

VA Research Week 2002 – VAMC Activity Summaries

The following pages summarize research activities at various VA medical centers during VA Research Week 2002. 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, trivia 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 2003 VA research week is scheduled for April 20-27.

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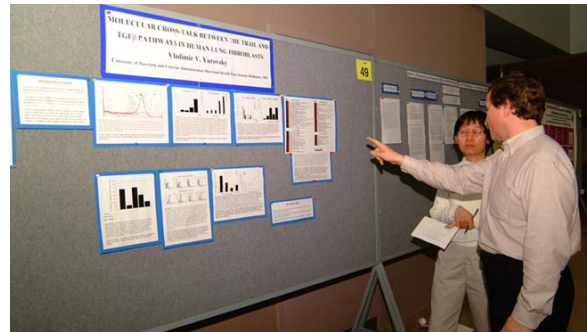
The **Stratton VAMC** in Albany held its most successful research day celebration ever on May 7. Congressman John E. Sweeney presented the 2002 Stratton VAMC's Research Recipient Award to Robert M. Levin, Ph.D. Dr. Levin has 25 years of VA Research Service and is also a VA research career scientist recipient. More than 200 guests attended, including veterans, community members, medical center staff, officials from university affiliates, and members of the Albany scientific community.



Albany

More than 50 scientific posters and exhibits were displayed for research week at the **Baltimore VAMC**. A vendor show was also organized to display research equipment and information on medical supply companies. On April 9, a formal presentation was held where Alan Bellack, Ph.D., ABPP, Director,

VISN5 MIRECC and VA Capital Health Care was the keynote speaker. His topic focused on *Issues and Strategies for Cognitive Remediation in Schizophrenia*.



Baltimore

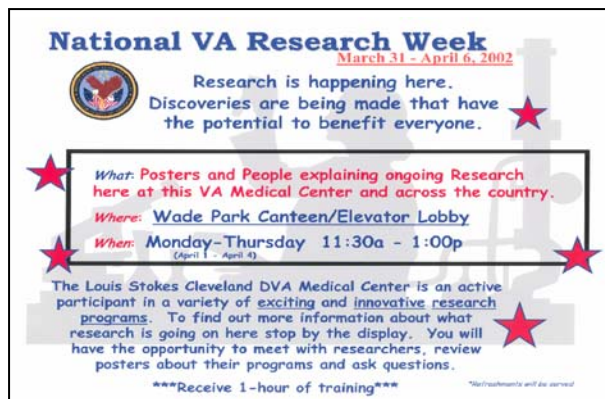
The **Battle Creek VAMC** announced VA research week by posting a marquee at the main entrance of their VA grounds. Posters of all active research studies were displayed in the medical center and an article was published in their local newsletter about the impact that VA research has throughout the community.

Displays, exhibits, large balloons and refreshments were part of research week at the **Boston VAMC**. Dr. Roswell, Undersecretary for Health, was the keynote speaker on April 3. A ribbon cutting ceremony was then held for new research space in the hospital.



Boston

Research posters and presentations were a big hit at the Louis Stokes **Cleveland VAMC**. Employees received up to two hours of training credit by attending the presentations and completing a training form signed by a minimum of four investigators for each hour of training. This promoted open dialogue between employees and researchers. Many patients and visitors also attended.



Cleveland

Two congressional representatives attended the Dorn **Columbia VAMC** research events. **Congressman Joe Wilson** spoke to a gathering of approximately 75 hospital administration staff, investigators, veterans and members of the community. He spoke about his appreciation and respect for health care providers and conveyed his positive impressions of research displays locally. **Congressman James E. Clyburn** was presented with the 2002 *Dr. Linda L.*

Hernandez-Brooks Memorial VA Research & Veterans Care Support Award for his years of dedication and support of veterans health care and research. A white dogwood tree was planted in memory of Dr. Hernandez-Brooks earlier in the week.

The **Gainesville VAMC** celebrated its seventh research day on April 3 focusing on the newly established one-of-a-kind Research Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center (RORC), which is sponsored jointly by the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development and the Health Services Research and Development Services. The center will focus on improving both care and functional recovery for veterans who have central nervous system damage, mainly from stroke. **Congresswoman Karen Thurman** was presented with a plaque for her perfect VA research day attendance every year and her longstanding loyal support of the VA and its research service.

Investigators at the **Hampton VAMC** presented their research during the open house held on April 5. In addition, the IRB and the R&D Chairman outlined the operation of their respective committees. Two students from the New Horizons Governor's Schools of Science and Technology presented projects they worked on all year with their mentor, Dr. Jerome Seyer.

140 posters were displayed and evaluated by a team of judges at the **Hines VAMC**. Special guests on April 4 included representatives from Congresswoman Judy Biggert's office and from the Illinois AMVETS. Dr. John Demakis, Director of the Health Service R&D program, also attended. During the afternoon scientific session, two graduating high school students were honored with the Science Student Research Award; they will each work with a

VA research mentor during their four years of college. A special presentation was also given by Captain Ragain, commanding officer of the Great Lakes Naval Dental Research Institute (NDRI), to provide an overview of ongoing and possible new collaborative research studies between VA and NDRI.

The **Honolulu VAMC** recognized research week by displaying research posters throughout the medical center and submitting an article in their newsletter, the "No Na Koa".

Daily e-mail messages were sent to employees regarding research week at the **Louisville VAMC**. Posters were also displayed throughout the medical center. A research display was set up in the patient waiting area and outside the employee cafeteria with brochures and other information about VA research projects.

Research posters were displayed in the main hospital building entrance at the **Northport VAMC**. Investigators were available to discuss their research and answer questions. A brief video presentation was ongoing to show the importance of biomedical research and medical care for veterans.



Northport

The theme of educating veterans about research was the focus at the **Pittsburgh VAMC**. Posters were displayed around the medical center that emphasized thanks to veterans who are/were involved in VA research studies. Centers of excellence at the

Pittsburgh VA were also highlighted on banners as well as general handouts regarding VA research studies.

The sixth annual research day at the **Richmond VAMC** was sponsored by the McGuire Research Institute and included a luncheon to honor more than 500 veteran research volunteers. Dr. David Weber, Deputy Director of the Office of Research and Compliance, was the featured speaker.



Richmond

The first Research Training Day was a great success at the **San Diego VAMC**. Over 400 investigators, research staff and technicians attended training stations where handouts were supplied for the departments they represented. Topics included workers compensation guidelines, customer service standards, announcements on new research compliance, research administration fact sheets, and more. Laboratory safety training videos were shown in the research conference room and included topics on chemical hazards, glassware washing hazards, assessing risks of toxic chemicals, and more. Plans next year include adding a vendor fair to display lab equipment and supplies.

A very successful research week was held at the **San Juan VAMC**, where activities included an educational-social event for researchers and personnel working on Cooperative Studies Project #465, entitled "Glycemic Control and Complications in

Diabetes Mellitus Type II". Certificates of appreciation and other memorabilia were given to each of the patients. The next day, a breakfast was held to honor pioneer researchers and administrators. Other activities during the week included a lecture on osteoporosis, and osteoporosis detection clinic, a diabetes screening clinic, and an open house of the pharmacy service.



San Juan

Research flyers and posters were displayed throughout the medical center at the **Shreveport VAMC**. A reception, held on April 5, included presentations and/or explanations of research projects by investigators and their associates. Other activities included education hours offered for listening to videos and presentations, trivia games with prizes to win, refreshments, and attendance by the medical center director, chief of staff, service chiefs, veterans and employees.



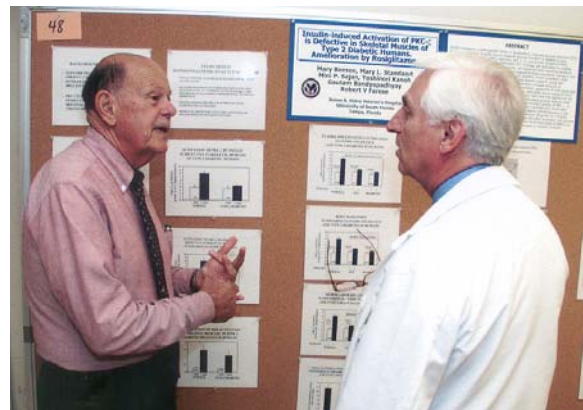
Shreveport

Three days of special research presentations were held at the **San Francisco VAMC**. Over 40 posters were displayed at the

medical center regarding research projects and the investigators. A field representative of Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey attended as well as the San Francisco city and county supervisor, Mr. Jake McGoldrick.

A successful event was held at the **Sioux Falls VAMC** that included tours, refreshments, and prizes. Special 'hands-on' activities included a nephrology and obesity researcher calculating the body mass index for visitors, measurements of visitors' irises using a digital camera, and examination of a flu virus through a microscope.

Fifty posters were displayed at the **Tampa VAMC** and researchers were available to answer questions about their projects on April 25. In addition, refreshments were served in the afternoon and memorabilia were handed out, including a detailed book that included researchers' information and their research abstracts. A representative from Congresswoman Corrine Brown's office also attended the festivities.



Tampa

