

VA Research Week 2004 – VAMC Activity Summaries

The following summarizes research activities at various VA medical centers during VA Research Week 2004. This year's events ranged from poster displays, formal lectures and symposiums to trivia games, snacks and luncheons. Several 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.

Some stations have reported that this year's activities were the most successful to date. Others have made comments regarding their future plans and needs. We thank all the research services and public affairs offices for devoting time, staff, and energy to this event.

We look forward to assisting you in planning next year's events. Please visit our website for more information: www.va.gov/resdev. The 2005 VA research week is scheduled for March 27 – April 2.

-- VA R&D Communications -- (410) 962-1800 x273

Nearly 60 posters were presented at the **Baltimore** VAMC during research day on May 18. Ten vendor supply companies provided lunch and exhibits. Displays were set up to disseminate information regarding clinical programs, cooperative studies and quality assurance. The keynote address included a talk on "Mad Cow Disease" and a Town Meeting was held by Dr. Timothy O'Leary, Director, Biomedical Laboratory R&D Service, for researchers and staff.



Baltimore

An all-day research informational event was hosted by the **Bedford** VAMC MIRECC staff. Research materials and information were presented to veterans and staff.



Bedford

A very successful research day event was reported by the **Bronx** VAMC. It was held on Tuesday, April 13 and attended by research staff, veterans, VAMC employees, and Westchester Community College students. Activities included lectures, presentations, a poster session, and a tour of the research building.

The **Clarksburg** VAMC hosted a poster session for employees and patients.

A research week training class was held at the **Cleveland** VAMC. Employees received up to two hours of training certification for attending the poster presentations and interacting with investigators about their research.



Cleveland

A half-day research symposium was held to highlight the array of radiopharmaceutical research conducted at the **Columbia, MO**, VAMC. A presentation by 10 VA investigators was well attended by VA staff and University of Missouri-Columbia faculty.

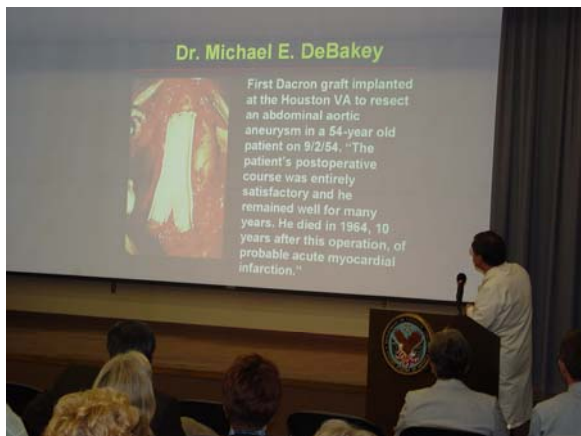
The focus at the **Gainesville** VAMC was on 'dangerous organisms.' Researchers presented information on threats that may arise in the community, such as anthrax and fungal pathogens. A standing-room-only crowd included VAMC staff as well as representatives from Senator Bill Nelson's and Representative Cliff Stearn's offices.



Gainesville

Dr. Alan Pope from NASA spoke at the **Hampton** VAMC on the topic of human factors research and innovations from aerospace to inner space. A video was shown about the Jesse Gelsinger story from *Dateline*, highlighting gene therapy and informed consent. A session was also held on the protection of human subjects, along with an award presentation for IRB research members.

Research posters, speakers, and refreshments were part of research day on April 14 at the **Houston** VAMC. A representative from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's office attended and expressed her support for VA research and the nation's veterans.



Houston

Iowa City reported that their research week was a huge success! Research-week poster awards were presented to individuals in several

categories in conjunction with the Carver College of Medicine/College of Public Health. Distinguished speakers participated in lectures and panel discussions. A website was also developed that featured the schedule of events, photos and contact information.

Las Vegas distributed research literature throughout its 17 temporary primary care sites. Information included current research project summaries as well as studies that are recruiting patients, such as the SELECT trial. The videotape "I'm a veteran, should I participate in research?" was shown to interested participants.

The **Miami** VAMC celebrated research day on April 13 with poster presentations, speeches, and a tour of the spinal cord injury center of excellence. There was also a demonstration of the *Lokomat*, an electrically driven gait orthosis mounted to a treadmill to assist patients with walking impairments. A representative from Senator Bob Graham's office attended, as well as nearly 75 people from other VA services, the University of Miami and the surrounding community.



Miami

Mountain Home VAMC combined poster presentations with a research training day and refreshments. Employees attended seminars on chemical and bio-hazardous safety, emergency preparedness and fire safety, general lab safety, human subject protection and more.

Posters were displayed throughout the research area at the **Philadelphia** VAMC during the entire research week. A poster presentation and reception was held on Wednesday, April 14, followed by a tour of the newly renovated research laboratories.



The research service at the **Phoenix** VAMC held an open house on April 13 from 10-2. Nearly 100 attendees viewed the poster presentations and received promotional materials, literature and food. Research information was displayed in a glass case in the hospital's main corridor.

Research day was on April 9 at the **Providence** VAMC. A poster presentation session was accompanied by a luncheon in collaboration with the Brown University "Pathways to Recovery Group." A sheet cake was made that replicated the VA research week poster!



Providence

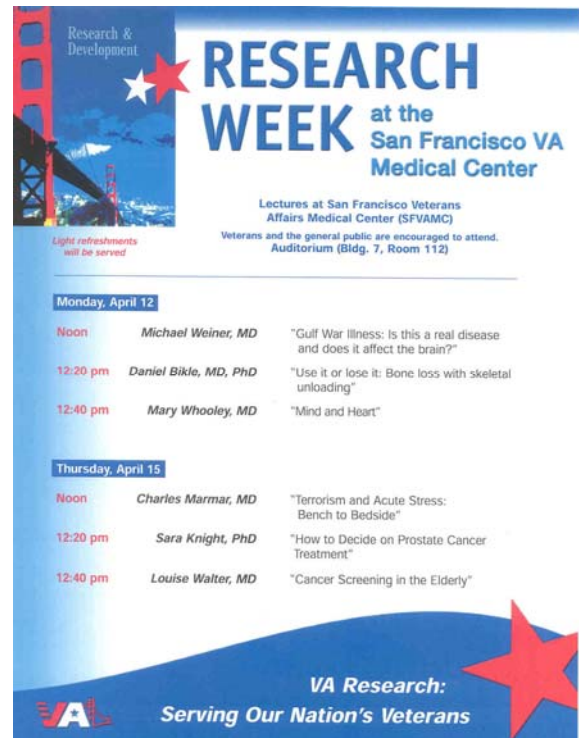
A seventh annual research day at the **Richmond** VAMC was sponsored by the McGuire Research Institute and included a luncheon to honor more than 500 veteran research volunteers.

Nearly 500 staff, veterans, and visitors attended the **San Diego** research day event on April 21. Events included the third annual research training day, with emphasis on lab and fire safety and research compliance. A certificate of excellence was presented to the lab most consistent in meeting their safety and training requirements. In addition, there were poster presentations and research demonstrations.



San Diego

A lunchtime presentation series was hosted by the **San Francisco** VAMC research service. Staff representatives from Senator Barbara Boxer's office attended the kick-off celebration, in addition to veterans and VA employees. Nearly 40 posters illustrated and highlighted a wide spectrum of research at the center.



San Francisco

The **San Juan** VAMC held a Research Appreciation Day. Research study participants attended the event and talked about their experiences and concerns to a group of VA researchers, administrators, and other veterans. They received brunch, literature, and research promotional items for their participation.



San Juan

Nearly 175 people attended the research day event at the **Seattle** VAMC on April 29. Oral

and poster presentations were given on a variety of research topics. Staff members from the offices of the following Congressional representatives were on hand: Jennifer Dunn, Jay Inslee, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, and Jim McDermott.



Seattle

The **Shreveport** VAMC hosted a reception in honor of VA research week. Nine investigators conducted poster presentations followed by question and answer sessions. Light refreshments were served and employees received one hour of continuing-education credit for attending.



Shreveport

Awards were presented to those who performed animal husbandry, a critical element of the research program, at the **St. Louis** VAMC. There were also speakers, research displays and refreshments for all attendees. Handouts included numerous brochures and a specially made Research Day button!



St. Louis

VA employees, patients and their families were invited to **White River Junction** VAMC's research week celebration. This event included speakers on the topic of "*prescriptions: research for a healthier tomorrow.*" Poster presentations, an open house and refreshments highlighted activities at this center.

We invite all VA employees, patients and their families to participate in the White River Junction VA Medical Center's celebration of

National VA Research Week

Friday, April 16th, 2004
11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Bldg-44, G-103

First, an "Open House" consisting of poster presentations and refreshments will be held in B-44, G-103. A light lunch will be served prior to the seminar, 11 am - 12 noon.

Next, the keynote presentation, 12 noon until 1:15 pm, entitled, "**Rx: Research, for a Healthier Tomorrow!**"

Presentations include,
Alexandra Howell, Ph.D.,
"Why are women at greater risk for becoming infected with HIV?"
Douglas Robertson, M.D., "Can an Aspirin a Day Keep Colon Cancer Away?"
Jacqueline Sinclair, Ph.D., "Acetaminophen and Alcohol, What Are the Risks?"
Matthew Vincenti, Ph.D., "Cartilage Destruction in Arthritis"

Yasinski Research & Education Building (B-44), Rooms 103 A & B

Finally, the "Open House" consisting of poster presentations and refreshments continues in B-44, G-103. Coffee and dessert will be served following the seminar, until 3:00 pm.