

Meet Our Staff



Susan Roseff, M.D.
Medical Director
Apheresis



Kimberly Sanford, M.D.
Medical Director
Transfusion Medicine



Regina DeIBaugh, M.D.
Associate Medical Director
Transfusion Medicine



Vipul Prajapati, M.D.
Associate Medical Director
Transfusion Medicine



Guan-Hua Lai, M.D., Ph.D.
Attending
Transfusion Medicine

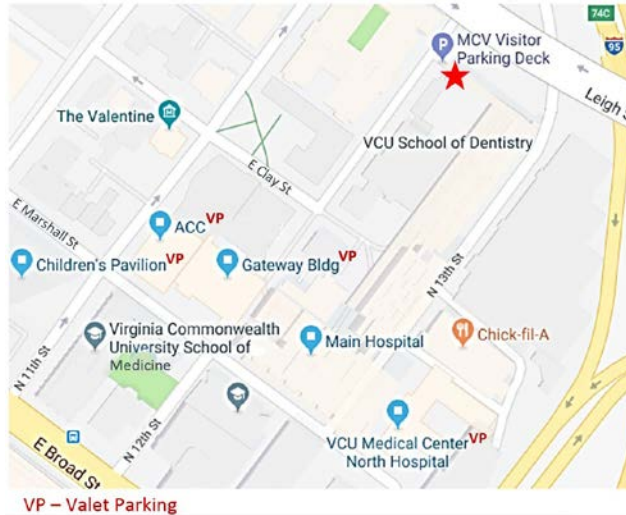


Justin B. Dalton, M.D.
Attending
Transfusion Medicine

Parking & Directions

Valet parking is available Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the main entrances of the Gateway Building, Ambulatory Care Center, Children's Pavilion and North Hospital. The cost is \$5.00 per visit for the service and will be validated in the Apheresis Unit.

VCU Medical Center's Patient and Visitor Parking Deck, is located at 515 N. 13th St. on the 6th floor of the D Deck and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is free to all patients.



From Gateway Building Valet to Apheresis Unit

Take visitor elevators to 4th floor. Follow hall to the right into Main Hospital Building. Make right at Apheresis sign, and continue through double doors. Have a seat in waiting area, and nurses will be with you shortly.



Apheresis
Patient Information

Nursing Leadership

Carrie Harden, MSN, RN, CCRN, QIA
Clinical Coordinator

Chantelle Lands, MSN, RN
Nursing Manager

Nurses

Mikayla Edmunds, RN
Naomi Arehart, RN
Kathryn Maximo, RN
Jeanette Madera RN
Rosefel Refuerzo, RN

Program Support Assistant Senior
Tanisha Washington



What We Do

The Apheresis Unit is an inpatient and outpatient unit providing therapeutic apheresis procedures to adults and children. It was established in 1974 and serves as a regional referral center. It is the only permanent facility within a 100-mile radius providing 24-hour coverage. Seven Registered Nurses with many years of experience, and a team of clinicians specializing in apheresis procedures currently staff the unit.

Apheresis is a procedure by which whole blood is withdrawn and separated into its components by centrifugation using automated blood processors. The components are selectively removed and/or replaced depending on the disease process.

Services

- Erythropheresis (red cells) - sickle cell anemia
- Leukopheresis (white cells) - leukemia, stem cell collection for transplantation
- LDL Apheresis— Familial Hypercholesterolemia, FSGS, Lipoprotein(a) Hyperlipoproteinemia
- Plasmapheresis (plasma) - renal, neurologic, hematologic and hepatic disease; transplant rejection
- Photopheresis (white cells exposed to UV light) - cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, GVHD, organ rejection
- Peripheral Blood Stem Cells can be collected for autologous or allogeneic stem cell transplants.
- The unit also provides services for outpatient therapeutic phlebotomies.

Client Questions

How long do the Apheresis procedures last?

Procedures can last from 3-6 hours. Times vary due to underlying diagnosis, patient size, volumes processed, and/or the need for medication infusions or blood transfusions.

How often will I have to have these procedures?

Frequency of procedures depends on the type of procedure performed and clinical findings.

Can my family or friend come with me?

- A family member or friend should drive you to your appointment.
- Hospital transportation will bring you to and from the unit if you are an inpatient.

What about medications?

- Certain blood pressure medications called “ACE Inhibitor” should not be taken prior to a procedure.
- If you are stem cell patient, please discuss with BMT doctor or nurse.

What can I bring or do during the Apheresis Unit?

You may bring videotapes, writing or reading materials, or small crafts to do during your procedure.



Patient treatment area

Should I eat before I come for my procedure?

- Eat a good breakfast/meal prior to your procedure. Increase your intake of foods rich in calcium such as milk and dairy products.
- The anticoagulant used to prevent your blood from clotting in the machine binds to calcium and may cause tingling of your lips or fingers. You will be given a calcium supplement prior to your pheresis to help prevent these symptoms. If these symptoms occur, they may be alleviated by slowing the procedure or by chewing TUMS.

How is venous access provided?

- Access is provided by central venous catheters placed by physicians prior to your procedure or through one or two needles inserted into your arm veins.
- Please wear short sleeved tops that open in front to provide easy access to central lines or arm veins.
- You may become cold during the procedure due to cooling from IV fluids or room temperature. Warm air heating blankets and blood warmers may be used to provide comfort.

Will any blood samples be sent for evaluation?

Lab values will be monitored. You may require electrolyte replacement or blood transfusions during your pheresis.

How long will I have to stay once my procedure is completed?

Once the procedure is completed and you are stable, you will be discharged home or returned to your nursing unit. You may feel tired after your procedure due to pre-medications or length of the procedure.