



Thomas C. Skalak
Vice President for Research
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As Vice President for Research at UVA, Tom is responsible for the integration and enhancement of research activities across UVA's eleven schools and multiple research centers. He is leading university-wide strategic growth activities, including multidisciplinary groups in environmental sustainability, innovation, energy systems, and biosciences. He led the launch of the OpenGrounds collaborative initiative, bringing faculty, students, and external partners together for cross-boundary collaborations; the UVA Venture Summit, which brings billions in active venture capital to UVA to discuss windows on the future of emerging fields; the UVA entrepreneurship Cup, a university-wide student concept competition featuring new business or social ventures that showcase some of the university's business ideas; the UVA Bay Game, a computer simulation game that predicts behaviors of the nation's largest estuary in relation to the human communities that surround it. The university's goal is to integrate the unique resources of a comprehensive research and learning organization to explore, discover, and invent, bringing diverse talents and approaches to bear on major societal problems and producing innovation that drives the creative economy. Tom served as Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at UVA from 2001-2008. He is a past president of both of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) representing 60,000 professionals, and the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). While at UVA, he has been principal investigator responsible for over \$40M in research grants. He was the PI of the UVA-Coulter Foundation Translational Research Partnership and a co-managed fund with Johnson & Johnson that link faculty in engineering, medicine, and business with the aim of delivering new methods and products to clinical use and commercialization. UVA has produced a 42:1 ROI from the top 10% of Coulter Translational Research Program projects, and 7-1 overall ROI. This successful UVA model for proof-of-concept research with high impact outcomes has been recognized by the U.S. senate and congress and has been scaled up to new programs at both state and federal levels and with corporate research partners. In 2011, UVA created a \$20M fund, based on a \$10M endowment from the Coulter Foundation and a one-to-one matching endowment of \$10M, to sustain the level of biomedical innovation investment at \$1M annually. A key goal is more new venture creation, which creates U.S. high-value jobs that cannot be off-shored. He is Program Director of the world's largest bioengineering network, BMEplanet, with support of the NSF Partnerships for Innovation program, connecting bioengineers in 52 countries spanning 6 continents. He serves as reviewer for NIH, NSF, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Science Foundation Ireland, and more than 30 scientific journals, and consults on innovation strategies with Fortune 500 companies and small ventures.