

Date: March 7, 2024

From: Chief Research and Development Officer

Subj: **National VA Research Week, May 13-17, 2024**

To: 14RD All Staff; 14RD ACOSs; 14RD AOs; DEAN Front Office

1. It is my pleasure to announce the theme for National VA Research Week 2024: **Building Community Through Research**. This year, Research Week will be observed May 13-17 and will mark the 99th anniversary of VA Research. I look forward to interacting with team members across our research enterprise as we celebrate VA's extraordinary achievements in research and innovation, and our meaningful partnerships with academic affiliates, nonprofits, and other organizations within the private and public sectors.
2. We have developed a comprehensive Research Week toolkit for use by VA public affairs offices, with an emphasis on material that can be easily adapted for each VAMC and assist them in obtaining local coverage of their researchers' contributions. Please use your best judgment and be mindful of local guidelines as you consider in-person events and social media posts to recognize VA Research Week at your medical center.
3. The Secretary will also **host a Research Week Kick-Off on May 13**, recognizing the contributions of some of our VA research luminaries. For the first time ever, this event will be live-streamed and recorded on VA's YouTube channel, allowing anyone to watch the ceremony from [this page](#). We will also be distributing posters for Research Week that have a QR code to the YouTube page, allowing anyone with a cell phone to tune in easily wherever they are.
4. We urge you to visit the ORD [website](#) to find updated information and resources to support your local Research Week commemorations. Outreach materials will include the 2024 VA Research Week poster, the VA Research Week Designation, electronic billboard posts, graphics, social media messages, historical videos, and slotted news releases. You may also access VA Research Week materials on the ORD [SharePoint](#) site.
5. Remember, when planning your Research Week activities, please coordinate with your local VA public affairs office and ORD Communications staff. They can assist you in planning activities and maximizing outreach to Veterans, elected officials, media, and local community partners.
6. We in ORD are excited to help you share your stories of success both during Research Week and throughout the year. I and all my staff are dedicated to ensuring VA's innovative research helps build the community that makes bench-to-bedside healthcare possible for our Veterans, which in turn ensures they receive top of the line care.

Rachel Ramoni, DMD, ScD
cc: VA Public Affairs Offices