

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: MAY 27 2004
From: Acting Under Secretary for Health (10)
Subj: Field Research Advisory Committee
To: Associate Chiefs of Staff for Research and Development (00/151)

1. As you are aware, I recently approved the establishment of a Field Research Advisory Committee (FRAC) comprised of representatives of the VA research program from both Central Office and the field. The purposes of the FRAC are to promote communication, provide input on issues that impact research, and participate in current operations and strategic planning.
2. Elections were held recently to identify field representatives to the FRAC. I am pleased to announce the following individuals were elected by their peers to serve in this important role.

Associate Chiefs of Staff for Research and Development (ACOS/R&D):

Northeastern Region (VISNs 1, 2, and 3) -- Fred Wright, MD, VA
Connecticut Healthcare System (West Haven)

Mid-Atlantic Region (VISNs 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10) - Donald H. Rubin, MD, VA
Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (Nashville)

Southern Region (VISNs 7, 8, 16, and 17) -- Robert Pollet, MD, PhD,
Atlanta VA Medical Center

Midwestern Region (VISNs 11, 12, 15, 19, and 23) -- Theodore
Goodfriend, MD, William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital
(Madison, WI)

Western Region (VISNs 18, 20, 21, and 22) -- Michael Davey, MD, PhD,
VAMC Portland, OR

Research Center of Excellence (COE) Directors:

Director, Rehabilitation Research COE -- Stephen A. Fausti, PhD, VAMC
Portland, OR

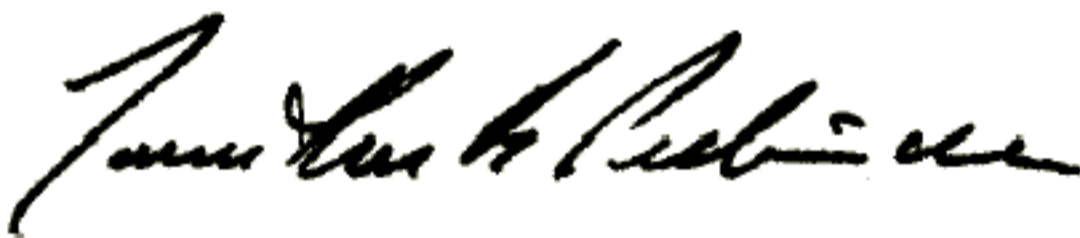
Director, Health Services Research COE -- Stephan D. Fihn, MD, MPH,
VA Puget Sound Healthcare System (Seattle)

Field Research Advisory Committee

Chairman of a Cooperative Study: Steven Goldman, MD, VA Southern Arizona Health Care System (Tucson)

Non-clinician PhD Scientist: John C. Crabbe, PhD, Senior Research Career Scientist, VAMC Portland, OR

3. FRAC members from VA central office who will serve on the basis of their position include the Chief Research and Development Officer (CRADO), Deputy CRADO, and the directors of the four research services.
4. I view the FRAC as a positive step toward rebuilding the VA research program. The group will not only participate in the ongoing management of the program, but also in determining its direction for the future. The FRAC will convene its first meeting on July 9 in Washington, DC.
5. I want to extend my congratulations to the FRAC members on being elected by their peers to serve in this key role. I also extend my personal thanks to them, and to all of you for your continued leadership on behalf of the VA research program, VHA, and the veterans we serve.



Jonathan B. Perlin, MD, PhD, MSHA, FACP