A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVIDENCE VAMC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Dear Veterans and Community Members:

So often, we as researchers can’t adequately express our appreciation for your willingness to support Research, contributing your time and effort. We HOPE we communicate our gratitude for your willingness to take part, however, results of a study can take years to complete and produce the findings.

So, what happens after participation in a study ends? Once the required number of Veterans complete the study, the data are analyzed, findings are written up, submitted for publication; If all goes well, the findings are published. Promising findings may lead to more definitive research with larger numbers of participants. VA research can be particularly impactful because of the large number of VA hospitals that can participate in a single study. Research findings form the foundations for good clinical practice guidelines and may ultimately be disseminated into VA health care practices.

There are many examples of how VA research has influenced and improved healthcare practices. One that I am most familiar with is the recognition, definition, and treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). VA clinicians and researchers were the first to identify the group of symptoms, now known as PTSD, that many Veterans have after experiencing combat-related trauma. Recognition of PTSD in Veterans led to its inclusion in the official diagnostic manual for mental disorders and also recognized that other forms of trauma may result in PTSD. VA conducted the largest clinical trials of PTSD, developing treatments that have revolutionized what is now available and offered to Veterans with PTSD throughout the VA and the larger community.

As we celebrate this annual VA Research Week, focusing on the Science of Hope, we can’t forget who makes all this work possible! We HOPE you will continue to support VA research. We send our gratitude and say thank you to all!

~ Dr. Shea

WELCOME TO PROVIDENCE VA RESEARCH

The Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology (CfNN) seeks to develop, test and implement new therapies and technologies that restore function for Veterans with disorders affecting the nervous system.

The Center of Innovation in Long Term Services & Supports’ (LTSS COIN) vision is to empower Veterans and the nation to overcome the challenges of aging, disability, or serious illness by developing research on measurement, implementation and quality of VA LTSS, enhancing access to and value of care delivered to vulnerable Veterans.

The Vascular Research Laboratory at the Providence VA Medical Center (PVAMC) consists of investigators with a focus on endothelial and vascular smooth muscle biology as it relates to pulmonary and cardiac diseases and translating their research from bench to bedside.

The Genomics Lab’s vision is to investigate differences in DNA and find a link between genetics and specific behaviors and conditions. The goal is to target treatments to patients individually, based on their genetic code and environment.

Clinical & Translational Research Program (CTRP) at PVAMC supports every aspect of our clinical and translational research studies, from regulatory and coordination of support to analysis and publication of results, and is comprised of project managers, research associates, and research assistants as part of a centrally managed research support team.

RESEARCH WEEK EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>Research Week Kick-Off Event</td>
<td>10 am - 1 pm</td>
<td>Main Hospital Back Patio</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>Suicide Prevention Research Discussion Panel</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Bldg. 1, 5th fl classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>Poster Judging &amp; Keynote Speaker</td>
<td>1 pm - 3 pm</td>
<td>5th Floor Classrooms</td>
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To learn more, visit: www.providence.va.gov/research
**GENOMICS RESEARCH AT PROVIDENCE VA**

- Most cells in your body have 6 feet of DNA in them.
- DNA is made up of 3 billion chemical letters: A, C, G and T; that is the equivalent of 10 copies of War and Peace.
- This 3 billion letter sequence is called a genome.
- Our genome codes for the proteins that form our bodies.
- 99% of your genome is identical to the person standing next to you; only 1% of our DNA makes us unique.
- Providence VAMC is a participating site for the Million Veteran Program (MVP); the goal of MVP is to better understand how genes affect health and illness in order to improve health care for Veterans.

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**VA MEDICAL CENTER RESEARCH**

The Providence VA Medical Center has:

- Approximately $20 million dollar research program which includes NIH, DoD and industry/foundation grants;
- Approximately 250 research projects, 77 Principal Investigators and 322 research staff;
- Research areas: Health Services and Economics, Rehabilitation, Cardiology, Pulmonary Disease, Mental Health, Neuroscience, PTSD, Substance Use and Abuse and Homelessness.

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**MILLION VETERAN PROGRAM QUICK FACTS**

- Overall Enrollment: 746,721
- Countdown to 750K: 3,279
- FY19 Goal: 100K
- Current FY19 Enrollment: 43,961
- FY19 Countdown to 100,000: 56,039
- Providence Enrollment to Date: 2,802

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**EXPERIENCE RESEARCH CROSSWORD**

**WORD BANK**

- variable
- theory
- hypothesis
- subject
- research
- questionnaire
- probability
- method
- random
- measurement
- findings
- data
- control
- contrast
- condition
- analysis
- symmetry
- mean
- sample
- mean
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**DID YOU KNOW…**

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**HYPOTHESIS**

- A description of the likely occurrence of a particular event.
- The principles, procedures, and strategies of research used in a study for gathering information, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions.
- A group that is selected from a larger group (the population).
- Systematic study.
- One taking part.
- Measured behaviors; the behaviors that experimental research seeks to explain.
- An investigation of the component parts of a whole and their relations in making up the whole.
- The tendency of a distribution to depart from symmetry or balance.
- Programmer’s work.