



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
*Pacific Islands Health Care System*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *VA Research Week Spotlights 94 Years of Excellence*

The VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (VAPIHCS) Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center will join the entire Department in celebrating National VA Research Week 2019. This year's event, which will be observed from May 13 through May 17, marks the 94<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VA research. The theme is "The Science of Hope," and highlights VA Research history of outstanding accomplishments that have improved Veterans' lives and advanced America's medical knowledge.

"As we recognize more than 90 years of VA's research program, we are proud to continuously add value to the quantity and quality of life for Veterans, and all Americans," said the VA Chief Research and Development Officer, Rachel B. Ramoni, D.M.D., ScD.

VA Pacific Islands Health Care System observances will be held at the VA Ambulatory Care Center (ACC Bldg. 30) and will include the following:

May 15<sup>th</sup> – Noon:

- An Overview of the Research Program  
Presented by: Dr. George W. Ross, MD, Associate Chief of Staff, Research & Development
- Presentation by Investigator Dr. Judy Carlson, EdD, APRN, FNP on "Neurofeedback Impact on Chronic Headache, Sleep and Attention Disorders Experienced by Veterans with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury"
- Presentation by Investigator Jennifer Hastings, MA, MT-BC on "The Feasibility of a Drumming Protocol to Address the Symptoms of Veterans with Parkinson's Disease"

May 16<sup>th</sup> – Noon:

- Evidenced-Based Projects poster presentation
- Award Presentation by the Director, Jennifer S. Gutowski, MHA, FACHE

Veterans, their families, and other community members are invited to attend.

"Our facility is very proud to host a VA Research program," said Jennifer Gutowski, Director of the Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System. "The innovations our researchers discover and develop advance health care not only for the VA Pacific Islands Veterans, but also for Veterans throughout our Nation, and for all American citizens."

At VAPIHCS, researchers are engaged in projects investigating diabetes treatments, post-traumatic stress disorder management, and the cause and treatment of neurodegenerative disorders including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. Recent publications have highlighted the importance of the total burden of multiple brain lesions associated with dementia as opposed to any single lesion type, and identified organochlorine pesticides as playing a role in the cause of Parkinson's disease. Throughout the decades, the many accomplishments of VA Research nationally include the development of the first effective therapies for tuberculosis; the implantable cardiac pacemaker; the first successful liver transplants, and the nicotine patch. Three VA researchers—Rosalyn Yalow, Ph.D.; Andrew Schally, Ph.D., Sc.D. and Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D.—have received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, the highest honor in medical research.

Today, VA's Office of Research and Development is a leader in conducting comparative effectiveness research—head to head studies that help clarify which among two or more health interventions works better for a given health condition in certain patients. VA's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative facilitates the clinical use of treatments, tests and models of care that are supported by research evidence.

Personalized medical research, tailoring health care treatment programs to individual patients, is a subject of great interest to many VA researchers, as is the new science of Genomics—the study of a person's genetic information to help tailor therapies to each person's genetic makeup.

VA has put rehabilitation research on a true scientific footing by adding basic science to finding solutions to the needs of Veterans with disabilities. VA manages thirteen Rehabilitation Research and Development Centers of Excellence throughout the Nation, including a center for brain rehabilitation research; one for limb loss and prosthetic engineering and a rehabilitation outcomes research center, which evaluates rehabilitation programs and interventions to result in optimal patient outcomes.

"The future of medicine is determined by the research we do today. This week honors the VA researchers and staff and Veteran research volunteers who work together to make pivotal contributions to the evolution of medicine," said Dr. Ramoni.

Information on Research Week events throughout the United States, and on VA Research itself, including links to historical achievements, is available at [www.research.va.gov/researchweek](http://www.research.va.gov/researchweek).

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