



WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

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Call for Abstracts

Building the Evidence Base to Improve Health Care and Outcomes for Women Veterans

The 2010 National Meeting on Building the Evidence Base to Improve Health Care and Outcomes for Women Veterans, sponsored by the VA Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Service, will be held July 15-16, 2010 in Washington DC. A pre-conference reception will be held the evening of July 14th at the Women In Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, with a 1½ day research meeting (hotel TBD).

This VA-HSR&D funded field-based research meeting is being co-hosted by the *VA Greater Los Angeles HSR&D Center of Excellence for the Study of Healthcare Provider Behavior, Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group and RAND Corporation.*

The meeting will bring together health services researchers, HSR&D leadership, policy makers, clinical managers, and other stakeholders to discuss research that supports improvements in health care access, quality, patient-centeredness and outcomes for Women Veterans.

The goals of the conference are:

- 1 To disseminate new knowledge on VA women's health research through effective presentation of high quality scientific research results;
- 2 To foster methodological and other research advances in support of improving the quality and quantity of VA women's health research in high priority areas, with special emphasis on accelerating movement to interventions and implementation research;
- 3 To increase collaboration and networking among VA women's health researchers;
- 4 To foster effective VA research-clinical partnerships to improve understanding of the informational and strategic needs of senior VA policy and practice leaders.

Investigators engaged in health services research focused on Women Veterans' health or health care are invited to submit abstracts for presentation that describe research that:

- Addresses access to and quality of care for Women Veterans, including sub-populations of Women Veterans;
- Tests interventions to improve VA health care services or outcomes for Women Veterans;
- Focuses on post-deployment mental health care for Women Veterans;
- Advances knowledge of the effects of military service on women's health.

We are particularly interested in abstracts that address steps towards transformation of VA women's health care.

Attendance is encouraged not only by researchers whose career focus is women's health, but also by investigators with other research foci who have examined gender issues as one component of their work.

Abstracts are due by 5:00 pm PT on Monday April 5th 2010

Abstracts are due April 5th and authors will be notified of decisions by April 30, 2010.

Abstracts should be no longer than 350 words.

Abstracts will be evaluated by expert reviewers blinded to authors' identities. Top-scoring abstracts with greatest relevance to the conference topic areas will be selected. All abstract acceptance/rejection decisions will be made by the Review Committee and will be final. Selection criteria include quality, timeliness, and relevance to the conference objectives, research areas and VA mission.

To submit an abstract, complete the attached submission form, and return to Ruth.Klap@va.gov.

Contact (818) 895-7711 ext. 5731 if you have questions or problems submitting an abstract.

Individuals currently affiliated with a VA postdoctoral program, fellowship, or trainee position or those who have completed their programs in the past year and who have an abstract that is accepted for presentation at the meeting will be eligible for a Best Trainee Poster award.

Presentations

Selected abstracts will be presented either as oral presentations or posters. Investigators submitting abstracts will be asked to indicate their preference for presentation format, but final decisions will be made by the Review Committee.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentation sessions will be collections of 4-5 related research presentations. Each presenter will be allotted approximately 10 minutes for his/her presentation and an additional 5 minutes for a question-and-answer exchange with the audience

POSTER SESSION

The poster session will be a display consisting of an exhibit of material personally accompanied by the author for an assigned period of time. The displays are expected to report results of current research that may be readily summarized in graphic form (e.g., tables, graphs, pictures).

Break-out Sessions

We will hold facilitated break-out sessions related to meeting themes to translate the current and emerging knowledge base and evidence into testable interventions for improving health care and outcomes for Women Veterans. Using the research presentations as a starting point, conference participants involved in programs, policy, clinical practice, and research addressing Women Veterans will strategize about interventions or measures to improve Women Veterans' health or health care, and actions required to implement them.

Travel funds are available and will be provided for only one VA employee presenter per accepted abstract. Because attendance is limited, only those with accepted abstracts and selected invitees will be guaranteed registration for this meeting. Additional attendees will be considered if space is available.