

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: FEB 16, 2001

From: Chief Research and Development Officer (12)

Subj: Submission of Invention Disclosures to VACO

To: ALL VAMC RESEARCH OFFICES

1. Thank you for your responsiveness to your Federal obligation to formally disclose all inventions developed by VA employees to the VA central office. The disclosure documents are maintained in our permanent files and form the basis for Determination of Rights by the Office of General Counsel, for subsequent federal actions.
2. Submitting correct information in the invention disclosure documents is of paramount importance as these are legally binding documents. For your own protection, please verify the accuracy of the certification page that you sign. Incorrect information may lead to confusion and the possibility of incorrect ownership assignments.
3. Unfortunately, some egregious errors have been found on signed disclosure documents. An example of such errors includes the employment status of the inventor at the time of the invention. Merit Review support of research related to the invention and the use of VA facilities has been inaccurately stated also. Please pay close attention to the accuracy of these items as well as all other items on the certification page. Misleading information, even when it is an honest mistake could be construed as fraud.
4. It is the goal of the VA Technology Transfer Office to optimally serve VA inventors. When appropriate, inventions can be patented and marketed at VA expense with eventual royalty being returned to both the inventor and her/his laboratory and Medical Center. If the invention was developed with legitimate co-support from the University affiliate, both organizations, as well as the inventor, are beneficiaries.
5. If you have questions about the process, refer to our web site - (www.vard.org) and look for the Technology Transfer button.

John R. Feussner, M.D., M.P.H.

Cc: Medical Center Directors