



**VCU**

Office of the Vice President  
for Research and Innovation

Dear colleagues,

With the announcement of our university-wide reopen plan, "**[together.vcu.edu]ONE VCU: Responsible Together,**" we now have a roadmap for the phased resumption of research at VCU in a purposeful way.

When the governor lifts his executive orders, there will not be an immediate resumption of all research with all our previous faculty, staff and trainees. The VCU return to research will occur in a phased, responsible and deliberate manner. The plan is well-aligned with other research universities across the country and suggested guidelines by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. You'll recall from my letter in late May that researchers who are part of the VCU Incident Coordination Team worked to develop a plan that makes the best sense for VCU.

**Under the initial phase of VCU's return to research, beginning with the lifting of the governor's orders:**

- **All research that is possible to be done remotely should continue remotely,** including all seminars, group meetings, etc.

**AND**

- **On-campus research activities transition to a maximum of 25% total personnel capacity, with physical distancing.** Shift work can maintain this percentage while allowing more researchers to work.

Further details will be available soon in a comprehensive return to campus document that I will share with you. Additionally, we are posting supporting materials related to the phased return to research on the OVPRI website at **[research.vcu.edu/covid-19/r2r.htm]research.vcu.edu/covid-19/r2r.htm**, including a living FAQs document. Please take time to review the new materials and reacquaint yourself with the resources available on the OVPRI COVID-19 page. I encourage you to visit [together.vcu.edu](https://together.vcu.edu) for the latest updates on the reopening of our campuses.

I appreciate your understanding that our priority, as it is for all of VCU, is the safety of our students, study participants, patients, trainees, faculty and staff while executing the

university's mission. The OVPRI will follow applicable guidance from VCU Health, the state and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I know that you are eager to plan for your return to your labs and your research. I am humbled by the resilience, creativity and dedication of the VCU research enterprise in these challenging times. I look forward to the phased resumption of research and promise to be available to do whatever we can to help you navigate this process.

Sincerely,

P. Srirama Rao, Ph.D.



Vice President for Research and Innovation

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