

Dear University of Virginia research community,

During this unprecedented time, we are seeing an overwhelming research response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very fortunate to have many dedicated and talented researchers at UVA who are interested in pursuing different types of research regarding the pandemic, including clinical trials research requiring COVID-19 bio-specimens, survey studies, etc.

In an effort to synergize and support the clinical research efforts of our community in this area, and to ensure the appropriate allocation of limited resources, we have streamlined the review of all clinical research around COVID-19 through the iTHRIV CTSA institute. Our goal is two-fold:

- Expedite the highest caliber scientifically sound research to better understand COVID-19 and bring diagnostic, prevention, and treatment options to patients as quickly as possible.
- Ensure the most appropriate allocation of limited resources (personnel, specimens, supplies, funding, etc).

We appreciate your patience as iTHRIV develops an efficient and fair system to broadly support this important research area. Already, resources are available to help researchers who are interested in engaging in clinical research around COVID-19. For instance, a COVID-19 specimen bank is being established to safely collect, process, and store bio-specimens for research.

If you are planning to conduct clinical research around COVID-19 in the immediate term, please contact the Clinical Research Office at uvaclinicaltrials@virginia.edu.

For more information and guidance on the impact of COVID-19 on research, please refer to any of the following websites:

<https://research.med.virginia.edu/clinicalresearch/>

<https://research.virginia.edu/ResearchContinuity>

<https://med.virginia.edu/office-for-research/covid-19/>

<http://ithriv.org>

<https://researchdevelopment.vpr.virginia.edu/opportunities-related-covid-19>

We will continue to provide updates as the process evolves.

Sincerely,

Melur K. (Ram) Ramasubramanian
Vice President for Research