

Virtual Care CORE



February 2021 Newsletter

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Recent News from OCC and the VC CORE

Congratulations to PIs on their OCC funded projects from our FY'21 RFA:

- **Megan Adams MD, JD, MS and Allison Lin MD, MS;** Understanding the Impacts of COVID-19 on Specialty Care Telehealth Uptake, Sustainability, and Downstream Outcomes
- **Sherry Ball, PhD;** Virtual Shared Medical Appointments: Enhancing the Patient and Caregiver Experience
- **Evan Carey, PhD;** Understanding and Overcoming the Digital Divide in Specialty Care Following the Onset of COVID-19
- **Anne Dembitzer, MD & Melanie Jay, MD, MS;** Optimizing Telemedicine: Using Standardized Patients to Assess and Train
- **Claudia Der-Martirosian, PhD & Lucinda Leung, MD, PhD;** Leveraging Rapid COVID-Driven Telehealth Expansion to Optimize Delivery of In-Person and Virtual Services in VA Primary Care
- **Megan E. Gately, PhD;** Partnering with Caregivers to Ensure Access to VA Video Connect Visits for Veterans with Complex Care Needs: A Mixed Methods Investigation
- **Jolie Haun, PhD, EdS;** Best Practices of Virtual Care Provider Superusers for Coordinating Specialty Care
- **Leah Haverhals, PhD;** Assessing Changes in Delivery and Utilization of Telehealth Between VAMCs and State Veterans' Nursing Homes due to COVID-19 Pandemic to Inform Future Utilization, Scalability, and Adoption of Telehealth Modalities
- **Kathleen Sarmiento, MD, MPH & Michelle Zeidler, MD, MS;** Efficacy of Virtual Care-Based Home Sleep Apnea Testing and Tele-Initiation of Positive Airway Pressure for Obstructive Sleep Apnea
- **Amit Shah, MD, MSCR & Linda Park, PhD, MS, FNP-BC;** Development and Implementation of Virtual Home-Based Cardiac Rehabilitation in Older Veterans
- **Gala True, PhD & Joseph Constans, PhD;** Evaluation and Improvement of the SAIL Metric: Identifying and Mitigating Barriers to Virtual Care Among Veterans at High Risk for Suicide

Portfolio Review Progress

One of our key deliverables is a review of the portfolio of VA-funded VC research to identify factors and strategies associated with adoption and the effective use of VC in VA. We are in the process of integrating strategic recommendations from the Office of Connected Care into our comprehensive list of VC keywords that will be used to extract, categorize, and summarize VC projects funded by VA HSR&D, OCC and other parts of VACO.

Funding and Presentation Opportunities and Deadlines

Opportunities	Contact	Deadline
Call for papers on COVID-19 and Social Determinants of Health: Behavioral Medicine is publishing a special issue about unfolding adverse medical, psychosocial, behavioral, mental health, and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic among ethnic minority groups. If interested, submit (a) a proposed title, (b) an author list, and (c) a 500-word abstract	Full details and instructions for this special issue can be found here .	2/15/2021 5:00PM EST
HSR&D Pain/Opioid CORE 2021 Rapid Start Funding Opportunity: See PDF attached to email	Brian.Coleman2@va.gov	3/15/2021
Call for papers on Women Veterans' Health and Health Care from JGIM sponsored by HSR&D. Types of articles accepted include original research, concise research reports, innovation and improvement approaches, and those regarding implementation science	Information can be found here	6/1/2021
Call for papers on Healthcare System Recovery Post COVID-19. Topic includes handling deferred care, staffing innovations, employee and patient safety (mentally and physically). Main goal being the collation of evidence on issues to generate solutions helping to rebuild healthcare and offer resilience and especially future sustainability	Information can be found here	9/30/2021

New VC CORE Staff



Elizabeth Duran joins us as a Program Assistant for the CORE. She is an alumna of New York University's General Psychology Graduate program and her professional interests include trauma, psychopathology, research design, and lifestyle interventions. Before working at the VA, Elizabeth was a Case Manager in an Alternative to Incarceration program. One of Elizabeth's personal passions is Dance. She has been involved in various forms of dance since middle school.



Navid Dardashti is rounding off his second month as the CORE's Administrative Officer and Communications Director. He will be focused on building the VC CORE network and facilitating connections between members. His career in healthcare started at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, where he spent 3 years leading operational projects and quality improvement efforts. Outside of work, Navid likes to lead an active lifestyle with hobbies such as yoga, rock climbing, hiking, and the flying trapeze.

Starting next month, we would like to use this space to feature profiles of new investigators, and hope this will be especially useful to those of you seeking opportunities for collaboration or mentorship. Send us an email to indicate your interest and we will pick up from there!

Recent Virtual Care Publications

- Connolly, S., Etingen, B., Shimada, S., Hogan, T., Nazi, K., Stroupe., K., Smith, B. [Patient Portal Use Among Veterans with Depression: Associations with Symptom Severity and Demographic Characteristics](#). *Journal of Affective Disorders* 10/2020.

- Kobe, E., Diamantidis, C., Bosworth, H., Davenport, C., Oakes, M., Alexopoulos, A-S,...Crowley, M. [Racial Differences in the Effectiveness of a Multifactorial Telehealth Intervention to Slow Diabetic Kidney Disease.](#) *Medical Care* 11/20.
- Lee, A., Yanagihara, R., Lee, C., Blazes, M., Jung, H., Chee, Y., . . . Boyko, E. [Multicenter, Head-to-Head, Real-World Validation Study of Seven Automated Artificial Intelligence Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Systems.](#) *Diabetes Care* 01/2021.
- Lewinsky, A., Rushton, S., Voorhees, E., Boggan, J., Whited, J., Shoup, J,...Gierisch, J. [Implementing remote triage in large health systems: A qualitative evidence synthesis.](#) *Research in Nursing and Health* 12/2020.
- Lin, A., Fernandez, A., Bonar, E. [Telehealth for substance using populations in the age of COVID-19: Recommendations to enhance adoption.](#) *JAMA Psychiatry* 7/2020.

Upcoming Meetings and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time
One-Year Costs Associated with the VA National TeleStroke Program (NTSP)	<i>Todd Wagner, HERC</i>	2/17/2021 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST
Leveraging VA Text Note Data for Quality Measurement: A Case Study of a Novel Measurement Tool for Cardiac Device Procedures	<i>Branch-Elliman, Westyn Mull, Hillary</i>	2/25/2021 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
VC/Access CORE Joint CyberSeminar: This event will discuss areas in which Access and Virtual Care overlap – and don’t – as well as highlight examples of research that fall into each of these areas. Link and further details forthcoming!	<i>Stephanie Shimada Tim Hogan</i>	3/3/2021 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST

Past Presentations and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date
Meet ViReC: The Researcher’s Guide to VA Data	<i>Maria Souden</i>	2/1/2021
Using VA data and information systems (including Cerner data from Spokane) to support the ...	<i>Kathleen Sarmiento Mary Whooley</i>	1/27/2021
Evaluating the Implementation of VA’s TeleWound Practice Program	<i>Bella Etingen Marissa Gutkowski Frances Weaver</i>	1/19/2021
Virtual Outreach: Expanding Outreach for Veterans Through VA Issued Telehealth Tablets	<i>Lynn Garvin Keith McInnes Donna Zulman Emily Drucker Monica Diaz</i>	1/12/2020
Requesting Access to VA Data	<i>Linda Kok</i>	11/2/2020
Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases and Research Uses	<i>Maria Souden</i>	10/5/2020

Contact Information

- For any comments or questions about material in this newsletter or about the Virtual Care Consortium of Research, please email the CORE team at VHAVirtualCareCore@va.gov.
- Please let us know if you have news to share with the community! Email us and we will add it to the next newsletter.
- Finally, [follow us on Twitter](#) for regular, bird sized bits of information!

The mission of the VA Virtual Care Consortium of Research is to facilitate research that evaluates and improves use of virtual care to enhance the accessibility, capacity and quality of VA health care and Veteran experience.
