



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Events to Highlight Veterans Affairs Research Milestones

OMAHA, Neb., May 20, 2014 – VA Research Week, May 19 – 23, is designed to call attention to the achievements of VA researchers and the role they play in providing high-quality care for Veterans and advancing medical science. It is an opportunity to educate Veterans, elected representatives, and others about research and its impact on treating and preventing disease and disability.

This year's theme is **VA Research: Making a Difference**.

VA investigators played key roles in developing devices and techniques that revolutionized health care -- including the cardiac pacemaker, the CAT scan, shingles vaccine, liver and kidney transplants, and much more. Today, VA is a leader in many areas of research, such as AIDS, mental health, genomics, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases and spinal cord injury.

As part of the nationwide observance, the Omaha VA Medical Center will conduct a Research Day event May 23. Events will take place in the Education Conference Room of the medical center at 4101 Woolworth Ave., and include:

- **8 to 11:30 a.m.:** Poster exhibits of research-related activities.
- **8:30-9:30 a.m.:** Keynote address on "Engineering a Learning VA Healthcare System: Research Opportunities," by Mary Brophy, M.D., staff physician, VA Boston Health Care System and director, Genetic Tissue Core Lab, VA Cooperative Studies Program DNA Bank.
- **9:40 a.m.:** Friends of Omaha VA Research Award Presentation to Mary Jetton, previous technician and research administrative officer at the Omaha VA.
- **10:30-11 a.m.:** Briefing and tour: Fredrick Hamel, PhD, deputy assistant chief of staff for research, will meet with federal and state representatives, commanders, heads and members of voluntary and veterans' organizations, and representative from affiliated universities.

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About VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

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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