



Center for the Study of
Healthcare Provider Behavior



What Progress Have We Made on the VA Women's Health Services Research Agenda?

Elizabeth Yano, PhD, MSPH

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
UCLA School of Public Health

Spotlight on Women's Health Cyberseminar
April 3, 2013



Veterans Health Administration
**Research
Development**
Improving Veterans' Lives → www.research.va.gov

Overview of Today's Talk

- Brief review of the development of VA's women's health research agenda
- Review progress on VA women's health services research agenda (HSR&D)
 - Including gaps and opportunities
- Update on progress of VA Women's Health Research Network (WHRN)
 - Including VA Women's Health CREATE

Poll Question #1

- What is your primary role in VA?
 - Student, trainee, or fellow
 - Clinician
 - Researcher
 - Manager or policy-maker
 - Other

Poll Question #2

- Are you directly involved in women Veterans' care?
 - Women's health medical director
 - Women Veterans Program Manager (VISN or facility level)
 - Women's health provider other than director
 - Women's health staff (e.g., NPs, RNs, social workers, etc.)
 - Women's health manager or policymaker

Development, Current Portfolio, Gaps and Opportunities

VA'S WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA

Development of VA Women's Health Research: *Agenda Setting Conference of Experts*

JGIM

PERSPECTIVE

2006

Toward a VA Women's Health Research Agenda: Setting Evidence-based Priorities to Improve the Health and Health Care of Women Veterans

Elizabeth M. Yano, PhD,^{1,2} Lori A. Bastian, MD,^{3,4} Susan M. Frayne, MD, MPH,^{5,6} Alexandra L. Howell, PhD,^{7,8} Linda R. Lipson, MA,⁹ Geraldine McGlynn, MEd,¹⁰ Paula P. Schnurr, PhD,^{8,11} Margaret R. Seaver, MD, MPH,^{12,13} Ann M. Spungen, PhD,^{14,15} Stephan D. Fihn, MD, MPH^{16,17}

JGIM

PERSPECTIVE

Women and War

What Physicians Should Know

Maureen Murdoch, MD, MPH,^{1,2} Arlene Bradley, MD, FACP,³ Susan H. Mather, MD, MPH,⁴ Robert E. Klein, PhD, MA,⁵ Carole L. Turner, RNP, MN, CNAA,⁶ Elizabeth M. Yano, PhD, MSPH^{7,8}

2006

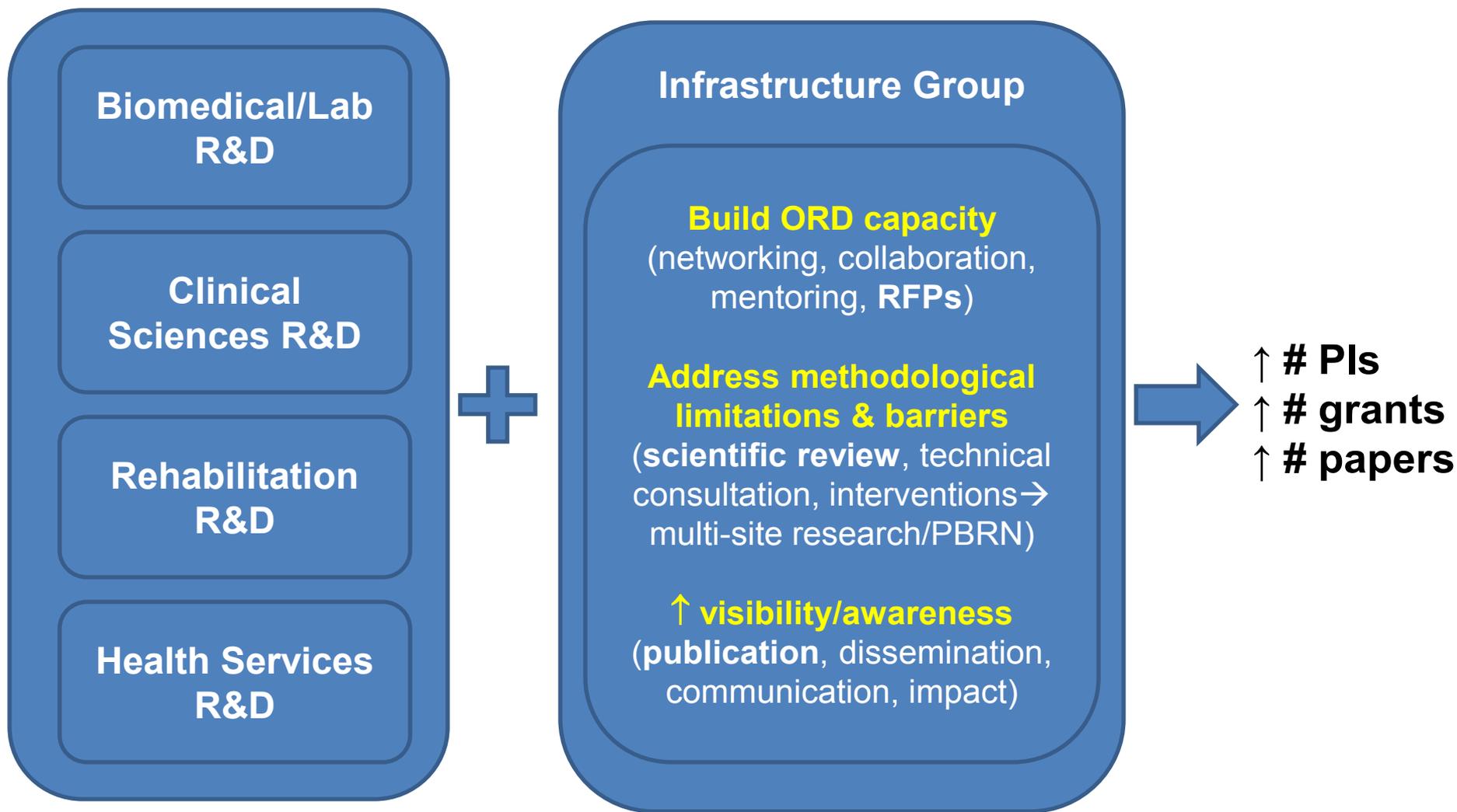


Integration of Women Veterans into VA Quality Improvement Research Efforts: What Researchers Need to Know

Elizabeth M. Yano, PhD, MSPH^{1,2}, Patricia Hayes, PhD³, Steven Wright, PhD⁴, Paula P. Schnurr, PhD^{5,6}, Linda Lipson, MA⁷, Bevanne Bean-Mayberry, MD, MSHS^{1,8}, and Donna L. Washington, MD, MPH^{1,8}

2010

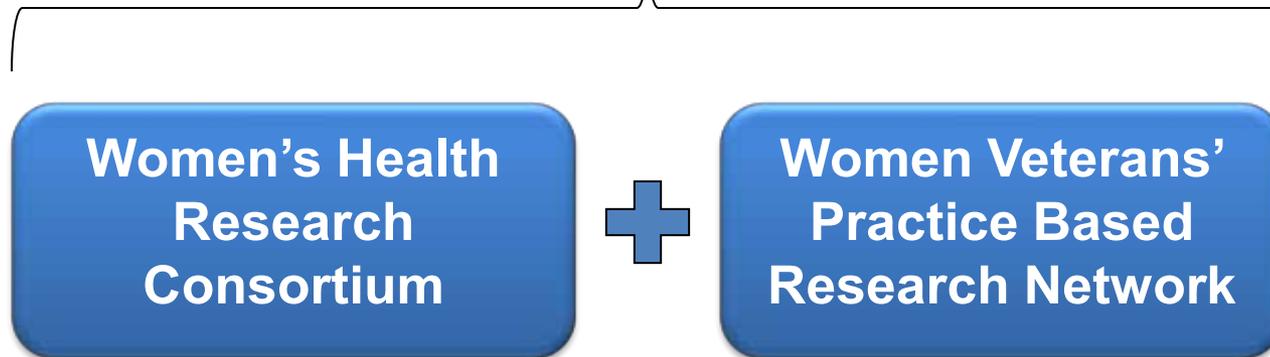
1st VA WH Research Agenda Recommendations



HSR&D Funded Rest of Infrastructure



2010

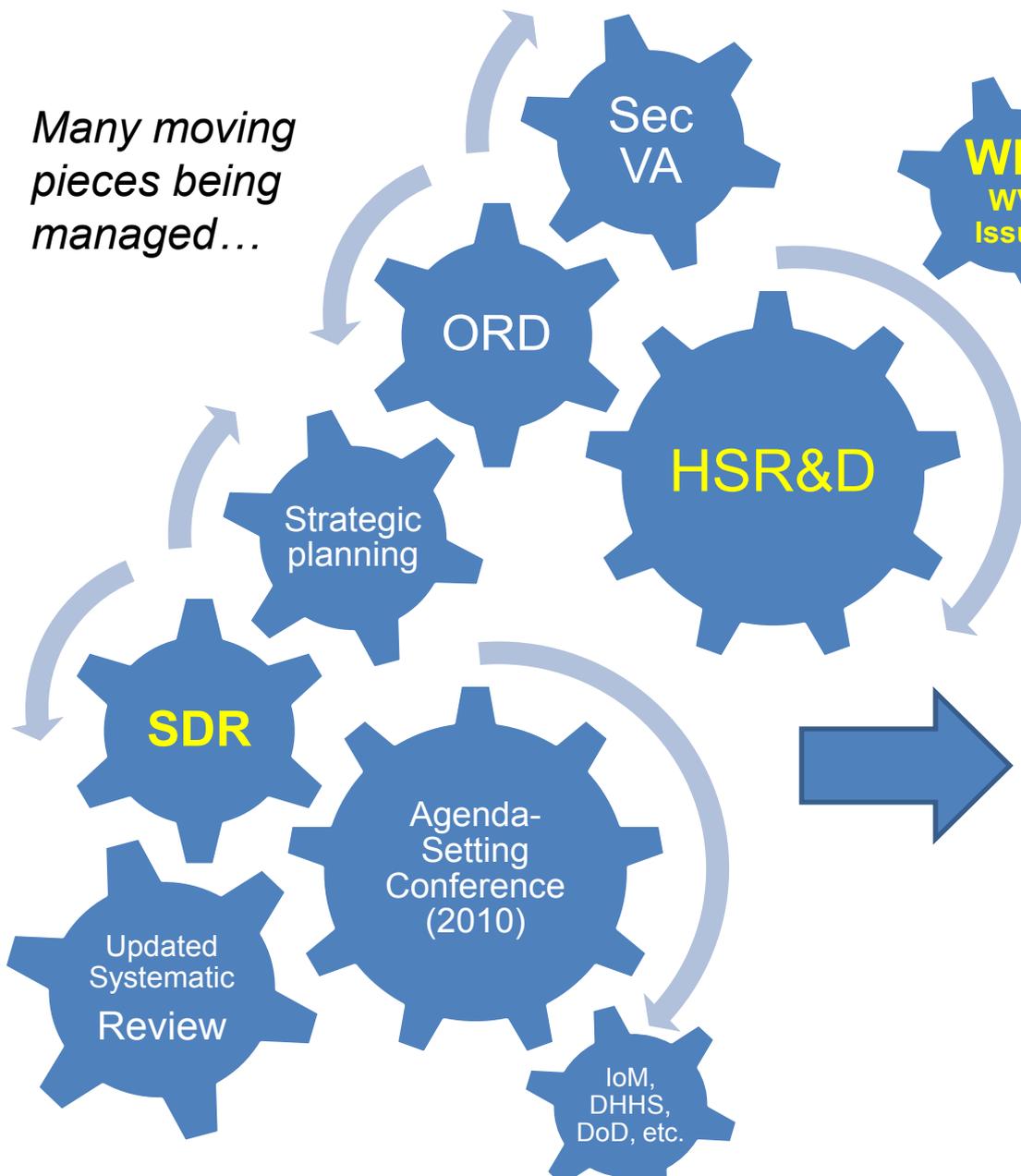


- Cyberseminars/workshops
- Technical consultation
- Collaboration (workgroups)
- Mentorship (mentors, CDAs)
- Networking (conference, listserv)
- VA journal supplements

- Coordinating Center w/4 "founder" sites
- Multi-site technical support (incl CSP)
- Internal projects to test infrastructure
 - Patient interviews/card sort
 - Provider interviews
 - Implementation trial

2nd VA Women's Health Research Agenda

Many moving pieces being managed...



Conference proceedings

Using Research to Transform Care for Women Veterans: Advancing the Research Agenda and Enhancing Research-Clinical Partnerships

Elizabeth M. Yano, PhD, MPH^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}, Lari A. Bastian, MD, MPH^{44,45},
Bryanne Brain-Mayberry, MD, MPH^{44,45}, Seth Elson, MD, MSc¹, Susan Frayne, MD, MPH^{44,45},
Patricia Hayes, PhD¹, Ruth Klap, PhD⁴², Linda Lipson, MA¹, Kristin Mattocks, PhD^{70,71},
Ceraldine McClynn, MD¹, Anne Sadler, PhD³², Paula Schauer, PhD¹⁴,
Diana L. Washington, MD, MPH^{44,45}



VA Women's Health Research Agenda (2011)

- Access/rural health
- Primary care/prevention
- Mental health
- Post-deployment health
- Complex chronic/LTC/aging
- Reproductive health

Current VA Women's Health Research Portfolio: *Access/Rural Health*

- Lost to VA Care: Attrition of Women Veterans New to VA Care (Frayne & Hamilton) (CREATE)
- Evaluation of Quality & Coordination of Women Veterans' Outsourced Care Perceptions (Bastian & Mattocks) (CREATE) (*VA/non-VA use*)
- Evaluation of VA Call Center (Taylor) (WHS)
- Rural Health Resource Center pilots (ORH)
- New National Women Veterans Survey (barriers to care) (WHS)

Current VA Women's Health Research Portfolio: *Primary Care/Prevention*

- Implementation of Women's Health Patient Aligned Care Teams (Yano & Rubenstein) (CREATE)
- Controlled Trial of Tele-Support and Education for Women's Health Care in CBOCs (Washington & Cordasco) (CREATE)
- Impacts of VA Delivery of Comprehensive Women's Health Care (Yano, Chou, Rose) (CREATE)
- Evaluation of Quality & Coordination of Women Veterans' Outsourced Care Perceptions (Bastian & Mattocks) (CREATE) (*mammography quality*)

Current VA Women's Health Research Portfolio: *Mental Health*

- Beyond service connection: what helps PTSD-disabled Veterans get better? (Murdoch)
- Evaluating VA's assessment of MST in Veterans (Sadler)
- A randomized controlled trial of Women's substance abuse treatment (Najavits) (CSR&D)
- VA Women's Overall Mental Health Assessment of Needs (Kimerling) (n=6,288 WVs) (MHS)
- Evaluation of Women's Mental Health Care Arrangements (Oishi) (MHS)

Current VA Women's Health Research Portfolio: *Post-Deployment Health*

- Women Veterans Cohort Study (Brandt)
- Gender differences in post-deployment addictive behaviors among returning veterans (Desai)
- Understanding pain of gastrointestinal origin in women that serve in OEF/OIF (Greenwood)
- Interventions online to facilitate post-war access of Reserve and National Guard servicewomen (Sadler)
- Urogenital symptoms, depression and PTSD in OEF/OIF women Veterans (Bradley)

Current VA Women's Health Research Portfolio: *Post-Deployment Health*

- Combat, sexual assault and post-traumatic stress in OEF/OIF military women (Sadler)
- Soldier to civilian: RCT of an intervention to promote post-deployment reintegration (Sayer)
- Complicated family reintegration in OEF/OIF Veterans (Sayers)
- Stigma, gender and other barriers to VHA use for OEF/OIF Veterans (Vogt)

Current VA Women's Health Research Portfolio: *Complex Chronic Disease/LTC*

- Long term health outcomes of women's service during the Vietnam era (Magruder) (CSP)
- Women Veterans with insomnia: Characteristics and treatment preferences (Martin)
- Screening and referring women Veterans for homeless vulnerability (Washington) (WHS)
- VA Emergency Services for Women (Cordasco) (WHS)

Example: Long Term Health Outcomes of Women Vietnam Veterans (VA CSP 579)

- Most comprehensive examination of a group of women Vietnam Era Veterans to date
 - Long-term mental and physical health effects of military service during Vietnam Era (7/4/65-3/28/73)
 - ~ 10,000 women selected to participate in this groundbreaking study (surveys + interviews complete)
 - Remarkably high response rates
 - Chart abstraction underway for random sample ~900
 - Data should be available *next year*

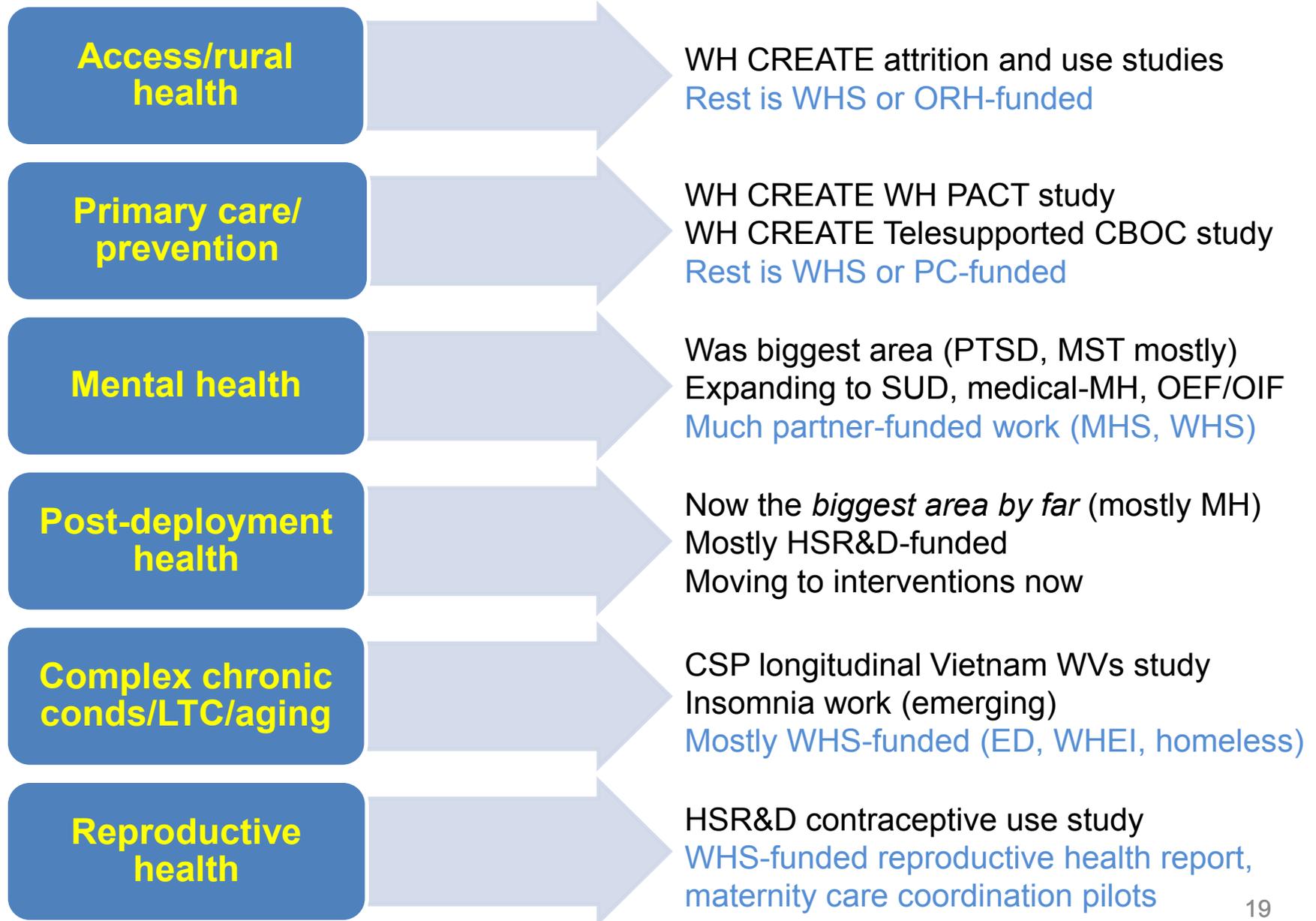
Current VA Women's Health Research Portfolio: *Reproductive Health*

- Contraceptive services (Borrero)
- State of VA reproductive health care (Zephyrin, Katon, Hoggatt, et al) ([WHS](#))
- Maternity care coordination pilots ([WHS](#))

Current VA Women's Health Research Portfolio: *Agenda Support*

- Women Veterans health research database (Shekelle)
- Women's Health Research Network (Yano & Frayne)

State of VA WHSR Agenda (2013)



Poll Question #3

- In what areas of research are you interested?
 - Access/rural health
 - Primary care/prevention
 - Mental health
 - Post-deployment health
 - Complex chronic conditions/long term care
 - Reproductive health

What has been accomplished so far?

VA WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH NETWORK

So what have we done so far?

Deliverable	Achievements to Date
10 proposals submitted (4 using PBRN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • > 20 research grants <i>funded</i> (7 are multi-site PBRN) • Additional projects submitted/under review/in preparation
30 cyber-seminars in 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 delivered in 2 years • <i>100-600 participants in each with substantial download activity</i> • <i>Also presentations/workshops at scientific meetings</i> • <i>National WH Research Media Roundtables (CRADO & USH)</i>
Identify 10 mentors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified 15+ mentors in 1st year • 3 VA HSR&D Career Development Awardees (CDAs) funded • 15 VA CDAs participating in ongoing CDA seminar series



Dichter Iverson Hoggatt



So what have we done so far?

Deliverable	Achievement to Date
Enhanced research-clinical partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15+ projects for VA operations/policy leaders (e.g., evaluation of VA teleynecology, Sourcebook Volume 1 disseminated, expert panel on comprehensive care for women Veterans, evaluation of VA emergency care resources/processes for women, support of MHS' deliverables for VA/DoD Integrated Mental Health Strategic Plan, more Sourcebooks underway)• Secretary's <i>Women Veterans Task Force</i>—provided consultation on agenda (e.g., VA/DoD coordination, outreach/education)—direct task force participation (e.g., drafted national operating plan for evaluation/data collection workgroup)



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2012

Women Veterans Task Force Draft Plan Released *VA Seeks Public Comment on Strategies*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs is releasing for public comment a draft of its strategic report to address key issues facing women Veterans. The plan outlines steps for improvements to care and services for women Veterans that are sustainable, accountable and



So what have we done so far?

Deliverable

Achievement to Date

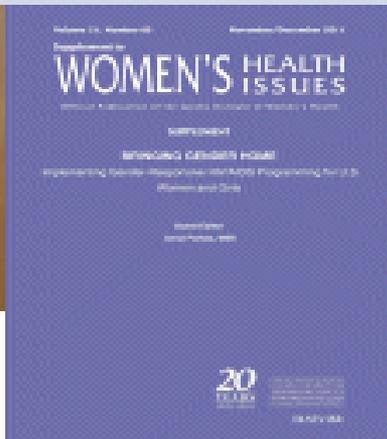
60 technical consults per year

- **VA Women's Health Services Research Conference:** *Using Research to Build the Evidence Base for Improving the Quality of Care for Women Veterans (July 2010)*
 - VA researchers, providers and policymakers
 - Included leaders from virtually every VHA Office
 - Included senior representatives from DVA, DoD, DHHS, DoL, and Institute of Medicine
 - Established VA HSR&D women's health services research agenda and increased research-clinical-policy partnerships
 - *Conference request for FY13 submitted by VA HSR&D*
- **Technical consults:** Accomplished/exceeded (>10/month)
- **Workgroups** (9) developing research on focused content areas (PTSD, military sexual trauma, chronic pain, intimate partner violence, reproductive health, substance use disorders, disparities, qualitative research, LGBT issues)



So what have we done so far?

Deliverable	Achievement to Date
<p>20 research articles accepted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Health Issues special VA supplement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 research articles, 3 commentaries, 1 editorial (from 47 submitted papers) • 4 papers among top 5 cited in journal • Journal of General Internal Medicine special VA issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 papers accepted (from 79 submitted papers) • Special editorials (HSR&D, WHS, AHRQ/WH, PBRN) • "More papers published in the past 5 years than the previous 25 years combined..." (acceleration appears to be continuing)

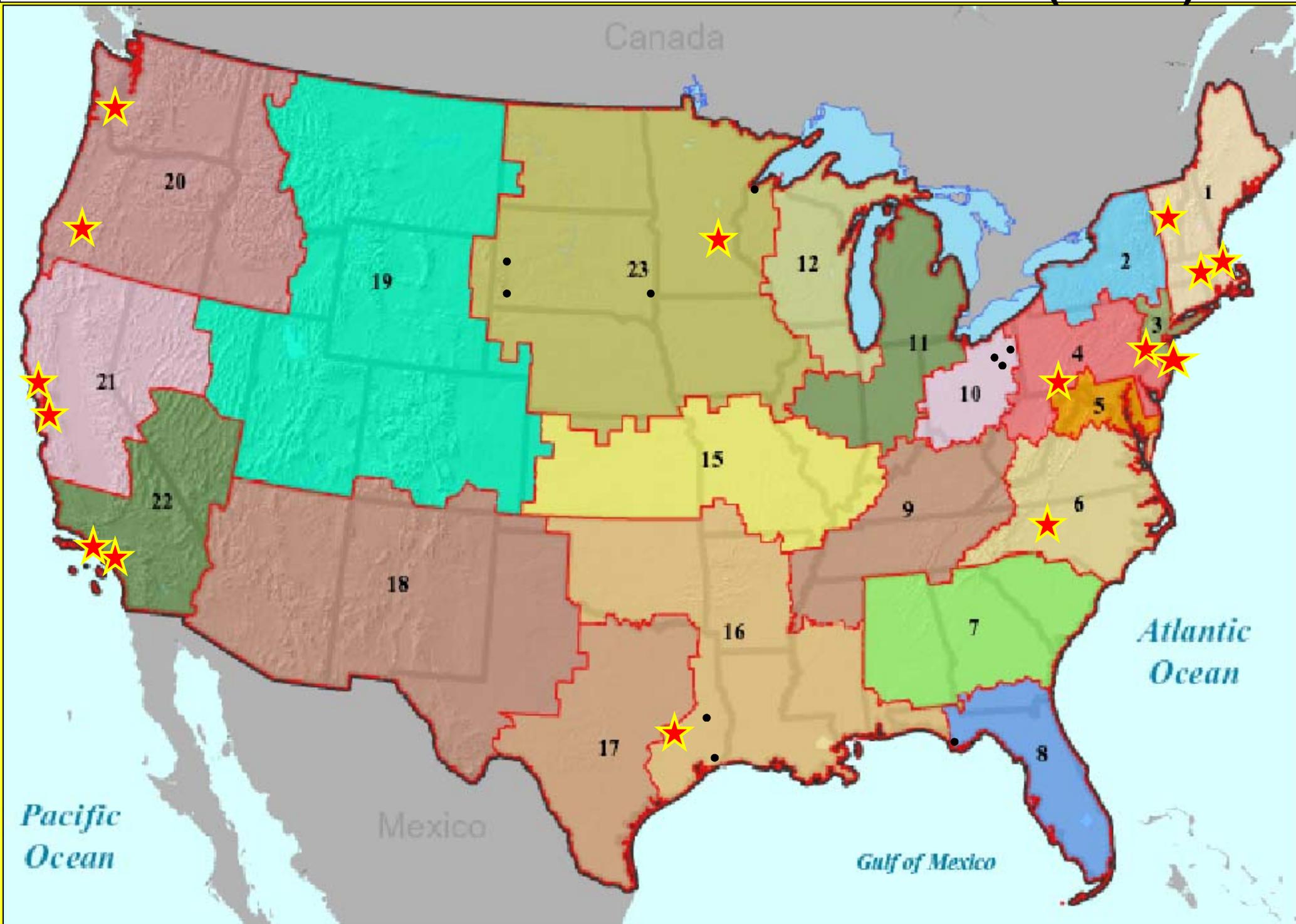


June 2013 (est)

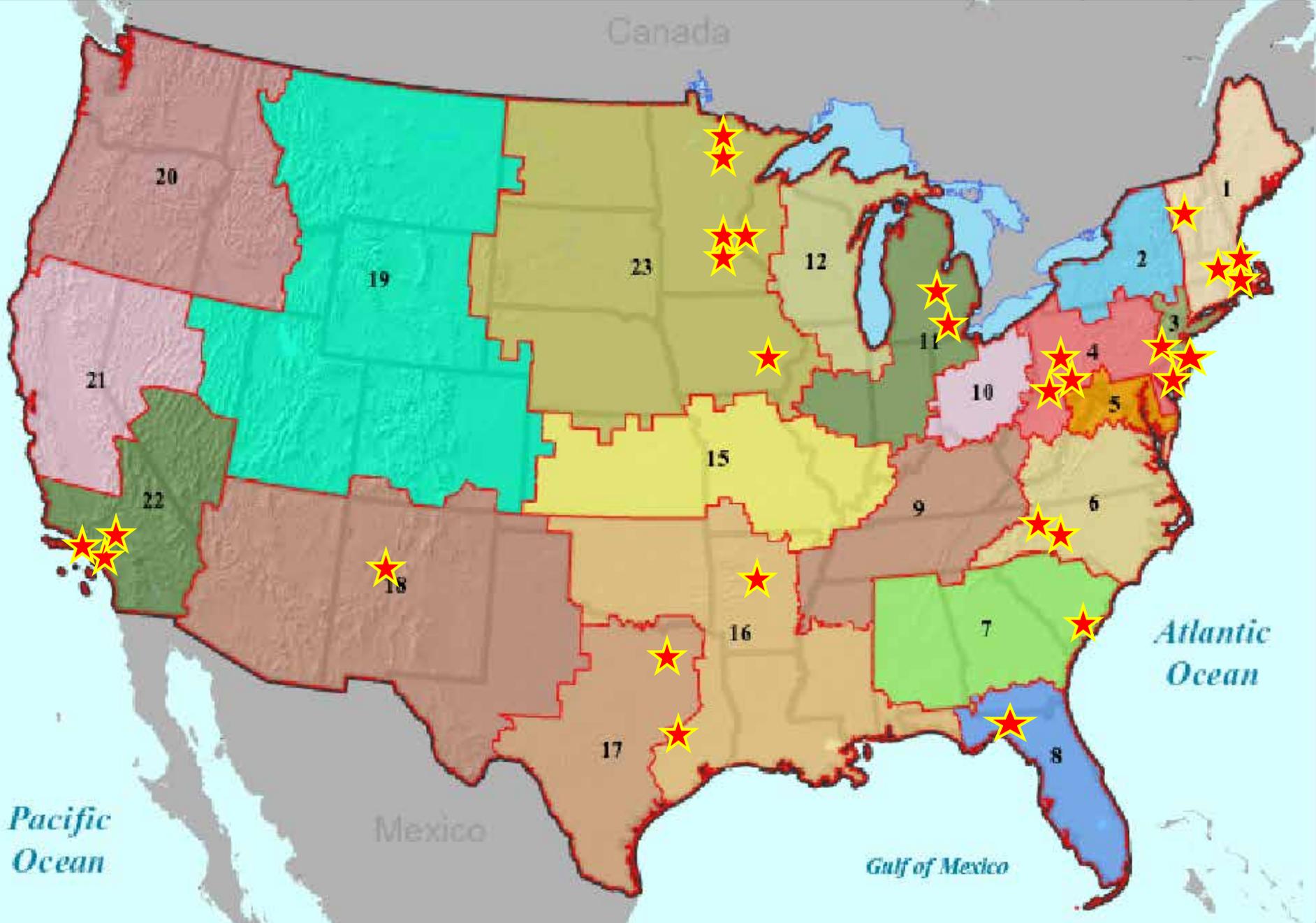


Jul/Aug 2011

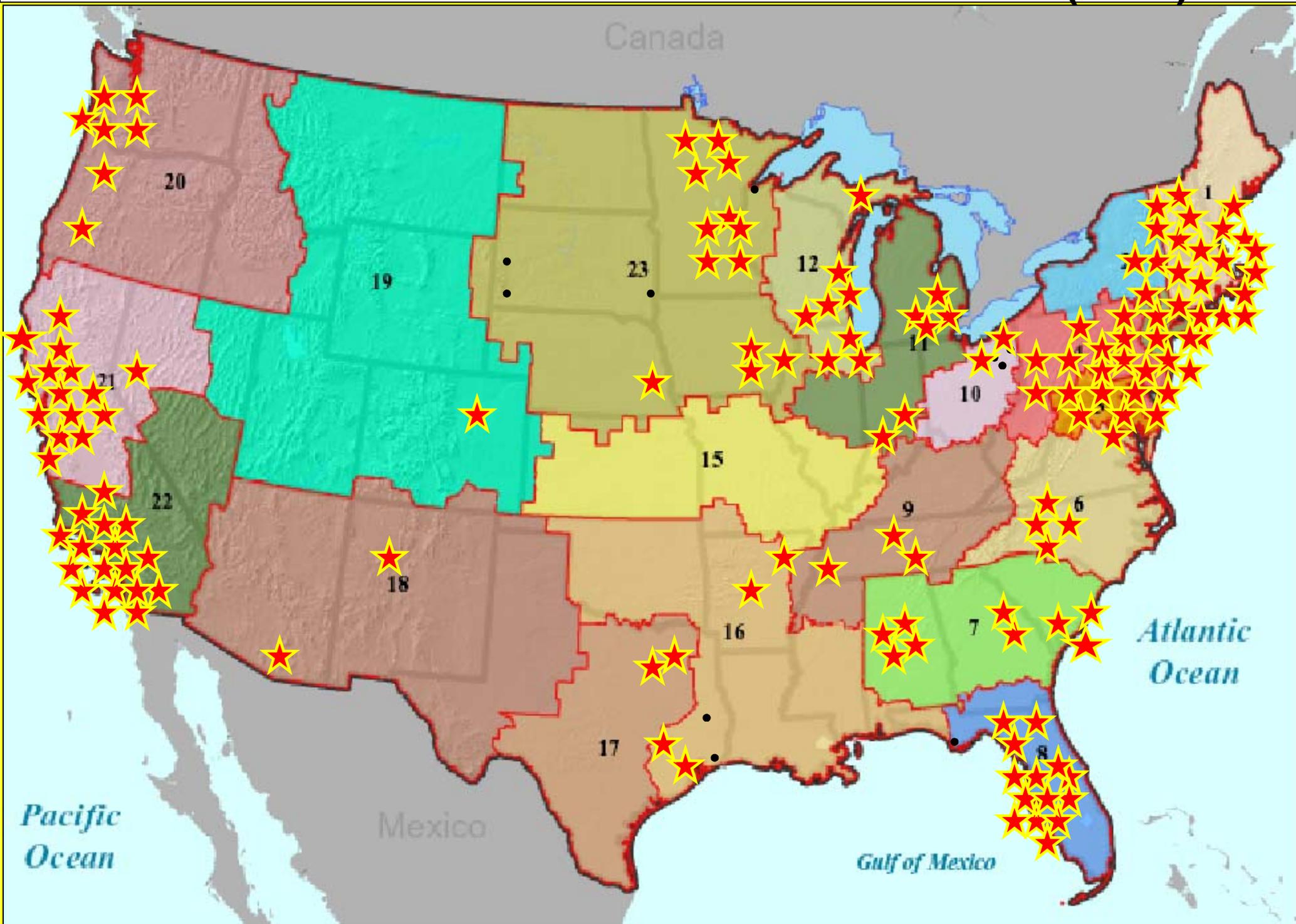
Number of VA Women's Health Researchers (1990s)



Number of VA Women's Health Researchers (2004)



Number of VA Women's Health Researchers (2010)



So what have we done so far?

Deliverable

Functional VA Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) with three projects testing infrastructure

Achievement to Date

Projects:

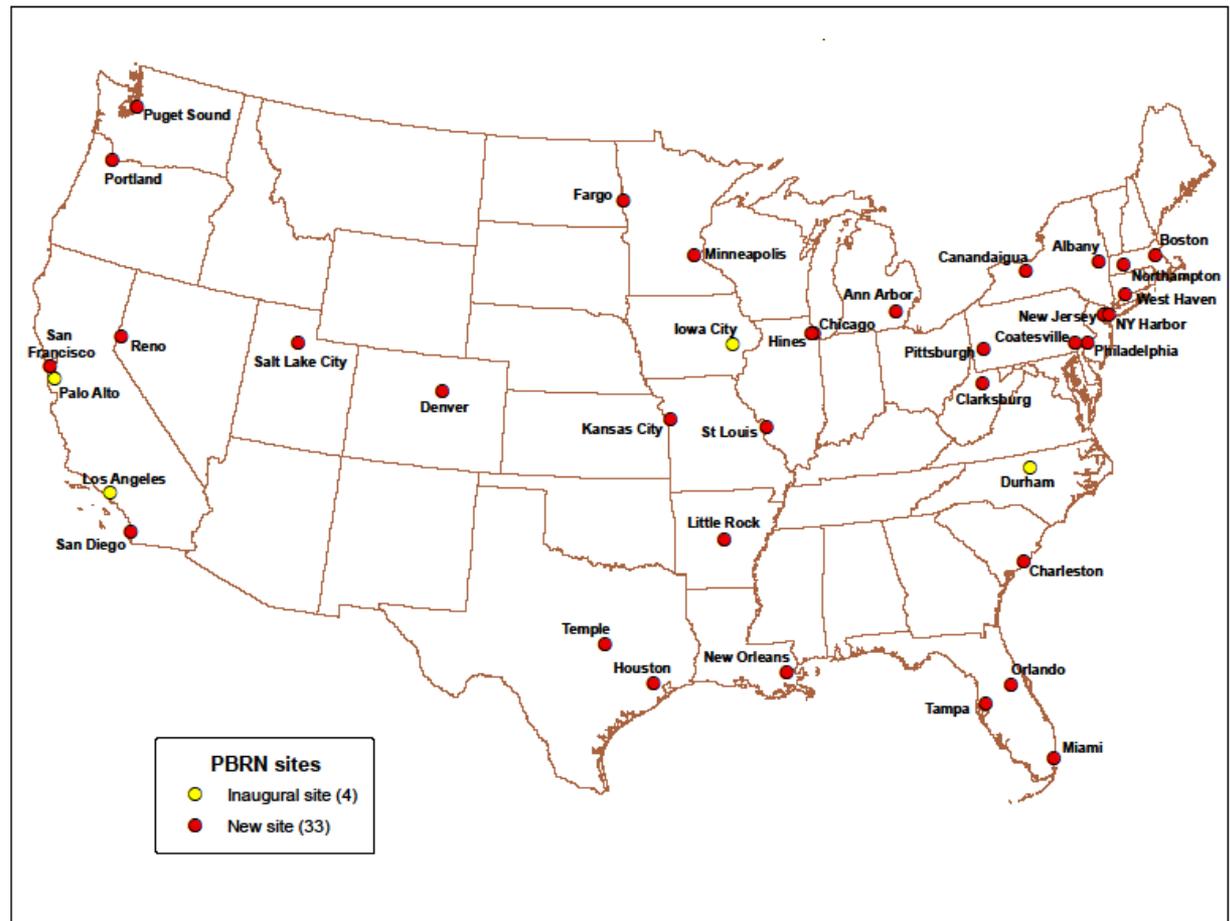
- **WV mental health needs in primary care (Kimerling)**
 - Prevalence of mental health conditions in primary care
 - Women Veterans' preferences for how mental health care is delivered (e.g., same gender providers, care setting, telephone care) (~550 women Veterans)
- **Caring for Women Veterans implementation (Vogt-Yee)**
 - Cluster RCT of evidence-based e-learning course and other locally tailored gender awareness activities
 - Using evidence based quality improvement to test local implementation approaches
 - 4 VA facilities, 32 work groups, 100s VA providers/staff
 - Will inform effective regional and national rollout
- **VA provider interviews (Klap)**
 - Completed interviews with VA primary care, women's health and mental health providers about frontline quality improvement needs for women Veterans



So what have we done so far?

Deliverable	Achievement to Date
PBRN growth to 6 sites	37 sites , geographically dispersed; represents <i>one in every 3</i> women Veteran VHA patients nationally (100,000 women Veterans)

- Diverse patient populations included (young/old, urban/rural)
- Diverse site lead expertise (content areas, researchers/clinicians)
- Includes 37 of 140 VAs
- Includes 17 of 21 VISNs
- 62% from sites with VA HSR&D Centers



Using Research to Accelerate Implementation of Comprehensive Women's Health Care in VHA

VA HSR&D WOMEN'S HEALTH CREATE

VA HSR&D CREATE Initiative

- What is a “CREATE”?
 - Stands for *Collaborative Research to Enhance and Advance Transformation & Excellence*
 - VA HSR&D initiative to promote partner-oriented research to increase impacts on Veterans’ care
 - Group of 3-5 coordinated projects in a focused area
 - Capitalize on national expertise (multi-center)
 - Meaningful engagement with VHA program leaders with demonstrated commitment to implement findings
- Highly competitive national process and review

VA Women's Health CREATE

- Goal: To use research to *accelerate implementation of comprehensive care for women Veterans*
 - Comprehensive care codified in VHA Handbook 1330.01
 - “each VA must ensure that eligible women Veterans have access to comprehensive medical care, including care for gender-specific conditions and mental health conditions...comparable to care provided for [men]”
 - “all enrolled women Veterans need to receive comprehensive primary care from a designated women's health provider who is interested and proficient in the delivery of comprehensive primary care to women, *irrespective of where they are seen...*”

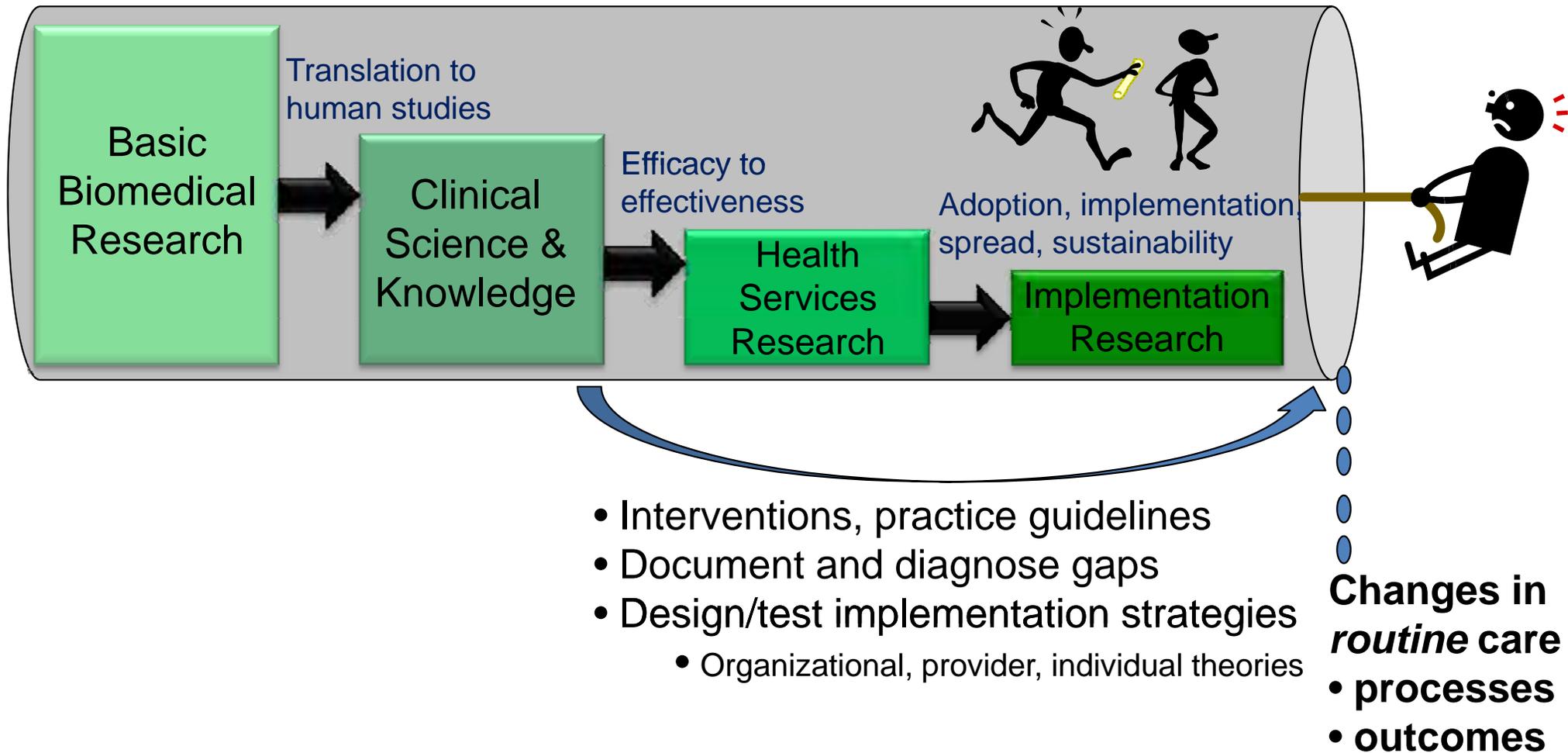
VA Women's Health CREATE

- **Project #1:** Lost to VA Care: Attrition of Women Veterans New to VA Care (Frayne & Hamilton)
- **Project #2:** Impacts of VA Delivery of Comprehensive Women's Health Care (Yano, Chou, Rose)
- **Project #3:** Implementation of VA Women's Health Patient Aligned Care Teams (Yano & Rubenstein)
- **Project #4:** Controlled Trial of Tele-Support and Education for Women's Health Care in CBOCs (Washington & Cordasco)
- **Project #5:** Evaluation of Quality & Coordination of Women Veterans' Outsourced Care (Bastian & Mattocks)

VA Women's Health CREATE

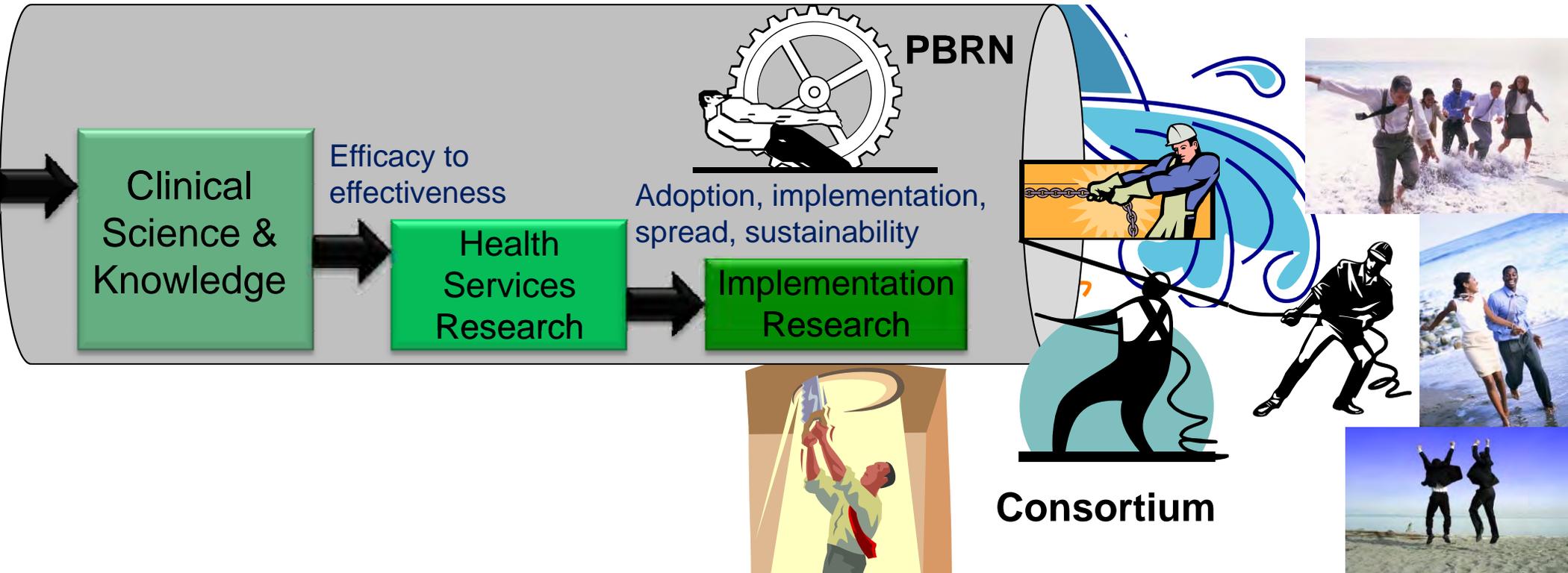
- VHA CREATE Partners
 - Women's Health Services (Hayes)
 - Office of Mental Health Services (McCutcheon)
- VHA Project-specific Partners
 - Office of Primary Care (PCS & 10N)
 - Office of Specialty Care Services
 - VHA Purchased Care
 - National Radiology Office
 - VISN 22
- Establishing a Women Veterans CREATE Council
- Projects launched in *March 2013*

Research-to-Practice “Pipeline”



Adapted from: VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) pipeline model and Sung NS, et al., Central challenges facing the national clinical research enterprise, JAMA 2003.

WH Research-to-Practice “Pipeline”: *Intervention, Implementation, Impact (I3)*



Research-clinical partnerships
(finding new pathways)
(like WH CREATE)

- Changes in routine care
- practices
 - policy
 - outcomes

Thank you!

- For more information about VA women veterans' health services research, visit the VA Office of Research & Development website on Women's Health:
http://www.research.va.gov/programs/womens_health/default.cfm
- Funded by VA HSR&D Service, VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI), Women's Health Services and Mental Health Services
- Views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the US Government



VA WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH NETWORK
COMMITMENT • DIVERSITY
ADVANCEMENT • GROWTH



Women's Health Workgroups

Workgroup Name	Workgroup Chair
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	Keren Lehavot
Chronic Pain	Erin Krebs
Substance Use Disorders	Michael Cucciare
Intimate Partner Violence	Kate Iverson & Melissa Dichter
Qualitative Research	Alison Hamilton
Access/Disparities	Sonya Borrero
Military Sexual Trauma	Rachel Kimerling
Reproductive Health	Kristin Mattocks
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender	Kristin Mattocks

To join a workgroup please contact Ruth Klap at Ruth.Klap@va.gov

