



**NATIONAL MEETING 2008**

*Strengthening the Connection between Research and Operations*

## **Guidance for QUERI National Meeting Abstract Submissions**

VA's QUERI program aims to improve the adoption of effective healthcare practices throughout the VA healthcare system. QUERI projects examine how to spread effective clinical strategies across multiple sites in VA, within a network or across multiple networks. The goal of QUERI is both to improve care for the 9 specific conditions targeted by individual QUERI Centers and to produce generalizable knowledge about how to implement change in the VA healthcare system. The QUERI National Meeting is an opportunity to share knowledge about implementation research, to review progress within the 9 QUERI areas, and to explore ways to strengthen the connections within QUERI and between QUERI researchers and those responsible for planning and delivering healthcare in VA.

### **We are soliciting three categories of submissions for the national meeting.**

**Poster abstracts:** Research posters should present research that is either broadly relevant to implementation within VA (for example, factors related to successful guideline implementation across multiple VA medical centers) or that addresses one or more of the priority conditions of the 9 QUERI Centers (for example, reasons for non-adherence among patients with congestive heart failure). Examples of VA research conducted outside of QUERI that may be appropriate for this meeting are:

- Study of implementation involving multiple VAMCs.
- Study of factors (e.g., resources, leadership, provider beliefs and attitudes) that predict differences among providers, practices, or facilities in the adoption of a new intervention or practice
- Comparative studies of alternative strategies for implementing a new program (for example, providing varying levels of support and external facilitation in the implementation process).
- Studies of research methods relevant to implementation (for example, assessing provider preferences for decision support via different media).

Research that is restricted to a single-site evaluation of a quality improvement intervention that is not among the QUERI focus areas, that employs simple before-after comparisons, or that employs a single implementation strategy is less likely to be accepted. Questions about the appropriateness of an area of research can be addressed to Linda McIvor at [Linda.McIvor@va.gov](mailto:Linda.McIvor@va.gov).

**Workshops:** *Strengthening connections between QUERI research and the healthcare system*

On Thursday, December 11, we have planned 3 sessions of **concurrent workshops** (up to 6 concurrent workshops per session) lasting **90 minutes** each. These workshops should address topics of common interest to QUERI investigators and to participants from the healthcare delivery system. In most cases they should include presenters or discussants from both groups. The format of workshops is flexible but they should include substantial time for discussion. Workshops may highlight an activity underway in the VA healthcare system which creates opportunities for research – for example, health system redesign or telehealth. Workshops may also highlight research findings that have implications for the delivery system – for example, women’s health. Workshops may also focus on collaborations with a key QUERI stakeholder – for example, Office of Nursing Services, Office of Quality and Performance – to discuss issues of common interest and potential collaborations. The sessions should serve to introduce issues to a broader audience, discuss opportunities for stronger collaboration, and identify a series of “next steps.”

**Working Groups:** *Strengthening methods, collaborations and impact within QUERI*

For Friday, December 12, we anticipate accepting 10 **working group sessions**, which will take place concurrently in a single **3-hour session**. Working group sessions should focus on areas of common interest across multiple QUERI centers. The aim of these workshops is to share knowledge across QUERIs, to promote stronger collaboration, and to generate specific ideas for strengthening QUERI research and its impact on VA healthcare. Areas of common interest may include research methods and data; research tools and implementation models; specific interventions, settings or populations; or collaboration with specific VA stakeholders. Working groups will be smaller than the workshops on December 11, will have a less diverse audience, and should generate ideas that can lead to sustained activity post meeting. Examples include developing a working group to identify key issues and develop guidance on a specific methodological issue; identifying needs within QUERI and planning a resource to address those needs, such as a central Web-based dissemination tool; planning a collaborative cross-QUERI research proposal to address an issue relevant to multiple QUERIs -- for example, patient self-management; discussing areas of joint activity and developing a plan for collaboration with a key QUERI stakeholder, such as OQP. Work group leaders will be expected to make a short (5-7 minute) presentation summarizing their work group discussion and planned follow-up activities as part of the final plenary session on December 12.

**NOTE:** Depending on the distribution of submitted workshop and working group topics, we may advise that some submissions be revised to the shorter or longer format. Submission of a workshop for December 11 does not preclude submitting a working group session for December 12 on the same topic, but the submissions should make clear the distinct focus and aims of the different sessions.