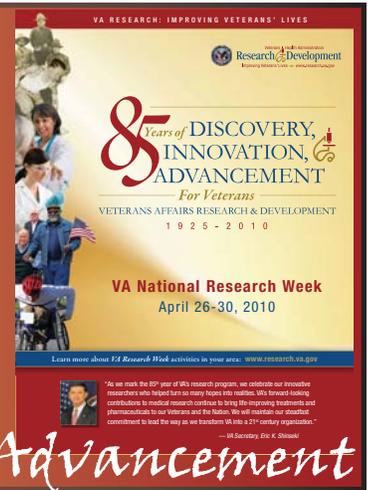


2010 VA RESEARCH WEEK NATIONAL VAMC SUMMARIES

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85 Years of Discovery, Innovation, and Advancement

Albuquerque held its annual poster presentations in the VAMC lobby, where researchers were on hand to discuss their research. Research brochures and promotional items were distributed to visitors.



Albuquerque

The VA Cooperative Studies Program Clinical Research

Pharmacy Coordinating Center in Albuquerque held an Open House on August 25. The Center was one of five recipients of the 2009 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, a prestigious award given to companies and non-profit agencies that exemplify performance excellence.

Baltimore held its 14th Annual VA Research Day with a poster session, talks, and a lunch reception. The speaker was Edward J. Weinman, MD, the 2009 Middleton Award recipient, and his talk was titled "NHERF-1 and the Renal Transport of Phosphate: An Odyssey through the VA".

The **Bedford** VA set up an information booth on April 23, followed by research presentations in the VAMC theater on April 28. Topics included TBI, MIRECC research outcomes and applications, HIV, and general laboratory research methods.

Research informative sessions were showcased at the **Boston** VAMC during the week of April 26. The weeklong event was kicked off with a symposium titled "Traumatic Brain Injury in Combatants: Advances in Basic and Clinical Science," in which local and visiting scientists discussed the problems of TBI from

recent conflicts. Also featured during the week were poster sessions from a variety of researchers.

A celebration where this year's research theme was especially relevant was held at the **Bronx** VA, home to one of three VA Noble Award winners, or Rosalyn Yalow, as well as a Middleton and Lasker awardee. Tributes were made to recognize them and other outstanding researchers whose work has contributed significantly to improving Veterans' lives. A tour of the research building was given at the end of the day on April 27.

VA Hudson Valley hosted multiple events, including speaker presentations for mental health and research information booths at both the **Castle Point** and **Montrose** campuses. Research highlights and summaries were sent electronically to all employees on their computers throughout the week.

A first Annual Research Symposium was held at the **Chicago** VAMC that included special topics of interest to Veterans, such as "What is Research," sexual health, prostate health, PTSD, smoking cessation programs, and prosthetics. Additional topics were targeted towards clinicians, researchers, and medical staff. Special incentives to attract Veterans included \$5 gift certificate lotteries to the VA Canteen that were organized through the non-profit foundation.

Posters were displayed in the lobby of the **Clarksburg** VAMC. Free popcorn attracted visitors to the tables stocked with research literature and other promotional items. The VA Research DVD "Hope" played continuously for attendees. A well-attended presentation, with CME credits, was given by nurse researcher Dr. Gina Maiocco regarding the "Use of Comparative Effectiveness Research to Advance Delivery of Care to Obese Patients."

On April 27, the Associate Chief of Staff for Research at **Cleveland** spoke to Veterans about VA research

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participation. The event took place in the 6th floor dining room. Investigators were also present to speak about their particular studies. An interactive poster presentation that included more interactive discussions and a showing of VA's Research "Hope" DVD was held on April 28 and 29.



Cleveland

A poster presentation competition was held at the **Columbia**, MO, VAMC. Two awards, sponsored by the research foundation, were given—one to the best "young investigator" and one to the "people's choice." Attendees were asked to vote for the researcher they felt gave the best presentation of their work, including a Q&A session. The two awardees each received a \$750 research credit from the foundation for use toward their research projects. The award was presented at the end of the day by the Executive Director and the President of the research foundation.



Columbia

Approximately 150 visitors attended the research activities in the atrium at the **Dallas** VAMC on May 18 and 19 where the theme was treating and preventing disease and disability. Activities ranged from researcher presentations, a poster contest, research team acknowledgements, a lifetime achievement award, and a researcher-of-the-year award. In addition, a research summit was hosted on May 21 titled "Frontiers in Cardiovascular Disease," designed primarily for health care providers who manage patients with cardiovascular disease.

The **Denver** VA research office hosted poster presentations on April 27 in the Center's auditorium, followed by refreshments and discussions among researchers and visitors. Powerpoint presentations

included research on: "Smoking and Schizophrenia: The Role of Nicotine Receptors," and "Determining Medication Safety in Veterans: Is Interstitial Lung Disease in Rheumatoid Arthritis Associated with the Drug Methotrexat?" A multimedia presentation also gave an overview of research personnel, facilities, and equipment at VISN19.



Dallas

During research activities at the **Durham** VA on April 8, Rep. David Price was given a VIP tour of research areas as well as presentations of research in leukemia, knee injury repair, and neurobiology. Guided tours of the new research building under construction, were given to other participants, followed by a slide presentation by VAMC leadership and researchers. On April 28, study participants from the Veterans LIFE study (**L**earning to **I**mprove **F**itness and **F**unction in **E**lders) gathered in the front medical center lobby to demonstrate and promote research in physical activity. More than 300 visitors attended the research information booths, poster displays and presentations. Many staff members commented that this year's events were a great success and many researchers noted they would like to consider a two-week celebration of research next year.



Durham

Veterans were invited to a luncheon following a presentation by researchers at the **East Orange** VAMC. Investigators explained how their research is beneficial to Veterans and how it leads to improved health care.

Research poster presentations took place on April 29 at the **Fargo** VAMC. Investigators were on hand for a Q&A session, followed by a North Dakota State University researcher presentation on "Identification and Validation of New Cancer Drug Targets."

A full day of speakers at the **Hines** VA included a display of 65 posters, a poster contest, and a

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complimentary lunch. Twelve students presented their research to senior investigators with an emphasis on promoting collaborative opportunities.

Information tables were set up in the hallway outside the food court during research week at the **Loma Linda** VAMC. On April 27, the ACOS gave a presentation on the historical perspective of VA research. It was followed by several Veterans speaking about their experiences in research programs. A “thank you” pizza party lunch was held on April 29 for Veteran research volunteers, research staff, and patient volunteers.

The **Indianapolis** VAMC showcased its research efforts to fellow hospital employees on April 27 and 28. Day one consisted of information tables with flyers and posters that were available to all attendees. Day two consisted of a scientific symposium for researchers at VA, IU, and Regenstrief Insitute in order to present, educate, and meet their peers. Awards were presented to the best posters, followed by a pizza lunch and research talks.

VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System's two sites, **Leavenworth** and **Topeka**, held a Research Awareness Fair that included distribution of research literature and promotional items, and discussions with staff and Veterans. The “Hope” video was also shown repeatedly throughout the day, attracting many viewers.

The **Miami** Research Service hosted its third Research Awareness Day with lectures and poster presentations. Lectures held on April 26 included “Introduction to VA Research Grants,” by Dr. Leonardo Tamariz, and “Advances in Prosthetic Care: Lesson Learned From Around the World” by Dr. Robert Gailey. Forty abstracts were submitted by researchers for the poster session on April 27. Awards were presented to 1st and 2nd place winners in the categories of basic science, clinical science/health services, and young research investigators. Over 100 people attended, including VAMC staff, Veterans, and faculty from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

Minneapolis held its sixteenth annual VA Research Day on April 28 with poster presentations in the hospital atrium; lunch for the first 120 attendees; and talks offering an overivew of cardiology research. Speakers included Dr. Adabag—“Improving Outcomes after Cardiac Surgery”; Dr. Tholakanahalli—“EP Directed Therapies to Improve Outcomes in Patients with Heart Failure”; and Dr. McFalls—“Cardiac Biomarkers to Improve Long-Term Outcomes.” Employees who attended received 2 hours of educational credit.

With more than 130 ongoing research projects at the **Omaha** VAMC, research day activities included seminars, tours of the research and clinical units, and a ceremony in which the ACOS/R Dr. Debra Romberger presentd Mr. Robert Schwieso with the FOVA 2010 employee award. The VAMC's electronic newsletter featured daily highlights of research studies, covering topics such as telemedicine, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, immunology and autoimmunity.



Omaha

The **Philadelphia** VAMC sponsored its first Patient Research Fair, which included an expert panel of research staff in the areas of compliance, safety, ethics and administration. An annual poster presentation was held in which investigators presented their work. A summary of the research was also available in booklet format. In addition, refreshments, brochures, and promotional items were available to all visitors.



Philadelphia

A series of events were held at the **Phoenix** VAMC, including posters displays throughout the week, research laboratory and office tours, and a luncheon barbeque for all attendees. Nearly 300 visitors attended, including staff, Veterans and their families.



Phoenix

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Research brochures were available to nearly 300 visitors during the week-long activities at the **Pittsburgh** VAMC. Information sessions, poster displays, and staff appreciation events highlighted local research with an emphasis on how the work benefits Veterans. The ACOS/Research, Dr. Ali Sonel, was featured on the local TV station, KDKA, and on the local AM radio station, KQV, as part of efforts to publicize the event.

Richmond held its annual luncheon for nearly 400 Veterans who have participated in research studies. Activities included speakers, medical care information tables, and a live music performance by country singer Stephen Cochran, who performed his newly released song "Hope," written for Veterans and the VA Research program.



Richmond

Research poster displays in the auditorium, table displays, lectures, lunch, R&D and IRB Committee appreciation meetings were all part of the events at the **Salem**, VA, VAMC. Guest speaker, Dr. Carl Elliott, from the University of Minnesota, addressed the topic of research ethics on April 30.

A number of speakers presented research findings and program overviews at the first off-site research day conference by the **St. Louis** VAMC. There were over 100 attendees, including representatives from Sen. Claire McCaskill's and Rep. Lacy Clay's offices, Washington University, and St. Louis University. Dr. Roland Blantz, Middleton awardee, was the keynote speaker. In addition, two Veterans spoke about their positive experiences as research participants and patients at the VAMC. An open house featuring the new research offices was followed by research discussions about future collaborations.

A research information table was set up in the atrium at the **San Diego** VAMC to distribute research brochures and information for Veterans, employees, and public visitors.



San Diego

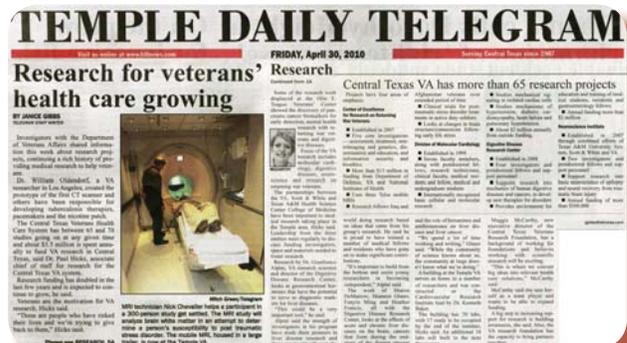
Poster exhibits were well-attended at the **Syracuse** VA by hospital staff, leadership, and representatives from the affiliate university. Poster topics included research on PTSD, genetics, chronic pain, TBI, and diabetes.

The **Tampa** VAMC Mobile Outreach Clinic was on-site the morning of Research Day to promote activities in the VAMC auditorium, including poster displays, and the distribution of literature, promotional items, and refreshments.



Tampa

At **Temple**, TX, Research Week was celebrated with the presentation of nearly 20 research posters. Investigators were on hand to discuss their research. News coverage appeared in the local *Temple Daily Telegram*.



Temple

An appreciation luncheon was held at the **Tuscaloosa** VAMC for past and present R&D committee members and IRB members. The IRB chair gave opening remarks and presented certificates of appreciation, followed by closing remarks from the ACOS/research.

**NEXT YEAR'S VA RESEARCH WEEK:
MAY 2 - 6, 2011**