

# Virtual Care CORE



March 2023 Newsletter

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## Recent News from OCC and the VC CORE

### OCC Seeking Data on Mental Health in RPM-HT Programs

OCC is expanding their RPM-HT Mental Health Program in collaboration with the National Mental Health Program Office. As such, they are soliciting information on any projects or data examining outcomes for Veterans enrolled for mental health in the RPM-HT program, or home monitoring programs in general. Please reach out to Cathy Buck ([catherine.buck@va.gov](mailto:catherine.buck@va.gov)) with any projects, papers, or data that can help inform this national effort.

### JTiBS Call for Digital Mental Health Papers

We are delighted to announce a Call for Papers for a Special Edition entitled "[Global Digital Mental Health Care: Evidence, Implementation, Guidelines and Policy](#)", which is a collaboration between the Journal of Technology in Behavioral Science (JTIBS), Springer Nature and the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), co-edited by our very own Christina Armstrong, PhD.

This Special Edition is intended to be of interest to clinicians, faculty, health care teams, those conducting research/implementation/process improvement, and organizational/policy/regulatory leaders. It aims to draw from critical lessons learned around the world before, during and after the pandemic to optimize delivery of high-quality digital mental health care for the long term.

This is a great opportunity for WPA members to disseminate research and best practices across the world and across mental/behavioral professions (psychiatry, psychology, counseling, social work, addiction, marriage and family therapy, others). The Special Edition will focus on evidence- (i.e., original research), system- (i.e., informatics, implementation) and consensus- (i.e., guidelines, best practices) based approaches.

### Please Take the Rapid Qualitative Needs Assessment Survey

The Rapid Qualitative Methods for Implementation Practice Learning Hub is a VA QUERI training hub that aims to increase the knowledge and skills of those using rapid qualitative methods, including but not limited to implementation science projects. We are asking for your help to complete a brief Qualtrics assessment (5-10 mins). We are conducting this needs assessment to better understand needs and resources for training in rapid qualitative methods. Results will be used to help us develop and tailor the trainings and mentoring that we will offer to the field.

You can access the needs assessment using [this link](#). Please contact [Christine.Kowalski@va.gov](mailto:Christine.Kowalski@va.gov) with any questions. Thank you in advance for your help!

**The Rapid Qualitative team:** Alison Hamilton, Amanda Midboe, Andrea Nevedal, Erin Finely, Allison Lewinski, Jessica Young, and Christine Kowalski

Editors are particularly interested in submissions with patient-centered care, user-centered design (patients, families, clinical teams), randomized and comparative trials, translational and implementation science approaches and interprofessional teamwork. Manuscripts focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues aimed at increasing access to health technologies and digital literacy and decreasing the digital divide across all populations are welcome. Editors are also interested in guidelines, best practices and broad commentaries (i.e., that compare/contrast approaches rather than championing a single one) to pave the way for a better, sustainable continuum of in-person and technology-based behavioral health services.

Editors will be hosting two upcoming online informational sessions for potential submitters who have ideas, input, or questions on Friday, March 10th at 9:00 AM EST and Monday, March 20th at 11:00 AM EST. [Zoom link here!](#)

### **Final Reminder: THRIVE Associate Investigator Program Applications Due March 14**

The TeleHealth Research and Innovation for Veterans with Cancer (THRIVE) center (PIs: Drs. Scott Sherman Danil Makarov of the VA NYH HCS and Dr. Leah Zullig of the Durham VA ADAPT COIN) recently released its first Associate Investigator Program RFA. This training program includes ~25k in funding for early career investigators (pre-major award such as CDA, R01, K) and an extensive mentorship and foundational curriculum in areas of teleoncology and health equity research. Applications are due March 14<sup>th</sup> and are relatively brief and straightforward. Applicants MUST have a mentor with research funded at the VA. For those who have advanced beyond this point in your careers, please consider forwarding to mentees or junior researchers to whom the AIP might be of interest!

### **Virtual Care Presence at the 2023 HSR&D/QUERI National Conference**

The HSR&D/QUERI National Conference in February exhibited an overwhelming amount of VC related content. Over 20 of each oral and poster presentations featuring VC outcomes, engagement, access, implementation, and research methods were on display. The inclusion of VC/ Telehealth as both a primary track of the conference and a subtopic within other tracks (Homelessness, Health Equity/ Social Determinants of Health) is indicative of how important research in this critical area has become in VA, and of the immense output of work from the VC community.

In addition to the oral and poster presentations, our CORE team was thrilled to welcome excellent attendance at our workshop, *Opportunities to Advance Virtual Care Access, Engagement, and Outcomes: VA Virtual Care CORE Discussion about Research Priorities and Data Sources*. Over 40 investigators joined to discuss key issues in VC research and measurement across 5 breakout topics: emerging sources of VA PGHD, survey measures of Veteran experience with virtual care (e.g., VSignals, validated patient-reported measures), CDW measures of VC utilization (e.g. VVC CVT, MHV, receipt and use of VA-issued tablets), national and community-level data sources (e.g., FCC and Microsoft measures of neighborhood-level internet capability), and VC outcomes that can be studied across populations and modalities. Presentation slides and summarized field notes are attached in email with this newsletter and will be available on our VC CORE Sharepoint. Our thanks again to our breakout group facilitators Stephanie Shimada, Carolyn Turvey, Stephanie Robinson, Jackie Ferguson, Liberty Greene, Leonie Heyworth, and Amy O'Shea.

### **Congratulations Corner**

Aside from all the wonderful work presented at HSR&D – VC CORE investigators have been busy presenting at national conferences. In addition to letting our members know to look out for these if you are attending, we'd like to extend our congratulations to our brilliant researchers:

- J Priyanka Vakkalanka, PhD and team for their presentation, "Increased ED Visits Among Telehealth Users May Serve as an Early Warning System" at the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine in Austin, TX, May 17-19, 2023.
- Claudia Der-Martirosian, PhD and teams for their three presentations, "Disparities in Video Care Use Among Veterans with Cardiovascular Disease," (lead author Rebecca Tisdale, MD, MPA); "The Role of Telehealth in Chronic Disease Management: A National Observational Study Comparing Primary Care Visit Modality for Veterans With and Without Type 2 Diabetes," (Cynthia Hou, MS); and "Provider Characteristics Associated with Telehealth Use in Primary Care at the US Department of Veterans Affairs" (Claudia) to the [Society for](#)

[Education and the Advancement of Research in Connected Health \(SEARCH\) 2022 National Telehealth Research Symposium](#), November 16-18, 2022. We would like to note that all three presentations arose from an OCC funded QI study conducted by Claudia and Lucinda Leung, MD, MPH. The study, titled “Leveraging rapid COVID-driven telehealth expansion to optimize delivery of in-person and virtual services in VA primary care” is completing its 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year of (OCC) funding.

- Frank Bucki, DC, DCBCN and team for their platform presentation on their ongoing Systematic Review of Reliability and Validity of Virtual Spine Examination Components at the Association of Chiropractic Colleges & Research Agenda (ACC RAC) 2023 Conference in New Orleans, LA, March 23-25.

### Funding and Dissemination Opportunities and Deadlines

Opportunities	Contact	Deadline
TeleHealth Research and Innovation for Veterans with Cancer (THRIVE) center Associate Investigator Program RFA	<a href="mailto:Navid.Dardashti@va.gov">Navid.Dardashti@va.gov</a>	3/14/2023

### Recent Virtual Care Publications

- Fortney, J.C., Bauer, A.M., Cerimele, J.M., et al. [Comparison of Teleintegrated Care and Telereferral Care for Treating Complex Psychiatric Disorders in Primary Care: A Pragmatic Randomized Comparative Effectiveness Trial](#). *JAMA Psychiatry*, 08/2021.
- Der-Martirosian, C., Wyte-Lake, T., Balut, M., Chu, K., Heyworth, L., Leung, L., Ziaeiian, B., Tubbesing, S., Mullur, R., Dobalian, A. [Implementation of Telehealth Services at the US Department of Veterans Affairs During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Mixed Methods Study](#). *JMIR Formative Research*, 09/2021.
- Alexander, N.B., Phillips, K., Wagner-Felkey, J. et al. [Team VA Video Connect \(VVC\) to optimize mobility and physical activity in post-hospital discharge older veterans: baseline assessment](#). *BMC Geriatrics*, 09/2021.
- Roddy, M.K., Chen, P., Jeffery, A.D., Gutierrez, J., Rubenstein, M., Campbell, C., Blake, E., Ward, MJ. [Telemental Health in Emergency Care Settings: A Qualitative Analysis of Considerations for Sustainability and Spread](#). *Academy of Emergency Medicine*, 02/2023.
- Hogan, T.P., Etingen, B., Lipschitz, J.M., Shimada, S.L., McMahon, N., Bolivar, D., Bixler, F.R., Irvin, D., Wacks, R., Cutrona, S., Frisbee, K.L., Smith, B.M. [Factors Associated With Self-reported Use of Web and Mobile Health Apps Among US Military Veterans: Cross-sectional Survey](#). *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth*, 10/2022.
- Perumalswami, P.V., Kilpatrick, S., Frost, M.C., Adams, M.A., Kim, H.M., Zhang, L., Lin, L.A. [The impact of COVID-19 on trends in alcohol use disorder treatment in Veterans Health Administration](#). *Addiction*, 02/2023.

### Upcoming Presentations and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time
<a href="#">Sleep Wearables and Digital Tools: State of the Science and Practical Uses in PTSD Care</a> *VA employees can register for CE credit in TMS <a href="#">here</a> <b>Not a VA employee?</b> Register in <a href="#">TRAIN</a>	Katherine Miller, PhD	3/8/2023 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST

<a href="#">JTIBs Digital Mental Health Issue Information Sessions</a>	Christy Armstrong, PhD	<b>3/10/2023</b> 9:00 AM EST <b>3/20/2023</b> 11:00 AM EST
<b>Save the date!</b> VC CORE Partnered Cyberseminar with the Center for Mobile Apps Research Resources & Services (CMARRS)	Eric Kuhn, PhD	4/12/2023 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST

## Past Presentations and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time
<a href="#">From Clicks to Change: Effective Engagement in Mobile Apps for PTSD and Other Mental Health Conditions</a> <small>*VA employees can register for CE credit in TMS <a href="#">here</a></small>	Joseph Wielgosz, PhD	2/8/2023 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST

## Links to Resources

### Telehealth

- [VHA Telehealth Services Website](#)
- [Telehealth Intranet Site](#)
- [VHA Mobile and Peripheral Devices for Facilities](#)

### VA Mobile

- [VA Mobile | VA App Store](#)
- [New VA Mobile 'My App List' functionality/categories](#)
- [ANNIE Automated Texting System | SharePoint site](#)
- [VACO Mobile Mental Health & Technology | SharePoint site](#)
- [VA Mobile Health Practice Guide | SharePoint site](#)

### MyHealtheVet

- [MyHealtheVet | Portal Homepage](#)
- [MyHealtheVet | VA Intranet Product Homepage](#)
- [My HealtheVet Statistics - My HealtheVet Product \(va.gov\)](#)
- [My HealtheVet Secure Messaging Reports Guide](#)

### Data Reports, Measures, Definitions, and Training

- [VHA Reports and Measures Portal \(RAMP\)](#)
- [Reporting and Analytics Field Training \(RAFT\)](#)
- [VSSC – Connected Care, Telehealth, Call Centers](#)
- [Data Definitions for VSSC Data Cubes](#)

### Patient Generated Health Data

- [Approved VA Policy on PGHD](#)
- [PGHD video for staff](#)

### General Office of Connected Care

- [Connected Care Website](#)
- [Connected Care Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Connected Care Academy](#) (VA Intranet Required)

## 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](mailto: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!

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*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.*

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