Join Us To Celebrate National VA Research Week:

*The Science of Hope*

May 13-17, 2019

Celebrating 94 Years of Research Excellence!

VA Research Week gives VA Medical Centers an opportunity to showcase the numerous achievements of VA researchers and the role they play in providing high quality care for Veterans and advancing medical science. Creative displays, staff interactions, and informative seminars help educate Veterans, our elected representatives, and others about VA research and its impact on treating and preventing disease and disability, not only for Veterans, but all Americans.

**MONDAY through FRIDAY, MAY 13-17**

**13 MAY MONDAY**

Kick-Off Event  
Location: outdoor patio, back entry  
10 am-1pm

**15 MAY WEDNESDAY**

Suicide Prevention Research Discussion Panel  
1:00PM  
Location: Bldg. 1, 5th floor classroom

**14 MAY TUESDAY**

Lunch & Learn  
11:30 am  
Location: Bldg. 35, rooms 142 and 143

**16 MAY THURSDAY**

Poster Presentation & Judging  
11am-1pm  
Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Primack, PhD  
1 pm-3pm  
Location: 5th Floor Classrooms  
*poster awards & refreshments to follow*

Research Service informational tables showcasing the different regulatory Committee approved Research studies being conducted here at the Providence VA Medical Center  
Location: Canteen, Basement level, Building 1
Join us, as we celebrate national VA Research week,

Suicide Prevention Research Discussion Panel

Wednesday May 15th
1:00 pm

VA Hospital Main building
5th Floor Classroom

This event will bring together VA suicide prevention researchers, who are also health professionals and a military Veteran who has experienced suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Our goal is to educate attendees about suicide, related behaviors, and cutting-edge VA research that is being done to help prevent suicide. We will highlight the research being done and the HOPE it can bring to those at their darkest times.

Panel participants include the following VA researchers:

Jennifer M. Primack is a PhD Research Psychologist, Providence VAMC Assistant Professor, and member of Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Consortium for Research Innovation in Suicide Prevention (CRISP). Dr. Primack is a licensed clinical psychologist at the Providence VAMC and an Assistant Professor at Brown Medical School. Dr. Primack’s research centers on psychosocial treatments for suicide risk and depression. Dr. Primack is also a member of the suicide prevention committee at the Providence VAMC where she consults clinically on high risk cases.

Jennifer Barredo is a PhD Research Health Scientist, Providence VAMC, and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior (Research), Brown University. Dr. Barredo’s current research projects focus on biomarkers of suicidality and biomarkers of response to therapeutic brain stimulation for neuropsychiatric disorders.

Benjamin D. Greenberg is a MD, PhD Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Associate Director of the Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology, Providence VAMC. Dr. Greenberg continues to focus on developing brain circuit-based therapies for conditions including OCD, PTSD, and chronic pain and works as a clinical psychiatrist focusing on veteran and non-veteran patients with OCD, PTSD and related illnesses. He is the former Chief of Outpatient Services at Butler Hospital in Providence.

Michael F. Armey is a PhD Research Psychologist, Butler Hospital Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, and Alpert Medical School of Brown University Associate Director, Consortium for Research Innovation in Suicide Prevention (CRISP) and a founding member. Dr. Armey is a research psychologist at Butler Hospital and an Associate Professor in the Alpert Medical School of Brown University where he focuses on predictors of suicide research often in collaboration with VA researchers. Dr. Armey has a long-term goal of facilitating and cultivating translational research in suicide assessment, prediction, prevention, and treatment.

Ivan Miller is a licensed psychologist with Butler Hospital and the Providence VAMC and a Professor of Psychiatry at Brown Medical School. Dr. Miller is an internationally recognized expert on treatment development and implementation for patients with severe mood disorders and is a leading expert in the field of suicide research.
Research Week 2019
Keynote Speaker, Jennifer Primack, PhD

Preventing Veteran Suicide and Instilling Hope

Thursday, May 16, 2019
1:00PM

Providence VA Medical Center
830 Chalkstone Avenue, Providence, RI 02908
Building 1; Classrooms 1-3

Dr. Primack is a Health Sciences Research & Development Research Psychologist at the Providence VAMC as well as an Assistant Professor (Research) in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown Medical School. Dr. Primack is a licensed Clinical psychologist with over 10 years of experience in research with depressed and suicidal patients. Her research centers on psychosocial treatments for suicide risk and depression. She has been awarded two VA merit awards to study suicide prevention programs and several pilot grants to develop a mobile app treatment to reduce suicide behaviors in high risk Veterans. She is a member of the Consortium for Research Innovation in Suicide Prevention (CRISP) in the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and the Providence site lead for the Women’s Practice Based Research network, a professional VA network designed to support practice-based research within the VA health services division. Dr. Primack is also a member of the suicide prevention committee at the Providence VAMC where she consults clinically on high risk cases.
A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVIDENCE VAMC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Dear Veterans and Community Members:

So often, we as researchers, can’t adequately convey our appreciation for your willingness to support Research by contributing your time and effort. We try to communicate our gratitude for your willingness to take part in our studies, however, the results of a study can take years to complete and produce the findings.

So, what happens after participation in a study ends? Once the required number of Veterans completes the study, the data are analyzed, findings are written up, submitted to a scientific journal and if all goes well, the findings are published. Promising findings may lead to more definitive research with larger numbers of participants. VA research can be particularly impactful at this stage because of the large number of VA hospitals that can participate in a single study. Research findings form the foundations for good clinical practice guidelines and may ultimately be disseminated into VA health care practices.

There are many examples of how VA research has influenced and improved healthcare practices. One that I am most familiar with is the recognition, definition, and treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. VA clinicians and researchers were the first to identify the group of symptoms, now known as PTSD, that many Veterans have after experiencing combat-related trauma. Recognition of PTSD in Veterans led to its inclusion in the official diagnostic manual for mental disorders and also recognized that other forms of trauma may result in PTSD. VA conducted the largest clinical trials of PTSD, developing treatments that have revolutionized what is now available and offered to Veterans with PTSD throughout the VA and the larger community.

As we celebrate this annual VA Research Week, focusing on the Science of Hope, we can’t forget who makes all this work possible! We HOPE you will continue to support VA research. We send our gratitude and say thank you to all!

~ Dr. Shea

RESEARCH WEEK EVENTS

**13 MAY**
Research Week Kick-Off Event
Monday, May 13th
10 am - 1 pm
Location: Main Hospital Back Patio

**15 MAY**
Suicide Prevention Research Discussion Panel
Wednesday, May 15th
1 pm
Location: Bldg. 1, 5th fl classroom

**16 MAY**
Poster Judging & Keynote Speaker
Thursday, May 16th
1 pm - 3 pm
Location: 5th Floor Classrooms

WELCOME TO PROVIDENCE VA RESEARCH

The Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology (CfNN) seeks to develop, test and implement new therapies and technologies that restore function for Veterans with disorders affecting the nervous system.

The Center of Innovation in Long Term Services & Supports’ (LTSS COIN) vision is to empower Veterans and the nation to overcome the challenges of aging, disability, or serious illness by developing research on measurement, implementation and quality of VA LTSS, enhancing access to and value of care delivered to vulnerable Veterans.

The Vascular Research Laboratory at the Providence VA Medical Center (PVAMC) consists of investigators with a focus on endothelial and vascular smooth muscle biology as it relates to pulmonary and cardiac diseases and translating their research from bench to bedside.

The Genomics Lab’s vision is to investigate differences in DNA and find a link between genetics and specific behaviors and conditions. The goal is to target treatments to patients individually, based on their genetic code and environment.

Clinical & Translational Research Program (CTRP) at PVAMC supports every aspect of our clinical and translational research studies, from regulatory and coordination of support to analysis and publication of results, and is comprised of project managers, research associates, and research assistants as part of a centrally managed research support team.

To learn more, visit: www.providence.va.gov/research
**GENOMICS RESEARCH AT PROVIDENCE VA**

- Most cells in your body have 6 feet of DNA in them
- DNA is made up of 3 billion chemical letters: A, C, G and T; that is the equivalent of 10 copies of War and Peace
- This 3 billion letter sequence is called a genome
- Our genome codes form the proteins that form our bodies
- 99% of your genome is identical to the person standing next to you; only 1% of our DNA makes us unique
- Providence VAMC is a participating site for the Million Veteran Program (MVP); the goal of MVP is to better understand how genes affect health and illness in order to improve health care for Veterans

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**VA MEDICAL CENTER RESEARCH**

The **Providence VA Medical Center** has:

- Approximately $20 million dollar research program which includes NIH, DoD and industry/foundation grants;
- Approximately 250 research projects, 77 Principal Investigators and 322 research staff;
- Research areas: Health Services and Economics, Rehabilitation, Cardiology, Pulmonary Disease, Mental Health, Neuroscience, PTSD, Substance Use and Abuse and Homelessness

**DID YOU KNOW…**

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- Our genome codes form the proteins that form our bodies
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**MILLION VETERAN PROGRAM QUICK FACTS**

- Overall Enrollment: **746,721**
- Countdown to 750K: **3,279**
- FY19 Goal: **100K**
- Current FY19 Enrollment: **43,961**
- FY19 Countdown to 100,000: **56,039**
- Providence Enrollment to Date: **2,802**

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**EXPERIENCE RESEARCH CROSSWORD**

**Down**

1. A survey document with questions that are used to gather information from individuals to be used in research
2. Information collected through surveys, interviews, or observations
3. An attribute or characteristics of a person or an object that varies within the population under investigation (e.g. age, weight, IQ, child care type)
6. A descriptive statistic used as a measure of central tendency
8. A statement that predicts the relationship between the independent (causal) and dependent (outcome) variables
10. Conclusions from an inquiry
11. Those who participate in research and from whom data are collected
13. Agree to do something
15. The processes of making research conditions uniform or constant, so as to isolate the effect of the experimental condition
16. General statement that describes a hypothesized relationship between different phenomena or characteristics

**Across**

4. Scientific investigation
5. A description of the likely occurrence of a particular event
7. The principles, procedures, and strategies of research used in a study for gathering information, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions
9. A group that is selected from a larger group (the population)
11. Systematic study
12. One taking part
14. Measured behaviors; the behaviors that experimental research seeks to explain
17. an investigation of the component parts of a whole and their relations in making up the whole
18. The tendency of a distribution to depart from symmetry or balance
19. Programmer’s work