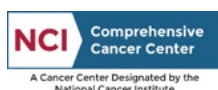


Thank you, Massey Club donors, for your undeniable generosity.
Together, we can advance cancer research and transform patient care.

Driving breakthroughs

in cancer care and research, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center is unrelenting in its commitment to deliver patient-centered clinical care that reaches every community.

Massey Club donors are crucial in helping us break down barriers to care, accelerate lifesaving research and cultivate an unparalleled team of researchers and clinicians to meet today's most urgent cancer challenges.



Innovative targeted therapy halts prostate cancer spread to the bone

New preclinical findings from Massey researchers show an innovative drug effectively prevents prostate tumors from spreading to an advanced and incurable stage in the bones.

Prostate cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in American men. While early detection and advanced treatment options have led to declining mortality rates, once prostate cancer spreads to the bone, it becomes much more difficult to treat.



Paul B. Fisher, M.Ph., Ph.D., FNAI, and Swadesh K. Das, Ph.D.

“Developing effective therapies for prostate cancer bone metastasis — a final stage of prostate cancer progression without any effective treatments — is a medical priority,” says study co-leader Paul B. Fisher, M.Ph., Ph.D., FNAI, the Thelma Newmeyer Corman Endowed Chair in Cancer Research at Massey and the director of the VCU Institute of Molecular Medicine.

In previous research, Fisher, a member of Massey's Cancer Biology research program, and his team were the first to successfully clone melanoma differentiation associated gene-9 (MDA-9/Syntenin) and uncover its promise as a target for innovative cancer therapies. A commonly expressed gene in multiple organs, it drives the growth and spread of tumors, including prostate tumors, to the bone.

Through this latest work, preclinical models showed a small molecule drug called IVMT-Rx-4 effectively blocked the gene's function and prevented prostate tumors from spreading to the bone, with no visible toxicity.

Looking ahead to 2027, the research team anticipates clinical studies for the drug. This discovery offers new hope for patients with advanced prostate cancer and demonstrates Massey's commitment to translating scientific discoveries into real-world impact. **M**



Read more by scanning the QR code.

MASSEY CLUB IMPACT REPORT

Massey helps create a new therapeutic standard



Khalid Matin, M.D.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network® guidelines now incorporate recent clinical trial findings for stage III colorectal cancer, marking the first update to the standard chemotherapy regimen since the 1990s. Massey and its NCI Community Oncology Research Program affiliates played a vital role in the randomized phase III study.

“Being a part of innovative trials at Massey is critical so that our patients continue to benefit from access to novel therapies, and the collective data is enriched by their inclusion,” says Khalid Matin, M.D., Massey’s associate director of global oncology.

The study results revealed patients with stage III colon cancer who have a specific protein defect – known as deficient DNA mismatch repair – had significantly better outcomes when the immunotherapy drug atezolizumab was added to standard chemotherapy after surgery. Treating patients with this approach lowered the risk of cancer recurrence or death by 50%, with 86% of patients remaining disease-free at three years. **M**

Strengthening rural cancer care

When VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital opened in 2017, it became the first medical facility constructed in South Hill since 1954. Now, the South Hill community can access cutting-edge cancer care like clinical trials, chemotherapy and radiation therapy without making the drive to Richmond.

Massey has further extended its ability to meet the need for greater education and prevention screening in rural areas through educational programs with the addition of two mobile outreach vans, dubbed Massey on the Move. The mission to meet communities where they are has been supported by generous Massey donors and advocates like Susan Sutton and her husband, Leslie N. Sutton, M.D., whose contributions have advanced Massey’s work in rural Virginia.



Susan and Leslie N. Sutton, M.D.

“Having this kind of financial support recognizes that we’re doing something right, and that we’re working to make a difference,” says Mary Helen Hackney, M.D., who holds the Commonwealth Endowed Professorship in Breast Cancer Excellence. **M**



Scan the QR code or visit go.vcu.edu/massey-south-hill to watch a video.

MASSEY by the NUMBERS

720

Massey Club households supported the cancer center in FY26.

\$4,694,982

was raised in unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more through Massey Club.



Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations

MCV Alumni House
Box 980214
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0214

To learn more about research at Massey or to renew your gift to Massey Club, please contact Hope Elliott at masseyclub@vcu.edu.

To opt out of receiving fundraising communications from VCU Health, contact 804-827-0746 or mparOptOut@vcu.edu