Virginia Commonwealth University established the Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR) in 2007 to enhance research infrastructure and promote collaboration.

In 2010, VCU received a $20 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health to become part of a nationwide consortium of research institutions. This national network seeks to advance science and foster partnerships to speed innovation, working together to turn laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients.

Researchers from across the university are supported by the CCTR. At the same time, the center builds and nurtures mutually beneficial partnerships with community practitioners, community organizations and patients to enhance the adoption of evidence-based best practices in general clinical practice. The overarching goal is to deliver improved medical care to the region and advance medical discoveries that save the lives of patients around the world.

**CCTR Cores**

The CCTR is composed of various components that are essential in providing the culture of collaborative research. These include:

- Research Incubator
- Clinical Research Services
- Education
- Biomedical Informatics
- Community Engagement
- Research Resources

To learn more about the CCTR and each of its components, visit [www.cctr.vcu.edu](http://www.cctr.vcu.edu) or scan the QR code with your smartphone.
About the CCTR – FAQs

**What is translational research?**
Translational research focuses on multidisciplinary collaboration that accelerates laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients. These discoveries typically begin at “the bench” with basic research in which scientists study disease at a molecular or cellular level. The first area of translation is from laboratory findings to clinical practice. The second area enhances the adoption of these clinical best practices in the community.

**Why is translational research important?**
Translational research has one overarching goal: the betterment of human health. Discovering better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat illness and disease is paramount. The aim of translational research is to speed the delivery of new drugs, diagnostics and medical devices to patients suffering from a wide range of diseases and conditions. Another key aspect of translational research is to create and strengthen mutually beneficial partnerships with community practitioners, organizations and patients, and to engage the community in the research process. The CCTR is building and nurturing community partnerships in the Greater Richmond area.

**Who is doing translational research at VCU?**
Research seeks to look at and answer questions in innovative ways. Finding these answers requires a cross-disciplinary approach and collaboration from scholars throughout the university. Today’s medical research involves a wide array of disciplines including, but not limited to, the life, physical, computer and social sciences as well as engineering, economics and business. The CCTR is an academic bridge from home departments within the university for multidisciplinary researchers, offering networking, training and services to all interested faculty members.

**How can I participate?**
The community is a very important part of translational research. From community-engaged research to participation in clinical trials, there are many opportunities to become involved. Community engagement offers a way for researchers and community members to connect and talk about health concerns and priorities. Through clinical trials, members of the community can help researchers find new ways to fight disease.

For investigators, the CCTR provides comprehensive services, tools and resources for translational research projects, from grant writing and study design to mentoring programs and work groups that promote collaboration across the university.