

Overview of VA Research and Grant Opportunities VA Saint Louis Health Care System (VASTLHCS) Research and Development Service

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Research Overview

“To discover knowledge and create innovations that advance the health and care of Veterans and the nation”

- **VA Research for 94 years**
- **VA Research focuses on issues that affect Veterans**
- **Substantial research output: about 7,500 articles based on VA-sponsored research are published yearly nationwide**
- **Three Nobel prizes, seven Lasker awards, and numerous other distinctions**

Research Overview

Notable Contributions of VA Research to American Medicine and the Health and Well being of All

- **1958: Implantable cardiac pacemaker**
- **1960: CAT scan**
- **1968: First successful liver transplants**
- **2003: First clinical trial to treat posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**
- **2005: New vaccine for shingles**
- **2007: First ankle-foot prosthesis**
- **2009: Breakthrough in treatment of burn injuries**
- **2014: Precision Medicine: Million Veteran Program and integration of “OMICS”**

Advantages of VA Research

- Pay-line is as good or better than NIH

Award Type	Success Rate
Merit Award	24%
Career Development Awards	41%
Pilot Studies	25%

- VA funds areas understudied (or not studied) by NIH or the medical / pharmaceutical industry
 - **Comparative Effectiveness Research**
 - **PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury Research**
 - **Prosthetics and Rehab Research**
 - **Environmental Exposure and Population Health**
 - **Precision Medicine long before the term has become widely used**

Eligibility

Who may apply?

- **Must be a current U.S. citizen or submit documentation from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to show a firm date for citizenship interview or swearing in as a U.S. citizen**
- **MDs are eligible to apply for VA grants**
- **PhDs may apply to HSRD, CSRD, and RRD but will need admission to the program to be eligible to apply to BLRD**
- **Process is competitive: candidacy is evaluated based on productivity (papers and impact), concurrent federal funding, and alignment with VA funding priorities**
- **Applicants do not need to be current VA employees.**
- **Should the project receive funding, the PI will have a minimum 5/8ths VA Paid Appointment**

VA Funding Mechanisms

What Are You Applying For?

VA Research is an *intramural* program

Types of awards

- **Merit**
 - Established investigators
 - 5/8ths VA Paid Appointment minimum award
 - 25 hours per week committed to VA of which part (3/8ths) is spent performing research, part (2/8ths) clinical duties
- **Career Development Award (CDA-2)**
 - Intended for early investigators
 - Provides salary for PI through award mechanism for 3 to 5 years
 - 6/8ths paid appointment minimum award
 - 30 hours per week committed to VA of which part is spent performing research, part clinical duties
- **Research Career Scientist (RCS)**
 - Intended for PhD
 - Provides up to 5 years of salary support through the VA
 - Must be eligible for 5/8ths VA Paid Appointment, of which 25 hours per week committed to performing VA research activities

VA Funding Mechanisms

What Are You Applying For?

- **Merit Review Awards (equivalent to R01)**
 - BLR&D & CSR&D: \$165K/yr, yr1 -yr4
 - HSR&D: \$1.2M / maximum 4 yrs
 - RR&D: \$1.2M / maximum 4 yrs
- **Career Development Awards (equivalent to K08)**
 - BLR&D & CSR&D: PI salary support & \$105K/yr1 - \$75K/yr, yr2 – yr5.
 - HSR&D: PI salary support & \$40K/yr, yr1 – yr3
 - RR&D PI salary support & \$75K/yr, yr1 - yr5
- **Pilot proposals, new proof of concept clinical trial RFA**
- **Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) for clinical trials**
- **Specific RFAs around areas of interest to VA Research**

VA Office of Research and Development (ORD)

Who are you applying to?

- **VA ORD is part of the VA Central Office (VACO) and operates 4 Service Lines:**
 - **Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development ([BLR&D](#))**
 - **Clinical Science Research & Development ([CSR&D](#))**
 - **Health Services Research & Development ([HSR&D](#))**
 - **Rehabilitation Research & Development ([RR&D](#))**

Research at the VA St. Louis Health Care System (VASTLHCS)

- **Over 75 active principal investigators**
- **Over 150 active research studies: Basic research, translational research, rehabilitation, clinical epidemiology, and clinical trials**
- **Thematic areas: cancer, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, metabolic diseases, dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, spinal cord injury, blood pressure, chronic pain, Traumatic Brain Injuries, Gulf War Exposures, male reproductive health, mental illness, substance abuse, aging and more**

Veterans Research and Education Foundation of Saint Louis @VREFSTL

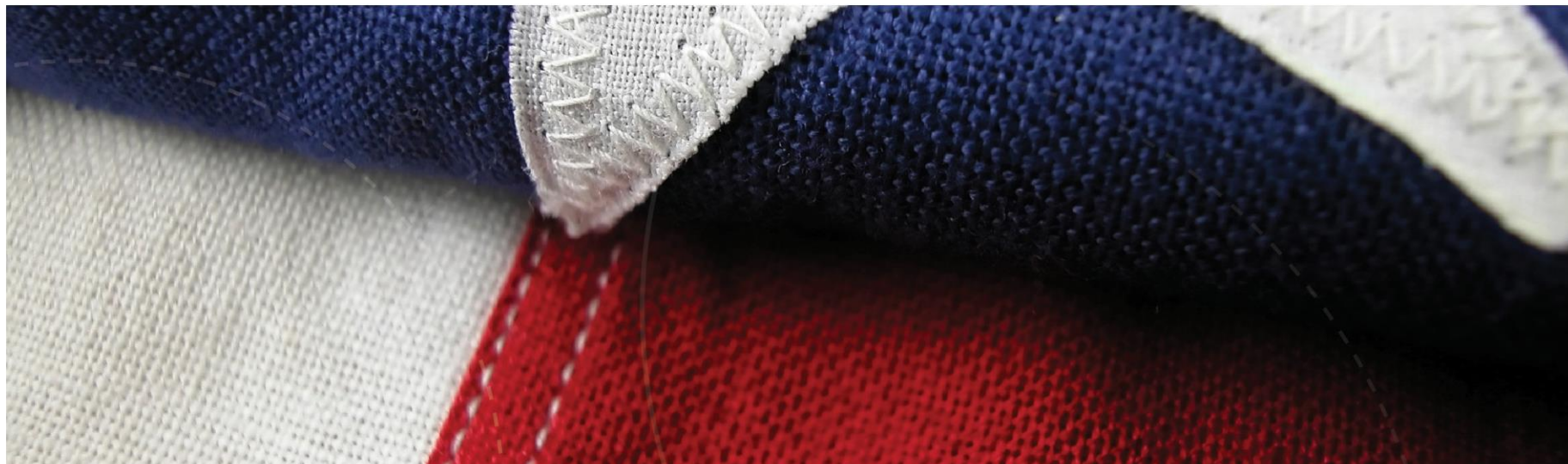
- **46 Principal Investigators**
- **27 Active Clinical Trials 5 Education Projects or Grants**
- **6 Education projects or grants**
- **3 Prime Award from DOD**
- **8 Subawards**
- **17 VREF Employees**
- **Active in the Saint Louis area and the region**
- **Outreach activities and fundraising – Social Media, events including Research Week, Annual Gala, Trivia Night, 5K runs, etc.**

<https://www.vrefstl.org>



@VREFSTL Twitter





Thank you for your time.

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