



ORD Key Communication Elements March 12, 2008



"The VA Research program is the foundation for advancements
In Veterans' health care and represents the promise of a better life."

James B. Peake, M.D.
Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs



KEY STATEMENT - GENERAL

Improving Veterans' Lives

KEY STATEMENT – VETERAN SPECIFIC (RESEARCH WEEK May 11-17, 2008)

A Promise for a Brighter Tomorrow

KEY ACTION

Discovery  Innovation  Advancement

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH (Elevator Speech):

VA Research and Development Program:

Improving Veterans' Lives through Innovation and Discovery



For over 60 years, the Veterans Affairs (VA) Research and Development program has been improving veterans' lives through innovation and discovery that has led to advances in health care for veterans and all Americans. The VA Research program, unique in that it is the only research program focused wholly on conducting groundbreaking research to meet the full spectrum of veterans' medical needs, is advantageously part of an integrated health care system with a state-of-the-art electronic health record. Through this dynamic combination, the VA Research program has become an acclaimed model for conducting superior bench-to-bedside research; is positioned to attract the best and brightest investigators, many of whom also work as VA clinicians; and is able to promote the quick translation of research findings into advancements in care and medical decision-making based on patient-centered evidence. While realizing the advantages of an intramural program and embracing its close affiliation with academic institutions, the VA Research and Development program fosters dynamic collaborations with federal agencies, private industry, and others—furthering the span of achievements and the VA Research and Development program national health impact.

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“By spearheading research that directly advances the medical care of veterans, the VA Research and Development program has become an acclaimed model for conducting superior bench-to-bedside research.”

Joel Kupersmith, M.D.
Chief Research and Development Officer
Veterans Health Administration

VA Research and Development Distinct Competences:

Through innovation and discovery that has led to advances in health care for veterans and all Americans, the VA Research and Development program:

— Offers a promise for a brighter tomorrow.

The VA Research and Development program is the only research program in which discovery and innovation are focused wholly on meeting the full continuum of veterans’ needs, from prevention to rehabilitation. Veteran-centric at its core, investigators identify needs in the treatment setting and bring them through the research process to application in as few steps as possible, improving veterans’ lives and advancing medical knowledge and care practices for the nation at large. One veteran has said of the program, “Sometimes it works miracles.”

— Serves as a model of research excellence.

Designed to take full advantage of its unique position within an integrated health care system with a state-of-the-art electronic health record, the VA Research and Development program is able to foster the development of patient-centered evidence for clinical care decision-making and serves as a model for conducting superior bench-to-bedside research. Standout features include the program’s full integration of fundamental, clinical, and applied research, which comprehensively addresses veterans’ health needs from disease prevention to rehabilitation; its Career Development Program, which fosters the development of top-caliber investigators; an extensive human-subjects protection program that exceeds national standards; the Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development (JRRD) with over 40 years of publishing excellence; and the VA Cooperative Studies Program and Central Institutional Review Board, which enable VA to efficiently conduct large, multisite, high-impact clinical trials; and a rigorous external peer-review process that ensures that all research meets the highest standards of scientific excellence.

— Attracts exceptional investigators.

The distinctive opportunity to conduct top quality, pioneer research in an integrated health care system and also provide patient care draws the best and brightest investigators to the program.

VA investigators have won three Nobel prizes, six Lasker awards, and numerous other distinctions.

— Fosters dynamic collaborations.

While realizing the advantageous of an intramural research program, the VA Research and Development program embraces its close affiliations with academic institutions and fosters strong collaborations with federal agencies such as the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health and private industry sponsors.

Collaborating with others that share VA’s objectives in improving health care allows the program to leverage resources and accelerate the translation of research to application and strengthens the VA Research and Development program’s national health impact.

