Grand Challenges
Precision Health for Populations
February 24, 2023 – Boar’s Head Pavilion

Agenda

1:30pm – 2:00pm  Check in

2:00pm – 2:15pm  Welcome and Charge
• Melur (Ram) Ramasubramanian, Vice President for Research
• Karen Ingersoll, Steering Committee Chair

2:15pm – 2:45pm  Presentations
• Keith Keene, Ph.D. – Professor, Public Health Sciences
  Director, Center for Health Equity & Precision Public Health
  Resident Faculty, Center for Public Health Genomics
• James P. Morris, Ph.D. – Professor and Chair, Psychology

2:45pm – 2:50pm  Remarks
• Ian Baucom, Executive Vice President and Provost

2:50pm – 3:30pm  Presentations (continued)
• Craig Konnoth, J.D. – Martha Lubin Karsh and Bruce A. Karsh Bicentennial
  Professor of Law
• Lee Ritterband, Ph.D. – Jean and Ronald Butcher Eminent Scholars Professor
  Director, Center for Behavioral Health & Technology
  Laura Barnes, Ph.D. – Professor, Systems and Information Engineering
  Associate Director, Link Lab
• Steve Rich, Ph.D., FAHA – Harrison Professor of Public Health Sciences
  Founding Director, Center for Public Health Genomics
• Tom Loughran, MD – F. Palmer Weber-Smithfield Foods Professor of Oncology
  Research - Professor, Medicine - Director, Cancer Center

3:30pm – 3:35pm  Stretch Break

3:35pm – 4:30pm  Presentations (continued)
• Coleen McNamara, MD – Professor of Medicine/Cardiovascular Division and
  Beirne B. Carter Professor of Immunology
  Director, Carter Immunology Center
• Don Brown, Ph.D. – Quantitative Foundation Distinguished Professor of Data
  Science
  Senior Associate Dean, Research - School of Data Science
  Co-Director integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia
  (iTHRIV)
• Jay Hertel, Ph.D. – Chair, Kinesiology
  Joe Gleck Professor of Sports Medicine

4:30pm – 5:00pm  Break-out Conversations

5:00pm – 5:30pm  Report Out and Final Comments

5:30pm – 6:30pm  Reception
Steering Committee

Karen Ingersoll, Chair (Medicine)
Professor, Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences

Charles Farber (Medicine)
Professor, Public Health Sciences
Director, Center for Public Health Genomics

Teague Henry (Data Science, Arts & Sciences)
Assistant Professor, Data Science and Psychology

Karen Johnston (Medicine)
Harrison Distinguished Professor of Neurology
Associate Vice President for Clinical and Translational Research
Director, iTHRIV

Craig Konnoth (Law)
Karsh Bicentennial Professor, Law

Denis Nekipelov (Engineering, Arts & Sciences)
Associate Professor, Economics and Computer Science

Vivian Riefberg* (Darden)
Professor of Practice
Walentas Jefferson Scholars Foundation Professorship Chair

Aidong Zhang (Engineering, Data Science)
Professor, Computer Science, Biomedical Engineering and Data Science

John Stankovic (Engineering)
BP America Professor, Computer Science
Director, Link Lab

About Grand Challenges Research Investments

The University’s Great and Good 2030 Plan identifies five priority focus areas for research. This year, we are focusing on building UVA’s research capacity in Digital Technology and Society and Precision Medicine/Health. We have charged faculty steering committees to help determine how best to focus our efforts. They are consulting with deans and faculty across Grounds to identify areas of research where UVA could build on its strengths and address urgent societal problems. We appreciate your participation.

Next steps: Later this semester the steering committees will submit white papers recommending areas of focus. They will describe the urgent question to be addressed, give examples of the type of research that would be conducted, detail UVA’s strengths in the area and the gaps that would need to be filled, and explain how UVA might be preeminent in this area. With input from the deans and outside experts, the Provost, VPR, and President will determine which areas to invest in. Please note: Grand Challenges is not a proposal process where a specific project or group of faculty is funded. Instead, it builds research capacity through large strategic investments—in cluster hires and significant research infrastructure (equipment, people, and seed funding) to move the needle. These transformative investments are designed to expand and complement our current research portfolio and to benefit many schools and disciplines across Grounds.

For more information, please visit: https://research.virginia.edu/Grand-challenges

We welcome your ideas and comments: