HSR&D in VISN 20 Portland

HSR&D and QUERI Centers, projects, Career Development Awards, and highlighted publications in Portland include:

**COIN (Center of Innovation):**  
**Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care (CIVIC)**  
*Director:* Steven Dobscha, MD  
CIVIC’s mission is to conduct research that empowers Veterans to improve their health by enhancing active participation of Veterans and their supports in healthcare.

**Evidence-Based Synthesis Coordinating Center**  
*Director:* Mark Helfand, MD, MPH, MS

**Evidence-Based Synthesis Center**  
*Director:* Devan Kansagara, MD, MCR  
ESP Centers generate evidence syntheses on important clinical practice topics. These reports help develop clinical policies informed by evidence; the implementation of effective services to improve patient outcomes and to support VA clinical practice guidelines and performance measures; and set the direction for future research to address gaps in clinical knowledge.

**QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiative:**  
**Action-Oriented Evaluation of Inter-Professional Learning Efforts in the CoEPCE and IAPACT Environments**  
*Principal Investigator:* Anais Tuepker, PhD, MPH  
This initiative’s overarching goal is to collaborate with VA’s Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education (CoEPCE) and the CoEPCE Coordinating Center in a comprehensive evaluation of Inter-professional Education and Collaborative Practice (ICECP) innovations and their dissemination, implementation, and sustainment in Inter-Professional Academic Patient Aligned Care Team (IA-PACT) settings within the VA healthcare system. This Initiative will work to evaluate the dissemination, implementation, and adoption of inter-professional educational training within VA primary care clinics that also provide ongoing training of health professionals.

**Currently Funded Projects at Portland**

- Optimizing Benefits and Reducing Negative Effects of Mental Health Open Notes – *Steven Dobscha, MD*
- Veteran Experiences with Social Reintegration after TBI – *Erika Cottrell, PhD, MPP*
- Use of a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to Evaluate Concurrent VA and non-VA Opioid Prescriptions – *Kathleen Carlson, PhD, MS*
- A Patient-Centered Intervention to Improve Opioid Safety – *Benjamin Morasco, PhD*
- Opening the Black Box of Cultural Competence – *Somnath Saha, MD, MPH*

**Current Career Development Awardees**

- *Travis Lovejoy, PhD, MPH* – Chronic Pain Management in Veterans with Co-occurring Substance Use Disorders
- *Alan Teo, MD, MS* – Optimizing Veterans’ Social Relationships to Enhance Depression Care

VA Office of Research & Development • Health Services Research & Development Service  
www.hsrd.research.va.gov
Highlighted Publications

- **Study Shows Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Therapy among Veterans is Overwhelmingly Initiated by VA Clinicians**

- **Systematic Review Finds Treating Blood Pressure to Current Guidelines in Older Adults Improves Health Outcomes**

- **Systematic Review: Effects of Pay-for-Performance on Healthcare**

- **“Virtual Hope Box” Smartphone App Helps Veterans Regulate Emotion and Cope with Distress that Can Lead to Suicide**

- **Prescription Opioids Associated with Lower Likelihood of Sustained Improvement in Pain among Older Veterans**