



Center for the Study of  
Healthcare Provider Behavior

## **Sepulveda**

Center of Excellence

Director: Lisa V. Rubenstein, MD, MSPH

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

Our principal objective is to promote better health and healthcare for veterans by gathering research evidence about healthcare provider behavior (including the organizations within which they practice), designing provider and health systems interventions to improve care, and translating such research evidence into routine practice. The studies we conduct address a range of VA-centric quality improvement goals through the development and application of provider behavior and organizational theories and evidence about how to change provider behavior and implement and evaluate innovative care models.

**Investigators:** The Center had 30 core, 11 affiliate and 21 associate investigators located at the West LA and Sepulveda VA campuses, UCLA and RAND Health. Investigators' expertise addressed general and sub-specialty medicine, health policy, epidemiology, biostatistics, public health, pharmacology, sociology, anthropology, psychology, education, organizational behavior, and law. Affiliate investigators included VA Center partners (GRECC, MIRECC, PADRECC, CURE) and consortia at UCLA and RAND.

**Center Funding:** The center leveraged the core allocation 14-fold, with a portfolio totaling over \$14.6 million, representing increases in almost every category of funding.

**Research Projects:** The Center focused on implementation, observational and intervention research studies related to provider behavior, quality improvement, collaborative care models, and assessments of organizational factors related to quality. Most of the 67 projects conducted in the Center's research portfolio addressed a core set of strategic program areas (SPAs) (e.g., mental health, HIV, women's health). However, Center investment in new areas of genetics and emergency management have resulted in substantial growth.

**Research Products and Dissemination:** Investigators published 82 peer-reviewed manuscripts and delivered 47 conference presentations this year, including a number of briefings to VA senior leaders and managers. Investigators disseminated systematic reviews, monographs, intervention resource guides, and quality improvement toolkits through traditional and web-based means.

**National and Regional Leadership Roles:** Center investigators routinely contributed to practice and policy through numerous leadership roles. We continued to make particularly strong contributions to VA Central Office, major health care quality agencies and organizations, and professional societies.

**Training Activities:** We continued to strongly utilize the expertise of our investigators and staff by providing trainees a broad array of educational and mentorship opportunities in provider behavior and implementation research, in addition to traditional coursework. We trained 14 VA Health Services Research and Associated Health Postdoctoral Fellows and VA Clinical Scholars last year. We also continued to train and mentor VA researchers through weekly work-in-progress meetings, monthly career development calls, cyber seminars, and our organizational theory journal club.

**Future Plans:** We plan to continue to leverage our unusually strong level of research-clinical partnerships at

multiple levels of the VA healthcare system to effectively position ourselves for key roles in implementation and spread of evidence based practices while staying sufficiently nimble to ensure our capacity to respond to short- and long-term needs of our operational and policy partners. Also, Dr. Yano and several VA colleagues submitted concept papers for a Women's Health CREATE that were recently approved; full proposals are forthcoming. We also are obtaining additional research space as we have once again reached capacity although we nearly doubled our space at Sepulveda and increased our space at West Los Angeles last year. This is due to the continued success of investigators in obtaining funding.