VIReC RESEARCHERS' GUIDE TO VA DATA

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

DATA ISSUES BRIEF **JULY 2008**

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VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

1. VA ORD Implementing a VA/DoD Collaborative Research Listserv

The VA Office of Research and Development (ORD) is in the process of implementing a VA/Department of Defense (DoD) Collaborative Research Listserv to foster communications and collaborative research among VA and DoD researchers. The listserv will act as a mechanism for VA and DoD researchers to: (1) discuss research ideas; (2) obtain collaborative research partners; (3) identify researchers in specific areas of research; and (4) establish a source document for research expertise among VA and DoD researchers. To participate in the listserv, researchers should send a completed information form to vadodcri@va.gov (VADoD Collaborative Research Initiative). Requests for this form may be sent to the same email. For further information, contact Dr. Patrice Robinson at 202-254-0494.

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2. OEF/OIF Field Changes in DSS Datasets

The Decision Support Office announced that it will populate the OEF/OIF and the OEF/OIF Return Date fields in the Decision Support System (DSS) National Data Extracts (NDEs) using the Defense Manpower Data Center data from the roster sent to the VA Central Office (VACO) Environmental Health office instead of using VistA data as previously announced by the office. No change is being made to the DSS production data, only to the NDEs. The two new data fields for Operation Enduing Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) will be preceded with "DoD" to describe the source. These two fields will be available beginning with fiscal year 2009 (FY09) NDEs.

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EDUCATION:

3. July Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar

Jason Saleem, PhD is presenting a cyber seminar on Tuesday, July 15 entitled "Research in Human-Computer Interaction for VA Clinical Decision Support." Dr. Saleem is a Research Scientist and Human Computer Interaction expert with the VA HSR&D Center on Implementing Evidence-based Practice and Indiana University Center for Health Services & Outcomes Research, Regenstrief Institute. He is also an Assistant Research Professor with the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Indiana-University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. Participants are welcome to join the session on a "first come, first serve" basis. The VIReC Cyber Seminars on Clinical Informatics take place at 12 pm ET on the third Tuesday of each month. Information can be found at: http://www.virec.research.va.gov/EducationResources/Seminars/Clinical-Informatics.htm. For further questions, contact Joanne Stevens (joanne.stevens@va.gov), VIReC's Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar Coordinator

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4. VeHU July 15-17

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) eHealth University (VeHU) will be held July 15-17 in Tampa, Florida. At VeHU, the Office of Information showcases new IT developments and plans for future development. Researchers who cannot attend may access Live Meeting to participate in many of the 96 classes including the General Sessions. Following the conference, various classes will be available as web-based training modules.

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CONFERENCES:

5. NINR Workshop on Integrating Cost-Effective Analysis into Clinical Research July 17-18

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) is sponsoring a workshop on integrating cost-effective analysis into clinical research in Bethesda MD on July 17-18, 2008. The objectives of the workshop are to: (1) improve the participants' understanding of the importance of cost-effectiveness analysis; and (2) identify tools to integrate cost-effectiveness analysis into clinical research. Information and registration for the conference can be found at http://www.ninr.nih.gov/NewsAndInformation/MeetingSummariesandReports/Workshop.

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6. Conference on Health Analytics October 1-3

The Wake Forest University Translational Science Institute Conference on Health Analytics 2008 is entitled "The Electronic Health Record: Best Practices and New Horizons." This conference will be held October 1-3 at the world famous Graylyn Conference Center in Winston-Salem NC. The conference will examine the evolutionary course of the electronic health record and evaluate its promise of a personalized, efficient, evidence-based, portable medical record to consolidate the fragmented US healthcare delivery system. For more information and registration, go to http://www1.wfubmc.edu/school/custom/health2008/.

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● **Data Issues Brief:** is a monthly newsletter published by the VA Information Resource Center (VIReC) for the purpose of informing and updating VA researchers on current and pending happenings and changes regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics.
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