“The interplay of research with new approaches to clinical care represented in our work to improve outcomes for pancreatic cancer patients is the epitome of our mission as an NCI-designated cancer center,” says Dr. Gordon Ginder. “Investing in science leads to changes in patient care that extends and even saves lives. These studies and their potential to move the needle in improving how we address a very challenging cancer are extremely exciting.”

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

PILOT STUDY SHOWS GENETIC TESTING MAY HELP GUIDE BREAST CANCER TREATMENT

Preliminary findings from a Massey Cancer Center pilot study suggest that it may be possible to use genetic testing to identify more breast cancer patients who would benefit from hormone therapy as an alternative to chemotherapy. Hormone therapy, also known as endocrine therapy, lowers estrogen levels or completely restricts estrogen from acting upon breast cancer cells, and its increased use could spare patients from the treatment side effects of chemotherapy and allow for more breast-conserving surgeries.

The findings were presented by Harry D. Bear, MD, PhD, surgical oncologist and director of Breast Health at VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Dr. Walter Lawrence, Jr., Chair in Surgical Oncology and member of Massey’s Developmental Therapeutics research program.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES UNDERREPRESENTED IN CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION

In the United States in 2017, it is estimated that more than 95,000 women were diagnosed with one of the three most common gynecologic malignancies: cervical, ovarian and uterine cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. A recent study underlines the ongoing need to improve representation of racial and ethnic minorities and elderly patients in national clinical trials.

The research led by Sarah Temkin, MD, director of Gynecologic Oncology, found significant disparities between demographic populations of patients diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer and participants in clinical trials for gynecologic cancers, most notably for ovarian cancer.

NEW TREATMENT FOR ABDOMINAL CANCER

VCU Massey Cancer Center recently became the only cancer care provider in Richmond and one of only a handful in the state to offer heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC), a complex procedure used to treat advanced abdominal cancers. During HIPEC, doctors perform cytoreduction surgery to remove all visible tumors. A heated chemotherapy solution is then circulated throughout the abdominal cavity to kill remaining cancer cells. Evidence has shown that HIPEC is an effective treatment for several types of abdominal cancers, with studies showing a clear benefit for certain patients.

To read many more examples of exciting scientific and clinical progress, visit massey.vcu.edu/about/blog.
BY THE NUMBERS

OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

$8.6 M
IN NEW GIFTS AND PLEDGES

13,458
GIFTS

11,077
DONORS

4,375
FIRST TIME GIFTS

$675
AVERAGE GIFT AMOUNT

38
ENDORSED COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS

14,000+
ENGAGED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

OUR RESEARCH

$36.2 M
in peer-reviewed research

93%
of total research funding is peer-reviewed

$13.2 M
in NCI peer-reviewed funding

58
projects funded by NCI peer reviewed grants

$446,950
awarded in pilot project funding

48
publications in high-impact cancer journals

9
pilot projects supported

20
researchers involved

36
new treatment trials opened

12
new cancer prevention and control studies opened

3
new Massey investigator-initiated trials opened

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Patrick Nana-Sinkam, MD, FCCP, Chair, Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine
Vanessa Sheppard, PhD, Associate Director of Disparities Research, Department of Health Behavior and Policy
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THE PATH FORWARD:
NCI RE-DESIGNATION SPARKS VISION 2021

Virginia’s first cancer center designated by the National Cancer Institute, Massey renewed its NCI designation for the 42nd year. The prestigious distinction was given to Massey for demonstrating superior capabilities in cancer education and in researching new and better cancer treatments as well as methods for prevention, detection and survivorship.

Massey’s renewal as an NCI-designated cancer center extends to 2022 and includes a Cancer Center Support Grant of $11 million to support research, clinical trials, education and training.

The re-designation was awarded after Massey submitted a 1,500-page competitive application and conducted a daylong site visit. Reviewers from NCI and other cancer centers evaluated Massey’s work over the past five years since it was last reviewed and its plans for the following five years, when the next review will occur.

Massey is the only NCI-designated center in the Richmond region and one of just two in Virginia. Of the 1,500 cancer centers in the U.S., only 69 have earned an NCI designation, placing Massey in the top 4 percent nationwide. Massey received a planning grant from the NCI in 1974 to establish a cancer center at VCU and earned NCI designation in 1975, continuously retaining that distinction ever since.

VISION 2021
Following the awarding of Massey’s NCI-designation renewal, Dr. Gordon Ginder, director, unveiled “Vision 2021,” a strategic plan that will drive focused financial and scientific investment aimed at earning designation as an NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center. Highlights of the strategic plan include:

MISSION
Massey serves as a comprehensive center of excellence in cancer research, prevention and control, patient care and education. Our scientific members are driven by their shared commitment to conduct high-impact, collaborative transdisciplinary research that is shaped by the particular cancer problems in our region, with a special focus on vulnerable populations.

VISION
Massey Cancer Center seeks to become the first NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Virginia. As a member of the NCI Cancer Center community, Massey will build upon its prestigious position and its longstanding commitment to the community it serves in order to:

- Impact the course of cancer research through contributions to the field, locally and nationally.
- Offer cancer treatment options based on the latest research findings.
- Help control risk, incidence, complications, and deaths related to cancer in Virginia and beyond.

Within VCU Health Sciences and Health System, Massey will continue to serve as the pre-eminent model of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, clinical excellence and advanced training.

FOUR CENTER-WIDE RESEARCH PRIORITIES
Massey has identified four strategic priorities that transcend research activities of the entire Cancer Center. By design, these priorities go beyond what can be accomplished through individual or single program efforts. As such, they will unify, focus, integrate and coordinate research along the translational pipeline and foster inter-programmatic collaboration. These priorities will also serve as the basis for enhancing the infrastructure and making strategic investments to have the greatest impact on cancer.

Precision Medicine
Massey will serve as a leader in developing and applying genomic, epigenomic and metabolomics tools that improve our ability to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

Cancer: Obesity, Metabolism and Inflammation
Massey will conduct focused investigation on the role that obesity and inflammation play in triggering cancer at the cellular and macro-environment levels.

Immuno-oncology
A strong basic and translational research effort will focus on understanding how the immune system interacts with the development and progression of cancer. Providing patients in the VCU safety-net region with access to promising new immune-based clinical trials is a priority.

Disparities and Minority Health Research
Through the creation of a transdisciplinary Center for Disparities and Minority Health Research, Massey will solidify and expand its national prominence in addressing disparities in cancer occurrence, prevention, detection and treatment in vulnerable and minority populations.

For a comprehensive summary of Vision 2021, please contact the Office of Development at (804) 828-1450.
HONORING DR. WALTER LAWRENCE, JR.

VCU Massey Cancer Center partnered with MCV Foundation in honoring Dr. Walter Lawrence, Jr. with the inaugural MCV Society Lifetime Achievement Award. The award, given in appreciation of his leadership, dedication and service to Massey and the VCU medical community, was presented during an annual reception for MCV Society members. Attendees included generous individuals who have made planned gifts through their estates benefitting the MCV campus.

The evening featured congratulatory remarks from VCU President Michael Rao, Massey’s director Dr. Gordon Ginder, MCV Foundation President Margaret Ann Bollmeier, and Chair of the MCV Foundation Board Harry Thalhimer. All shared tributes for the many accomplishments of Dr. Lawrence as Massey Cancer Center’s founding director.

Dr. Lawrence’s comments included the importance of philanthropic legacies. Massey Cancer Center is proud that its planned giving society—the Lawrence Society—is named in honor of Dr. Lawrence and is most grateful for those who have joined to support Massey for years to come. For more information about the Lawrence Society, please contact Cindy Zilch, Chief Development Officer, at (804) 828-1452 or czilch@vcu.edu.

Dr. Walter Lawrence, Jr. receives the inaugural MCV Society Lifetime Achievement Award.

ENDOWED CHAIRS, PROFESSORS AND SCHOLARS

Endowed chairs, professors and scholars honor and recognize the distinction of outstanding faculty while providing invaluable support for Massey’s most distinguished researchers. Established through the generosity of donors, these gifts are invested in an interest-bearing fund for which the principal remains intact and the interest provides a perpetual source of annual income. Endowments are a powerful tool for recruitment and retention. Massey is proud to have a growing list of faculty awarded with such distinction and is grateful for the philanthropic support the following list represents:

CHAIRS

Jeanette and Eric Lipman Chair in Oncology
Gordon D. Ginder, MD
Dianne Nunnally Hoppes Chair in Cancer Research
Steven R. Grossman, MD, PhD
Florence and Hyman Meyers Endowed Chair in Radiation Oncology
Douglas W. Arthur, MD
Dr. Walter Lawrence, Jr. Chair in Surgical Oncology
Harry D. Bear, MD, PhD
Carolyn Wingate Hyde Endowed Chair in Cancer Research
Charles Cleveenger, MD, PhD
Children’s Hospital Foundation Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer Research
Seth Corey, MD, MPH
Massey Cancer Center Endowed Chair in Palliative Care
Egidio Del Fabbro, MD
Universal Corporation Chair in Cancer Cell Signaling
Paul Dent, PhD
Gordon D. Ginder, MD Chair in Cancer Research
Bernard Fuemmeler, PhD, MPH
Thelma Newmeyer Corman Endowed Chair in Oncology Research
Paul B. Fisher, MPH, PhD
Harrigan, Hau, Luck Families Chair in Cancer Research
Charles Geyer, Jr., MD
Shirley Carter and Sture Gordon Olsson Chair in Cancer Research
Steven Grant, MD
William G. Reynolds, Jr. Chair in Neuro-Oncology
Mark Malkin, MD
Lisa Grandis Blatt Endowed Chair in Cancer Research
S. Patrick Nana-Sinkam, MD
Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Foundation Chair in Cancer Control and Prevention
Vanessa Sheppard, PhD
Mann T. and Sara D. Lowry Chair in Oncology
Sarah Spiegel, PhD

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS

Martha Anne Hatcher Distinguished Professor in Oncology
Andrew C. Larner, MD, PhD
Harrison Foundation Distinguished Professor in Cancer Research
Devanand Sarkar, MBBS, PhD
Mary Anderson Harrison Distinguished Professor in Cancer Research
Xiang-Yang (Shawn) Wang, PhD
Irene Shaw Grigg Distinguished Professor in Genetics Research
Jolene J. Windle, PhD

PROFESSORSHIPS

Dianne Harris Wright Professor for OB-GYN Oncology Research
Sarah Temkin, MD

SCHOLARS

Susan White Hollsworth Palliative Care Scholar
Tara Albrecht, PhD, RN
Harrison Scholar
Anhony Faber, PhD
Harrison Scholar
Larisa Litovchick, MD, PhD
Harrison Scholar
Andrew Poklepovic, MD
Harrison Scholar
Victor Yazbeck, PhD

POSITIONS DESIGNATED FOR ACTIVE RECRUITMENT:

Natalie N. and John R. Congdon, Sr. Endowed Chair in Cancer Research
Lacy Family Chair in Cancer Research
Massey Alliance Scholar
Massey Cancer Center Chair in Cancer Cell Signaling
Massey Club Professorship
Paul M. Corman, MD Chair in Cancer Research
RGC Professorship for Cancer Research
Judith Talley Secor Chair
Veronica Donovan Sweeney Professorship for the Chief of Breast Imaging
VCU MASSEY CANCER CENTER ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 1, 2016 – JULY 1, 2017

The Advisory Board advises and assists the director of VCU Massey Cancer Center in accomplishing the Center’s mission of eradicating death and suffering caused by cancer. Toward that end, the Board leads fundraising and community advocacy efforts.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD
George Emerson, Jr., Chair
David A. Lyons, Vice Chair
Patricia Merrill, Vice chair
Pamela Kiecker Royall, Immediate Past Chair

BOARD MEMBERS
Ralph H.B. Anderson, DDS., M.S.
Shelly E. Arthur
Catherine Bayliss
Susan Benson
Mary D. Billey
Jean Ann Bolling
Joanna A. Brennan
J. Alfred Broadus
Judy S. Brown
Mandy D. Burnette
Charles L. Cabell
Jill Thalhimer Campbell
Theodore L. Chandler, Jr.
Judith T. Clough
David S. Cohn
John R. Congdon, Jr.
Paul W. Croston
Wesley I. Crowder
Julia B. Curtis
Erika T. Davis
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Bromby Luck Earle
Julie H. Dickinson
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Corinne Garland
Cheryl Goddard
Brett González
Ann Park Gottwald
L. Michael Gracik, Jr.
Theodore S. Hanson
Terrell Luck Harrigan
Elizabeth H. Thornton
Judy Harris Turbeville
Chanda Wallace
Anne Marie Whitemore
Robert G. Whitten
Amy McDaniel Williams

EREMITUS MEMBERS
William G. Broaddus, Esquire
Charles F. Crane
James E. Farnham, Esquire
Alice T. Goodwin
Jeanette S. Lipman
Bertha C. Rolfe
E. Morgan Massey
Adrienne L. Maxwell
Matthew G. Thompson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
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Women & Wellness
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