
MDRC

MANAGEMENT DECISION
AND RESEARCH CENTER

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 1
Network Results: VISN 22**

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

2002 Survey of VA Researchers: Results for VISN 22

This section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results based on the responses from 216 researchers in VISN 22 who completed the survey.

Descriptive results for VISN 22 are presented in eight tables. Characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 2.1. Researchers' evaluations of the status of research in VA are presented in Tables 2.2 through 2.6. Researchers' views of the attractiveness of their VA position are presented in Table 2.7. Table 2.8 is a summary of VISN performance and tracks VISN trends on seven scales over time and compares the VISN scores on those scales with the VA national averages. Definitions of the scales are included as an appendix.

VISN 22 Researcher Satisfaction in 2002

On most questions, VISN 22 researchers reported that they were more satisfied than dissatisfied with research in VA. However, substantial dissatisfaction was also expressed.

1. Researchers were most satisfied with:

- Autonomy to choose their research direction (88% satisfied; Table 2.3);
- Enjoyment of the research (86% satisfied; Table 2.3); and
- Availability of research collaborators (72% satisfied; Table 2.2).

2. Researchers were particularly dissatisfied with:

- Amount of paperwork (70% dissatisfied; Table 2.3);
- Availability of clerical support (63% dissatisfied; Table 2.2);
- VISN rewards and recognition supporting research (63% dissatisfied; Table 2.4); and
- Opportunities to contribute to VISN decision making (62% dissatisfied; Table 2.4).

3. Researchers reported that research opportunities and support were important to recruitment and retention.² Specifically:

- 67% of researchers indicated that they themselves would not work in VA without research opportunities (Table 2.7); and
- 80% judged that research opportunities and support were important for recruiting and retaining high quality clinicians in VA.

4. Beginning in 2001, the researcher survey included a new series of items about satisfaction with VISN support for research. Nationally and in VISN 22, researchers reported relatively low satisfaction on these VISN-focused items (Table 2.4).

² Questions related to this topic utilized various response scales; therefore, not all questions are included in tables in this report.

5. Five new questions in the 2002 survey asked about satisfaction with the functions and services of the Office of Research Compliance and Assurance (ORCA). Researchers gave mostly neutral responses on each of these questions (Table 2.6). For example:

- Usefulness of ORCA MAP reviews (60% neutral).

Comparison of VISN 22 and VA National Averages

Significance testing (Table 2.8) indicated that VISN 22's scale scores were lower than the 2002 national averages on satisfaction with VISN support for research (VISN Leadership Support) and satisfaction with the National Research Program.

VISN 22 Changes in Ratings from Earlier Years

Table 2.8 also displays VISN 22 scale scores for 1998 through 2002. Most scores remained stable in VISN 22 from 2001 to 2002. However, VISN 22's score on Protected Time for Research improved significantly from 2001 to 2002.

Table 2.1. Characteristics of 2002 Respondents in VISN 22 and Nationwide

| Characteristic | Categories | VISN 22 (n=216) | VA Nationwide (n=2356) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Percent | Percent |
| Principal Research Affiliation | Medical | 75 | 69 |
| | Rehabilitation | 6 | 7 |
| | Health Services | 12 | 14 |
| | Cooperative Studies | 1 | 5 |
| | Other | 6 | 5 |
| Years in VHA | 0 to 5 | 14 | 22 |
| | 6 to 10 | 23 | 20 |
| | Over 10 | 63 | 59 |
| Clinical Affiliation | Surgery | 9 | 9 |
| | Rehabilitation | 3 | 4 |
| | General Internal Medicine | 13 | 12 |
| | Medical Subspecialty | 34 | 34 |
| | Psychiatry / Psychology | 17 | 17 |
| | Dentistry | 1 | 1 |
| | Other | 17 | 18 |
| | None | 6 | 6 |
| Gender | Female | 27 | 29 |
| Ethnicity | African-American | 0 | 1 |
| | Asian or Pacific Islander | 16 | 10 |
| | Hispanic | 2 | 3 |
| | White | 76 | 83 |
| | Other | 5 | 3 |
| Research Project Funding | Any | 91 | 90 |
| | VA | 53 | 59 |
| | Other Federal | 53 | 47 |
| | Foundation | 32 | 26 |
| | Pharmaceutical / Business | 37 | 36 |
| Principal Investigator Funding | Any | 87 | 87 |
| | VA | 50 | 55 |
| | Other Federal | 46 | 37 |
| | Foundation | 29 | 22 |
| | Pharmaceutical / Business | 30 | 31 |
| Degree | PhD only | 35 | 31 |
| | MD (MD only or MD/PhD) | 65 | 69 |

Table 2.2. Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility

| Question 1 | VISN 22 (n=216) Percent | | | National Average (n=2356) Percent | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|---------|-----------|
| | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied |
| a Availability of RAs / technologists | 32 | 26 | 42 | 32 | 25 | 42 |
| b Availability of clerical support | 63 | 17 | 20 | 54 | 21 | 25 |
| c Competence of support staff | 23 | 31 | 47 | 21 | 25 | 54 |
| d Assistance with research project management | 30 | 28 | 42 | 29 | 22 | 49 |
| e Availability of collaborators | 14 | 14 | 72 | 15 | 19 | 66 |
| f Mentoring / collegial support | 18 | 17 | 66 | 20 | 22 | 58 |
| g Office space / facilities | 35 | 22 | 43 | 30 | 20 | 50 |
| h Laboratory space / facilities | 39 | 23 | 38 | 31 | 21 | 48 |
| i Animal care facilities | 17 | 18 | 66 | 14 | 19 | 68 |
| j Supportiveness of local VA leadership | 31 | 21 | 49 | 26 | 21 | 53 |
| k Supportiveness of affiliated university | 22 | 32 | 46 | 20 | 23 | 57 |
| l Adequacy of protected research time | 32 | 21 | 47 | 37 | 18 | 44 |
| m Computer systems / support | 24 | 16 | 60 | 28 | 21 | 50 |
| n Libraries | 27 | 22 | 51 | 21 | 21 | 58 |

Table 2.3. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

| Question 2 | VISN 22 (n=216) Percent | | | National Average (n=2356) Percent | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|---------|-----------|
| | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied |
| a Salary / fringe benefits | 24 | 29 | 47 | 27 | 26 | 47 |
| b Future security of research opportunities | 47 | 26 | 28 | 36 | 33 | 31 |
| n Job security | 25 | 23 | 52 | 16 | 22 | 62 |
| c Workload | 22 | 30 | 49 | 27 | 30 | 43 |
| d Level of stress | 31 | 29 | 40 | 33 | 30 | 37 |
| e Opportunities for creativity | 18 | 18 | 64 | 17 | 20 | 62 |
| f Opportunities to use my skills | 17 | 15 | 67 | 14 | 18 | 67 |
| g Opportunities to expand my skills | 16 | 29 | 56 | 19 | 24 | 56 |
| h Enjoyment of the research | 5 | 9 | 86 | 5 | 10 | 85 |
| i Autonomy to choose research direction | 3 | 9 | 88 | 4 | 10 | 86 |
| j Amount of paperwork | 70 | 15 | 15 | 55 | 27 | 19 |
| k Communication within local research services | 28 | 33 | 39 | 24 | 28 | 48 |
| l Overall satisfaction with local research environment | 26 | 28 | 46 | 24 | 24 | 52 |
| m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities | 18 | 38 | 44 | 19 | 30 | 51 |

Table 2.4. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

| Question 3 | VISN 22 (n=216) Percent | | | National Average (n=2356) Percent | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|---------|-----------|
| | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied |
| a Supportiveness of VISN leadership | 47 | 37 | 16 | 42 | 35 | 23 |
| b VISN support for protected time | 52 | 34 | 14 | 49 | 32 | 19 |
| c VISN educational programs | 43 | 44 | 14 | 37 | 44 | 19 |
| d VISN support for specific projects | 54 | 36 | 10 | 44 | 38 | 18 |
| e Opportunities to contribute to decisions | 62 | 32 | 5 | 56 | 33 | 11 |
| f VISN rewards and recognition for research | 63 | 32 | 5 | 55 | 34 | 11 |
| g Synergy among researchers in VISN | 47 | 34 | 19 | 47 | 36 | 17 |
| h VISN recognition of work at university | 59 | 33 | 8 | 55 | 34 | 11 |

Table 2.5. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

| Question 4 | VISN 22 (n=216) Percent | | | National Average (n=2356) Percent | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|---------|-----------|
| | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied |
| a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters | 26 | 43 | 31 | 22 | 37 | 41 |
| b Communications w/VA research headquarters | 31 | 44 | 25 | 25 | 40 | 35 |
| c VA letter of intent process | 12 | 48 | 40 | 15 | 40 | 45 |
| d VA grant review process | 25 | 33 | 41 | 21 | 33 | 46 |
| e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants | 44 | 29 | 27 | 38 | 31 | 31 |

Table 2.6. Satisfaction with ORCA Functions & Services

| Question 5 | VISN 22 (n=216) Percent | | | National Average (n=2356) Percent | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|---------|-----------|
| | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied |
| a Benefits to the VA research program of the ORCA national office | 26 | 51 | 23 | 21 | 54 | 25 |
| b Benefits to the VA research program of the ORCA field offices | 26 | 52 | 21 | 21 | 57 | 22 |
| c Communications with ORCA | 24 | 56 | 20 | 22 | 60 | 18 |
| d Usefulness of ORCA TED ¹ initiative | 27 | 55 | 18 | 24 | 56 | 19 |
| e Usefulness of ORCA MAP ² reviews | 26 | 60 | 14 | 23 | 62 | 15 |

¹Training, Education, and Development

²Mini Assessment Program

Table 2.7. Attractiveness of VA Position

| Questions 6-11, 13 ¹ | | VISN 22 (n=216) Percent | | | National Average (n=2356) Percent | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------|------------------|---|---------|------------------|
| | | No ² | Neutral | Yes ³ | No ² | Neutral | Yes ³ |
| 6 | If you had to decide all over again, do you think you would choose a career in the VA? | 19 | 25 | 56 | 17 | 25 | 58 |
| 7 | Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague? | 27 | 23 | 50 | 24 | 23 | 53 |
| 8 | Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year? | 64 | 20 | 15 | 62 | 18 | 20 |
| 9 | Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years? | 66 | 14 | 20 | 67 | 13 | 20 |
| 10 | Do you personally know of any individual whose recruitment to VA was made possible by the availability of research opportunities and support in the VA? | 39 | NA | 61 | 36 | NA | 64 |
| 11 | Do you personally know of an individual who could not be recruited to the VA because opportunities and support for research in the VA were insufficient? | 45 | NA | 55 | 52 | NA | 48 |
| 13 | If research opportunities were <u>not</u> available in the VA, how likely do you think it is that you would currently be working in the VA system? ⁴ | 67 | NA | 33 | 62 | NA | 38 |

NA = Not applicable; no neutral response category for this question.

¹Question 12 not included in this table because of differences in response scale.

²Includes “probably not” and “no.”

³Includes “probably yes” and “yes.”

⁴Respondents indicating that there was less than or equal to a 5% chance that they would work in VA if research opportunities were not available were defined as “No.”

Table 2.8. VISN 22 Performance Summary: Trends Within VISN and Comparison with VA National Average

| | Research Work | Local Support | VISN Leadership Support | Overall VISN Support | National Research Program | Protected Time for Research | ORCA Functions |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1998 | 3.62 | 3.25 | 2.52 | NA | 2.94 | 3.14 | NA |
| 1999 | 3.56 | 3.08 | 2.31 | NA | 2.84 | 2.76 | NA |
| 2000 | 3.73 | 3.33 | 2.63 | NA | 3.04 | 3.27 | NA |
| 2001 | 3.43 | 3.11 | 2.58 | 2.31 | 2.85 | 2.69 | NA |
| 2002 | 3.60 | 3.18 | 2.53 | 2.37 | 3.01 | 3.12 | 2.86 |
| Change | + .17 | + .07 | - .05 | + .06 | + .16 | + .43* | --- |
| VA 2002 | 3.59 | 3.30 | 2.69 | 2.48 | 3.14 | 3.08 | 2.91 |
| VISN vs. VA | + .01 | - .12 | - .16* | - .11 | - .13* | + .04 | - .05 |

All measures reported in this table utilized a 1-5 response scale with a higher score indicative of higher levels of satisfaction. Scale definitions are provided in the appendix to this chapter; scale development is described in the national summary chapter.

VISN Leadership Support is a single-item measure of the supportiveness of VISN leadership (Q3a).

Overall VISN Support is a more comprehensive scale that includes the VISN leadership item (Q3a) and seven others (Q3b through Q3h) representing a variety of VISN-based research support activities.

Change = change in VISN score from 2001 to 2002. A positive score indicates an improvement in research satisfaction from 2001 to 2002; a negative score indicates a decline in researcher satisfaction from 2001 to 2002. Change scores flagged by an asterisk (*) were statistically significant ($p < .05$).

VA 2002 = VA national average in 2002.

VISN vs. VA = difference between the 2002 VISN score and the 2002 VA national average. A positive score indicates that satisfaction among researchers in the VISN was higher than the national average; a negative score indicates that satisfaction among researchers in the VISN was lower than the national average. Significant differences are flagged. A single asterisk (*) indicates a difference between the VISN and national average that was significant ($p < .05$) without a Bonferroni adjustment for multiple comparisons, but was not significant when the Bonferroni adjustment was applied. Double asterisks (**) indicate a difference between the VISN and national average that was significant ($p < .05$) even after the Bonferroni adjustment for multiple comparisons was applied (i.e., a difference that was significant both with and without the Bonferroni adjustment).

NA = Not available; questions for this scale were not included in the survey for the year in question.

Survey of VA Researchers 2002

This study is being conducted for VA national Office of Research and Development to assess researchers' views about the status of VA research. People's experiences may differ based upon the type of research they do and their local environment; therefore, it is important to hear from all those doing research. The survey is being repeated to track changes in the status of VA research. To facilitate assessment of changes, please complete the questionnaire whether or not you completed it in a previous year. There are no right or wrong answers; we are interested in your views and experiences.

Remember that your answers will be confidential and no one will be able to identify your individual responses. The return envelope has an identification number on it only so we will know when your questionnaire is returned. Once received, the questionnaire will be separated from the envelope. Your name will never be placed on the questionnaire or associated with the results in any way. Please take the time to complete this questionnaire and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Your help is appreciated.

This questionnaire is meant for people who are actively involved in research. If you are not involved in research, please check the box below and return the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

I am not doing research at this point in my career.

Q1. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with each of the following aspects of **facilities and support for your research at your local VA.** (Circle one.)

| | | Very Dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral or Ambivalent | Satisfied | Very Satisfied | Not Applicable |
|----|---|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A. | Availability of research assistants / technologists | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| B. | Availability of clerical support for my research | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| C. | Competence of support staff | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| D. | Assistance with grant management and administration | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| E. | Availability of research collaborators | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| F. | Mentoring / collegial support | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| G. | Office space / facilities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| H. | Laboratory space / facilities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| I. | Animal care facilities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| J. | Supportiveness of my local VA facility leadership | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| K. | Supportiveness of my affiliated university | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| L. | The adequacy of my protected time for research | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| M. | Computer systems / support | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| N. | Libraries / reference sources | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

Go to Question 2 next.

Q2. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with each of the following aspects of your research work at your local VA. (Circle one.)

| | | Very Dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral or Ambivalent | Satisfied | Very Satisfied | Not Applicable |
|----|---|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A. | Salary / fringe benefits | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| B. | Future security of research opportunities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| C. | Workload | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| D. | Level of stress | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| E. | Opportunities for creativity | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| F. | Opportunities to use my skills | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| G. | Opportunities to expand my skills | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| H. | Enjoyment of the research I am doing | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| I. | Autonomy to choose my research direction | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| J. | Amount of paperwork | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| K. | Communication within the research services of my local VA | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| L. | Overall satisfaction with my local VA research environment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| M. | Attractiveness of my position compared to other available job opportunities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| N. | Job security | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

Go to Question 3 next.

Q3. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with each of the following aspects of **support and opportunities for your research work in your VISN.** (Circle one.)

| | | Very Dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral or Ambivalent | Satisfied | Very Satisfied | Not Applicable |
|----|--|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A. | Supportiveness of my VISN leadership | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| B. | VISN support for protected time for research | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| C. | Educational programs provided by my VISN | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| D. | VISN support for specific research projects | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| E. | Opportunities to contribute to VISN decision making | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| F. | VISN rewards and recognition supporting research | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| G. | Synergy among researchers in my VISN | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| H. | VISN recognition of my contributions at my affiliated university | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

Q4. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with each of the following aspects of **support and opportunities for your research work in the national VA system.** (Circle one.)

| | | Very Dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral or Ambivalent | Satisfied | Very Satisfied | Not Applicable |
|----|--|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A. | Supportiveness of VA Research Headquarters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| B. | Communication with VA Research Headquarters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| C. | VA Letter of Intent process | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| D. | VA Grant Review process | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| E. | Funding level for VA Investigator Initiated Grants | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

Go to Question 5 next.

Q5. The Office of Research Compliance and Assurance (ORCA) has been established within the Office of the Under Secretary for Health to advise the Under Secretary on all matters related to the protection of human research participants, laboratory animal welfare, research safety, and research misconduct. ORCA functions to promote and enhance the ethical conduct of research and oversee the investigation of allegations of research improprieties in conformance with applicable regulations and policies.

Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with each of the following aspects of **ORCA functions and services**. (Circle one.)

| | | Very Dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral or Ambivalent | Satisfied | Very Satisfied | Not Applicable |
|----|--|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A. | Benefits to the VA Research Program of the ORCA national office | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| B. | Benefits to the VA Research Program of the ORCA field offices | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| C. | Communications with ORCA | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| D. | Usefulness of ORCA TED (Training, Education, and Development) initiative | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| E. | Usefulness of ORCA MAP (Mini Assessment Program) performance reviews | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

Q6. If you had to decide all over again, do you think you would choose a career in the VA? (Circle one.)

1. Yes, Definitely
2. Probably
3. 50 / 50 Chance
4. Probably Not
5. No, Definitely Not

Q7. Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?

1. Yes, Definitely
2. Probably
3. 50 / 50 Chance
4. Probably Not
5. No, Definitely Not

Go to Question 8 next.

Q8. Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?

1. Yes, Definitely
2. Probably
3. 50 / 50 Chance
4. Probably Not
5. No, Definitely Not

Q9. Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?

1. Yes, Definitely
2. Probably
3. 50 / 50 Chance
4. Probably Not
5. No, Definitely Not

Q10. Do you personally know of any individual whose recruitment to the VA was made possible by the availability of research opportunities and support in the VA?

1. No
2. Yes

Q11. Do you personally know of an individual who could not be recruited to the VA because opportunities and support for research in the VA were insufficient?

1. No
2. Yes

Q12. How important are research opportunities and support to recruiting and retaining high quality clinicians in the VA?

0. Don't know
1. Not at all important
2. Not very important
3. Moderately important
4. Very important
5. Extremely important

Q13. If research opportunities were not available in the VA, how likely do you think it is that you would currently be working in the VA system?

_____ % chance that I would be working in the VA

Go to Question 14 next.

Background Questions

Q14. Are you: (Check one.)

- Female
- Male

Q15. How long have you worked at the VA? (Check one.)

- 0 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- Over 10 years*

Q16. What is your age? (Check one.)

- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 or older

Q17. What is your racial/ethnic background? (Check one.)

- African American
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- White
- Multiracial
- Don't Know
- Other (please specify)_____

Go to Question 18 next.

Q18. With which VA Research Service are you most closely affiliated? (Check one.)

- Medical Research
- Nursing Research
- Rehabilitation Research
- Health Services Research
- Cooperative Studies/Trials
- Other (please specify) _____

Q19. With which VA Clinical Service/Section are you most closely affiliated? (Check one.)

- Surgery
- Rehabilitation
- General Internal Medicine
- Subspecialty of Internal Medicine
- Psychiatry / Psychology
- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Dentistry
- None
- Other (please specify) _____

Q20. Are you currently receiving research grant or contract funding from the following sources?
(Please check all that apply.)

- VA
- NIH
- Other Federal agencies
- Foundations
- Pharmaceutical companies or other businesses
- Other sources

Go to Question 21 next.

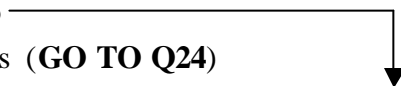
Q21. Are you currently a **principal investigator** on a grant or contract from the following sources?
(Please check all that apply.)

- VA
- NIH
- Other Federal agencies
- Foundations
- Pharmaceutical companies or other businesses
- Other sources

Q22. Please indicate whether you have any of the following advanced degrees:
(Please check all that apply.)

- Masters degree (Specify field: _____)
- Ph.D. (Specify field: _____)
- Medical degree (e.g., MD, DO)
- Dental degree (e.g., DDS)
- Other: Specify: _____

Q23. Do you work full time for VA?

- No _____
 - Yes (**GO TO Q24**)
- 

Q23a. What is your fraction in VA (in percent)? _____ %

Q23b. Do you also have a university appointment?

- No
- Yes

Q24. What percentage of your VA time is devoted to the following activities?
(Note: These percentages should add to **100% of your total VA time.**)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|
| Research: | _____ | % |
| Clinical Care: | _____ | % |
| Administration: | _____ | % |
| Clinical Training / Education: | _____ | % |
| Research Training / Education: | _____ | % |
| Other: | _____ | % |
| Total | 100 | % |

Questionnaire concludes on the next page.

Is there anything else you would like to let us know about working on research in the VA? If so, please use this space for that purpose. We are interested in any recommendations you have concerning how your local VA research environment could be improved.

Your contribution to this effort to better understand VA researchers' experiences and views is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your help. Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

**Mark Meterko, PhD
SOVAR Project 2002
C/o Atlantic Marketing Research Company, Inc.
109 State Street
Boston, MA 02109**

Appendix B. Scale Definitions

| Scale | Definition | Survey Items |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Research Work | Satisfaction with own research work (e.g., levels of stress, opportunities for creativity, attractiveness of my position compared with other available job opportunities). | Q2c - Q2i and Q2m |
| Local Support | Satisfaction with local VA facilities and support (e.g., availability of support staff, computer systems/support, laboratory space). | Q1b - Q1d, Q1f - Q1j, Q1m, Q1n, Q2k and Q2L |
| VISN Leadership Support | Satisfaction with supportiveness of VISN leadership | Q3a |
| Overall VISN Support | Satisfaction with VISN support and opportunities (e.g., VISN rewards and recognition supporting research, VISN support for specific research projects, supportiveness of VISN leadership) | Q3a - Q3h |
| National Research Program | Satisfaction with support and opportunities in VA national research system (e.g., supportiveness of research headquarters, satisfaction with grant review process) | Q4a - Q4e |
| Protected Time for Research | Adequacy of own protected time for research | Q1L |
| ORCA Functions | Satisfaction with aspects of ORCA functions and services | Q5a – Q5e |