

Spotlight on Greater Washington, D.C. Area

The V Foundation funds all types of research across all cancer types, including adult and pediatric cancers, common and rare cancers, from the laboratory to clinics, and from prevention and detection through treatment and recurrence.

The V Foundation solicits competitive research proposals from the 73 National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Centers and other exceptional institutions across North America.

There are 5 NCI-Designated Cancer Centers in the Greater Washington, D.C. area, Virginia, and Maryland:

- Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
- Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenbaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, Baltimore, MD
- VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- University of Virginia Cancer Center, Charlottesville, VA

Our Impact on Cancer Research in the Greater Washington, D.C. Area:

We've funded

86 grants totaling over \$21 million.

V Foundation funded researchers in the Greater Washington, D.C. Area, over their careers, have:

Received

**over 400 grants and
\$1.56 billion in funding.**

Produced

**over 8,400
publications.**

Worked on

**58 clinical
trials.**

V Foundation Funded Researchers – Proven Positive Impact

- **Katherine Tossas, Ph.D.**, a 2023 V Scholar at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Massey Cancer Center, studies a condition called high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL) that can progress into cervical cancer.
- About 250,000 women are diagnosed with HSIL each year. Women with HSIL need frequent follow-ups and potentially painful treatments to prevent HSIL from turning into cancer. It is difficult to predict which women with HSIL will go on to develop cervical cancer.
- Black women get HSIL more often than white women and face more serious problems from it.
- Dr. Tossas is studying how the vaginal microbiome affects HSIL and how differences in the vaginal microbiome between Black, Latina, and white women may play a role in HSIL frequency and outcomes.
- While the study is still ongoing, this work will provide a greater understanding of how pre-cancerous lesions may or may not turn into cervical cancer. It has the potential to radically change interception guidelines and tailor them to populations based on microbiome differences, reducing invasive and painful procedures when they are not needed.



*Katherine Tossas, Ph.D.,
2023 V Scholar*