

Special AWARDS

Our people are the greatest resource of our research program. We are proud to have some of our nation's greatest scientific minds working with us in service to our veterans. Each year we honor those researchers who truly exemplify excellence. The awards and most recent recipients are listed below.

Paul B. Magnuson Award

This award is presented annually to a VA Rehabilitation Research and Development scientist who exemplifies the entrepreneurship, humanitarianism, and dedication to veterans. It recognizes the importance of rehabilitation research within the VA health care system and is the highest honor for VA rehabilitation researchers.

Dudley S. Childress, Ph.D.

Chicago, IL

Dr. Childress' research products have made an impact throughout the world. Using creative rehabilitation engineering design to promote higher levels of independence for people with disabilities, his research team developed the widely used sip and puff method of controlling wheelchairs for persons with quadriplegia. He continues his groundbreaking work in prosthetic development with special focus on improving arm function and is currently funded to develop a second generation of computer-aided design and manufacturing applications for prosthetics.

William S. Middleton Award

Representing outstanding achievement in biomedical or behavioral research, this highest honor for VA's medical research program is based on the nominee's contribution to the advancement of medical knowledge and medical care within VA.

Douglas D. Richman, M.D.

San Diego VA Health Care System

Dr. Richman is recognized for landmark research in virology, particularly his contributions to the understanding of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and the management of AIDS. He was one of the lead investigators reporting the efficacy of AZT therapy, the first antiviral agent for treatment of HIV infection, and has performed seminal work on HIV drug resistance, and subsequent studies of viral population dynamics and evolution.





Under Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement

The Under Secretary's Award is the highest honor for a VA health services researcher. It recognizes the maturation and importance of VA's health services research program and its vital link to the health care of veterans and the public.

Stephan D. Fihn, M.D., M.P.H.

VA Puget Sound Health Care System

Dr. Fihn has played a major role in training more than 140 physicians and scientists to conduct health services research and provided critical guidance to VA decision-makers on issues of health care delivery. He is the director of VA's Northwest Center for Outcomes Research in Older Adults where researchers study ways to improve the diagnosis and management of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and depression. Dr. Fihn leads a major national study that is collecting data on the health status and utilization of care for 80,000 veterans with multiple chronic diseases.

Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers

This award recognizes young scientists and engineers who show exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge. Recipients for 2002 are:

James Tulsky, M.D.

Durham, NC

Dr. Tulsky is a national leader in communication between physicians and patients nearing the end of life. His research has led to better understanding of the needs of such patients and their families and has shown how educational interventions can improve clinical skills in this area.

Jeffrey R. Smith, M.D., Ph.D.

Nashville, TN

Dr. Smith focuses his research on the molecular genetics of prostate cancer, including genetic predisposition to disease and complex genetic traits. He and collaborators worldwide have identified the locations of two genes implicated in the susceptibility to hereditary prostate cancer.

Robert W. Carey Award

Cooperative Studies Program

Clinical Research Pharmacy Coordinating Center

Albuquerque, NM

The Robert W. Carey Awards recognize VA organizations that excel in quality achievement and serve as models by which other organizations can assess their success in delivering service and satisfying customers. The Clinical Research Pharmacy Coordinating Center provides pharmaceutical support service for large, multi-center clinical trials involving VA medical centers and collaborators outside VA. It is developing capabilities to achieve certification under International Organization for Standards 9000.

REPRESENTING

OUTSTANDING

ACHIEVEMENT