

\$3 million Tobacco Commission grant supports key initiatives at Massey

The Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission (Tobacco Commission) has awarded Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center a one-year \$3 million grant to improve detection, prevention, treatment and control of cancer in Virginia.

Specifically, the award will support Massey's statewide clinical trials network in order to provide greater quality and scope of clinical trials for residents in the Commonwealth, which includes a partnership with the University of Virginia Cancer Center; grow Massey's basic, translational, clinical and prevention and control cancer research; and provide greater quality and scope of clinical care and cancer prevention and control services to residents throughout Virginia, including support for cancer resources centers located in the Southside and Southwest regions.

"Each initiative supported by this funding builds upon our mission to address specific cancer incidence and mortality disparities impacting residents in our state," says Gordon Ginder, director of VCU Massey Cancer Center. "We aim to improve the health and productivity of the regional workforce, and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, and this funding directly supports that goal."

According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 41,000 Virginia residents were diagnosed with cancer in 2013. Cancer's economic impact in Virginia is estimated at \$2.6 billion in lifetime productivity. A 1 percent reduction in cancer mortality rates would reduce health care costs by millions of dollars annually.

"We are grateful for the Tobacco Commission's continuing support of our mission to eradicate death and suffering from cancer through research, patient care and prevention and control," says Ginder.

The award builds upon previous funding from the Tobacco Commission, including a grant of \$1 million awarded in 2008 to bring clinical trials and prevention and control research to Southside and Southwest Virginia through a cancer research community outreach program, and a \$2.391 million grant in 2010 to grow Massey's community involvement in tobacco counties and expand its state-of-the-art clinical research and cancer specialist delivery system. The Tobacco Commission has provided significant funding to Massey researchers through these awards to support a variety of cancer prevention and control research and community-based health initiatives.