

# VCU Genomics Core –

a research resource for everything genomics

Co-Directors: Dr. Karolina Aberg & Dr. Greg Buck

## Mission:

Provide state-of-the-art lab-technical genomic services and analysis support to advance genomic research at VCU and beyond.

# Pillars for the rebooted Genomics Core:

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1) A new expanded team with extensive expertise in various aspects of genomics

- Sequencing engineer - Vladimir Lee, PhD
- Laboratory specialist - Lin Xie, MS
- New core manager - search is ongoing
- Part-time master-level bioinformatician

## Pillars for the rebooted Genomics Core:

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### 2) A restructured laboratory space and improved routines

- Separated pre- and post-amplification areas to minimize contamination risks.
- Standardized cleaning routines.
- Laboratory coats required - including for ALL visitors.

# Pillars for the rebooted Genomics Core:

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## 3) Improved infrastructure

- Performed quality control and repairs of existing instrumentation
- Installed a new cost-effective sequencing instrument for mid-size projects
- Collaboration with other units to maximize the use of existing research infrastructure

# Pillars for the rebooted Genomics Core:

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## 4) A new customer service model

- Initial “consultation” to understand needs and set expectations
- Continues communication about project progress and challenges
- Data delivered together with a quality control report

# Pillars for the rebooted Genomics Core:

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## 5) New business model

- Traditional fee-for-service
- Do-it-yourself (DIY) genomics
- Lab-expertise for hire

Assistance with experimental planning, study design and letters of support

Traditional  
fee-for-  
service:

The most commonly requested analyses are available as off-the-shelf services.

Less frequently used analyses will be provided as needed following established protocols.



Do-it-yourself  
(DIY)  
genomics:

Selected instruments are available to the investigators for hands on analyses.

Training is available (and required) for faculty, staff, students, post-docs, etc.

Instrument time is booked via the VCU FORCE system (not yet implemented).

Lab-  
expertise  
for hire:

For projects that require protocol development.

For large scale projects.

For project that require troubleshooting and optimization.

# Building a strong reputation:

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- Knowledgeable customer service
- Timely response & turn-around time
- Deliver high quality data

Fulfill, or exceed, expectations

We are looking forward to work with you!

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To discuss an ongoing or upcoming project  
email us: [genomics@vcu.edu](mailto:genomics@vcu.edu)

Visit our webpage to learn more:

[www.genomics.vcu.edu](http://www.genomics.vcu.edu)