RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Padma Raghavan
Vice Provost for Research
Professor of Computer Science and Engineering
Improving the human condition through pathbreaking discovery, innovation, and partnerships.
JOURNEYS
Joining, Growing, Building

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY | Office of the Provost
Yolanda McDonald
Assistant Professor of Human and Organizational Development
Peabody College

Yolanda describes herself as a “medical geographer”: Her research uses geospatial approaches to investigate health outcomes and disparities, tackling issues from preventing cervical cancer to fighting for drinking water justice. Yolanda is now helping chart a new path for Vanderbilt as member of the Climate, Environment, and Energy Futures Working Group.
Karl Zelik

Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering
School of Engineering
Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
School of Medicine Clinical Sciences

Karl runs the Biomechanics & Assistive Technology (BAT) Lab and is the CSO of HeroWear, a new venture founded on his lift-assist exosuit. This year, Karl became the first awardee in Pathfinder, Vanderbilt’s partnership with the Army Futures Command and the University of Tennessee system, for his Soldier Assistive Bionic Exosuit for Resupply (SABER).
Elizabeth Zechmeister
Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Political Science
Director, Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP)
College of Arts and Science

Liz is a member of the VU Research Council and leads a team of ~38 student, post-doc and staff at LAPOP. LAPOP conducts Americas Barometer, a public opinion survey on democracy covering 34 countries supported by USAID, that has been cited everywhere from the United Nations to the 2021 Ecuadorian presidential elections.
Charles Sanders
Associate Dean for Research
Professor of Biochemistry and Medicine
Aileen M. Lange & Annie Mary Lyle Chair in Cardiovascular Research
School of Medicine Basic Sciences and School of Medicine Clinical Sciences
Chuck’s research team examines how defects in membrane proteins contribute to human disease, including his current project on treatments for Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease that was just accepted into Ancora, Vanderbilt’s partnership with Deerfield. He also helped bring in-person research back to campus during COVID through the Research Ramp-up Working Group, is a member of the VU Research Council.
One Vanderbilt with hundreds of research projects involving VU/VUMC collaboration

$825 million in VU/VUMC research expenditures in FY2020

35+ student-led startups launched in recent 5 years

$11.9 billion total Vanderbilt economic impact from operations, student and visitor spending and construction

~40 faculty-led startups launched in recent 5 years

2,118 proposals submitted to external sponsors in FY2021

Ranked in the Top 15 Reuters Most Innovative Universities in the U.S. 3 years running

Look out for a welcome research event coming in October 2021
Q: I need help developing and submitting my first proposal at VU. Who can I go to for help?

A: Reach out to Joanne Spitz and our team in Research Development and Support. They will help you with federal and foundation opportunities, including proposal preparation, building sponsor relationships etc.

Contact Joanne at at joanne.m.spitz@Vanderbilt.edu or the larger RDS team at rds@Vanderbilt.edu.

Joanne Spitz
Director of Research Development
Q: I’m trying to start a study that involves human subjects. Who can connect me to the right resources to get started?

A: Liane Moneta-Koehler and her team manage compliance functions from export control to coordinating with Vanderbilt’s IRB and IACUC to support faculty leading studies with human or animal subjects, respectively.

Contact Liane at liane.monetakoehler@Vanderbilt.edu, the export control team at vec@Vanderbilt.edu, or the larger RDS team at rds@Vanderbilt.edu.
Q: I need to transfer ongoing grants from my previous institution to VU. How do I get started?

A: The associate dean for research in your school or college as well as your department or school grants managers are your first contact for transferring projects from your prior institution.

Your next step will be connecting with Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA), the central VU office managing proposal submission, non-financial award set-up, and contract and subaward negotiation and set-up.

Contact SPA at spa@Vanderbilt.edu.