

Ideas for National VA Research Week Activities

The following ideas include a variety of formal and informal suggestions for research week activities. Research recognition may include a one hour, one day or a week-long series of research related event(s).

1. Tours of research facilities
 - Include visual or interactive elements, i.e., demonstrations of imaging equipment, microscopes, etc.
2. Remarks & introductions by medical center officials
 - VISN Director, VAMC director, chief of staff, ACOS
3. Remarks by local or national ORD leaders
4. Remarks by Members of Congress
5. Discussion of research by selected investigators
 - Presentations should be for a general audience
 - Content should be based on a theme (e.g., a disease or condition)
 - Representation by the four arms of research (biomedical laboratory, clinical science, health services, and rehabilitation research)
6. Presentation of awards to members of Congress for support of research (order plaques etc., well in advance to ensure they will be available for Research Week)
7. Recognition of investigators/research programs/research staff
 - for affiliate volunteers, VSO and community representatives
 - for affiliate institutions
 - for local students in research mentor programs
 - VA Centers of Excellence
8. Handouts/brochures/posters on local research, papers, and publications
9. Poster presentations
10. Research appreciation day for veterans
 - Present certificates to veterans involved in research
 - Provide snacks/lunch/refreshments and/or research memorabilia
 - Questions & Answer sessions about research
 - "I'm a Veterans, Should I Participate in Research?" brochure & video
11. Research Fair on Human Protection

12. Combine with special dedication of new/renovated research space (may occur at another time other than dedicated research week)
13. Equipment displays
14. Vendor exhibits to display research equipment and information on medical supply companies
15. Keynote speakers from non-VA entities on research subjects
16. Show research related videos or movies, e.g., laboratory safety training videos, war-related movies. Recent VA videos ('05):
 - *Affirming The Commitment*
 - *Soldier, Surgeon, Statesman: A Portrait of Michael E. DeBakey*
17. Identify Congressional reps, TV, or newspaper reporters that are present
18. Continuing Education / Training Credits for research day participants
19. Poster contests
20. Physician/nurse/allied health education conference
21. Recognition of mentor programs at local high schools for students interested in careers in research
22. 'Free' popcorn and other snacks....
23. Trivia games
24. Door prizes
25. Health fair for employees and veterans
26. Clinical exams / health fair / blood pressure checks and/or other health care demonstrations
27. Guest speakers from accrediting organizations, OSHA, NIH, VSOs, Universities, etc.