

## VA Research Week 2001 - Glimpses from across the country

The following pages summarize research activities at various VA medical centers during VA Research Week 2001. We thank all the research services and public affairs for their efforts in devoting time, staff, and energy for this event. Some stations have reported that this year's activities were the most successful thus far where others have made comments for their future planning needs and ideas.

This year's events included a variety of activities, ranging from poster displays, formal lectures and symposiums, to information dissemination about research, trivia games, and door prizes. Several VAMCs conducted tours of their research laboratories and clinical evaluation units. Members of Congress attended a number of events throughout the country who shared their views of the importance VA research has on the scientific and medical communities as well as their thanks to the nations veterans and their role in this important endeavor.

We look forward to assisting you in planning next year's events.

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The **San Juan** medical center sponsored a breakfast in appreciation of research volunteers and staff. Special plaques were presented to individuals who contributed to the research program, including statisticians, social workers, community representatives, facility management, nuclear medicine representatives, and medical media.



*San Juan VAMC*

**San Antonio** combined its research week with a physician education conference entitled "Role of Lipids, SREBPS, RXR, and PPAR in Cardiovascular Disease".

Research posters were displayed at the **Cleveland** VAMC and research investigators were available for questions from 11-1pm each day during the week of April 9-13th. Free popcorn lured visitors to view the area of display.

At the **South Georgia/North Florida** VAMC, approximately 100 people attended the

research week program held on April 16th, entitled "Diseases Plaguing our Aging Veterans". **Congresswoman Karen Thurman** spoke at the beginning of the meeting, followed by several speakers. Topics included "Improving Veterans' Vascular Health-3 Novel Approaches" by C. Keith Ozaki, MD; "Exploring Possible New Drug Treatments for Sleep Apnea" by Richard Berry; and "Stress and Cardio-vascular Disease" by David Sheps, MD.



*Congresswoman Karen Thurman, SG/NFLA VHS  
Director Elwood Headley, MD, (middle), and  
Edward Block, MD, ACOS*

**Albany** held its research day on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Activities included poster presentations from research investigators to employees and the public.

Posters about VA research projects were displayed on April 26th at the **Tampa** VAMC

and local media were invited to attend this event. Researchers were available in the afternoon to answer any questions. A comprehensive booklet detailing research investigators and a description of their research project was available to attendees.

The **Manchester** VA research investigators displayed posters and gave personal tours of the psychophysiology lab. A PTSD segment from the NBC Nightly News, mostly filmed at the center, was available for viewing. The **Mayor of Manchester** attended, Mr. Bob Baines (*middle*), along with alderman Pinard (*left*), and Scott Orr, PhD, acting coordinator R&D service (*right*).



*Manchester VAMC*

The **New York** research day on April 17th included oral presentations and poster exhibits from researchers at the New York and Brooklyn campuses, VISN 3 staff and representatives from affiliate institutions.

Research day was held on April 16th at the **Fresno** VAMC with an open house to staff and veterans. Those attending included the Associate Dean from the affiliate university, a representative from Congressman Bill Thomas' office, as well as local television station and newspaper reporters.

On April 24th, the **Baltimore** VAMC sponsored a half-day conference with a theme of "Exercise, Fitness, and Brain Plasticity after Stroke: Moving Beyond Conventional Rehabilitation Care". Numerous poster displays and handouts on research conducted at the

VAMC were presented and available to the public, staff and patients.



*Baltimore VAMC*

**Hines** celebrated research week hosting a scientific poster display and a special program honoring two local high school seniors with the "Luis Gutierrez Science Student Research Award", presented by **Congressman Gutierrez** personally. Gutierrez spoke to the audience for an hour about VA research, including this mentor program where each student will work with a VA investigator/mentor for the four years during college studies. Dr. John Demakis, Director of Health Services Research and Development Service, took part in this ceremony supporting Gutierrez and the research program. Over 140 posters were available for viewing and were judged and evaluated by a panel that included VA physicians and VSO representatives. Members from the staff of **Senator Peter Fitzgerald** and **Congressman Henry Hyde** also attended.



*Hines VAMC*

An open house was held at the **Hampton** VAMC on April 17<sup>th</sup> and included presentations by students from Virginia's New Horizons Governor's School for Science and Technology who participate in the VA Honors Research and Mentoring Program. The relationship between the VAMC and the

Governor's School was highlighted during this year's VA research week celebration. Other attendees included representatives from the community, the Governor's School, Hampton Sentara Hospital and other VAMC employees.

The **Shreveport** VAMC displayed research posters and distributed pamphlets describing local research projects. Researchers and their associates were present to explain their work. Trivia games and prizes were also part of their activities. News coverage appeared in the local Times newspaper. Photo includes Tere O'Harrow from Public Affairs (*left*), Susan Prado and Linda Ritmo.



*Shreveport VAMC*

### **Local VA hospital focuses on research**

Overton Brooks VA Medical Center will display information about medical research this week in observance of National Research Week, an event declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The hospital will hold a reception from 1:30 to 3 p.m. today.

**Iowa City** VAMC held a symposium on April 19th with numerous speakers including the ACOS and Dr. Paul Hoffman, Director of the Medical Research Service. It was followed by a luncheon and a poster session for approximately 100 attendees, including representatives from **Congressman Jim Leach, Lane Evans, and Senators Tom Harkin and Charles Grassley.**



*Iowa City VAMC*

Research day events at the **Portland** VAMC on April 20th consisted of a formal agenda that included speakers recognized in their field of research. A special recognition award was presented to Dr. Frederick Seil for his 30 years of leadership and service to VA research. The award was presented to him by Dr. Michael Cohen, Deputy Director of Medical Research Service.



*Portland VAMC*

Centers of Excellence were featured during the research activities at the **Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System.** They include the GRECC, MIRECC, HSR&D COE, and the newest addition, the PADRECC (Parkinson's Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Centers. Dr. James Burris attended the Sepulveda research day events.

The **Richmond** research day on April 20<sup>th</sup> included a ceremony to honor research subjects who have participated in their studies. There were over 400 attendees, including veterans, staff and administrators from the VAMC, as well as VA Central Office personnel, including Dr. Joan Porter, Dr. Tsan, and Dr. Alt-White (ORCA). The focus of thanking the

veterans and their families has had an enormous positive impact for the research program within the hospital. The VAMC director, Mr. Dudley, and the ACOS for R&D, Dr. Zieve, acknowledged that medical science could not have moved forward without participating veteran subjects.



*Richmond VAMC*

There were approximately 300 attendees for the research day affair at the **Phoenix** VAMC. Posters were displayed in glass show cases and T-shirts were available. An open house was held from 10-12 on April 18th. Speakers focused on diabetes and its dangers. The event was followed by a luncheon.

The **Cincinnati** research service displayed posters regarding VA research and their research investigators in the patient waiting area at the medical center.



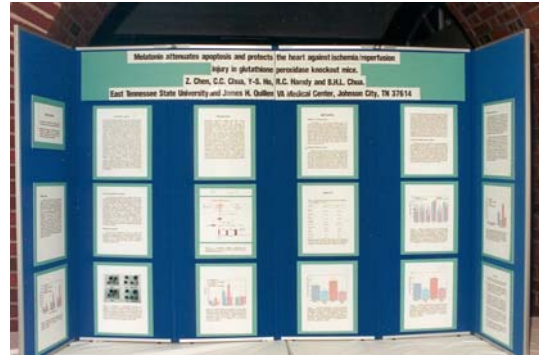
*Cincinnati VAMC*

Research coordinators at the **Pittsburgh** VAMC provided information to hospital staff, veterans and the public regarding research conducted by VA investigators. This information booth was placed at the main entrance at the clinical area of the medical center.



*Pittsburgh VAMC*

**Mountain Home** displayed posters of their research projects. Handouts regarding studies and the research program were distributed.



*Mountain Home VAMC*

The **Bedford** VA held its research day on May 14 and included speakers and representatives from VISN 1, VA Central Office R&D Service and ORCA, as well as the editor of the New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. John Feussner presented an overview of research in the new millennium.

