Presentations were followed by discussion between CADRE and Veteran Panelists. Both meetings resulted in robust conversation and a number of suggestions and insights from Veteran Panelists.

Dr. Marin Schweizer asked the Panel about strategies to increase patients’ willingness to apply body wash or ointment to prevent surgical site infections (SSI). One Veteran suggested that they make the preventative ointment “smell better.”

The Veteran Engagement Panel (VEP) met in April 2015 and February 2016. The meetings were held in the early evening in the CADRE Conference room. Five Veterans participated in each meeting, with two attending both. Veterans who were unable to attend the second meeting did express interest in continuing their involvement with the Panel.

The Panel followed a roundtable format with Investigators giving 3-5 minute project presentations.

To increase enrollment in MyHealthVet, Veteran Panelists recommended that Dr. Carolyn Turvey have clinics handout MyHealthVet fliers routinely rather than displaying fliers periodically on a table at the canteen.

Response by Veterans and Investigators was positive. According to this Investigator, “It’s affirming to hear that Veterans found [my] project important.”

Veteran Panelists: Who are they?

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Combat Veterans</td>
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<td>VA users</td>
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<td>3</td>
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Highlights

- Veterans were surprised at the amount and level of research conducted in VA in general and at the Iowa City VA in particular.
- Investigators and Veterans would prefer more regular and frequent meetings of the Panel.

Development of CADRE’S Veteran Engagement Panel

Next Steps

Dr. Kenda Stewart presented information about the Veteran Engagement Panel to Investigators at the weekly CADRE Seminar. She also updated Veterans regarding the current status of the projects. The next meeting is planned for Fall 2016.

Based on input from the seminar and Veteran Panelists’ responses to an informal questionnaire, the following are ideas for future development of CADRE’s Veteran Engagement Panel:

- Establish expectations and roles of Veterans and researchers.
- Broaden recruitment to VA providers, nurses, and clerks.
- Engage Veteran Panelists in social media to maintain feedback loop.