



NEWS RELEASE

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2012 VA Research Week Highlights Caring for Veterans through Discovery, Collaboration

OMAHA, Neb. — The Department of Veterans Affairs Research Service is a national asset that benefits Veteran patients and the nation by moving medical science forward. The Omaha VA Medical Center highlights the significant role that its investigators contribute to developing devices and techniques that revolutionize health care during 2012 VA Research Week, April 23 to 27.

VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System is well-known for its employees who provide high-quality care to Veterans. What many don't know is that there is a robust VA Research Service at the Omaha VA Medical Center that has nearly 150 active projects under way.

This year's theme is "Caring for Veterans through Discovery and Collaboration," to emphasize the translation of research findings into advancements in Veterans' health care; and the ongoing collaboration between VA and its academic affiliates. Omaha VA researchers have affiliations with Omaha's Creighton University and University of Nebraska Medical Center, and active partnerships with a number of other universities and colleges including the University of Nebraska in Omaha and Lincoln.

Research is being conducted in many areas at the Omaha VAMC, including mental health, liver studies, rheumatoid arthritis, lung disease and diabetes, and obesity. In addition, nurses, pharmacists and physicians perform research to determine best practices and procedures to deliver health care to Veterans.

The VA Research Service is a leader in many areas of research that include AIDS, mental health, genomics, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases and spinal-cord injury. VA also performs biomedical, rehabilitation, clinical and health services research in addition to clinical trials.

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RESEARCH WEEK-2/2/2/2

The following events will occur April 27 to highlight how Omaha VAMC is a leader in many areas of research. The community is invited to attend these events to see how the Omaha VA Research Service is changing lives:

-Research seminar: 8:30 to 10 a.m., Education Conference Room (first floor) Dr. Sanjay Sethi, Vice Chair of Medicine for Research, Pulmonary/Critical Care/Sleep Medicine, VA Western New York Health Care System.

- “Friends of VA Research Service Award” presentation, Education Conference Room, 9:45 a.m.

-Public tours of the Omaha VAMC Research Service laboratories, Education Conference Room, tours from 10:30 a.m. to noon, every 20 minutes.

-Poster showcase exhibit of Omaha VAMC research activities, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Durham Research Center I, Atrium, 1 to 3 p.m.

MEDIA NOTE: For more information, or to schedule an interview with a researcher, contact Will Ackerman, Public Affairs Officer, at William.ackerman@va.gov or call (402) 995-4719.

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System’s mission is to honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA NWIHCS employees serve more than 161,000 Veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. The system includes a tertiary medical center in Omaha and a Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb. Community-based outpatient clinics are located in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, and Bellevue, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa; and a contract outreach clinic in O’Neill, Neb. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.va.gov>

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