



Commonwealth Health Research Board  
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## **PRESS RELEASE Dated August 1, 2016**

### *Chair*

*Cynda A. Johnson,  
M.D., M.B.A.  
Roanoke, VA*

### **From the Commonwealth Health Research Board**

The Commonwealth Health Research Board [CHRB] today announced its new officers for 2016/2017. Cynda A. Johnson, M.D., M.B.A., has been reelected to the position of Chair and L. Matthew Frank, M.D., has been reelected to the position of Vice Chair.

### *Vice Chair*

*L. Matthew Frank  
M.D.  
Norfolk, VA*

Dr. Johnson received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her medical school degree from the UCLA School of Medicine. She completed her residency training in family medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center and a teaching fellowship at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Johnson was selected President and Founding Dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine - a joint venture of Carilion Clinic and Virginia Tech - in January 2008. VTCSOM has been awarded full accreditation and graduated its charter class in May 2014. She is a past president of the American Board of Family Practice (now Family Medicine) and the American Board of Medical Specialties. Dr. Johnson was a busy clinician for 30 years focusing on maternal and child health including obstetrics and outpatient gynecology.

### *Members*

*Kenji M. Cunnion,  
M.D., M.P.H.  
Norfolk, VA*

Dr. Johnson was initially appointed to the CHRB by the Joint Rules Committee to serve an unexpired term of five years ending March 31, 2016. Dr. Johnson was reappointed to the CHRB by the Joint Rules Committee for a term of five years ending March 31, 2021.

*Robert W. Downs, Jr.  
M.D.  
Richmond, VA*

*John R. Onufer, M.D.  
Mount Prospect, IL*

*Julia A. Spicer  
Washington, D.C.*

Dr. Frank graduated in 1973 from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He completed a Pediatric internship and residency at Duke University in 1974 and 1975 and then completed a Neurology fellowship in the Boston University/Boston City/Harvard University Combined Program. He is currently a partner in the Children's Specialty Group and has an active staff appointment at The Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters and consulting privileges at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. He is a Professor of Pediatrics and an Associate Professor of Neurology at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Dr. Frank serves as a Medical Co-Director of the Tidewater Chapter of The Muscular Dystrophy Association, as a member of the local Epilepsy Foundation of America Board, and serves on the Board of Chesapeake Bay Academy.

*Administrator  
Anne C. Pace, M.P.A.*

*Scientific Consultant  
James F. O'Donnell,  
Ph.D.*

*Scientific Consultant  
Carlos E. Caban,  
Ph.D., M.P.H.*

Dr. Frank was initially appointed to the CHRB by the Joint Rules Committee to serve an unexpired term ending March 31, 2012. Dr. Frank was reappointed to the CHRB by the Joint Rules Committee for a term of five years ending March 31, 2017.

*Scientific Consultant  
Merrill M. Mitler,  
Ph.D.*

The Board was established in 1997 by the Virginia General Assembly using funds provided from the conversion of Trigon from a mutual company to a stock company. The Board awards grants for traditional medical and biomedical research as well as research related to health services and the delivery of health care. Since its inception in 1999 the CHRB has funded 192 research grants totaling almost \$15.6 million. CHRB grant recipients have leveraged approximately \$27.5 million in additional private and federal grant funds to further their research studies. Additionally, numerous publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals and periodicals as well as presentations of the data at regional and national scientific meetings have resulted from CHRB grant funded research projects.