

VA Research Week 2003 – VAMC Activity Summaries

The following pages summarize research activities at various VA medical centers during VA Research Week 2003. We thank all the research services and public affairs offices for devoting time, staff, and energy to 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, games, door prizes and luncheons. Several VAMCs conducted tours of their research laboratories and clinical evaluation units. Members of Congress attended several events and shared their views on the value of VA research to the health care of veterans and to medical science.

We look forward to assisting you in planning next year's events. The 2004 VA research week is tentatively scheduled for April 11-17.

-- VA R&D Communications
(410) 962-1800 x223

The **Amarillo VAMC** presented a series of research presentations regarding ongoing studies. A large banner was displayed above the main entrance to honor national VA research week. An article about VA research was also printed in the local newspaper, the Amarillo Globe News.



Amarillo

Fifty-six scientific posters and exhibits were displayed for research week at the **Baltimore VAMC**. Ten medical supply companies provided information on advanced research equipment and medical supplies. On April 24th, a formal presentation was held in the auditorium where Dennis Smith, Director, gave an opening speech followed by the keynote speaker, Dr. Eliot Siegel. His topic and slide

show focused on *Radiology and Research – The Next Generation*.



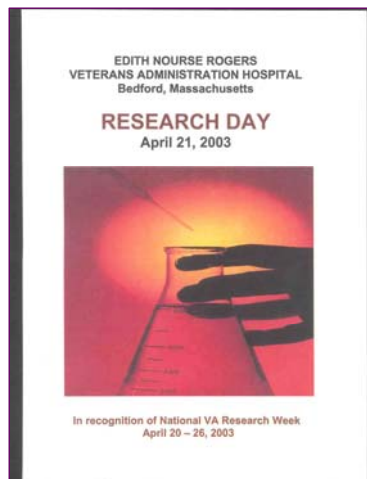
Baltimore

More than 500 people attended the research day celebration at **Bay Pines** on April 25th. Activities included oral presentations by administrators and researchers, posters and video displays, refreshments, clinical exam demonstrations, and dissemination of research studies, papers, and publications.



Bay Pines

A 3-hour research presentation was the highlight at the **Bedford VA**. A number of



researchers each gave a fifteen-minute presentation on the summary of their research project. A *Research Day 2003* book was compiled that includes their study descriptions

as well as their scientific papers and posters.

The **Bronx** celebrated research day on April 22nd. Opening remarks were presented by Dr. Mary Sano, Director of the Center's Research and Development Program, followed by twelve research presentations in the afternoon. A tour of the Research Building was conducted at the end of the day.

Cincinnati's research day was reported as a great success. Celebrated on April 24th, their annual research fair began with a breakfast at 8 a.m. in the auditorium, followed by award presentations to all research committee members. Exhibits, posters, and videos were displayed describing the center's ongoing research programs. *Congressman Steve Chabot* addressed the audience and appraised the VAMC for all its efforts to support veterans and a successful research program. A tour of the newly opened General Clinical Research Center was available to all who attended.



Cincinnati

At the VAMC in **Columbia**, Missouri, research posters were displayed in hallways throughout the research area during research week. Tours were also conducted of the newly opened research laboratory sections.

Staff filled the auditorium at the **Gainesville** VA medical center to hear research presentations on April 21st. "Inside the Brain" was presented by three research investigators and included the topics of how to use MRI imaging to see brain function in psychiatric illnesses (Dr. Lewis Baxter); reorganization of brain systems during language rehabilitation (Dr. Bruce Crosson); and, new methods of seizure prediction in epilepsy (Dr. Chris Sackellares). An hour training credit was awarded to employees who attended the seminar. In addition, research posters lined the auditorium walls and refreshments were served.



Gainesville

A total of thirteen research posters were displayed in the auditorium at the **Houston** VAMC. A suspended treadmill, used in a rehabilitation research study, was demonstrated in the hospital lobby. Refreshments were served and a one-hour education credit was given to employees who scanned their badges. Dr. Nelda Wray spoke about the new directions for VA research, followed by a speech by *Congressman Chris Bell*. Dr. Laurence McCullough presented *Ethical Challenges in Laboratory and Clinical Research*.



Houston

Research day was celebrated on May 2nd at the **Miami** VA medical center to coincide with the 50th anniversary of their affiliation with the University of Miami. It was also the official opening of the new General Clinical Research Center. Speakers for the occasion noted the importance this center will bring in helping to rapidly transfer clinical research results into patient care.



Miami

“Identify the VA research star” was the name of a poster contest at the **Louisville** VA. The correct entry won a \$20 gift certificate to the local T.G.I. Friday’s. In addition, research accomplishments were listed daily during VA research week on their e-mail news announcements. A research open house was held at both **Pittsburgh** VA medical centers. In addition, researchers were available at information tables to discuss their research with other staff and veterans. Additional research educational materials and handouts were available to attendees. An appreciation luncheon was held on Friday for all research coordinators.

The seventh annual luncheon in honor of veterans at the **Richmond** VAMC took place on April 25th. This event is a part of research week that highlights researchers’ and administrators’ gratitude to veterans for their participation in research studies. Patients and doctors mingle to discuss various research studies. They found it works much better than formal presentations and information dissemination. Vendor exhibits also provide stimulating dialogue with veteran subjects and their families.



Richmond

The **Salisbury**, North Carolina, research service sponsored a ‘lunch and learn’ lecture series by local researchers. Daily e-mails reported on local projects during research week and a sign was placed on the medical center marquee.

The second annual research training day was held at the **San Diego** Healthcare System on April 2nd. More than 450 investigators, research staff, and lab technicians attended. Hundreds of mandated training hours were logged into the medical center's tracking system.

Annual Research Training Day

Please plan to attend one of the two sessions consisting of table presentations and handouts. This will not be time intensive. You may spend as little or as much time as you like (the video presentations are 45 minutes to 1 hour) to obtain valuable information to take back to your lab.

What: A series of training topics will be covered including VASDHS Mandatory Training Requirements, Safety, Chemical, Biohazardous, and Laboratory Issues.

When: Wednesday, April 2, 2003 **Where:** 6th Floor Center Core and Conference room
 Two Sessions Will Be Held:
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Who: ALL RESEARCH SERVICE EMPLOYEES (VA Paid Employees, VMRF WOCs, UCSD WOCs).

Take advantage of this opportunity to comply with mandated training requirements and obtain valuable research laboratory training:

CHEMICAL SAFETY
 •Eye Wash Test Record •Chemical Inventory •What's Wrong In The Lab
 •Video: The Safe Use of Chemical Fume Hoods • Video: Biosafety Cabinet
 Presenter: Bob Sprater

BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL AND PPE (RESPIRATORS)
 Presenter: Cal Bosh

BIO SAFETY
 Presenter: Wayne Springer/Noel Quilang

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
 Presenter: Noel Quilang

FIRE TRAINING
 Presenter: Harvey Lewis

BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN PREVENTION AND EMPLOYEE HEALTH ISSUES
 Presenter: Grace Kirkland, Infection Control Nurse

EMPLOYEE HEALTH ISSUES
 Presenter: Grace Kirkland, Infection Control Nurse

HUMAN USE
 • 2003 Surrogate Consent Law •HIPAA Language for Informed Consent •Education Requirements
 Presenter: Gail Marie Vismat

VMU ANIMAL HANDLING TECHNIQUES
 Presenter: Kendra McCafferty

VA MANDATORY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS
 Presenters(s): VA Research Administration Staff

Special Presentation Schedule:
 Fume Hood Video Showings at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Biosafety Cabinets Video Showing at 1:00 p.m.
 Fire Training Presentations at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Refreshments • TEMPO Credit

San Diego

Another successful research week was held at the **San Juan VAMC**, where activities included a veterans' appreciation day, lectures, and a cholesterol detection clinic booth.



San Juan

