

HSR&D Research Briefs

Translating
Research
into Practice

Vol. 4, No. 2

July 2006

Health Services Research Update

HSR&D was pleased to have received so many high quality proposals for the March merit review. Out of the 145 Investigator-Initiated Research (IIR) proposals reviewed, HSR&D hopes to fund as many as 37 by fiscal year 2007, depending on conditional approvals. This would bring the funding average over the last three review cycles up to approximately 22%. Priority was given to outstanding proposals that were responsive to HSR&D and Office of Research and Development solicitations, including projects focused on issues critical to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Other highly scored proposals will be funded in priority score order as funds are available (anticipated by January 2007), and as applicants complete any approval conditions such as institutional review board documentation.

Also in March, reviewers scored 24 career development proposals and HSR&D hopes to fund six of them, including two advancing and four new awards.

Looking ahead, plans are underway for a State-of-the-Art (SOTA) Conference on Managing Complexity in Chronic Care. Planned for early September in Washington, DC, the invitational conference will explore issues around managing complex chronic care, defining best practices, and identifying gaps in knowledge that might form the basis of a research agenda. Look for additional information on the SOTA in coming months.

VA HSR&D's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) is continuing to actively work toward innovative approaches to translate research into practice. See updated QUERI fact sheets at www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/queri/factsheets.cfm

HSR&D is also actively recruiting for a new HSR&D director and is accepting applications through July 14, 2006.

National Meeting Roundup

HSR&D's 24th National Meeting, "Implementing Equity: Making Research Work for Diverse Veteran Populations," was held in February in Arlington, VA. This national forum provided an opportunity for discussion, collaboration, and the development of strategies to improve the care of our diverse veteran population.

The meeting was attended by approximately 550 researchers, clinicians, and policy makers and included 185 peer reviewed workshops, papers, and posters that represented a wide range of work by VA HSR&D investigators.

VHA Chief of Staff Arthur Hamerschlag addressed the meeting and urged researchers to continue to tackle issues relevant to veterans and, in particular, the important and emerging service-related health care issues of our OIF and OEF veterans.

At the meeting, Mr. Hamerschlag presented the 2006 Under Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research to Eugene Oddone, MD. Dr. Oddone, Director of HSR&D's Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care in Durham, NC, has focused his research on examining racial disparities in health care, evaluating the effectiveness and delivery of primary care, and improving the quality of care for veterans with chronic illnesses.

Plans are already underway for the next HSR&D National Meeting, on "Managing Recovery and Health through the Continuum of Care." Check www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/about/national_meeting/ for details.

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VA HSR&D Research Briefs is a biannual publication of the Office of Research and Development's Health Services Research and Development Service. Each issue will provide summary information about recently completed research projects and publications, as well as descriptions of new initiatives, solicitations, newly funded studies and other items of interest to a broad VA audience. For more information or to provide us with your questions or suggestions, please contact:

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VA HSR&D Research Briefs is available at www.hsr.d.research.va.gov or Intranet at vawww.hsr.d.research.va.gov





HSR&D Cyber Seminars Program Announces QUERI Sessions

Over the next several months, HSR&D's Cyber Seminars program will host a series of sessions about implementation science featuring presenters from VA HSR&D's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI). Implementation science focuses on research that examines methods to accelerate the implementation of evidence-based clinical practices in routine health care settings. Faculty will share information about QUERI implementation processes, methods, and lessons learned.

The first session, titled "Role of Formative Evaluation in Implementation Research: Overview and Introduction to a Cyber Seminar Series," was held in May and is archived on the HSR&D website. Presenters were Jeff Smith, PhD candidate, Implementation Research Coordinator for Mental Health QUERI, and Hildi Hagedorn, PhD, Implementation Research Coordinator for Substance Use Disorders QUERI.

Other QUERI sessions include:

- Methods and Tools for Formative Evaluation in QUERI Implementation Research (Archived); Presenters—Louise Parker, PhD, and JoAnn Kirchner, MD (Mental Health QUERI), Teresa Damush, PhD, and Laurie Plue, MS (Stroke QUERI), and Anne Sales, PhD (IHD QUERI), and
- Findings and Lessons Learned from Formative Evaluation in QUERI Implementation Research (scheduled for Friday, July 21, 2006, 12:00-1:00 pm EST); Presenters—Louise Parker, PhD, and JoAnn Kirchner, MD (Mental Health QUERI), Teresa Damush, PhD, and Laurie Plue, MS (Stroke QUERI), and Anne Sales, PhD (IHD QUERI).

Those who may benefit from attending these sessions include clinicians, researchers, administrators, and policymakers interested in learning more about implementation science and the tools needed to promote evidence-based medicine. Additional sessions in the QUERI series will be scheduled for the fall.

These QUERI sessions are in addition to the Resource Center Cyber Seminar Program.

To register for any upcoming sessions, access archived sessions, or learn more about the Cyber Seminar program, please visit www.hsrdev.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/.

VA Women's Health LISTSERV

VA's Office of Research and Development recently established a VA Women's Health Research LISTSERV that is available to VA women's health researchers only, with the goal of fostering communication, dialogue, collaboration, and coordination among researchers interested in women's health research. The subscription-only discussion list puts an emphasis on enhancing the conduct of high-quality research of relevance to women veterans and/or of direct applicability to the improvement of women veterans' health and health care. VA women's health researchers can visit www.va.gov/resdev/programs/womens_health/listserv.cfm for additional information.

HSR&D Investigators Receive SGIM Awards

HSR&D investigators Drs. Stephan Fihn and Kevin Volpp recently received prestigious awards from the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM), an international organization of more than 2,800 physicians and others dedicated to improving patient care, education, and research in primary care and general internal medicine.

Stephan D. Fihn, MD, MPH, FACP, received the Elnora M. Rhodes SGIM Service Award for outstanding service to SGIM and its mission. Dr. Fihn is a general internist and health services researcher at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System and the University of Washington in Seattle and directs HSR&D's Northwest Center for Outcomes Research in Older Adults, also located in Seattle. Additionally, he serves as research coordinator for VA HSR&D's Ischemic Heart Disease Quality Enhancement Research Initiative.

Kevin Volpp, MD, PhD, an HSR&D Career Development awardee, received SGIM's Outstanding Junior Investigator of the Year Award, which provides national recognition to a junior investigator whose early career achievements and overall body of work have made a national impact on generalist research. Dr. Volpp is part of HSR&D's Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP) located in Philadelphia, is affiliated with the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, and is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

VA has Strong Presence at AcademyHealth Meeting

This year's AcademyHealth meeting held in June in Seattle, featured over 50 VA-affiliated session chairs and panelists. HSR&D also sponsored four sessions, including an interest group meeting, and special sessions on the impact of global conflicts on the VA health care system, managing chronic disease within the system, and lessons from implementation of an electronic health record.

Special Supplements on Women's Health and Implementation

In March, the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* published a special Supplement on VA research on women's health. The articles in this Supplement present information on the health and health care delivery issues affecting women veterans, and highlight VA organizational changes to improve access to and quality of VA women's health care. Many HSR&D investigators contributed articles to this important Supplement, including Drs. Donna Washington and Elizabeth Yano, who also served as guest editors.

Additionally, "Implementing Evidence into Practice: Proceedings from the State of the Art VA Conference" was published as a special Supplement to the February issue of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. It focuses on connecting research and clinical practice to improve health care quality and patient outcomes. The Supplement was the result of a VA HSR&D-sponsored State-of-the-Art (SOTA) Conference in 2004 that assessed current knowledge about moving evidence into practice and identifying ways to accelerate the process. Drs. Catarina Kiefe and Anne Sales served as guest editors.

New Career Development Awardees

Congratulations to the most recent awardees, listed below along with their location and areas of research interests to be pursued through their awards. This year, VA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) restructured the career development program to streamline research career development opportunities for clinicians and non-clinicians under one ORD-wide program. This program will not replace the Research Career Scientist Awards for VA's most accomplished non-clinicians who have achieved independence and national/international stature; however, it does address the needs of early-career, non-clinician research scientists previously served by the Merit Review Entry and Associate Investigator Programs. For more information about HSR&D Career Development, visit the ORD website at www.research.va.gov/funding/cdp.cfm or contact Robert Small at robert.small@va.gov.

Merit Review Entry Program

Laurel Copeland, PhD	VA South Texas Health Care System	Patterns of Late-Life Healthcare Among VA Patients with Schizophrenia
Mark Ilgen, PhD	VA Palo Alto Health Care System	Enhancing Dual Diagnosis in Patients' Involvement in Continuing Care
George Jackson, PhD, MHA	Durham VAMC	Extending the Chronic Care Model to Diabetes Care in the VA
Larissa Myaskovsky, PhD	VA Pittsburgh Health Care System	Understanding and Reducing Racial Disparities in Renal Transplantation
Alexander Sox-Harris, PhD	VA Palo Alto Health Care System	Clinicians' Responses to Positive Alcohol Screening Results in Primary Care

Research Career Development

Aaron Murray-Swank, PhD	VA Maryland Health Care System	Enhancing Implementation of Family Psychoeducation for Schizophrenia
Paul Pirraglia, MD, MPH	Providence VAMC	Depression and Anxiety in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
Amy Wallace, MD	White River Junction VAMC	Use of Distance Technology to Enhance Rural Veterans' Mental Health Care

Newly Funded Research Projects

HSR&D continues to have a strong merit review program and focus on the needs of veterans. Listed below are newly funded HSR&D research projects. (*Only projects with funding start dates that have been confirmed since the last issue of Research Briefs are listed here. For all other HSR&D funded projects, see the web study section at www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/research*).

INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED RESEARCH

Judith Babcock-Parziale, PhD	Southern Arizona VA Health Care System	Advancing Outcomes Measurement and Micro-Costing in Blind Rehabilitation
Charles Bennett, MD, PhD, MPP	VA Chicago Health Care System	PSA Failure: A Rising Concern for Prostate Failure
Katharine Bradley, MD, MPH	VA Puget Sound Health Care System	AUDIT-C Scores as a Marker for Health Outcomes
Mary-Margaret Chren, MD	San Francisco VAMC	Recurrence after Treatments for Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer
Paul Conlin, MD	VA Boston Health Care System	Clinical and Cost-Effectiveness of Screening for Diabetic Retinopathy Using Tele-Ophthalmology
Kelli Dominick, PhD	Durham VAMC	Self-Management of Osteoarthritis: A Tailored, Telephone-Based Intervention
David Edelman, MD	Durham VAMC	Can Group Visits Improve Outcomes of Veterans with Diabetes?
Aaron Fink, MD	Atlanta VAMC	Benefits of 'Repeat Back' Protocols within a Computer-Based Informed Consent Program
Joan Griffin, PhD	Minneapolis VAMC	Use of Telehealth In-Home Messaging to Improve GI Endoscopy Completion Rates
Chuan-Fen Liu, PhD	VA Puget Sound Health Care System	Cost of Acute Inpatient Nursing Services in VA
Polly Hitchcock Noel, PhD	VA South Texas Health Care System	Obesity Care Practices in the Veterans Health Administration
Rachel Kimerling, PhD	VA Palo Alto Health Care System	Evaluation of Military Sexual Trauma Screening and Treatment
Samuel Kuna, MD	Philadelphia VAMC	Cost-Effective Strategy to Evaluate Veterans with Sleep Apnea
Matthew Maciejewski, PhD	VA Puget Sound Health Care System	Dual Use, Continuity of Care, and Duplication in VA and Medicare
Sundar Natarajan, MD	VA New York Harbor Health Care System	A Behavioral Intervention to Improve Hypertension Control in Veterans
Laura Petersen, MD, MPH	Houston VAMC	RCT of Financial Incentives to Translate ALLHAT into Practice
John Piette, PhD	VA Ann Arbor Health Care System	Improving Insulin Therapy with Enhanced Care Management and Peer Support
Thomas Rector, PharmD, PhD	Minneapolis VAMC	Carvedilol or Controlled-Release Metoprolol for Heart Failure



Sylvia Rosas, MD	Philadelphia VAMC	Novel Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Renal Insufficiency
Craig Rosen, PhD	VA Palo Alto Health Care System	Telephone Case Monitoring for Veterans with PTSD
James Rothendler, MD	VA New England Health Care System	Medication Adherence: Implications of Measures Using Administrative Data
Monika Safford, MD	Birmingham VAMC	Why Are Intermediate Outcomes in Diabetic Veterans Still Sub-Optimal?
Nina Sayer, PhD	Minneapolis VAMC	Barriers and Facilitators to Treatment-Seeking for PTSD
Kris Siddharthan, MS, PhD	Tampa VAMC	Treatment and Costs of Blast Related Injuries in the VA
Brenda Sirovich, MD, MS	White River Junction VAMC	Clinical Practice Intensity: Comparing VA to Private Sector Providers
Christine Timko, PhD	VA Palo Alto Health Care System	Dual Diagnosis Self-Help Group Referral: Outcomes and Services Use
Jodie Trafton, PhD	VA Palo Alto Health Care System	Effectiveness of Screening and Treatment for PTSD in SUD Patients
Joel Tsevat, MD, MPH	Cincinnati VAMC	Implementing Symptoms Assessment into Clinical HIV Care
Louise Walter, MD	San Francisco VAMC	Impact of Health Status on Colorectal Cancer Screening in Older Adults
John Williams, MD, MHS	Durham VAMC	Dementia in Primary Care: Setting the Stage for Quality Improvement
William Yancy, MD, MHS	Durham VAMC	Obesity and Utilization of Clinical Preventive Services
Bevan Yueh, MD	VA Puget Sound Health Care System	Hearing Aid Effectiveness after Aural Rehabilitation (HEAR) Trial
Carolyn Zhu, PhD	Bronx VAMC	Formal and Informal Costs of Veterans with Dementia: A Longitudinal Study

NURSING RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Mary Ellen Dellefield, PhD, MS, RN	VA San Diego Health Care System	Improving Quality: Registered Nurse Work Activities in VA Sponsored Nursing Homes
Maude Rittman, RN, PhD	North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System	Informal Caregivers of Veterans Post Stroke
Martha Shively, PhD, RN	VA San Diego Health Care System	Heart PACT: Patient Activation in High-Risk Patients with Heart Failure
Susan Thomason, MSN, RN	Tampa VAMC	Monitoring Pressure Ulcer Healing in Persons with Spinal Cord Impairment

SERVICE-DIRECTED PROJECTS

Matthew Goetz, MD	VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System	Implementation and Evaluation of a VISN-based Program to Improve HIV Screening and Testing
Dawn Provenzale, MD	Durham VAMC	Colorectal Cancer Care - A Quality Measurement Partnership
Jeff Pyne, MD	Central Arkansas Veterans Health Care System	HIV Translating Initiatives for Depression into Effective Solutions
Alexander Young, MD	VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System	Implementing Effective, Collaborative Care for Schizophrenia

SERVICE-DIRECTED RESEARCH

Frances Weaver, PhD	Hines VAMC	Characterizing Variability in Respiratory Care in SCI&D
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Health Services Research & Development Service

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