

## INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

This handbook has been developed by the Office of Student Affairs and contains the official Policies and Procedures of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTC SOM), as approved by the Dean of the School, that relate to academic and student life. It also contains helpful guidance to enhance your medical school experience. We hope that you find it useful. If you have questions or need clarification, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at 540-526-2555.

### WELCOME from the Dean

Welcome to your new adventure, which is sure to be exciting, life-changing, and also challenging. We are glad you chose the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine for this journey. We not only want to produce doctors, but we want to educate you in process of inquiry, research, and discovery. You will be the next generation of physician thought leaders ready to excel in a rapidly changing health care environment.

We prepare you through our unique curriculum and patient-centered learning approach, that connects the basic science of medicine with clinical science from the start of your education. Our curriculum is delivered in a way that aligns with the best evidence for how adults learn, which means you won't be "stuck" in lectures all day long. Instead, the curriculum thrives around small-group, problem-based learning and hands-on experiences, supplemented by more traditional classroom-style learning.



In addition to a solid base in basic science and clinical science, two other foundational elements will shape your medical education experience here and set you apart from other medical students. Our longitudinal research experience will develop you into a physician who will utilize evidence-based medicine and integrate research into everyday medical practice. Our interprofessionalism curriculum will give you the skills to effectively work alongside other health disciplines, while promoting skills such as teamwork, communication, and conflict resolution. These skills will be invaluable as they will help break down barriers that have historically hampered the delivery of quality patient care.

Throughout your education here, while we want you to learn the science of being a doctor and be capable of treating patients, our other important charge is to teach you how to serve patients compassionately. An essential task in the professional development of a medical student is to gain an understanding of the fundamental and universal principles and values of the medical profession and commit to the integration of these values and principles into his/her professional identity and roles.

I look forward to traveling this journey with you,

Cynda Ann Johnson, M.D., MBA  
President and Founding Dean, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine