



## Clinical Science Research and Development

VA



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

# Terri Talks

Vol. 2, No. 9, 2020.12.21

## Message from the Director

I was expressing to our staff how this time of year definitely turns me into mush – expressed by the degree to which I am so proud of our CSRD community here in DC and also those working afar in the research facilities. We have accomplished so much together despite the challenges wrought by the pandemic on our lives. This year has seen many firsts, many modifications, and many (unplanned) successes as people adapted and made progress. When we have the chance to pause and take inventory, it is truly a testament to each of you all that has been accomplished in spite of!

Going into 2021, we are already planning to have more conversations about how to manage the COVID-19 research related impacts on CSRD funded work. We will start with individual conversations with our Career Development awardees to determine exactly what is in front of them relative to completing their work successfully and potentially on time. We will delve more into available mitigation strategies wherever possible, and hope that we will be taking advantage of possibilities that will help us all get on the other side from here to back to normal. Please know that CSRD remains a professional partner with our scientists, and that no one should hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions about your individual challenges. In the meantime, you have our most sincere wishes for the healthiest of holiday seasons. Thank you as always for all you do for our Veterans in your work,

*Terri*

## PMOs – please help us help you!

Please help us to minimize processing time on Project Modification Opportunities (PMOs) by providing a fully completed PMO form, with all relevant documents attached. Delays occur when we have to contact the station to request missing information on the PMO itself or missing attachments (i.e., biosketches for new site PIs, budget documents). Re-review of resubmitted PMOs adds a burden on our staff and causes delays in getting a response back to you. Please help us help you!

instructions for submitting PMOs may be found at  
[https://www.research.va.gov/services/shared\\_docs/resources.cfm#7](https://www.research.va.gov/services/shared_docs/resources.cfm#7).

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## Community of Science Webinar Slated

A CSRD COVID Community of Science (COS) webinar will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, January 7. The webinar is in follow up to the first convening of the CSRD COVID COS in October of 2020. This meeting will be focused on developing additional collaborations between members of the clinical and biomedical research community and providing updates on available resources, in addition to presentations on ongoing ORD funded COVID research. Today, recipients of this newsletter will receive an email invitation to the webinar from Jeffrey Barlow [jeffrey.barlow@dynamiciservices.com](mailto:jeffrey.barlow@dynamiciservices.com). In order to be able to join the meeting, you must accept the invitation and select a breakout session. We look forward to seeing you at the webinar.

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## Updated Training Requirements Released

Just released update on human subjects protection training requirements:  
[https://www.research.va.gov/programs/orppe/education/ord\\_training/options.cfm](https://www.research.va.gov/programs/orppe/education/ord_training/options.cfm)

If you scroll down the webpage you will see the training alternative that has been created for human subjects protection training during the COVID pandemic.

If you have a research regulatory question, please do consult:  
<https://www.research.va.gov/resources/policies/faq-search.cfm>

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## Administrative Hold Reminder

Please be reminded to send information to CSRD on any study that had been on hold when that status changes. We still need the field to provide updates of studies that have come off the holds (local or national). Please email CSRD, [VHABLRD-CSRD@va.gov](mailto:VHABLRD-CSRD@va.gov), when project status changes (onto a new hold or removing a standing hold). CSRD studies on hold are moving well below 100 in number, and we hope facilities continue to update us as hold changes occur.

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## Barnwell Applications due February 1

Reminder: Nominations for the 2021 Barnwell Award are due by **February 1, 2021**.

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, 2021.

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](mailto: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-awards.cfm?\\_ga=2.56572011.1990953416.1542631466-377307463.1536175624#barnwell](https://www.research.va.gov/services/csrd/research-awards.cfm?_ga=2.56572011.1990953416.1542631466-377307463.1536175624#barnwell)

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## Portfolio Manager Position Announced

Below is the link to the ORD/CSRD MP announcements for the HSO-Portfolio Manager for Oncology vacancy including open and close dates. See the notice for more detailed information.

Merit Promotion - <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/586660100> Open 12/10 and closes on 12/31

Please forward to anyone who may have interest for consideration and thank you for your attention to this matter.

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## CSRD Highlights: Holiday Greetings

As the holidays approach and 2020 comes to an end, CSRD sends warm wishes to each of you with personal greetings and photos of ourselves or our pets, etc. below. Although this year has been challenging, much has been accomplished and even more will be accomplished for our Veterans as we reflect on the past and look toward the future together. Thank you one and all for your contributions!

*I hope your ride through the holidays and into the new year  
is merry and bright!*

*--Terri Gleason, Director*



I am so grateful for your efforts to respond dynamically to the current challenging and changing research landscape. Happy Holidays to all!

*--Miriam Smyth, Deputy Director*

*Happy holidays and hoping for a better, brighter 2021! Stay safe and well!!*

*-- Lisa Eiben, Administrative Officer*

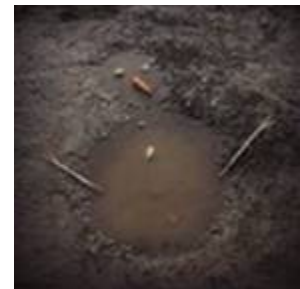


Ken Myrie

Senior Program Manager for Precision Oncology

*Jana Drgonova*

*Scientific Program Manager*





Vetisha McClair  
Scientific Program Manager



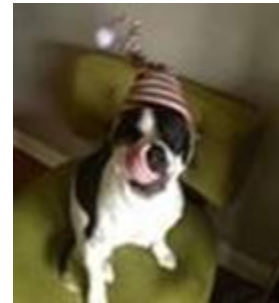
Lucindia Shouse  
Program Analyst



Eric Schwinder  
Health Science Specialist



*Mark Roltsch*  
*Scientific Program Manager*



*Kristina Nord*  
*Health Science Specialist*



*Chinagozi (Cheena) Ugwu  
Health Science Specialist*



Janet Annette Jackson  
Secretary

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## CSRD Contact Information

General Mailbox: [VHABLRD-CSR@va.gov](mailto:VHABLRD-CSR@va.gov)

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

Career Development: [VHACADEReview@va.gov](mailto:VHACADEReview@va.gov)

Clinical Trials: [clin-review@va.gov](mailto:clin-review@va.gov)

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## HSR&D Announces Opportunity

Health Sciences Research & Development has announced a request for Concept Paper Proposals: Studies on behavioral factors for Veterans' COVID-19 vaccine uptake. Concept papers should be submitted by email to Miho Tanaka ([miho.tanaka@va.gov](mailto:miho.tanaka@va.gov)) by **3 pm ET, January 22, 2021**. See [https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/funding/COVID-vacc\\_in-behavior-study-RFA.pdf](https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/funding/COVID-vacc_in-behavior-study-RFA.pdf) for complete details.

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## CSP Job Opportunity Shared

### Statistical Programmer

The Hines Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center (CSPCC) has an opportunity in the Chicago area for a full-time statistical programmer to help advance research activities with the goal of improving the long-term health and well-being of our Veterans.

For inquiries about this position or the Hines CSP Coordinating Center please contact:

Joyce Gilroy

Associate Director for Administrative Operations,

Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center

Hines VA Hospital, CSPCC (151K)

5000 South 5th Avenue, Building 1, Room B-237

Hines, Illinois 60141-3030

e-mail: [Joyce.Gilroy@va.gov](mailto:Joyce.Gilroy@va.gov) phone: 708-202-5850 fax: 708-202-2116

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