

Date: April 2, 2021

From: VA Office of Research and Development (14RD)

Subj: National VA Research Week

To: 14RD All Staff; 14RD ACOSs; 14RD AOs; DEAN Front Office

1. National VA Research Week is a time to mark the achievements and innovations of the VA research enterprise and community and to acknowledge the valued partners who help us achieve our mission on behalf of Veterans. Our 2021 Research Week theme is **VA Research: One Team, One Mission**.
2. National VA Research Week will take place May 17-21. Due to COVID-19, the VA Office of Research Development (ORD) will host a **Virtual Research Week Awards Ceremony, to be held 3 p.m. (ET) on May 19, 2021**. The event is tentatively planned to include:
 - a. [Celebrity Emcee Jonathan Elias](#), television anchor at WJLA in Washington D.C. He is passionate about supporting our military and Veterans.
 - b. A greeting from a senior VA leadership official.
 - c. My own welcoming remarks on Research Week's significance this year.
 - d. Features on eight research awardees from 2019-2021.
 - e. Videos featuring Veteran research volunteers, highlighting why they participate in VA research studies.
 - f. A selection of engaging research photos from VA medical centers nationwide.
 - g. An original employee-produced musical and visual tribute to Veterans.
3. To support this effort, we ask that VA facilities provide ORD with engaging, high-quality photojournalistic images of researchers "in action." Photos should show researchers going about their work on behalf of Veterans in their labs, clinics, offices, and other workspaces. Please submit images with captions and credits for appropriate attribution to our Research Communications team via the [VA Research SharePoint](#) site or email to ORDMedia@va.gov. The deadline for submissions is **May 5, 2021**. ORD will share a selection of these images throughout the awards ceremony.
4. Employees, volunteers, and external stakeholders can register for the event at <https://www.research.va.gov/researchweek/2021/virtualaward-registration.cfm>. Registration ends **May 12, 2021**.
5. **Please note that a separate "symposium" event featuring more detailed presentations by our awardees is planned for May 21, 2021. Details and registration information for that event are forthcoming.**
6. ORD looks forward to commemorating National VA Research Week with you, our Veterans, and other stakeholders. Today, more than ever, the VA Research community is **"one team with one mission."**

Rachel Ramoni, D.M.D., Sc.D.