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News Release

Providence VA Medical Center
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Providence VA Researcher Awarded Pulmonary Pilot Study

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – A physician with the CardioPulmonary Vascular Biology Center of the Biological Research Excellence at the Providence VA Medical Center, was awarded a 5-month pilot project Jan. 1, 2016, by the National Institute of Health's National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Dr. Siddique Abbasi's project is entitled "Pulmonary Artery Stiffness and Right Ventricular Fibrosis in PH: a CMR Study." The goal is to identify Veterans at risk of maladaptive right ventricular remodeling, and initiate therapies prior to irreversible fibrosis.

Research from the senior investigator on the project, Dr. Gaurav Choudhary, associate chief of staff for research at the Providence VAMC, shows that pulmonary hypertension is significantly underdiagnosed in Veterans. "For example, looking at more than 10,000 echocardiograms in the Providence and Boston VA systems, only 17 percent of people with evidence of moderate or severe pulmonary hypertension had it listed as a diagnosis," said Abbasi.

Currently the director of Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging at the Providence VA Medical Center and an assistant professor of medicine at Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Abbasi has research experience in the interplay of pulmonary disease and cardiovascular remodeling, as well as with the cardiac MRI techniques proposed in the study.

Veterans with the diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension who would like more information on the study can contact the study coordinator, Ryan Hebel, at (401) 273-7100 ext. 3911. The investigation is currently limited Veterans, but may eventually be expanded to the general population, as well.

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Pulmonary Pilot Study, 2 of 2



Dr. Siddique Abbasi, the director of Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging at the Providence VA Medical Center and an assistant professor of medicine at Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, analyzes magnetic resonance imagery of an anonymous study participant's heart Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016. The goal of his research project is to identify Veterans at risk of maladaptive right ventricular remodeling, and initiate therapies prior to irreversible fibrosis. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

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