

Date: January 28, 2016

From: Acting Chief Research and Development Officer (10P9)

Subj: **National VA Research Week, May 16 – 20, 2016**

To: Associate Chiefs of Staff for Research and Development  
Administrative Officers for Research and Development  
Research Week Coordinators

1. The **2016** National VA Research Week is scheduled for **May 16-20**. The Office of Research and Development (ORD) encourages all VA Medical Center Research Offices to conduct events during this week as it is an opportune time to showcase VA investigators' significant discoveries and innovations that have led to advancements in Veterans' care and the nation's medical knowledge.
2. The theme for 2016 is "**VA Research: The Path of Progress**". As such, the spotlight this year should show the myriad of research topics and studies throughout the decades, and how the results are translated into advancements for Veterans' health care services.
3. This year, 2016, marks the 91<sup>st</sup> year of the VA Research program. Since 1925, the goal of the VA Research program has remained constant: to meaningfully improve Veterans' health and advance health care not only for Veterans, but also for other Americans across the country. VA research advances have been numerous, from effective therapies for tuberculosis to implantable cardiac pacemakers, from the first successful liver transplant to the development of the nicotine patch and beyond. VA's trailblazing research accomplishments are a source of great pride to the Department and to the Nation. A full list of achievements can be found on the ORD website.
4. In order to create maximum national awareness, attract media attention, and facilitate coordination with academic research facilities and other partnerships, we suggest that all facility-level research week 2016 activities be conducted during this week. A concentration of resources and promotions during this time frame will help to convey the role of VA Research in improving Veterans' lives. Please also involve your local VA public affairs officers in order to assist you in planning and preparing for your event(s) and/or activities.
5. In support of your local efforts, ORD Communications will continue to provide research week educational materials and guidelines for you, including the 2016 research week poster and proclamation that are scheduled to arrive at your office by mid-March. Other resources are available through the ORD website at [www.research.va.gov/researchweek](http://www.research.va.gov/researchweek) and include topics such as how to plan a successful Research Week, a toolkit with templates for congressional and VSO invitation letters, sample media advertisements, ideas for events and activities, and graphic artwork related to VA research week 2016.
6. In order to identify additional opportunities where ORD can support your efforts, I would like to hear about your 2016 Research Week plan well in advance of the event(s). Please fax a VAMC Summary of Plans form (attached) by March 1 to (410) 962-0084 or send them

electronically to [christine.amereihn@va.gov](mailto:christine.amereihn@va.gov). ORD leadership and staff stand ready to support your activities in all ways possible, including the possibility of attending or speaking at your event. You can request participation on the attached form or in an email to the above address by February 12, 2016. Please be sure to note the desired date and time. Again, it is imperative that you work with your VAMC public affairs officer to coordinate publicity of any news/advertising avenues prior to your scheduled activities.

7. After your event(s), please send us a summary report (see website for the 'Summary Form'). Include a copy of your agenda, program, photos, illustrations, or brochures that describes your event. Photographs that demonstrate any aspect of the broad scope of VA research, from basic science to clinical care and health care delivery, would also be greatly appreciated. The material you submit may be used for ORD Research Week summary reports, future posters or other ORD special publications; therefore, photos should be of the highest quality, and all necessary releases should be obtained and maintained at your location. Please send these materials to:

[christine.amereihn@va.gov](mailto:christine.amereihn@va.gov)  
- OR -  
VA R&D Communications  
Attn: Christine Amereihn  
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8. We look forward to hearing about your plans and how you will use this opportunity to showcase your local and/or national VA innovations and discoveries that advance the care of Veterans. I am eager to hear about your 2016 activities and will participate as time and resources permits.



Kyong-Mi Chang, M.D.

cc: VA Public Affairs Offices