



Clinical Science Research and Development



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

Terri Talks

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Message from the Director

It is time to be thankful collectively, and we want to thank everyone in the CSRD research community regarding accomplishments so far, this fiscal year. Since October 1, you have cleared eight projects in JIT, submitted 27 Letters of Intent for new clinical trial ideas, and 22 Letters of Intent for Career Development Applications. Despite being under a continuing resolution, approximately 95% of our overall CSRD budget has already been obligated for execution during this fiscal year, and PIs of CSRD funded projects are actively ensuring execution of all VA funding (or contacting us when they encounter challenges or delays). Many/most of our peer review meetings have been held virtually/seamlessly for the total of 134 applications submitted for review this current Fall merit round. With new efforts started on Biospecimen collection supplements (see September Issue of this Newsletter) and the announcement below on Post-COVID Infection, our community is very productive in continuing to advance scientific evidence that will lead to improved healthcare for our Veterans. With that summary, we continue to wish you the greatest success in your VA work and also wish you the Happiest Thanksgiving. Best wishes, Terri

Applicants have 82 Days to Comply in JIT

This is a reminder that applications selected for probable funding by Clinical Science Research and Development in August 2021 have **82** days remaining to bring the studies into compliance for funding, or the applications may be withdrawn from further consideration. A final decision on

funding will be based upon the receipt and review of the Just-In-Time (JIT) information requested in the [VA JIT Document Manager](#).

If you have questions about JIT, please contact the JIT Manager Chinagozi Ugwu (Chinagozi.Ugwu@va.gov).

Post-COVID Opportunity Released

On November 15, ORD released a cross-service Post-COVID Conditions Collaborative Merit Award. This opportunity allows investigators to submit individual applications as part of a group of 3 I01 projects that address a clinical or scientific issue relevant to Post-COVID conditions. We hope this new funding mechanism will allow fruitful new collaborations to accelerate our understanding of post-COVID conditions by allowing investigators with different expertise to examine different aspects of a single, high priority problem. Just as important, this effort may serve as a prototype for encouraging cross-ORD research collaborations on other important problems facing Veterans. The link for all the documents is at: [RFAs and Program Announcements \(va.gov\)](#) (under ORD wide Post-COVID Conditions Collaborative Merit Award (I01)).

Concept Ideas Wanted to Address Gaps

ORD is soliciting concept ideas to address clinical care gaps where high-performance computing (HPC), artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML) can be implemented to improve medical knowledge and apply to care at the VA.

A limited number of novel concepts will be selected through a joint VA-DOE peer-review panel to partner with Department of Energy (DOE) scientists and work on developing a full 2-year project plan. The projects will be conducted at DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where copies of the VA Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) data and Million Veteran Program genetic data are housed. Funding will be provided for 2 years for projects resulting from selected concept ideas.

Please see the information at: [RFA for Concept Ideas for Joint VA-DOE Projects](#). Questions may also be sent to MVPLOI@va.gov.

Barnwell Applications due February 1

The John B. Barnwell Award is CSRD's highest honor for outstanding achievement in clinical science research. Nomination packages are due by close of business on February 1, 2022.

The Barnwell Award is given for outstanding scientific achievements in clinical research that advance the diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment of diseases and disorders in the Veteran population.

Nominations may come from the VA Medical Center or CSRD can invite researchers to submit an application. All applicants must apply through their local R&D Office. To be eligible for the Barnwell Award, nominees must meet specific qualifications. Please review the program guide and instructions posted on the website for further details or contact Dr. Mark Roltsch, mark.roltsch@va.gov, if you have questions.

The information may be found on the ORD website by searching Barnwell Award at: [https://www.research.va.gov/services/csrd/research\[1\]awards.cfm?_ga=2.56572011.1990953416.1542631466-377307463.1536175624#barnwell](https://www.research.va.gov/services/csrd/research[1]awards.cfm?_ga=2.56572011.1990953416.1542631466-377307463.1536175624#barnwell).

Please Meet and Greet Us:

- American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Annual Meeting, December 5-8. Dr. Gleason will be presenting virtually in the Institute Director's Session titled, "Q&A Forum with NIH Institutes" from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 5.
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SFVA/UCSF Seeking to fill Position

A clinical/translational research psychiatrist (M.D. or D.O.) is being sought by the San Francisco VA (SFVA) Mental Health Service and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences to contribute to the mission to build strong, research-focused clinical programs across the SFVA and UCSF campuses. Qualifications include M.D. or D.O. Applicants may apply online at <https://aprecruit.edu/JPF03348>.

DMC Members Needed

CSRD's Centralized Data Monitoring Committee (DMC) is currently seeking members for two panels – Medical/Surgical (M/S) and Psychiatric, Behavioral Health and Neurologic Disorders (PBN). The DMC is an independent multidisciplinary group that provides ongoing oversight and monitoring of funded studies focusing on safety and feasibility, participant accrual and retention, adverse events monitoring, and data analyses. 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 Dr. Tamara Paine (Tamara.Paine@va.gov).

CSRD Contact Information

General Mailbox: VHABLRD-CSRD@va.gov

Just in Time: <https://vaww.gateway.research.va.gov/jit/Default.asp?>

Career Development: VHACADEReview@va.gov

Clinical Trials: clin-review@va.gov

Newsletter: Lucindia.Shouse@va.gov

Sent to Email Address on behalf of US Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration · 810 Vermont Avenue, NW · Washington, DC 20420 · 877-222-VETS (877-222-8387)