

INTRODUCTION

The Research Realignment Advisory Committee (VARRAC) was appointed by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Jesse Brown in October 1995 to review the scope and structure of VA research programs within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and to make recommendations to VHA Under Secretary Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H., regarding possible realignments in the program. Its work builds on a review, published in January 1991 conducted by the VA Advisory Committee for Health Research Policy¹, and earlier reviews conducted by the National Academy of Sciences

Charge to the Committee

The Committee was originally charged with reviewing the VA' s research program to ensure that the research portfolio accomplishes five goals:

- **"Appropriately targets the needs of veterans**
- **"Capitalizes on the unique resources and opportunities provided by the veterans health care system**
- **"Has sufficient managerial flexibility to accommodate a rapid response to changing health care needs, while maintaining the stability of the research infrastructure**
- **"Has an appropriate balance of basic, applied and outcomes research**

"Is targeted to projects that cover a spectrum of health care issues or disease conditions so as to increase the likelihood of multiplicative benefits"⁴

Recommendation 5

The VA should explore technology transfer as a means to receive its fair share of royalties from patents and joint ventures with non-governmental agencies and private companies.

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