

**PROGRAM GUIDE: REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
PAUL B. MAGNUSON AWARD**



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM GUIDE: 1203.06
REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
PAUL B. MAGNUSON AWARD

This revised Program Guide replaces all prior official VA-ORD guidance for the Rehabilitation Research and Development Paul B. Magnuson Award.

REVISION DATE: February 6, 2020

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PROGRAM GUIDE: RR&D PAUL B. MAGNUSON AWARD

1. PURPOSE

This Office of Research & Development (ORD) Program Guide provides guidelines for the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (RR&D) Paul B. Magnuson Award for Outstanding Achievement in RR&D within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This revised Program Guide replaces all prior official VA-ORD guidance for the Rehabilitation Research and Development Paul B. Magnuson Award. The award consists of a one-time cash award to an individual, supplemental funding for their ongoing peer-reviewed research, and a celebratory plaque.

2. BACKGROUND

Paul B. Magnuson, M.D., was a bone and joint surgeon who continuously sought new treatments and devices for assisting his patients as they faced unique situations presented by their disability. He saw patients as individuals and asserted, "People are no more alike in the shape and functional movements of their bodies and limbs than they are in their faces."

As a person, he was a champion of the underdog. As a physician, he saw his duty, not only as curing, but also as restoring a patient "to his family, his job, and his life." As a researcher, he noted that as long as there is disease and injury, the problems of medicine will never be completely solved. As an advocate for Veterans, he was the architect of the VA health care system as it is known today.

World War II not only filled VA beds with patients, it left young men who left their medical training to serve, with no offices to which to return. While civilian hospitals could not provide enough residencies to hire these professionals, VA hospitals were filling with soldiers, but could not hire enough doctors to care for them because of the rules and regulations of the Civil Service. As administrator under General Paul Hawley, and subsequently as Chief Medical Director from 1948 to 1951, Dr. Magnuson argued for doctors, nurses, and dentists to be hired outside of the Civil Service, under what is now known as "Title 38." In addition, he created a system for medical school affiliations to staff VA hospitals with residents, interns, and chiefs of service.

Dr. Magnuson's medical career outside VA is equally impressive. In addition to his patient care practice and service as Chairman of the Department of Bone and Joint Surgery at Northwestern University Medical School, he conceived of and founded The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, was a Founding Member of the American Board of Surgery, and was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Magnuson left a remarkable legacy to VA and to the rehabilitation professional community. Through this award, RR&D remembers and honors both the man and his legacy.

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3. SCOPE

The Paul B. Magnuson Award is presented annually to a VA RR&D investigator who exemplifies the entrepreneurship, humanitarianism, and dedication to Veterans displayed by Dr. Magnuson during his career. Established in 1998, the award is in recognition of the importance of rehabilitation research within the VA healthcare system. It is the highest honor for VA rehabilitation investigators. RR&D reviews nominations for the Magnuson Award.

4. PROCEDURE

a. Evaluation Criteria. Paul B. Magnuson Honorees are selected by an appropriate review group, which considers all applications and forwards one recommendation to the Under Secretary for Health for approval. Selection of candidates with exceptional merit is based on the following:

(1) influential scientific efforts that relate to VA RR&D's mission ("to advance scientific knowledge and foster innovations to maximize Veterans' functional independence, quality of life and participation in their lives and community").

(2) display of a genuine dedication to the care of Veterans with disabilities;

(3) work which has significantly impacted America's Veterans through innovative solutions to disability issues;

(4) substantive contributions to the future of VA RR&D by inspiring and mentoring a new generation of investigators; and

(5) an espoused philosophy of the Rehabilitation Team approach to returning patients to the highest possible level of function.

b. Eligibility. Each nominee must be employed by VA at least 5/8 time, or have an approved eligibility waiver from the Director, RR&D, and be the principal investigator on an active RR&D award. The research contribution(s) leading to the nomination must have been carried out in VA, and it must clearly relate to VA's rehabilitation research mission.

c. Nomination Process. Nominations may be made by researchers, clinicians, the local Research and Development (R&D) committee, or the RR&D Merit Review Board through the Director, RR&D.

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5. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. R&D Committee. The local R&D Committee evaluates the merits of all candidates proposed by the VA medical center and recommends candidate(s) who meet the Evaluation Criteria stated above to the VA medical center Director.
- b. Director, VA Health Care Facility. The facility Director recommends the candidate(s) to the Director, RR&D.
- c. Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS) for R&D. The ACOS for R&D ensures that all required documentation accompanies the nomination letter from the VA facility Director and that the complete nomination package is submitted to RR&D for receipt by the specified due date.
- d. Review Group. The review group evaluates all applications and recommends one candidate, based on the specified review criteria, to the Director, RR&D.
- e. Director, RR&D Service. The Director, RR&D, or designee, is responsible for:
 - (1) Appointing the review group and approval or disapproval of the recommended candidate;
 - (2) Forwarding the nomination to the Chief R&D Officer for concurrence;
 - (3) Ensuring presentation of the award at an appropriate national, public venue; and.
 - (4) Authorizing payment to the honoree's VA facility of the one-time individual cash award and supplemental research support.
- f. Chief R&D Officer (CRADO). The CRADO, or designee, is responsible for:
 - (1) concurring selection of the nominee and submitting VA Form 4659, Incentive Awards Recommendation and Approval, to the Under Secretary for Health for award approval; and
 - (2) the written notification to the nominee's VA facility Director when the nomination is approved.
- g. Under Secretary for Health. The Under Secretary for Health is responsible for approving the nomination.

NOTE: Information regarding the submission process, review process and general award information will be posted and updated as necessary at www.rehab.research.va.gov.

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APPROVED:



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