VA Funding Opportunities & Research Resources

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NWI Way

Contacts

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http://www.nebraska.va.gov/research/index.asp
Overview

• National organization
• RFAs
• Merit Review process
• Local information
• Questions

Why does VA fund research?

• To make sure research is done in areas of importance to the care of veterans.
• To determine best ways to deliver healthcare so that VA care is high quality and safe.
• To discover the underlying problems in diseases of relevance to veterans and to translate those discoveries into better treatments and new strategies for prevention.
Why does VA fund research?

- Recruit and retain highly qualified physician-scientists who help provide patient care to veterans.

- Attract trainees to consider a career in the VA Medicine, Pharmacy, Nurses at all levels: students, residents, fellows.
Office of Research and Development
Website


- Contact VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System (NWIHCS) Research Office

Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development Service
BLR&D

- Preclinical and clinical research
- Molecular, genomic, and physiological level
- Includes:
  - Bench research
  - Research on animal models
  - Investigations of tissues, blood, or other biologic specimens from humans.
- Includes studies on humans of moderately limited scope.
Clinical Science Research & Development Service
CSR&D

- Focuses on intact human beings as the unit of examination
  - Interventional studies
  - Effectiveness studies
  - Clinical
  - Epidemiological
  - Technological studies

- Cooperative Studies Program (CSP)
  - Multiple VAs with one directing site
  - Central IRB

Health Services Research & Development Service
HSR&D

- Research at the interface of health care systems, patients and health care outcomes.
  - Quality
  - Access
  - Patient outcomes
  - Health care costs

Rehabilitation Research & Development Service
RR&D

- Dedicated to the well-being of America’s veterans through a full spectrum of research
  - Injuries, disorders and diseases with the potential to cause long term impairment and disability
  - Rehabilitation interventions and techniques
  - Evaluation and technology transfer
  - Final clinical application
  

Intramural Program
Eligibility to Submit to VA

- MDs are eligible to submit to any Service
  - But have to have an at least 5/8s appointment when they start (hospital staff)

- PhDs can submit to HSR&D and RehabR&D
  - But have to have an at least 5/8s appointment when they start (research staff)

- PhDs must apply for eligibility to submit for BLR&D and CSR&D
  - Format for submission, through Research Administrative Office
  - Granted for 3 years
  - Productivity and grants
  - Needs of the Service
  - Commitment/service to VA
## BLR&D RFAs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service-Specific Requests for Applications (RFAs)</th>
<th>RFA #</th>
<th>Active Cycles</th>
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<td>Merit Review Award (Parent I01)</td>
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<td>Merit Review Award for Research on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Parkinson’s Disease and Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
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<td>Merit Review Pilot Projects for Research on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Parkinson’s Disease and Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>BX-15-005</td>
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<td>Career Development Award (CDA-2)</td>
<td>BX-15-008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award for Research on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses (GWVI)</td>
<td>BX-15-011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot Projects for Research on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses (GWVI)</td>
<td>BX-15-012</td>
<td>Spring and Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Million Veteran Program - Consortium Award Project (MVP-CAP) for Beta Test Data Analysis (Updated August 11, 2015)</td>
<td>BX-15-020</td>
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## CSR&D RFAs

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<tr>
<td>Targeted Solicitation for Service-Directed Research Award on Health Services Research on the Care of Gulf War Veterans</td>
<td>HX-15-017</td>
<td>Winter and Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Targeted Solicitation for Health Services Research on Provider Behavior - A Learning Health Care System Initiative (Revised)</td>
<td>HX-15-022</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Targeted Solicitation for Health Services Research on Measurement Science - a Learning Health Care System Initiative (Revised)</td>
<td>HX-15-023</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Nursing Research Initiative (NRI) (Revised)</td>
<td>HX-15-025</td>
<td>Winter and Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merit Review Award (Parent I01) (Revised)</td>
<td>HX-15-026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merit Review Award for Deployment Health Research (OEF/OIF) (Revised)</td>
<td>HX-15-027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merit Review Award Pilot Project Program (Revised)</td>
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<td>Career Development Award (CDA-2)</td>
<td>HX-15-029</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center of Innovation (COIN) Initiative (I50)</td>
<td>HX-16-001</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) (IP1)</td>
<td>HX-16-003</td>
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### RR&D RFAs

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<td>Merit Review Award: Studies on the Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma</td>
<td>RX-16-006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merit Review Award: Traumatic Brain Injury</td>
<td>RX-16-007</td>
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<td>Career Development Award (CDA-1) (IK1)</td>
<td>RX-16-008</td>
<td>Winter and Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Development Award (CDA-2) (IK2)</td>
<td>RX-16-009</td>
<td>Winter and Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA-ORD Historically Black College and University Research Scientist Training Program Award</td>
<td>RX-16-010</td>
<td>Winter and Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Projects in Rehabilitation Research (SPiRE) (I21)</td>
<td>RX-16-001</td>
<td>Spring and Fall</td>
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Career Development Award (CDA)

- **CDA-1**: This entry-level career development program is open to both clinicians and non-clinicians. Review criteria emphasize candidate qualifications, mentorship, and career development plan. Only the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service is currently offering this type of award.

- **CDA-2**: This mid-level program also is open to both clinicians and non-clinicians who must specify their career development plans and research project over a 3-5 year duration. This is the major type of Career Development Award, and it is supported by all four Services. Usually within 5 years of training.

- VA mentor required (mentoring team allowed)

How is it decided who gets VA Research $s

- Investigators write grant applications that are submitted to national VA level.

- Reviewed nationally in peer-review process similar to NIH (National Institutes of Health).

- Approximately 15% of applications will be selected for funding.
Merit Review Submission

- Local Research Service (RAO) must submit
- All submissions must be reviewed by the R&D Committee prior to submission
- Submission through Grants.gov
- Uses SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- Required documents listed in RFA (only available from vaww website)

Merit Review Submission

- BLR&D and CSR&D – March and September
- HSR&D and RR&D – June and December
- Letter of Intent (LOI) or Intent to Submit required for some submissions
  - Check with Research Administrative Office
Merit Awards

• BLR&D and CSR&D
  – Generally $150,000 + PI’s salary (PhDs only)
  – 4 years

• HSR&D and RehabR&D
  – More specific to the RFA

• Comes to the Research Service at NWI
  – Administered by Research Administrative Office (RAO)
  – Purchases, contracts, HR
  – Intergovernmental Personnel Agreements (IPAs)

NWIHCS Web site

• Items found there:
  – Contact information for the Research Service
  – All research forms for submitting application.
  – Form for initiating credentialing.
  – Process for distinguishing research versus non-research.
  – Standard Operating Procedures.

http://www.nebraska.va.gov/research/index.asp
Who approves research at VA?

- Research and Development Committee (R&D) has final approval.
- Subcommittee for Research Safety
- Subcommittee for Human Studies – (IRB, Institutional Review Board)
- Subcommittee for Animal Studies – (IACUC, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee)
Is there research space at VA?

- Basic science labs
- Animal facility (AAALAC accredited)
- Clinical Research Unit (CRU)
  - Dr. Robert Anderson, CRU Medical Director
  - 6 exam rooms
  - Small lab
  - VA studies are aimed at Veteran population, but can enroll non-veterans if appropriate justification.
VA Non-profit Corporations (NPCs)

- Congress created NPCs as venue for non-appropriated research/educational funds to come into VA system.
- Nebraska Education Biomedical Research Association (NEBRA)
- Contracts from industry sponsors, foundations, and other federal money (NIH) is administered via this mechanism.

Questions?

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