The Durham VA HSR&D COIN works with Veterans and caregivers to improve health through research! Here are just a few areas:

- Physical activity & diet to help with weight loss
- Counseling to quit smoking
- Improving access to cancer screenings
- Support programs for caregivers
- Peer support for women Veterans at risk for heart disease
- Tools to help prevent serious health issues
- And Many More!

"Being engaged in research can help keep it relevant for fellow Veterans, and also make research accessible for all Veterans who could benefit from it"

-U.S. Army Veteran
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Notes:

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Veteran Research Engagement Panel

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This brochure was developed by the VetREP Planning Committee & Veteran Representatives of the Durham VA Health Services Research & Development Center of Innovation.
### About VA Research

The goal of VA research is to improve the health of Veterans and healthcare delivery in the VA.

### What is a Veteran Representative?

A Veteran Representative is a Veteran or caregiver of a Veteran who:

- Brings Veteran patient perspectives to VA Research
- Gives back to fellow Veterans & their families by helping shape VA research
- Gains knowledge about Veterans’ health and VA health research
- Helps create solutions to health problems facing Veterans

### What are the duties of a Veteran Representative?

- Attends regular meetings of the group (no more than once a month for 2 hours)
- Provides input on new and current VA projects
- Reviews project materials created for Veterans and their families
- Helps make sure the research speaks to Veterans’ concerns
- Helps find ways to improve the spread and use of health information

### What are some qualities of a Veteran Representative?

- Gives helpful feedback
- Shows concern for many issues
- Listens well to others
- Respects differences of opinions
- Keeps confidentiality at all times
- Agrees to keep open and honest communication