

VA Research Week 2005

A Snapshot Of VAMC Activities

This year's events ranged from poster displays, formal lectures and award presentations to trivia games, door prizes, snacks and luncheons. Some VAMCs conducted tours of their research laboratories and centers of excellence. Members of Congress or their representatives attended several events and shared their views on the value of VA research to medical science and veterans' health care. In addition, speakers representing all four Services presented their research findings at VA Central Office on March 28, 2005 (see page 4).

We look forward to assisting you in planning next year's events. Please visit our website for more information: www.va.gov/resdev.

2006 VA Research Week
May 7 – 13



The **Baltimore** VAMC displayed 40 posters during research week. Clinical displays focused on obesity, the MIRECC, and employee wellness. Ten medical equipment vendors exhibited equipment and supplied lunch. The keynote address, given by Kris Ann Oursler, MD, was titled "Healthy Aging and HIV: Challenges for the Treatment Era."



Congressman Arthur Davis (right) received an appreciation award from the director of the **Birmingham** VAMC, YC Parris, for his support of VA research. Research week was further commemorated with poster displays, speakers, and a kickoff campaign for the Health Services Research plenary session.



The **Bronx** VAMC reported a successful research day thanks to the efforts of their research staff and speakers. The large audience included representatives from the Congressional offices of Nina Lowey and Jose Serrano; veterans; VA employees; and Lehman College students. A tour of the research building followed lectures and presentations by researchers.



Research posters were a hit at the **Cincinnati** VAMC Research fair, as was a tour of the General Clinical Research Center. There were nearly 280 attendees, including representation from Congressman Steve Chabot's office.



An open house was held at the **Buffalo** VAMC, including a display of research posters, a tour of the Veterinary Medicine Unit, and participation in the Center's "Service Line Spring Fling."

A poster session was held at the **Clarksburg** (WV.) VAMC featuring a keynote address titled "The New Strategic Research Plan." A one-hour education credit was given to those in attendance.

The **Cleveland** VAMC hosted lunchtime lectures on March 28 and March 31, focusing on research advances in diabetes and vision.



Posters highlighting current research projects were displayed in the **Dallas** VAMC hospital atrium, and the research group with the "best poster" received a gift certificate. A reception was also held recognizing Research Service employees.

A research symposium was held at the **Detroit** VAMC. The annual event featured poster presentations, discussions, refreshments and day-planner mementos.



Congressman Gene Green presented opening remarks at the **Houston** VAMC. Posters, displays, and information booths were set up in the hospital lobby. An educational seminar titled "Writing Budgets for Clinical Trials" was well-attended by researchers and staff.

Employees received a one-hour educational credit for attending the display of nearly 35 posters at the **Durham** VAMC. Congressman David Price (left) received an appreciation award and clock plaque from the ACOS, Dr. Brice Weinberg.

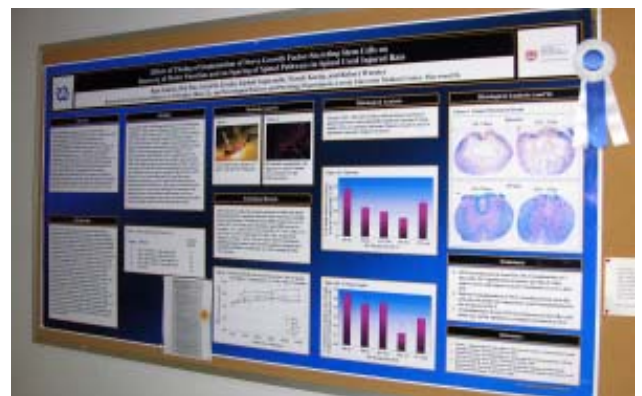


East Orange VAMC hosted a series of seminars on March 31, covering such topics as the protection of research volunteers, bio-terrorism, unexplainable physical symptoms, obesity, and diabetes. Two researchers were also presented with outstanding performance awards.

Nearly 150 people attended the events at the **Gainesville** VAMC, including staff, patients, and VSO representatives. Activities centered on speakers, poster presentations, and refreshments.

The **Hampton (Va.)** VAMC hosted a variety of speakers, including NASA's Dr. Alan Pope, who presented details about his agency's research agreement with VA.

At the **Hines** VAMC, awards were presented to the top three research week posters, nominated from more than 100 entries.



The **Indianapolis** VAMC research day involved a variety of speakers during a two-hour seminar about its research program, including a spoof of David Letterman's "Top Ten" lists, titled "The Top Ten Reasons For Why I Do Research." A display highlighting VA research accomplishments and volunteer opportunities was exhibited, and refreshments were served.

Iowa City VAMC hosted a week-long seminar series and a poster contest. A complete schedule of the events was posted at http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/research/researchweek/research_week.htm.



The **Long Beach** research service hosted a series of research presentations and poster displays. Faculty and staff attended along with California State University (LB) representatives.



A seminar titled "The New Generation of Military Amputees: From the Battlefield to the VA" was the main feature at the **Miami** VAMC. A poster display, research information, and refreshments were available.



Researchers at the **Mountain Home** VAMC displayed posters and story boards about their research. Located in the hospital atrium, the exhibit was viewed by patients, staff, and visitors.



Research day at the **Omaha** VA started with a presentation by Dr. William Duckworth on diabetes, followed by the presentation by the ACOS, Dr. Lynn Klassen (left), of the AI Blotcky Scholarship Award (for nuclear reactor research) to William Arnold, infectious disease study coordinator. Tours were conducted of the research laboratories. Among the attendees were a representative from Senator Charles Hagel's office, the American Legion State Commander, and the Legion's Auxiliary State President.



At the **Philadelphia** VAMC, a consumer-safety officer from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration presented a discussion regarding critical issues relevant to regulatory site visits and audits of research clinical trials. Research and poster presentations, information dissemination and promotional items were also on the agenda.

Guest speakers at the **Phoenix** VAMC included scientists as well as research study participants. Poster presentations, lab tours, and refreshments were part of the events.



A standing-room-only audience in the **Portland** VAMC auditorium listened to researchers discuss their most recent advances in a variety of areas, including osteoporosis, colon cancer, heart disease, hearing loss, and alcoholism. The talks were followed by poster displays and refreshments.



Providence hosted a two-day conference on wartime physical and psychological rehabilitation needs and strategies. Attendees included VA, Department of Defense, and Brown University (BU) researchers; representatives from the offices of Congressmen Pat Kennedy and Jim Langevin; and other guests. A tour of the BU virtual-reality laboratory was also on the agenda.



The theme at this year's **Puget Sound** Health Care System activities was "The Science of Young Investigators." Research presentations were given by Puget Sound's young scientists. The event drew more than 150 attendees.



Richmond hosted its annual luncheon for nearly 400 veterans on April 1. In addition, research displays on a variety of topics were displayed in the main area of the hospital.



In what has become an annual research week tradition at the **San Diego** VAMC, researchers attended training workshops on lab regulations. In addition, the VAMC's first Investigator Poster Day was very well-received.



The **San Francisco** VAMC, also following an annual tradition, hosted lunchtime presentations and poster displays. This year's topics included research on antibiotics, steroids, herbal medicine, and PTSD sleep disorders. Dr. Stephan Fihn, Acting Chief Research & Development Officer, presented an update on the national VA research program.



White River Junction celebrated with an Open House, where more than 40 posters were presented and a light lunch was served to some 70 attendees.

Researchers at the **San Juan** VA sponsored a breakfast and lecture series for patients and research participants on sexual dysfunction and general nutrition. Participants completed surveys regarding their overall program satisfaction.



The Research Service at **Sioux Falls** held an Open House at their research laboratories, including poster displays of current studies. More than 100 door prizes were given out through drawings and contests.



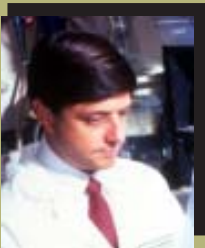
Research posters were displayed throughout the ground-floor corridors at the **Tampa** VAMC. Investigators were available to answer questions from hospital staff and patients on specific studies and research in general.



VA Central Office Guest Speakers

March 31
2005

The following investigators presented a synopsis of their research to VA employees. To view more details and results of their studies, go to our website at www.va.gov/resdev and click on *Resources*, then *VA Research Week*.



Influenza Pandemics: Past, Present & Future
Jeffery Taubenberger, MD, PhD
Chair, Department of Molecular Pathology, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology



Medication vs. Surgery: Protecting the Heart When Needing A High Risk Operation
Edward McFalls, MD, PhD
Director, Cardiac Research, Minneapolis VAMC



'State-Of-The-Science' in Wheelchair Technology
Alicia Koontz, PhD, RET
Research Health Scientist VA Center of Excellence for Wheelchairs and Associated Rehabilitation Engineering, Pittsburgh VAMC



Quality Improvement via Quality Measurement
Rod Hayward, MD
Director, VA Health Services Research & Development Center of Excellence, Ann Arbor VAMC