

MESSAGE FROM THE VHA EXECUTIVE IN CHARGE
August 19, 2020

COVID-19: Thank You to Our Researchers

Today's message is about the incredible research VHA is doing related to COVID-19.

VHA has been a leader in research since 1947, when Omar Bradley associated VA hospitals with major medical centers (and VA's roots in research go back even earlier, to the 1920s). Today, we have over 1700 academic affiliations. We spend about \$2B yearly on research, about half from direct VA funding and half from non-VA sources.

Right now we have well over 80 ongoing COVID-19 studies across our system. We are also part of two major national research initiatives: Operation Warp Speed and Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines. VHA is a Tier 1 site for these trials, which means that our clinical research capabilities and experience make us a premier environment for conducting these important studies.

The beauty of our integrated health care system is that we can move quickly and safely to provide research for Veterans and the American people. This is the benefit of projects like the Million Veteran Program. Over 850,000 Veterans have enrolled in this program, which will allow us to develop drugs and tailor care for Veterans based on their genetic risk factors.

Thank you to our research community for moving so quickly in response to this pandemic. You are doing great work not only in helping to test the safety and effectiveness of vaccines, but also in ventilation management, treatment drugs and immune plasma studies. This is a testament to your dedication to our team and our mission of delivering excellent care to Veterans.

Thank you and have a great day.

Richard A. Stone, MD
Executive in Charge

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