



## Denver

Research Enhancement Award Program

Director: Evelyn A. Hutt, MD

### **Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2009**

The goal of the Department of Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Health Care System's Colorado 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 more than 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 (particularly for veterans with cardiovascular disease); and (3) improving pain management and palliative care across the care continuum.

This was a year of important growth for CRICC. Major accomplishments include receiving funding and initiating one new Merit Review (Ho, PI); a Nursing Research Initiative Award (Battaglia, PI); three new Career Development Awards (Bekelman PI, Caplan PI, Varosy, PI); and the recruitment of a senior-level health services researcher with expertise in health economics and institutional change. We also funded one new local pilot grant. The Cardiovascular Assessment Reporting and Tracking (CART) project (Rumsfeld, PI) was designated a National Program by VA Patient Care Service, with expansion of funding. CART will be an important source of health services research for CRICC investigators going forward. Tom Maddox, MD was notified of a Career Development Award to begin in FY10. For FY10, we will be submitting at least one new IIR, revising and resubmitting two others, and submitting one new Career Development Award proposal.