Proposed Conceptual Framework for Applied Research Competition

1. Eligible lead applicants will be public institutions of higher education in Virginia.

2. VRIF will accept proposals for applied research and development (no basic research) and related commercialization of the product(s) of research.

3. Collaboration will be required. Collaborative proposals may involve:
    a. cross-institutional (public-public or public-private) collaboration;
    b. collaboration between one or more public institutions and one or more private non-institutional entities; e.g., health systems, research and development companies, contract research organizations (CROs), companies formed to commercialize the product(s) of the research, industry partners, etc.);
    c. multidisciplinary collaboration within a single public institution; or
    d. any combination of the above.

4. Round 1 focus areas will be those stipulated in the legislation and described more specifically in the Roadmap:
    a. Biosciences (the Roadmap singles out biopharma, health IT, bioinformatics, biomarkers, personalized medicine, remote care delivery, medical devices and software, diagnostics, and computer-assisted drug design);
    b. Personalized Medicine (the legislation lists this area separately, likely because the INOVA Global Genomics and Bioinformatics Research Institute budget item falls under the purview of VRIC);
    c. Cybersecurity (the Roadmap singles out enterprise networks, critical infrastructure security, authorization / authentication / identity management technologies, cloud-based security, data and application encryption and key management, and mobile / device security); and/or
    a. Data Analytics.

5. Stage of development [See Document A's representation of the research-innovation continuum and its depiction of which stages are funded by other Virginia programs]:
    a. Investigators must have begun the process of protecting their intellectual property (filed a disclosure or provisional patent).
    b. Projects must have completed or nearly completed the proof of concept or initial invention/technical feasibility stage or preclinical stage of development.
    c. For drug development, applicants must be finished or almost finished with dose range and toxicology testing in animals; if an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to the FDA has not been submitted, applicants must propose to submit IND application within one year of award and complete Phase I clinical protocols.
    d. For medical devices, if an investigational device exemption (IDE) application has not been submitted to the FDA (if project requires it), applicants must propose to submit IND application within one year of award and complete Phase I clinical protocols.
    e. At the time of application, investigators will not be required to have formed a company or an industry partnership; applicants should propose to achieve this stage by the end of the grant period.
    f. At the time of application, the product of research will not be required to be licensed or optioned.
    g. At the time of application, a non-provisional patent will not be required to have been issued (applicants must include intellectual property protection milestones on the required timelines in the application).