

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

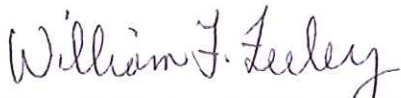
Date: February 26, 2009

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations & Management (DUSHOM)(10N)
Chief Officer, Office of Research Oversight (ORO)(10R)

Subj: Network Oversight of Research Compliance

To: Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs)

1. Each VISN Director has a responsibility to ensure compliance by VISN personnel with VA and other federal requirements for the conduct of research.
2. Each VISN Director should strongly consider implementing one or more of the following mechanisms to coordinate and monitor research compliance within the VISN:
 - a. Appointment of a VISN Research Compliance Officer (RCO). The VISN RCO must have demonstrated expertise in research oversight.
 - b. Appointment of a VISN RCO Committee consisting of a representative of the VISN Director and the lead RCO from each of the VISN's research facilities.
 - c. Appointment of a VISN Research Council with broad representation from the research community and including an RCO Subcommittee consisting of the lead RCO from each of the VISN's research facilities.
3. Please report which of these, or other, VISN research oversight mechanism(s) that you have implemented, as well as the names and roles of the individuals responsible for the continued operation of those mechanisms
4. Your report should be forwarded to ORO Deputy Chief Officer Dr. Joan Porter no later than April 1, 2009.



William F. Feeley, MSW, FACHE



J. Thomas Puglisi, PhD

cc: Chief Research and Development Officer (12)