Our Distinctive Capabilities

We started by looking at what makes VUMC special. We found 6 areas that capture much of what people here felt are our strongest capabilities.

- Leadership in Clinical Care and Connected Cultures are both about patients and people, and core to our values. They are about caring for each other and caring for our patients.

- Basic and Transitional Research and Learning as a Core Competency both distinguish us from our competitors in the region and are a source of constant renewal for ideas and grow the skills and knowledge of our people.

- Personalized Medicine and Population Health are areas where we lead nationally. These are demonstrated by the recent awarding of the Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort from the National Institutes of Health and the growth of The Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network.
Leadership in Clinical Care means we are:

• Best in class for disease-focused centers, such as the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and the only such resource in five states that serves both adults and children.

• Home to National Centers of Excellence for diseases such as in Heart, Trauma, Neurosurgery, Diabetes, Children’s care and others.

• Home to the Vanderbilt Transplant Center, Tennessee’s only comprehensive transplant center and one of the largest in Southeast. Our adult and pediatric transplant programs include heart, kidney, liver and heart-lung. Our Heart Transplant program is the second busiest in the country and is No. 1 in the Southeast.

• We are a resource for best practices in the region, country and the world. An example is our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) ABCDEF Liberation bundle, which instructs clinicians to titrate medicines and includes other measures that significantly reduce delirium among ICU patients. The ABCDEF bundle is now in use in hospitals across the nation and in over 50 countries.
We have a Connected Culture based on examples such as:

• Our culture is collaborative. People have open-door policies and look for ways to help each other.

• We pursue efforts surrounding continuous improvement such as clinical teams bringing waiting room staff, doctors, nurses and patient services representatives together to address patient backlogs.

• VUMC is designated by the American Nurses’ Credentialing Center as a Magnet hospital for nurses. Inter-disciplinary collaboration is a distinction that helps us hire and retain the most impressive, capable, and committed nursing workforce in the region.

• Our Culture of Service training campaign over the past 12 months has re-addressed and embedded Managing Up, AIDET, SNAP and Service Recovery throughout our organization.
Our capability to conduct basic and translational research makes us different and helps us make important discoveries that we can move rapidly into use.

- Our distinctive difference from our competitors is that we are an Academic Medical Center that performs patient care, teaches and trains future generations of physicians and nurses, and conducts research that changes how health care is delivered and diseases are treated.

- The basic science and clinical research we perform allows us to bring the discoveries we make to our patients.

- Learning is a core competency that makes us distinctive. In addition to medical students, nursing students, and many other learners, we have 1,000 residents and fellows training at any given time in VUMC.

- We are different than other teaching hospitals because the School of Medicine’s Curriculum 2.0 ensures that students will be exposed to patients from their very first day of medical school, instead of their third year of school.

- We are also known for leading in the use of Information Technology in health care education and to innovate the care we provide for our patients.
• VUMC is working with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort Program, an ambitious effort to sequence the DNA of 1 million people across the U.S. By doing this we will learn valuable new insights into how genetics, environmental and lifestyle factors affect health.

• Last July, the NIH announced that a significant amount of the Precision Medicine Cohort Initiative will be overseen by VUMC.

• We are already transforming how we care for patients at VUMC. Through a program called PREDICT, which uses genetic testing to guide the selection and dosing of an ever-growing list of medications, over 15,000 patients have had their DNA sequenced in the process of receiving care and being prescribed medications, and many have had different doses or drugs administered with life-improving or life-saving results.

• Through these efforts and others we are a national leader in Personalized Medicine.
We are focusing on how to change care in ways that impact entire populations—large groups of patients, which is an emerging science known as Population Health.

- Factors affecting the health of entire populations of people include where people live, their ages, race, daily eating habits, lifestyle behaviors such as smoking, and their income.

- An example of the population health work we are doing to help address health disparities across the Southeastern U.S. is through the Southern Community Cohort Study. This large, multiyear study is being done through a partnership with Meharry Medical College and is looking at ways to impact the incidence of cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

- The Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network, our network of affiliate hospitals, health systems and clinicians located across Tennessee and surrounding states, is our population health platform and is comprised of more than 4,000 clinicians, 56 hospitals, 12 health systems and hundreds of physician practices and clinics.

- We have launched the Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network Health Information Exchange (HIE) and are piloting its use to reduce hospital readmis-
The HIE allows us to share patient information across the Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network that can help improve care.

- We are piloting a Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network pathway coordination with Emergency Departments to reduce short stay admissions such as those for chest pain, cellulitis and isolated head trauma.

- We are sharing our best-practices around routine care, protocols for the emergency room, and how to standardize care to best practices with our affiliates. We are saving lives and cost all over the region. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services awarded VUMC the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative Grant for this purpose.