



## Clinical Science Research and Development



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Office of Research & Development

# CSRD Newsletter

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## Receipt and Referral in Process

Receipt and referral are in process for the Spring review round. Investigators are reminded not to contact Portfolio Managers about their submissions. All questions should go to the review manager, Dr. Michael Burgio ([Michael.Burgio@va.gov](mailto:Michael.Burgio@va.gov)).

## Letters of Intent Deadlines:

### April 1

Letters of Intent (LOI) are due April 1 for the Suicide Prevention Research Clinical Resource Center submission opportunity. Full proposals are due July 13. The contact is Dr. Joseph Constans ([Joseph.Constans@va.gov](mailto:Joseph.Constans@va.gov)).

### May 2

May 2 is the deadline for Letters of Intent (LOI) for the Fall review round for those funding mechanisms with an LOI requirement, including Career Development and Clinical Trials. For clinical trials, we continue to encourage PI's to connect with their Scientific Portfolio Manager in advance of the submission deadline to discuss portfolio fit and program interest.

## Post COVID Collaborative Merit Update:

Full proposals for the Post COVID Conditions Collaborative Merit Award are due April 14 only for studies that already have an approved LOI. CSRD is expecting 11 proposals for individual projects that are part of programs involving cross-service collaborations.

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## Diversity Supplements Announced

CSRD is pleased to welcome two new awardees for the second annual Office of Research and Development (ORD) Research Supplements to Promote Diversity – Robert Lane, Ph.D. and Vanessa Caridad Somohano, Ph.D. These competitively reviewed awards are intended to provide supplemental funds to a VA Merit in order to offer a mentored research experience to early career scientists from underrepresented backgrounds as they prepare for a VA Career Development Award application. Dr. Lane will be working at the James J. Peters VAMC (Bronx, VA) with his funded VA mentor, Dr. Marianne Goodman, Principal Investigator of “CTBI: Traumatic brain injury-induced inflammation effects on cognitive evaluations and response inhibition: Mechanisms of increased risk for suicidality.” Dr. Lane will be studying how the influence of barriers and motivators of suicide disclosure may vary between racial/ethnic minority and majority Veteran participants. Dr. Somohano will be working with her primary mentor, Dr. Lauren Denneson at the VA Portland Health Care System. Dr. Somohano will be leveraging data from her mentor’s funded work to identify gender differences in risk factors for increased substance use, increased PTSD symptoms, and increased suicidal ideation severity. Many congratulations to Drs. Lane and Somohano as they pursue this highly significant research for our Veterans.

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## Summer Research Program Pilots Listed

Congratulations to the following chosen for pilots in the Summer Research Program (SRP). The purpose of the SRP is to enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral, clinical, health services and rehabilitative research workforce by providing research experiences and related opportunities that can enrich the pool of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including nationally underrepresented groups, Veterans, children of Veterans, and disabled individuals who will be available to compete for future research opportunities in the mission areas of importance to the VA.

- Algood, Holly, Ph.D., Nashville
- Brenner, Lisa, Ph.D., Rocky Mountain MIRECC
- Capadona, Jeffrey, Ph.D., Cleveland
- Cooper, Rory, Ph.D., Pittsburgh
- Evans, Charlesnika, Ph.D.. M.P.H., Hines

- Garcia, Jose, M.D., Ph.D., Puget Sound
- Hogans, Beth, M.D., Ph.D., Baltimore
- LaRue, R. Amanda, Ph.D., Charleston
- Mattocks, Kristin, Ph.D., M.P.H., Central Western Massachusetts
- McInnes, Donald Keith, Ph.D., Bedford
- Mills, Whitney, Ph.D., Providence
- Molina-Vicenty, Irma, M.D., San Juan
- O'Leary, Jessica, Ph.D., Asheville
- Parrington, Diane, Ph.D., RD, Phoenix
- Polusny, Melissa, Ph.D., LP, Minneapolis
- Riddle, Mark, M.D., DrPH, Sierra Nevada
- Ryan, Michael, Ph.D., Columbia, S.C.
- Scofield, Robert Hal, M.D., Oklahoma
- Singh, Satish, M.D., Boston
- Strecker, Robert, Ph.D., Boston
- Wertheim, Jason, M.D., Ph.D., Southern Arizona

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## Dr. McClair to be Panel Participant

Scientific Portfolio Manager Dr. Vetisha McClair has been invited to participate in a conversation focused on advancing the health and well-being outcomes for those we serve on May 11, 2022, in Dallas. Veterans, and their families can face a confusing array of options for seeking and finding treatment and care. Among those, the use of psychedelics in conjunction with clinical mental health care is rapidly gaining momentum to address the most significant mental health challenges in the Veteran community. Recent discussions and convenings on this topic have focused primarily on the science and evidence base, or on personal experiences and testimonials. Sponsored by the Bob Woodruff Foundation and the George W. Bush Institute, the aim to gather a small group of experts from our military and Veteran community to discuss remaining hurdles and concerns pertaining to the advance of psychedelics treatment.

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## Barnwell Ceremony Reset for April 22

Dr. Louis Dell'Italia will be presented CSR's highest honor for clinical research contributions, the John B. Barnwell Award, in a ceremony planned locally at the Birmingham

VA Medical Center on April 22. ORD dignitaries who will be attending include Drs. Wendy Tenhula, Miriam Smyth, and Mark Roltsch. We are extremely proud to confer this award for Lou (also ACOS/R!) and are looking forward to an in-person celebration. The ceremony was originally scheduled for January 27.

## DMC Members Needed

The CSRD Data Monitoring Committee continues to seek new members. Qualifications for membership include funding history and clinical trial experience, academic position of associate professor or above, a solid publications record, and review experience. Members are needed from the following areas: cardiology, pulmonology, oncology, urology, neurology, internal medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and biostatistics. For more information, please contact DMC Manager Dr. Tamara Paine ([Tamara.Paine@va.gov](mailto:Tamara.Paine@va.gov)).

## Meet and Greet Us

- Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Meeting, April 28-30, New Orleans

## CSRD Contact Information

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Scientific Portfolio/Program Managers: [BLR&D and CSR&D Contact Information \(va.gov\)](#)