



## **Denver**

### **Research Enhancement Award Program**

Director: Evelyn A. Hutt, MD

### **Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2011**

Overview – The goal of the Department of Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Health Care System’s REAP to Improve Care Coordination (CRICC) is to provide VA HSR&D with a center devoted to researching the critical problem of poor care coordination for the >200,000 veterans who require support from VA beyond acute hospitalization and outpatient clinic visits. A core faculty of physician and nurse investigators, statisticians, economists, and other social scientists are pursuing HSR&D research projects in the areas of (1) improving quality of life and care for veterans entitled to long-term care (LTC); (2) deploying telemedicine, electronic medical record, and patient-centered methods to coordinate chronic disease management across the continuum of care and particularly for veterans with cardiovascular disease; (3) improving pain management and palliative care across the care continuum.

Major accomplishments this year included an RO1 awarded to one of our Career Development Awardees, David Bekelman MD, by the National Institute of Nursing Research. The project is entitled: Improving Symptoms and Quality of Life in Advanced Chronic Heart Failure.

Future Plans - As HSR&D transitions to the new CREATE and COIN organizational structure, researchers from CRICC are forming active collaborations with management and research partners around the country. Drs. Hutt and Levy are actively engaged with the LTC CREATE application led by Providence, Rhode Island, one of eight centers invited to submit a full proposal. Dr. Eisert is collaborating with investigators at the Gainesville REAP. Dr. Ho and the other CRICC investigators are collaborating with colleagues at the Seattle, Washington COE and the Office of Patient Care Services to develop projects in care coordination between primary and specialty care services.