

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Partnerships for Research & Care of Women Veterans: Building the Evidence Base for Clinical and Policy Action

VA Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) Service, Women's Health Services in the VHA Office of Patient Care Services and the VA Women's Health Research Network are co-hosting a **National VA HSR&D Conference on Enhancing Partnerships for Research and Care of Women Veterans**, to be held in **July 31 - August 1, 2014** in the **Washington DC area**.

The Conference will bring together VA health services researchers, healthcare providers, clinical managers, policymakers and other stakeholders to present, review and collaboratively discuss research that informs improvements in healthcare access, quality, costs, patient-centeredness and outcomes for Women Veterans.

The goals of the Conference are:

- 1 To promote and disseminate new knowledge on VA women's health research and the implementation of research into practice through effective presentation of high quality research results;
- 2 To foster effective partnerships among VA researchers and leaders in VA policy, operations and clinical care capable of increasing the impact of VA women's health research on system performance;
- 3 To facilitate, expand and enhance the effectiveness of conducting VA women's health research through the VA Women's Health Research Network;
- 4 To provide training and demonstration on best practices in VA women's health research (e.g., recruitment of women Veterans, advancing partnered implementation research) through brainstorming, skills training and problem solving.

In addition to full group sessions that lay out the state of scientific knowledge of VA women's health research and VA priorities for research, a series of breakout sessions will be used to foster collaboration among attendees of diverse backgrounds to tackle knowledge gaps, target training and collaboration in essential topical areas and design improved methods that recognize the needs of key stakeholders (including women Veterans, VA providers, VISN representatives and VHA policy and operations leaders) to target persistent gaps in research and ensure that research over the course of the next 3-5 years maps to VA priorities.

We invite submission of scientific abstracts for presentation that fit into one or more of the following strategic priority areas:

- **Access to care and rural health**
- **Primary care and prevention**
- **Mental health**
- **Health concerns associated with military deployment**
- **Complex chronic conditions and/or aging/long-term care**
- **Reproductive health**

We are also interested in abstracts that describe research and/or quality improvement initiatives that are cross-cutting (i.e., span multiple strategic priority areas), address the needs or improvement of care for sub-populations of women Veterans (e.g., homeless, LGBT), or identify and address health equity/disparities for women Veterans. Abstracts that describe unique data sources or methodological approaches advancing VA women's health research will also be considered. We are also particularly interested in abstracts that address intervention and/or implementation research and steps towards transformation of VA women's health care, especially in relation to priority areas, such as comprehensive care delivery and healthcare innovations that target women's needs. We welcome abstract submissions that focus on research among women in active duty and the Reserves and/or National Guard.

Attendance is encouraged not only by researchers whose career focus is women's health, but also by investigators with other research foci who have examined gender issues as an essential component of their work. Attendance will be limited.

Abstracts are due by 5:00 pm Pacific Time on March 14, 2014

Peer-Reviewed Scientific Presentations

Selected abstracts will be presented either as oral presentations or posters. Investigators submitting abstracts will be asked to indicate their preference for presentation format, but final decisions will be made by the Review Committee.

Abstracts are due March 14, 2014 and authors will be notified of decisions by April 18, 2014.

Abstracts should be no longer than 350 words.

Abstracts will be evaluated by expert reviewers blinded to authors' identities. Top-scoring abstracts with greatest relevance to the conference topical and cross-cutting areas will be selected. All abstract acceptance/rejection decisions will be made by the Review Committee and will be final. Selection criteria will include abstract quality, timeliness, and relevance to the conference objectives, research areas and VA mission.

To submit an abstract, complete the attached submission form, and click on submit by email.

If you have questions or problems submitting an abstract, please contact Ruth Klap, PhD by phone at (818) 891-7711, ext. 5731 at the Sepulveda VA or by email at VHAGLAWHRESEARCH@va.gov.

Individuals currently affiliated with a VA postdoctoral program, fellowship, or trainee position or those who have completed their programs in the past year and who have an abstract that is accepted for presentation at the meeting will be eligible for a Best Trainee Poster award.

Abstracts must be submitted by close of business (5:00pm Pacific time) on February 28, 2014.

Authors will be notified of abstract review decisions by Friday, April 18th, 2014 to ensure ample time for preparation of Conference presentations

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentation sessions will be collections of 4-5 related research presentations. Each presenter will be allotted approximately 10 minutes for his/her presentation and an additional 5 minutes for a question-and-answer exchange with the audience

POSTER SESSION

The poster session will be a display consisting of an exhibit of material personally accompanied by the author for an assigned period of time during the Conference. The displays are expected to report results of current research and/or quality improvement initiatives that may be readily summarized in narrative and graphic form (e.g., tables, graphs, pictures). Presenters must be prepared to describe their findings and address questions from a diverse audience of scientific and non-scientific attendees.

Invited Panels and Workshops

The Conference will include invited panels of VA policy, operations and research leaders, as well as plenary or other sessions presenting overviews of the state of women Veterans' research, including seminal study highlights. Methodological sessions are planned to focus on skill-building and research development exercises.

Break-out Sessions

We will hold facilitated break-out sessions related to meeting themes to translate the current and emerging knowledge base and evidence into testable interventions for improving health care and outcomes for Women Veterans and to enhance research-clinical-policy partnerships that foster adoption, implementation, spread and sustainability of evidence-based practice and policy. Using the research presentations as a starting point, conference participants involved in programs, policy, clinical practice, and research addressing Women Veterans will strategize about ways to use VA research to transform care for Women Veterans.

Travel funds will be made available for only one VA employee presenter per accepted abstract. Because attendance is limited, only those with accepted abstracts and selected invitees will be guaranteed registration for this meeting. Additional attendees will be considered as space permits.