

2006

VA RESEARCH WEEK SUMMARIES

Albuquerque research staff distributed flyers to all attendees, held presentations, and provided snacks and promotional items.

Staff at the **Augusta** research office created an information book with highlights of research events and advances in chronological format. In addition, they designed a poster to depict the highlights.



Veterans Affairs Research

Timeline: 1920's, 1940's, 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, 1990's, 2000's...

Augusta

The Augusta VA Medical Center has a strong and diverse research program. Currently there are 12 active principal investigators working on a total of 124 active research projects. The estimated annual budget for these projects is \$1.2 million. The VA budget includes funding for administrative, core facilities, animal laboratory, histological laboratory, clinical studies, comparative studies, health services and rehabilitation research. Additional resources come from numerous outside sources and agencies to include the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Grants are obtained by the Augusta VA Medical Center through the Augusta Biomedical Research Corporation (ABRC), a non-profit corporation established to support VA research.

Areas of major research interest at the Augusta VAMC include stroke, neuroscience, cancer, surgery, orthopedics, schizophrenia, and molecular biology research. There is a special affiliation between the Medical College of Georgia and the VA Medical Center.

Augusta

The **Baltimore** VAMC displayed 46 posters at their 10th annual research week. Clinical program demonstrations focused on a variety of topics, including rehabilitation, the MIRECC, and quality assurance. Medical equipment vendors exhibited their latest technologies and sponsored lunch for all who attended. The keynote address, by Dr. Paul Fishman, was titled "Developing Neurological Therapeutics from Tetanus Toxin".



Baltimore

The VA Research Service at the **Bedford** VAMC sponsored a three-day exposition of posters and displays. Investigators were on hand to speak about their research with all visitors, including the VISN Chief Medical Officer, the VAMC Director, patients, staff, and visitors.

Birmingham Research Week activities were sponsored by the BVAMC Deep South Center on Effectiveness. Six out of nearly 20 researchers were chosen to present their findings on May 12. In addition, veterans were asked to fill out surveys regarding their perspectives on VA research.

The **Boston** VA Healthcare System sponsored a research information center at the Jamaica Plains VAMC; a poster session and research symposium was held at the West Roxbury VA.

Nearly 200 employees, patients, and visitors attended the research week celebration at the **Buffalo** VAMC on May 9. Activities included seminars, poster displays, puzzles, door prizes, refreshments, and research information handouts.



Buffalo

The **Bronx** VAMC reported a successful event during their research day on May 8. Activities included a poster exhibit and research presentations to patients, VAMC personnel, community leaders, and visiting staff and students from the Westchester Community College.

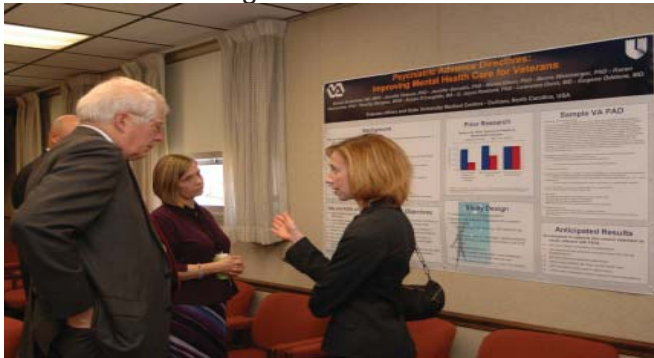
The **Clarksburg** VAMC sponsored a CME grand rounds that featured a talk by Mitchell Finkel, MD, who presented his research on reversible heart failure.

Cleveland conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony and an open house of newly renovated research areas, including the Daroff-Dell'Osso Ocular Motility Lab and the Advanced Platform Technology Center of Excellence. On May 25, a patient participant thank-you-tea was held in the recreation hall with nearly 120 past and present research participants. Research staff, study coordinators, and principal investigators were on hand to discuss research and answer any questions. In addition, a short program on the protection of human research was presented.



Cleveland

Employees received a one-hour educational credit for attending the display of nearly 35 posters at the **Durham** VAMC. Also touring the displays and speaking with staff was Congressman David Price.



Durham

Over 200 people attended the events at the **Gainesville** VAMC on June 7, including staff, patients, and VSO representatives. Activities centered on speakers, poster presentations, and refreshments. Congressional representation included staff from the offices of Cliff Stearns, Corrine Brown, Ander Crenshaw, Mel Martinez, and Bill Nelson.

At the **Hines** VAMC, awards were presented to the top

three scientific research week posters nominated from 85 entries. Lectures and poster presentations were well attended with 463 visitors.

Twenty-two poster displays, several speakers, and software demonstrations were successful events at the **Houston** VAMC May 9-11. Eleven posters were used as research information tools and used for study recruitment. Two seminars were held on May 11 entitled "Consensus and Controversy in Clinical Research Ethics" and one on a clinical trials management software package, the Study Manager. Refreshments and promotional items were distributed to attendees.

A seminar titled "Gulf War Illnesses-Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research Update 2006", was the main feature at the **Miami** VAMC. Dr. Andrew Schally, a distinguished medical research scientist and Nobel Laureate in Medicine, provided his thoughts and general comments on current research at the Miami VA Healthcare System. Poster displays, research information, and refreshments were also provided.

Various events took place throughout the week at the **Philadelphia** VAMC, including research and poster presentations, seminars, and the distribution of research booklets and promotional items. The research compliance officer conducted a discussion with patients on the topic of "What it means to be a research subject".

Guest speakers at the **Phoenix** VAMC included a variety of local research scientists. A laboratory and a clinical research area open house was held on May 9 for patients, staff, and other visitors. New researchers, as well as researchers who were recently awarded new funding for their projects, were formally acknowledged. Research study participants were also recognized. Poster presentations, lab tours, and refreshments were also part of the events.

Research week focused on patients and veteran subjects at the **Pittsburgh** VAMC. Staff handed out research literature; assisted study coordinators recruit participants for studies; surveyed veterans about their research experiences; and, assisted in the recruitment of new IRB members.

Providence VAMC hosted an afternoon conference on the history of research ethics, human research protection, and research animal welfare.

Richmond sponsored their 10th annual research luncheon to honor research participants.

The **Salem** VAMC celebrated research week with a display of posters and abstracts in the main lobby. Clinical research study coordinators and investigators were on hand to describe their research and answer any questions. On May 5, a medical grand rounds focused on research that medical residents did during their residency at Salem.

Research presentations were conducted at the **San Diego** VAMC, in addition to research training and a seminar on emergency preparedness.



San Diego

A week long program at the **San Francisco** VAMC featured lunch time speakers, refreshments, and over 40 poster presentations. Events were well attended and included special guests Tom Johnson, California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary, Dr. Kupersmith, and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.



San Francisco

In **San Juan**, approximately 100 attendees were in attendance every day during the week long schedule of events. Activities included a breast cancer awareness seminar, a diabetes clinic, and a series of lectures on osteoarthritis, influenza, mental health, anger management, sleep hygiene and sleep apnea. The week ended with a lunch event to thank research participants and included research trivia games, lunch and promotional items.



San Juan

The **Shreveport** VAMC displayed research project posters in the lobby of the main building.

A VISN-wide program was sponsored by the **St. Louis** VAMC on May 12. Special guests included the VISN Director, the Director for the VA HSR&D Center for Implementation of Innovative Strategies in Practice, and keynote speaker, Dr. Shirley Meehan.



St. Louis

Over 150 people attended the research day events on May 11 at **White River Junction**. Two research papers were discussed titled “The Media’s Role on the Creation of a Disease: Restless Legs”, and “Acetaminophen: Friend or Foe.” In addition, there were 20 poster presentations-two of which received a 1st and 2nd place prize, Drs. Ruth Conner and Paula Schnurr, respectively. A dinner gift certificate was also awarded through a randomly selected voter ballot.

2007 Research Week May 13 - 19

Please visit the R&D website for more information and previous years' summaries. Direct any inquiries to Christine Amereihn at (410) 962-1800 x273 or christine.amereihn@va.gov

www.research.va.gov