As DCRI’s deputy executive director, my role is to guide our research mission. My goals include growing our research portfolio, starting at the intersection of therapeutic area differentiation and novel design and delivery of trials and studies.

The stories in this year’s annual report reflect the far-reaching impact of DCRI’s innovation in clinical research. They honor our contributions to cardiovascular care, yet, importantly, highlight the breadth of our thought leadership across many other therapeutic areas. Today, our research in the infectious diseases, musculoskeletal, nephrology, pediatrics, and respiratory fields grows at an accelerated pace and shows how our impact is broadening. In the spirit of this year’s annual report theme, DCRI’s growth continues across key areas of health and beyond the traditional randomized controlled trials as the Institute’s way forward.

This year, we segmented and streamlined our areas of therapeutic focus and aligned them with areas of excellence across Duke. We also incorporated more pragmatic approaches in our trials, conducted more virtual and direct-to-family studies, and introduced master protocols to existing research programs. This progress puts the DCRI squarely at the forefront of reimagining how research is done.

We remain deeply committed to working with our academic colleagues and institutions around the world, yet we are also leading the way forward in incorporating the direct involvement of local communities, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our RADx-UP and ABC Science Collaborative programs, both discussed in this report, exemplify these efforts.

I am honored to be leading DCRI’s physician-researchers, who are transforming research and health care—for everyone. I look forward to the year ahead.

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