



VCU

Board of Visitors

**VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS**

&

**VCU HEALTH SYSTEM AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

March 23, 2026

3:00 p.m.¹

**The Honorable Benjamin Lambert, III Board Room
1213 Clay Street
Richmond, VA**

AGENDA

**1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
REMARKS**

10 minutes (3:00 - 3:10 p.m.)

**Ms. Ellen Fitzsimmons, Rector
Dr. Michael Rao, Chair**

2. MASSEY CANCER CENTER UPDATE

30 minutes (3:10 - 3:40 p.m.)

**Dr. Marlon Levy, Senior Vice
President for Health Sciences and
CEO of the VCU Health System**

**3. BUILDING VALUE AND MARKET
DIFFERENTIATION: THE PIVOTAL ROLE
OF RESEARCH IN MISSION ALIGNMENT
BETWEEN VCU AND THE VCU HEALTH SYSTEM**

30 minutes (3:40 - 4:10 p.m.)

**Dr. Arturo Saavedra, Interim
Executive Vice President and Provost**

4. ADJOURNMENT

**Ms. Ellen Fitzsimmons, Rector
Dr. Michael Rao, Chair**

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



VCU

VCU BOV/VCUHS BOD joint meeting

March 23, 2026

Agenda

- The importance of Health Sciences and Health System collaboration
- Recent faculty hires related to this collaboration
- Examples of recent research accomplishments
- How the EVP role in the Health System helps facilitate bridges in clinical research

Panelists



Monica L. Baskin, Ph.D., FSBM, FABMR

Deputy Director of Research, Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor, Hematology, Oncology and Palliative Care, School of Medicine

Monica L. Baskin is a Professor of Hematology, Oncology and Palliative Care and Associate Dean for Cancer Innovation in the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and Deputy Director, Research at the Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. She has previously served in senior leadership roles (Deputy Director, Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement, Associate Director for Health Equity) in other NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers. Dr. Baskin received her Bachelor of Arts in psychology and sociology from Emory University, and a Master of Science in community counseling and Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Georgia State University. She is a licensed psychologist whose research focuses on advancing health equity related to cancer and other chronic diseases. Her research utilizes community-engaged methods to better understand and address individual, family, and environmental factors associated with the prevention and control of disease. For over two decades, her research program has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and other regional and local foundations and government agencies. Dr. Baskin is a fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) and the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research (ABMR). She is past president of the SBM and recently served as Chair of the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF)/American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) Continuous Update Project Global Expert Committee on Cancer Incidence.



Fadi N Salloum, Ph.D., F.A.H.A., F.A.P.S.

Sr. Associate Dean for Research, School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine, Cardiology
Natalie N. and John R. Congdon, Sr. Endowed Chair, VCU Health Pauley Heart Center

Dr. Fadi N. Salloum is the Sr. Associate Dean for Research at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and the Natalie N. and John R. Congdon, Sr. Endowed Chair at the VCU Health Pauley Heart Center. A professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology, he is recognized for his extensive contributions to cardiovascular research, particularly in cardioprotection, cardio-oncology, and heart failure. His work explores molecular mechanisms underlying myocardial injury, inflammation, nitric oxide and hydrogen sulfide signaling, and cardiotoxicity associated with cancer therapies. Dr. Salloum earned his B.S. in Biology from the American University of Beirut, followed by a Ph.D. in Physiology and a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular cardiology at VCU. Through his leadership and scientific innovation, he continues to advance translational strategies aimed at improving cardiovascular outcomes and shaping the future of heart disease treatment.



Amy L. Salisbury, Ph.D., RN, FAAN

Associate Dean, Research, Scholarship and Innovation, School of Nursing
Ann Steigleder Endowed Chair for Research Professor

Dr. Amy L. Salisbury is the Associate Dean for Research, Scholarship and Innovation at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing, where she also serves as the Ann Steigleder Endowed Chair for Research and a professor. A leader in perinatal and infant mental health, her work bridges developmental psychobiology, nursing science, and community-engaged research. Dr. Salisbury's research focuses on prenatal substance exposure, maternal psychiatric conditions, fetal and infant neurodevelopment, and the biological pathways that shape early behavioral outcomes. She is particularly recognized for her expertise in fetal and preterm infant sleep, parent–infant attachment, and developmental care in the NICU. Her current portfolio includes multiple federally funded projects, including studies on fetal ultrasound as an intervention, mobile health delivery, pediatric long-COVID, and the developmental impacts of prenatal exposure to opioids, e-cigarettes, and cannabis. Dr. Salisbury is also deeply committed to mentoring emerging scholars and teaching research methods across academic levels. Through her interdisciplinary approach and dedication to improving early developmental health, she continues to advance innovative strategies that support vulnerable families and strengthen community health.



Robert A. Winn, M.D.

Director and Lipman Chair in Oncology, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor of pulmonary disease and critical care medicine, VCU School of Medicine

As director of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, Robert A. Winn, M.D., is leading the nation in establishing a 21st-century model for optimizing cancer health care outcomes for all and spearheading interdisciplinary approaches to cancer disparities research. Winn oversees a center comprised of nearly 150 scientists and clinical investigators. Leading by example, Winn is nationally recognized for his community engagement efforts in promoting new approaches to building trust among populations previously disenfranchised from healthcare or excluded or abused in research. Winn is committed to both community-engaged research and research focused on eliminating health disparities. He is principal investigator on several large multi-institutional initiatives, including a team science award from Stand Up To Cancer, a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded Planning SPORE focused on Lung Cancer Health Equity and an NCI-funded institutional partnership award fostering cancer disparities research and career development collaboration between Massey and Virginia State University, a Historically Black University located in Petersburg, VA - a city that has faced health and education inequities for generations. Winn also manages his own basic and translational research laboratory which has been supported by multiple NIH and Veterans Affairs Merit awards for nearly two decades.



Faika Zanjani, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research, Health Professions
Professor, Gerontology

Faika Zanjani, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Department of Gerontology and the Associate Dean of Research at the VCU College of Health Professionals. She has a PhD in Human Development and Family Studies, with a concentration in Gerontology, from Pennsylvania State University, with postdoctoral training in Geriatric Psychiatry from the University of Pennsylvania. She also has had appointments as NIH/NIMH Predoctoral Fellow, APA Minority Health Fellow, NIH/NIMH Geriatric Postdoctoral Fellow, NIH BIRWCH Scholar, USDA Grant Awardee and NIH/NIDA K Awardee.

Zanjani has worked in geriatric public health issues, particularly within the areas of health behavior change and health promotion; brain health; mental health and substance abuse/use; and community health interventions, in both urban and rural community applications. Her research covers the behavioral and public health spectrum, including examining process (change), predictors, outcomes, treatment and community health promotion issues. She has been actively involved in promoting alcohol-interactive medication safety and preventing dementia and mental health/substance misuse, among older community-dwelling adults using principles of community behavioral change. At the basic level, she explores the consequences of moderate/healthy levels of alcohol consumption throughout the adult lifespan.

Here at VCU, she conducts research and oversees ongoing academic programs and research training at the graduate, undergraduate and postdoctoral levels, to improve brain health and reduce community health disparities.